

PRAYER EMPHASIS 2019 OCTOBER
PART 4 - HOW TO MAKE DISCIPLES

1. Set the example

Titus 2:7-8 - in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, & sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

According to these verses, in what four ways are we to be an example to others?
Are you being an example of the believer through good deeds, pure doctrine, dignity, and sound speech that is beyond reproach?

Lord, in all things help me to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, and sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about me. Help me to say and do those things that bring glory to You.

2. Love and fulfill the law

Romans 13:10 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Who does God consider to be your neighbor?
According to this verse, how can you demonstrate love to your neighbor in a way that is pleasing to God by fulfilling His law?

Lord, help me to fulfill Your law by loving my neighbor enough to do him no wrong. By this demonstration of Your love, let Him see You in me and be drawn to You.

3. Rely on God

Acts 14: 3 - Therefore they [Paul and Barnabas] spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.

How did Paul and Barnabas demonstrate reliance upon the Lord?
Are you relying on God as you tell people about Him?

Lord, as I tell people about You, help me to rely on You, rather than on my own abilities, so that Your grace may be clearly seen as You work through me.

4. Go fish

Matthew 4:19-20 - *“Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ At once they [Peter and Andrew] left their nets and followed him.”*

What did Peter and Andrew leave in order to follow Jesus?

What would be their task as they followed Jesus?

What have you left behind in order to follow Jesus and fish for people?

Lord, help me to follow You without hesitation. Send me out to fish for people and bring them to You.

5. Teach people to be good examples

Titus 2:3 - *“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.”*

What kind of example did Paul instruct believers to set for others?

What kind of example are you setting for others?

Lord, help me to be an example to others for how to live, how to speak, how to be moderate, and how to teach what is good.

6. Train people to teach

2 Timothy 2:2 - *“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”*

What did Paul instruct Timothy to do?

Are you training others to teach God’s Word?

Are you carefully studying God’s Word so that you can train others to teach it?

Lord, please grant me wisdom and understanding as I study Your Word. Enable me to train other people to teach Your Word.

7. Teach believers to obey Christ

Matthew 28:19-20 - *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

What did Christ tell us to teach new disciples?

Are you teaching believers to obey Christ?

Lord, as I make disciples, help me to teach them to observe all that You have commanded.

8. Bear fruit that abides

John 15:16 - *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*

What does Jesus appoint us to do?
What kind of fruit does Jesus want us to bear?
Are you fulfilling this task?

Lord, help me to faithfully bear lasting spiritual fruit.

9. Ask in the Father's name

John 15:16 - *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*

To ask in the Father's name, means to pray in agreement with God's character, nature, and will.

When you pray, do you ask in agreement with God's character, nature, and will?
According to John 15:16, what will happen if we pray this way?
How can I learn what God's character, nature, and will are so that I can pray in agreement with it?

Lord, help me to be diligent in studying Your Word so that I can learn what Your character, nature, and will are, and pray accordingly.

10. Don't overlook anyone

Matthew 28:19 - *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

Mark 16:15 - *And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.*

Notice the scope: all nations, all the world, the whole creation.

Who is included in those terms?

Notice the instructions: go to all, make disciples of all, proclaim to all.

Why should we go?
What are we to proclaim?
Are you excluding anyone from the gospel message?

Lord, enable me to go to all, proclaim the gospel message to all, and make disciples of all.

11. Remember your purpose is to glorify God

John 15:8 - *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

According to this verse, how do we prove we are Christ's disciples?

What is the purpose of the disciple's bountiful fruit bearing?

Can others plainly see that you are Christ's disciple by looking at the spiritual fruit you are bearing?

Are you bringing glory to God by bearing much spiritual fruit?

Lord, help me to be bearing much spiritual fruit so that others can plainly see that I belong to You. May my life bring glory to You.

12. Do the priestly work you are called to do

1 Peter 2:9 - *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

According to 1 Peter 2:9, what is one task we are given to perform as holy priests belonging to God?

Are you busy proclaiming the excellencies of God?

What basis is given for proclaiming the excellencies of God?

Lord, You have called me out of darkness into Your marvelous light. You have made me a priest, holy and belonging to You. Let those wonderful things motivate me to proclaim Your excellencies to all people.

13. Equip others through the study of Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

What resource should the Christian use for teaching and training?

Are you equipping yourself for every good work through the study of Scripture?

Are you studying Scripture so that you can teach and train other believers?

Lord, grant me wisdom and understanding as I seek to study Your Word, and as I use it to teach and train other believers.

14. Stay focused on seeking God

Matthew 6:33 - *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

*What should be the first priority of the believer's life?
Is seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness your first priority?
How can you tell whether that is your first priority?
What can you do to reprioritize your life?*

Lord, help me to make seeking Your kingdom and Your righteousness the greatest priority in my life.

15. Pray for God to raise up laborers

Luke 10:1-3 - *After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.*

*What does Jesus instruct us to pray in these verses?
How does He instruct us to pray?
Are you praying earnestly for God to send out laborers into His harvest?
Are you willing to go when and where He sends you?*

Lord, as I go on my way, grant me power and boldness to labor in Your harvest. Please raise up other laborers, too, for the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Protect us and provide for us as we go out as laborers for You.

16. Be a lamb in the midst of wolves

Luke 10:1-3 - *After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.*

*What did Jesus mean when He said He was sending us out as lambs in the midst of wolves?
Are you being blameless and innocent as you go out?
How will your blamelessness affect your witness?*

Lord, as I go out to labor in Your harvest, help me to remain blameless and innocent.

17. Go to church

Hebrews 10:25 - Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

According to this verse, why should we meet together with other believers in church?
Are you faithfully attending church for the purpose of encouraging others?
Why is that especially important as we see Christ's return drawing near?

Lord, please give me the desire and the grace I need to faithfully attend church. Help me to use that time to encourage other believers.

18. Be aware of the need

John 4:35-38 - Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor."

Are you looking around you in order to see the need of others to hear about Jesus?
Are you joining with others in gathering fruit for eternal life?
Are you rejoicing with others as you sow and reap together?

Lord, please open my eyes to see the need of those around me to hear about Jesus. Empower me to join together with other laborers in sowing Your Word and reaping a harvest. Remind me to rejoice with others as we labor together.

19. Be respectful

1 Corinthians 9:20 - To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.

What does Paul mean when he says, "to the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews?"
When you go out witnessing in your community, or around the world, are you respectful of the cultures and traditions of other people groups?
How will being respectful of other cultures affect the way you dress, speak, or behave?

Lord, as I go about sharing the good news of Jesus, help me to be respectful of the cultures and traditions of others. Keep me from offending others by how I dress, speak, and behave so that I will not hinder Your gospel message in any way.

20. Let your good works be a shining light

Matthew 5:13-16 - *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

According to these verses, how can we be salt and light in the world?

How do our good works bring light into the world?

Are you doing good works that cause other people to glorify God?

Lord, show me how to be salt and light each day. Guide me to do good works that will cause other people to give glory to You.

21. Glorify God

1 Peter 4:11 - *Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

According to this verse, what are some things that bring glory to God?

When you speak, do you speak as the mouthpiece of God - that is, say the things He would say?

When you serve, are you serving by the strength which God supplies - that is, relying on God to help you?

What does Peter say is the reason we should glorify God by how we speak and serve?

Lord, help me to glorify You by the things I say and by the way I serve. Speak through me, O Lord. Grant me Your strength as I serve. All glory and dominion belong to You.

22. Speak truth in love

Ephesians 4:15 - *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,*

To what truth does Paul refer in this verse?

How does God's truth help us to grow up, or mature, in Christ?

Are you studying God's Word so that you can be sharing it in loving ways with others?

Are you maturing in your faith as you speak God's truth in loving ways?

Lord, as I study Your Word, help me to faithfully share it with others in loving ways. Help me to grow and mature in Christ.

23. Be fully committed to sharing the gospel with others

Acts 19:9-10 - But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

How did Paul demonstrate that he was committed to sharing the gospel with others?
Do you have that same level of commitment to sharing the gospel?
If not, why not?

Lord, help me to daily commit myself to sharing the gospel with others, even in adverse circumstances.

24. Stir up others to love and good works, meet together, encourage one another

Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

We have a tendency to stir other people up to be negative in thought and deed. According to these verses, what should we be stirring others up to do instead?
Are you stirring up others to love?
What are you doing to stir others up to do good works?
How are you stirring others up to go to church?

Lord, will You please forgive me for the times I have stirred up others to be negative in thought and deed? Help me in the future to be stirring up others to love, to do good works, and to go to church.

25. Teach, sing, be thankful

Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God

What are you doing to let the word of Christ dwell in you richly?
Are you teaching and admonishing others in all wisdom?
What psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs have you been singing this week?
Are you careful to express thankfulness to God on a daily basis?

Lord, grant me wisdom and understanding as I daily study Your Word. Help me to apply it to my own life as I teach it to others. Let my heart be filled with songs of praise and thankfulness to You.

26. Confess sins and pray

James 5:16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Do you confess your sins to others, asking them to pray for you?

Do you allow others to confess to you, praying for them?

REMEMBER: Be discreet. Don't repeat these prayer requests unless the other person gives you permission.

Lord, help us to confess our sins to one another and pray for one another so that we may be healed. Grant our prayers wonder working power.

27. Be concerned and thoughtful of others

Philippians 2:3-4 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

According to these verses, how are we to treat others?

Do you do anything from selfish motives?

How can our actions and attitudes change when we count others more significant than ourselves?

Are you looking out only for your own interests, or are you also looking out for the interests of others?

Lord, keep me from selfish ambition and conceit. In humility, help me to count others more significant than myself. Help me to no longer look out only for my own interests, but to look out for the interests of others instead.

28. Restore

Galatians 6:1 - Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Are you gently helping others to stay on God's path?

Are you being watchful not to fall into temptation yourself?

Lord, please show me how to gently help others to stay on Your path. Keep me from temptation as I try to help them.

29. Utilize your training

Luke 6:40 - *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.*

Are you training to be like Jesus?
Are you training others to be like Jesus?

Lord, as I train spiritually, please help me grow to be more like Jesus. Help me to train others to be more like Jesus.

30. Handle God's word accurately

2 Timothy 2:15 - *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

Are you presenting yourself to God as a worker who is pleasing to Him and has no need to be ashamed?
How can you do that?
Are you accurately handling God's Word - reading it, studying it, applying it in the ways God prescribes?

Lord, help me to be a worker who is pleasing to you and has no need to be ashamed. Help me to accurately handle Your Word.

31. Sharpen others

Proverbs 27:17 - *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

What does it mean to sharpen others?
How can we sharpen others spiritually?
Are you sharpening others spiritually?
Are you allowing others to sharpen you spiritually?

Lord, help me to sharpen others spiritually, and to allow them to sharpen me.