

Contents

Discipleship

1. Disciples and Scripture (the Bible) (December 28–January 3)	4
2. Discipling Through Metaphor (January 4–10)	10
3. Discipleship and Prayer (January 11–17)	17
4. Discipling Children (January 18–24)	24
5. Discipling (Working With) the Sick (January 25–31)	31
6. Discipling the “Common People” (February 1–7)	38
7. Jesus and the Social Outcasts (February 8–14)	44
8. With the Rich and Famous (February 15–21)	51
9. Discipling the Powerful (February 22–28)	58
10. Discipling the Nations (March 1–7)	65
11. Discipling Spiritual Leaders (March 8–14)	72
12. The Harvest and the Harvesters (March 15–21)	79
13. The Cost of Discipleship (March 22–28)	86

Editorial Office: 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

Come visit us at our Web site: <http://www.absg.adventist.org>

Printing and Circulation Office: Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687-3193

Principal Contributor
Dan Solís

Contributing Editors
George Belser
Esther Doss

Pacific Press® Coordinator
Wendy Marcum

Editor
Soraya Homayouni

Editorial Assistant
Sharon Thomas-Crews

Line Drawings
Cassi Meelhuysen

Publication Manager
Lea Alexander Greve

Art and Design
Lars Justinen

E. G. White Estate Consultant
Ivan Leigh Warden



The *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The preparation of the guides is under the general direction of a worldwide Sabbath School Manuscript Evaluation Committee, the members of which serve as consulting editors. The published Bible study guide reflects the input of the committee and thus does not solely or necessarily represent the intent of the author(s). The Easy Reading Edition is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide in cooperation with Three Angels Deaf Ministries, PO Box 1946, Greenbelt, MD 20768; <http://www.3angelsdeafministries.org>.

Introduction

The Master of Discipleship¹

In the beginning God created a perfect, sinless world. Humans enjoyed honoring, worshiping, and following their Creator face to face. Life should have continued this way for eternity, but it has not.

This is because Satan deceived (tricked) our first earthly parents, Adam and Eve. He stole the true meaning and purpose of life from them. So, rebellion (war against God) spread all over the entire world.

Christ's sacrifice gave us our only hope. This is because only the Cross offers us freedom. It offers us our only escape from a life without hope or meaning. Only Jesus offers sinful humans freedom, forgiveness, and the opportunity to return to the perfect world.

God encourages believers everywhere to become messengers who announce God's grace² to the world. They are to preach the good news of salvation to those enslaved by Satan. They also are to encourage others to follow, worship, and praise their Maker. In other words, Christ's example of disciple-making³ must become the model (example) that believers follow when answering the command of Matthew 28:19, 20.

So, the topic of our quarter is discipleship. The word has many meanings. But, in this study, we will examine discipleship as a way of becoming followers of Jesus and better soul winners.

After all, Jesus is every Christian's example for the work of soul winning. Does it make sense to think that successful evangelism is done with popular psychology⁴ or colorful advertisements? Or would it be better to follow the simple example of Christ?

How did Jesus attract His followers? What can we learn from Christ's example that would help us to better lead others to Him? How can we better obey His great command (Matthew 28:19, 20)? How did Jesus interest such different groups: the rich and the poor, the religious and the nonreligious, and the politically powerful and the powerless? How did Jesus unlock hardened hearts? How did He inspire (create) hope among people who had lost that hope? How did He gently awaken the child's tender heart? How did He overcome racial and social obstacles (things that block people from each other) so He could make disciples? How did He reach rich and powerful

1. discipleship—the practice of accepting Jesus and following Him.

2. grace—God's gift of mercy and forgiveness that He freely gives us to take away our sin.

3. disciple-making—the process of making believers follow and obey Jesus.

4. psychology—the study of the mind and the reasons for the ways that people think and act.

people? How did He wake up proud religious leaders? How did He give hope to those who were dying from diseases?

These are not just interesting discussion questions for curious people. Instead, they are serious study for Christians who want to follow Jesus' example of leading lost sheep to the loving Shepherd.

Paul also challenged believers to follow him in the same way that he followed Christ. It is difficult to think that today's believers would not want to follow the principles (important rules) that Paul established (set up) in the first century.

In the end, following Jesus means more than just the opinion that discipleship is about correcting wrong behaviors and habits. These changes are important, but that is not all a follower of Christ should do. A full understanding of discipleship is not complete until a person desires to follow Jesus completely. As a result, this strong desire leads others to Christ, too.

Or, as Ellen G. White tells us so well: "As soon as a person gets to know Christ, there is born in his heart a desire to share with others what an important friend he has found in Jesus. This saving, holy truth cannot remain quiet in his heart. We are clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness. We are filled with the joy of His indwelling Spirit. Then we shall not be able to hold our peace. If we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good, we shall have something to tell. . . . There will be a great desire to follow in the path that Jesus walked."—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, pages 78, 79.

This is our subject for this quarter.

Dan Solís was born in Texas, U.S.A. He is the grandson of a sharecropper and migrant farm worker. He holds graduate degrees from Andrews University and Reformed Theological Seminary. He has served the church as a pastor, conference departmental director, and college professor. Dan and his wife, Cindy, an elementary school teacher, have three adult children serving the Lord in Washington, California, and Tennessee.