



# Better

DISCIPLESHIP FROM  
THE INSIDE OUT

STUDENT LESSON

LESSON 1

## Our Mission, if We Choose to Accept It

Sometimes life can feel like it's stuck on repeat, like you're trapped inside a time loop, living the same boring day over and over again.

You wake up, go to school, sit through one class after another, then head to practice for your sport, recital, or play. You get home, scroll through TikTok and Instagram, watch Netflix, go to bed, and then do it all over again, day after day, just waiting for the sweet relief of the weekend. Maybe your life does not feel exactly like that, but when I was in middle and high school, my life definitely did. And I hate to break it to you—that feeling does not magically vanish when you get older. If you find yourself living only for the weekend, for your friends, parties, or sports games, where everything else in between is just a side quest to the main goal of enjoying life, then you are missing the point.

**We were made for more.**

Our mission is to live for a greater purpose, it's to make disciples. That calling isn't just for pastors or missionaries, it's for every follower of Jesus. Yes, including students. At Village Bible Church, we express this through discovering, developing, and deploying disciples who find new life in Christ, grow as His followers, and serve His Kingdom.

Discipleship isn't just about knowledge; it's about becoming more like Jesus in every part of life. That's what our series *Better: Discipleship from the Inside Out*<sup>1</sup> is all about.

Our prayer is that we won't settle for partial discipleship but will invite the Spirit to transform us fully, from the inside out.

## Icebreaker

**What's something you once got excited about (a hobby, skill, or project) but slowly drifted away from over time?**

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<sup>1</sup> Inspired by Mac Lake's *Leading Yourself*

# Daily Devotions

Day 1 : Read It

**Read Luke 12:13–21 and Matthew 28:18–20.**

Get It

1. In the passage from Luke, what mission was the man in Jesus' parable consumed with?
2. What is the lesson Jesus is teaching in this parable?
3. In Matthew 28, what are the key components of the mission Jesus gave His disciples?
4. On what authority does Jesus give this mission?
5. What promise does Jesus give us in carrying out this mission?

## Day 2 — Today's Theme: What's My Main Mission?

### Read Luke 12:13–21.

It's really easy to make life all about me. My feelings, what I want to do, my comfort, my success, my time. Me, me, me. And I'll be honest—I fall into this trap all the time. We live in a world that tells us, "You're the center of the universe!" But here's the problem: if we listen to the world we will always be let down.

So what does Jesus teach? In Luke 12:13–21, Jesus tells a story about a man who had a really good thing happen: "his land produced plentifully." In other words, his farm grew way more crops than he needed. Instead of seeing his success as a chance to thank God and to bless others, the man only thought about himself. He tore down his barns, built bigger ones, and planned a life of comfort: "Relax, eat, drink, and be merry."

Here's the problem: his mistake wasn't stealing or doing something obviously bad. He was setting himself up like he was the main character of the story, as if life were all about him. And you know what? Jesus called him a fool!

This is a warning for us today: even good things, like success, safety, or free time, can slowly pull us away from God's mission if we're not careful. The world says, "Chase comfort. Live for yourself."

But Jesus doesn't call us to build bigger barns, He calls us to build His Kingdom.

### 6. What would you say you value most in life?

### 7. Jesus rebukes the rich man not for being rich, but for storing up treasure for himself and not being "rich toward God." What do you think it means to be "rich toward God"?

### 8. How might your desire for comfort and free time be influencing your choices more than following Christ's mission?

### 9. If someone watched how you spend your time, what you care about, and what you talk about most, what would they say your life is all about? Does that match the mission Jesus has given you

## Day 3 — Today's Theme: Jesus Says...

### **Read Matthew 28:18–20.**

We've all played the game Simon Says: "Simon says, put your hand on your head... Simon says, pat your tummy..." and pretty soon we're doing silly things we'd never normally do. But why do we do it? Because we're focused, we're locked in. We're listening carefully and following the commands, so we don't get out.

If we can listen that closely for a game, how much more should we listen to what Jesus tells us to do? He says, "Follow me." "Go and make disciples." "Be baptized." These aren't suggestions, they're commands from the One who gave His life for us.

When we obey Jesus, it's not just about following rules. It's about living for the One who loves us most and deserves our trust. We don't "go" because we have to, we "go" because we want to, because we love Him. Obedience to Jesus isn't a burden, it's a joy.

**10. What makes it hard to obey the Bible's teachings in your daily life?**

**11. Read John 14:15. How should your love for Jesus motivate you to obey His commands, even when it's hard or inconvenient?**

**12. What's the difference between obeying Jesus out of love versus just trying to follow rules or be a "good person"? How can your example help others understand that difference?**

**13. Baptism is one of the first steps of obedience Jesus gives us. If you've been baptized, how does remembering that moment encourage you to live on mission today? If you haven't been baptized, what might be holding you back from taking this step of obedience**

## Day 4 — Today's Theme: What Does It Mean to Make Disciples?

### Read Matthew 28:18–20.

Think about the last time you picked up something new: maybe a sport, a video game, a movie, an instrument, or even a recipe. If you were really excited about it, you probably didn't just keep it to yourself. You wanted to show your friends, tell them about it, and share the experience with them. When something is that good, it feels natural to share it. That is how we are. When we are excited about something, we cannot help but tell others.

In the same way, Jesus gave us a mission in Matthew 28. He did not just say, "Follow me." He also commanded us to "go and make disciples." Making disciples is not just for pastors or missionaries—it is for all of us. Just like you would pass on a skill you've learned, we are called to pass on our faith. This has always been the pattern: Jesus poured into His disciples, and His disciples invested in others; Paul mentored Timothy, and Timothy taught others.

In 2 Timothy 2:2 we read: "*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.*" In this verse, we see **four generations of disciple-making**: Paul, Timothy, reliable people, and others.

Disciple making and multiplication happens when each of us takes what we have learned about Jesus and intentionally shares it with someone else. We often overthink disciple making, but it is really just "helping someone take their next step spiritually."<sup>2</sup> It can be as simple as teaching a friend how to pray, reading Scripture with someone younger in the faith, or inviting a friend to church with you.

So think about this: Who is pouring into your life? And who are you pouring into? God has placed you in your family, your school, your team, your small group, and your job for a reason. How will you live out this mission where He has put you?

**14. Jesus tells us to "go and make disciples." What do you think it looks like for students to actually live that out?**

**15. Who has been pouring into your life and helping you grow in your faith?**

**16. Who is someone you could start pouring into, even in a small way?**

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<sup>2</sup> Mac Lake, *Leading Others: Developing the Character and Competency to Lead Others*, 11.

## Day 5 — Today's Theme: Your Personal Mission

By now, we've explored what it means to make disciples, why Jesus calls us to focus on His mission, and how obedience and multiplication play a role in our faith. Now, we want to help you as students to personalize this mission, to see that living on mission isn't about going somewhere far away, but about being someone God can work through, right where you are.

Living on mission starts with self-leadership, understanding the skills, passions, and spiritual gifts God has given you and finding ways to use them for His Kingdom. 1 Peter 4:10 says, *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

At Village, we want every student to be actively involved in three ways. We want every student to faithfully participate in a Sunday morning **worship service** so that they can worship with the larger body of Christ. We want every student to be faithfully participating in their **small group** on Wednesdays. And lastly, we want every student to regularly **serve** with their gifts and passions in some way, whether in their church, their campus ministry at school, or a ministry like Urban Youth Ministry. By serving Jesus with your gifts and passions, you are fulfilling the "Deploy" aspect of Village's mission for every person to "Discover, Develop and **Deploy** Disciples."

So today, think about **how God has wired you** and where he's calling you to serve His mission.

**17. What are some personal skills, passions, or spiritual gifts God has given you, and how have others affirmed these in your life?**

**18. How well are you currently using your strengths and passions to live effectively on mission?**

**19. Take a moment to consider your strengths, passions, and desired impact and write out a specific mission statement for your own life.**

Example: "To encourage and equip (STRENGTHS) leaders (PASSION) to multiply multipliers (DESIRED IMPACT)."

This study was written by Ethan Wentzlaff, based on the adult study by the VBC pastoral team.