



Discipleship

Sample Lesson

JOHN A. STEWART

ONE

IS THERE A WORD FROM THE LORD?

Read Psalm 119:97–105; John 5:39; 2 Timothy 3:16–17;
2 Peter 1:16–21; other references as given.

Everyone needs purpose. A young boy may dream about becoming a firefighter or a star athlete and a young girl about being a princess, a famous singer, or a doctor. An adult may envision building great buildings or discovering a cure for a dreaded disease. Every person, child or adult, must have a purpose in life and seek to fulfill it. Without purpose, hope is lost, dreams crumble, and people die even though they are still alive.

The same is true for the believer. A believer must understand why God has saved him and accept his God-given identity in Christ. The Christian's purpose is to glorify God (1 Corinthians 6:19–20; 10:31) and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18–20). The command to make disciples of Jesus Christ is known as the Great Commission.

Discipleship is God's call to believers to join Him to help all people submit to the Lord Jesus Christ in all things. God's call is personal. Every believer has been called to make disciples. God's call is authoritative. Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel" (Mark 16:15). God's call is effective. His call to make disciples implies effective ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit. God's call is comprehensive. Jesus has all authority, and all believers are to make disciples of all nations and teach them to observe all things (Matthew 28:20). For the believer to not accept God's calling to make disciples is to miss his purpose and mission in life.



Lombardi Time Rule:

If the leader arrives early, he or she has time to pray, prepare the room, and greet others personally.

ADD GROUP
INSIGHTS BELOW

In this first lesson you'll learn that discipleship doesn't begin with a method or even a message—God's command to make disciples and the believer's response to Jesus' call. It begins with Jesus Christ, who died on a cross to save man and now calls us to join Him in a great holy cause.

Before you begin, ask God to reveal Himself to you and transform you into the image of Jesus Christ.

1. God is a god who communicates. This is one of the most important truths for a Christian to learn. In Genesis 1:1, the Bible says, **In the beginning God ...** and His revelation to man continues throughout Scripture. The Bible is His-story and His revelation of Himself to man.

a. What two-word response did Jeremiah give King Zedekiah when he was asked, **“Is there any word from the Lord?”**(Jeremiah 37:16–17)?

b. If someone asked you if there is any word from the Lord, meaning do you believe the Bible is God's divinely inspired revelation to man, how would you answer this question?

Why? _____

2. Religious liberals (religious nonbelievers) reject the belief that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God. They use nice-sounding statements like “The Bible contains the words of God, but it also includes the words of man” and “The Bible is inspired the way the masters of the past were inspired when they created great masterpieces of art, music, and literature.” Most evangelicals (those who have been

Is There a Word from the Lord?

born again through faith in Jesus Christ), however, believe the Bible is the divinely inspired, inerrant Word of God.

- a. There are three possibilities about the precise nature of the Bible; (1) The Bible is the words of man, 2) The Bible contains the words of God and the words of man, and (3) The Bible is what it claims to be—God’s inerrant revelation. Which of these three possibilities *do you think* describes the exact nature of the Bible?

Why? _____

- b. What does the Bible claim about its own nature (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20–21)?

3. The early church leader Augustine (354–430) said “If you believe what you like in the Gospel and reject what you do not like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself.” How does the Bible refute the liberal interpreters’ claim that it contains both the words of God and the words of man (John 10:35)?

4. The Bible’s claim to be divinely inspired by God doesn’t prove that it is the Word of God. Merely claiming something is true does not make it true (this is known as “circular



Zip-It Rule:

Group members should agree to disagree, but should never be disagreeable.

ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

reasoning”). There are four facts, however, that lead honest evaluators to one undeniable conclusion—that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. What *do you think* are these four undeniable facts that lead unbiased evaluators to conclude the Bible must be the divinely inspired Word of God?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. Two phrases, *verbal inspiration* and *plenary inspiration*, are often used to describe the specific nature of God’s Word. *Verbal* inspiration means the words, not just the thoughts, were inspired by God in the original writings (called manuscripts) of the Bible. The word *plenary* means all the words of the Bible are God-breathed. The Bible doesn’t just contain the words of God; it is the Word of God. Even though most evangelical Christians believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, many still struggle to understand the implications of biblical inspiration.

a. What is the fourfold ministry of God’s Word (2 Timothy 3:16)?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

b. What will be the result if you (1) accept the Bible for what it is, the divinely inspired Word of God and (2) allow

Is There a Word from the Lord?

it to impact your life (2 Timothy 3:17)?

- c. If you are a Christian, *do you think* God's Word can thoroughly furnish or equip you to fulfill His command to make disciples of Jesus Christ?

Yes No I am not sure.
 I never thought about that before.

6. What did Peter say about the sufficiency of God's Word (2 Peter 1:3)?

7. In which areas listed below *do you think* the Bible is trustworthy and should be accepted as completely true? Seriously consider each category before answering.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. God | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 2. Origin of life | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 3. Man's nature | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 4. Marriage/sexuality | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 5. Science | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 6. Sin | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 7. Meaning of life | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 8. Peace/happiness | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 9. Finances | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 10. Eternal life | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

8. Because the Bible is true, His Word is authoritative, complete, comprehensive, and thoroughly adequate to equip you to do all He has commanded you.

- a. Jesus said, **"Go and make disciples of all nations"** (Matthew 28:19), but only a small number of Christians



Want to learn how to disciple another person, lead a life-changing Bible study or start another study?

Go to
www.LamplightersUSA.org/training
to learn how.

ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

respond to His command in an intentional way. Why *do you think* many believers are not intentional about obeying Christ's command to make disciples?

b. If you are a believer, how are you actively fulfilling Christ's command to make disciples?

9. If you are a Christian, the Bible says that God has given you everything that pertains to life and godliness, including everything you need to make disciples. Are you willing, even if you don't know how, to obey God and make disciples of Jesus Christ?

10. What is the most important truth you learned from this lesson?

LEADER'S GUIDE

Lesson 1: Is There a Word from the Lord?

1. a. **“There is.”**
b. Answers will vary.

2. a. Answers will vary, but the Bible is what it claims to be, God’s inerrant revelation.
b. 2 Timothy 3:16: The Bible says all Scripture is God-breathed (Greek *theopneustos*, “inspired”). God’s words were given through men who were superintended by the Holy Spirit so that their writings are without error.
2 Peter 1:20–21: The Scriptures did not originate in the minds of the prophets themselves, but they were given by God through the superintending ministry of the Holy Spirit. Since the Holy Spirit is without error or fault, the Scriptures are also without error.

3. When Jesus said **the Scripture cannot be broken** (John 10:35), He was saying all the Scriptures are without error. This is a powerful statement about the inerrancy of the Bible that refutes the argument that the Bible contains the words of God and the words of man.

4.
 1. Fulfilled prophecy. Jeremiah 28:9 says, **As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent.** Hundreds of prophecies have come to pass exactly as they were prophesied, proving that the Lord truly sent the prophets to speak in His name. Many of these prophecies are amazingly specific (Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Micah 5:2), providing ample proof of the supernatural character of the Scriptures.
 2. Archeology. Archeological discoveries have repeatedly confirmed the accuracy of the geography of the Bible.
 3. Unity of the Bible. The books of the Bible were written over a period of 1,500 years by a variety of authors with a wide range of backgrounds (kings, a government official, a farmer, prophets, shepherds, fishermen, etc.), most of whom never met each other. Yet the Bible manifests

a unity of theme and a consistency that can only be explained as supernaturally inspired by God.

4. Jesus and the New Testament writers' testimonies about Scripture. Jesus said not one word of the Old Testament Law would pass away (not even the smallest letter or part of a letter; Matthew 5:18) until all is fulfilled. Jesus authenticated the historical account of Jonah and the fish (Matthew 12:40). The New Testament writers quoted from the Old Testament repeatedly as support for the theological truths they were writing about. The apostle Paul said all Scripture was inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16).
5.
 - a.
 1. The Bible teaches us how to live right. (It is profitable for doctrine/teaching)
 2. The Bible teaches us where we went wrong. (It is profitable for reproof)
 3. The Bible teaches us how to get back on the right path. (It is profitable for correction)
 4. The Bible instructs us how to stay on the right path in life. (It is profitable for training in righteousness)
 - b. The Christian will be completely (thoroughly) equipped to live a God-honoring life.
 - c. Answers will vary.
6. God has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. This enablement in a believer's life is directly related to his knowledge of God who called him by His glory and virtue (2 Peter 1:3). God, in His infinite wisdom, has provided everything a believer needs to live a God-honoring life, including all he needs to fulfill the Great Commission.
7. Answers will vary, but all the answers should be "yes."
8.
 - a.
 1. A greater love for self than a love for God
 2. A lack of conviction. Many believers do not think God's commands are authoritative
 3. A lack of training
 4. Fear of failure
 5. Discipleship requires more than teaching. It requires training. Jesus said, **"Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."** (Mark 1:17)

6. A disciple-making mind-set has not been normalized in many churches.
Other answers could apply.
 - b. Answers will vary.
9. Answers will vary.
10. Answers will vary.