



**Fellowship of Christian Firefighters
International**
Ministering to First Responders Since 1977

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Essentials of Biblical Discipleship

A discipleship ministry for first responders who desire to disciple other first responders

Subject: The Fellowship of Christian Firefighters International essentials of Biblical discipleship.

Scope: To any active member who is serious about being obedient to Matthew 28:19 & 20.

Objective: To provide guidelines for the Essentials of Biblical Discipleship ministry.



Getting Started

The Fellowship of Christian Firefighters began in 1977. One of the early foundations of FCF was the Discipleship Ministry. Utilizing the Navigator's Design for Discipleship series, the FCF encouraged first responders to grow in their relationship with God. The focus was on spiritual maturity. Recognizing today's need for discipleship and the teaching of sound doctrine, the FCF International is refocusing its Vision and Mission. Our hope, desire, and prayer is that this discipleship ministry will encourage you in your walk with Christ. Our ultimate goal is that

you will use this series of studies to train other believers so that they, too, will mature in their faith. That is discipleship. **Believers training believers. Disciples making disciples.**

Remember – We believe that the entire Bible is the inspired word of God. As a believer we must constantly be growing in our faith by reading and studying our Bible as well as applying what we have learned to our lives.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

II Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

The FCF Essentials of Biblical Discipleship will be presented in several sections, each section having a series of Bible studies. The curriculum will discuss the basics of discipleship along with a suggested format for group and one-on-one ministry.

Some of the areas of study will be the following:

- What is discipleship?
- Why is it needed?
- What are the characteristics of a disciple?
- How can I be a discipler?
- Resources for Additional Biblical Training

The key passage for this study is Matthew 28:18-20.

*“And **Jesus** came and spoke to **them**, saying, “All authority has been given to **Me** in **heaven and on earth**. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the **nations**, baptizing **them** in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**, teaching **them** to observe all things that **I** have commanded **you**; and lo, **I** am with **you** always, even to the **end of the age**.” Amen.*

Approach this study like a new recruit beginning his/her basic training. Be eager to learn. Be diligent to apply what you have been taught. Above all, be committed to discipleship for yourself and others.

Note: Here is an example of how some folks study a passage.

Consider color coding the section to help better understand what is going on; **Orange** – People and pronouns, **Blue** – Time and chronology, **Green** – Places, **Brown** – Events, **Red** – Reoccurring words or themes, **Purple** – Main idea, keywords, or running concepts

- Read before and after the section to be sure you understand the context.

- Do a word search for similar themes in other sections of the Bible.
- What does the passage say? What does the passage mean? What am I going to do with what I just learned?
- As an example Keith Helms has looked at this section in the following way; Context: Matt. 28:9-10 "go to Galilee", Matt. 28:16-17 "they worshiped Him but some doubted" Verse. 18, The Father has given all authority to The Son. Therefore, we are commanded to go and make disciples. This allows for the typical foreign missions as well as making disciples in your home and community. Verse 19-20, As we are making disciples, we are to baptize and to teach them to obey all that Christ commanded. Verse 20, Christ's assurance that He will be with us.

Note: When Wayne Detzler, International Board member from Connecticut, looks for first responders to disciple he makes sure they are FAT; Faithful, Available, and Teachable.

Before proceeding with this Bible study, please note this word of caution. Prior to entering a relationship in which you will disciple another believer, you must have been discipled yourself. You must be a student of the scriptures and you must be on a path of spiritual maturity (Romans 10:2-3). This does not mean that you should not evangelize or share your faith with others nor does it mean that you cannot join others in Bible study if you are not mature in the faith. It does mean that you cannot lead or mentor other believers until you have become mature. The more closely you walk with Christ, the more effective you can be in making disciples who go and make more disciples.

Note: (Throughout this study, we will be using the masculine pronouns he, him, and his in reference to disciples. This is done for simplicity. Our intent is to encourage discipleship for all first responders, male and female.)

If you are interested in discipling other first responders, sign up for our Discipleship Maker Series today.

What is discipleship?

Before we can begin to implement a discipleship ministry, we must have a common starting point. We must understand what the term "discipleship" means. Think about the difference between fire ground strategy and tactics. Strategy sets the course, the direction and goal of our efforts. Tactics are how we implement the strategy. This section is the strategy. The tactics will come later.

Reread Matt. 28:18-20

In Fire Science Technology programs, students learn that a fire has four key components that must be maintained for a fire to ignite and continue burning. These elements are fuel, heat, oxygen, and an uninhibited chain reaction. If any of the four are removed or suppressed, the fire will be extinguished. This is referred to as the Fire Tetrahedron. Matt. 28:18-20 presents the Discipleship Tetrahedron. There are four components of discipleship that must be present and sustained to achieve the strategy of a discipleship ministry:

- Christ's authority and presence.
- An intentional relationship between the discipler and the disciple.
- The teaching of sound doctrine.
- The obedience to the doctrine.



Christ's authority and presence.

Reread Matt. 28:18 – 20

- When firefighters arrive on the scene of a structure fire, the structure is theirs. By the authority of the governing city, the firefighters have been given the commission to do whatever is necessary to control the incident. If they need to kick in the front door, if they need to cut a hole in the roof, if they need to break windows, they have been given the right to do so. If they were doing this under their own authority, it would be called "breaking and entering" and "destruction of property". Also, because they have been given this authority by the city, failure to act to control the incident would be dereliction of duty. Similarly, we have been commissioned by Christ to make disciples. He states in Matt. 28:18 that He has **all** authority in heaven and on earth. It is under His authority that we are commissioned to make disciples. If we were acting under our own authority, we would be completely misguided and we would be making a false representation. We can boldly and confidently seek to make disciples because Christ Himself has authorized us to do so. We are acting in His name; we are representing Him to the world. Also, if we neglect this commission, then we are guilty of spiritual dereliction of duty.
- Matt. 28:20 says that Christ not only authorizes our commission to go and make disciples, but He will be with us. God Himself will be with us as we seek to impact others. John 16:7-15 and Acts 1:8 further indicate that believers have the Holy Spirit within them for guidance and empowerment. Just as authority and power are mutually critical in firefighting, they are also critical in discipleship. Christ with us...the Holy Spirit within us...we have no reason to hesitate or to be afraid of seeking to disciple others.
- Matthew 18:20 confirms Christ's authority and presence. He stated that when two or more are gathered together in His name, then He will be in the midst of them. If we are discipling in His name, it infers that we are representing Him in the discipling

relationship. His goals are our goals. His passions are our passions. Christ wants us to represent Him to a lost world and to other believers; and if we do that, then we can confidently know that He is with us. Consider deeply what it means to do something “in His name”.

Intentional Relationships

Read Matthew 28:19

- Most of us are aware of this verse, especially with the words “go ye”. This verse has often been used to draw attention to the need for foreign missions, and rightly so. However, a better translation of this verse uses the words “as you are going...” While this does not mean that we shouldn’t focus on foreign missions, it does imply that we should be seeking to make disciples every day and in every location. We should look for the opportunity to disciple our spouses, our children, folks at church, and those we see at the fire station.
- What does it mean to have intentional relationships in the fire service? A good analogy is the fire veteran and the rookie. If the rookie is to effectively learn how to apply what he learned in recruit school, the veteran will take the rookie “under his wings.” He will patiently show the rookie how it is done. The rookie observes as the experienced firefighter confidently and safely advances the nozzle or searches for victims at a working fire. The veteran then slowly begins to allow the rookie to do it himself. Discipleship follows the same pattern. A disciple learns principles from someone else and observes how the principles are applied in the discipler’s daily practices (Philippians 4:9). As the disciple grows in his understanding of the principles, he begins to practice them in his walk. Those principles and practices are then passed on to others. The veteran firefighter is truly reproducing himself/herself in the rookie.
- An intentional relationship requires an investment in time. Christ spent several years with the disciples. He lived with them, ate with them, travelled with them, and He communicated with them. He demonstrated the truth of love to them. He modeled the Bible’s role of the servant leader. He did not do this only for an hour on the mornings of the Sabbath or once a month at a prayer breakfast. Paul gives us another example to follow. 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 tells us that Paul gave the people clear teaching but he also gave them his life. Paul similarly invested himself in the life of Timothy. In 2 Timothy 3:10, Paul writes about this investment that assumingly required an extensive time commitment. Although we will avoid setting an agenda for the frequency of the meetings in a disciple making relationship, it must be stressed that the frequency and consistency will have a large effect on the progress of discipleship.



- A valid question about a discipleship ministry is how many people should be in a discipleship group. Christ had many followers; however His primary focus was on the 12 disciples. It was an ideal small group ministry. Paul had many people who looked to him as their leader, encourager, and teacher, but it was Timothy with whom he had a very intentional, intimate, disciple making relationship. Similarly, Elijah focused on Elisha (I Kings 19:19-21); it, too, was a one-on-one ministry. Are there a preferred number of people that should be in a discipleship group? Should it be a small group or a one-on-one ministry? The answer is to never exceed the number that allows the discipler to have consistent, intentional, intimate contact with each person being disciplined. When in doubt, go for the smaller number.

Sound doctrine

Read Matthew 28:20

- Christ told His disciples to teach everything that He had commanded. He had taught them about the supreme love for God (Matt. 22:37-38), the necessity to study the scriptures (John 8:31; John 15:7), the need for self-denial (Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23), and the importance of reflecting His love towards others (Matt. 22:39). Christ instructed His disciples to teach **All** of this to their disciples. This is not simply learning facts about God. Think about the analogy of eating food. You take the food in, digesting it so that it can be used for growth and energy. We should do the same with the study of the Bible (Jeremiah 15:16 and Ezekiel 3:1-3). The intent is Transformational Knowledge, knowledge that changes our interior world so that our hearts and minds begin to resemble the heart and mind of Christ. It affects how you see and understand God. Is He the God to be worshipped or a god to be used? It affects how you see yourself. Am I to worship God and serve others or am I to use and manipulate God and others to meet my self-determined, entitlement driven needs and desires? Teaching sound doctrine enhances our desire for intimacy with the Lord over every other desire, and as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God, our love for others will also grow (John 15:9-17).

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5

- Teaching sound doctrine is vital to your spiritual growth as well as the maturity of those who you are discipling. All scripture is good for our growth it enables us to do good works; good works as defined by God, not man.
- The teaching of sound doctrine is presented as the best defense against false doctrine. This theme is also addressed in 2 Peter and Jude. The most effective way of recognizing counterfeit money is to be very knowledgeable about real money. The same is true for spiritual doctrine. The more you know and understand the Lord God of the Bible, the more clearly you will identify false teachings about Him.

- A good starting point for the teaching of sound doctrine is the FCF Back to Basics study. This is an eight-part study covering the following topics:
 - Salvation
 - Scripture
 - The Church
 - God
 - Jesus Christ
 - The Holy Spirit
 - Man
 - Last Things

Note: As you walk with the disciple in the study of the scriptures, allow the study to enhance the relationship...study together...grow together...increase your love for God together. Additionally, remember that Christ said that obedience must accompany the teaching. Sound doctrine and obedience result in a transformed heart and mind; the heart and mind of a mature believer.

Obedience

Read Matthew 28:20

- The ministry of discipleship requires that the disciple obey what he has been taught. The disciple must take what he has observed in the life of the disciple and the truths that he has been taught, and he must begin to do them himself/herself. Knowledge alone does not cause us to mature. I was told as a young firefighter that books do not put out fires. Anyone can study how to enter a structure fire or to command an incident. However, it is only when you actually do it yourself that you will be identified as a firefighter or an officer.

Read James 1:22-25

- This passage gives the analogy of someone seeing their reflection in a mirror and then having a short-term memory lapse when they walk away. Similarly, it is like an inexperienced, poorly trained firefighter who upon approaching the entrance to a building fire forgets all that he/she has been taught and is unable to advance the hose line. A well trained firefighter has received the training and he/she has observed the veteran confidently advancing the line. He/she is confident that as he/she applies what he/she has learned and observed, he/she can safely and effectively attack the fire. A person who has been well disciplined can trust in the Holy Spirit and rely on sound doctrine to enable them to face the struggles of this world.

Read Philippians 4:9 and John 8:31

- In his letter to the Church at Philippi, Paul gave a very concise statement on this element of discipleship. “And what you have learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do these things.” Paul is saying “I have taught you truth...I have shown you how to do it...now go and do it yourself.”
- Jesus said to a group of believers that if they follow his teachings, if they obey and apply His truths, then they are His disciples.

Note:

Obedience – applying what you have learned about the Lord in a manner that transforms your mind and your heart, evidenced in transforming relationships. It is seen in our relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is furthermore seen in our relationships with others.

Remember:

The Discipleship Tetrahedron:

Christ’s authority and presence; an intentional relationship between the discipler and the disciple; the teaching of sound doctrine; and the obedience to the doctrine. Effective, Biblical, Christ honoring discipleship requires the interaction of each of these components. Remove any of them and discipleship will be extinguished.

The strategy of discipleship

Our strategy is not to build another discipleship program. The strategy of our ministry is to build relationships that encourage believers to conform to the image of Christ, to grow in their spiritual maturity, so that the entire body of Christ is unified in its worship and service for God. The strategy of the discipleship ministry is spiritual transformation; it is ultimately God’s work of radically changing a believer’s interior world by giving him/her a new identity in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). A discipler is not creating anything new within a disciple.

Assuming that the disciple is a believer in Christ, then he/she already has everything that he/she needs for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) and he/she has been blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3). The strategy of the discipleship ministry is to fan the flames of holiness that exist within the believer. The theme verse for the Fellowship of Christian Firefighters is Hebrews 10:24-25. In this passage we are encouraged to stimulate in one another the desire for love and good deeds. The picture is of someone fanning the



flames within another believer. This discipleship ministry is designed to stimulate and increase this flame. This is one fire that we should never extinguish.

Why is discipleship needed?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

- Christ commanded us to disciple others. This alone is enough reason to disciple others. Christ said it...we should do it. Think about it as a direct order from the Incident Commander at a structure fire. He gives the order...the firefighters should implement the order. Christ has given us a direct order. We either obey or disobey.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Hebrews 5:11-6:2;

- There is a problem in the church today. The Church in America has been described as being 1000 miles wide and 1 inch deep. The late Howard Hendricks of Dallas Theological Seminary once said that the greatest problem facing the contemporary church is unemployment. He suggested that there are two groups of people in most churches: 1) the pillars who support it, and 2) the caterpillars who crawl in and out each week. Are we guilty of creating a spectator mindset in our churches and our ministry to the fire service? Have we been inadequate in our training and discipleship of believers? Like a firefighter who prefers to walk around in the front yard instead of entering a structure to attack the fire, many believers prefer to be caterpillars than pillars, spectators as opposed to mature believers. We are not in the business of making yard walkers, caterpillars, or spectators. Our goal should be the maturity of all believers.

Discipleship glorifies God

Read Jn. 15:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 1:9-10

- The Westminster Catechism states that the chief aim of man is to glorify God. The making of disciples will please and glorify the Lord.

Discipleship is for the individual's good.

Read Romans 8:29; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:12-14

- God has not called us as believers to remain as infants with no growth. He has called us to be ever increasingly conformed to the image of Christ. God instructs us with His Holy Scriptures; He allows difficulties and persecutions; the Holy Spirit is within us; all so that we can be spiritually mature. All of His provisions are for our good.
- Each Christian firefighter should be encouraged to identify his spiritual gift(s). As the gifts are identified, the firefighter should seek the opportunity to exercise the gifts in ministry as he serves others within the body of Christ.

Discipleship is good for the Church

Read Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

- All believers have a spiritual gift or gifts for the effective working of the Church, the Body of Christ. Every believer is likened to a part of our physical bodies. If any part of the body is not healthy, then the whole body is affected. Think about the various roles at the fire scene. We have the suppression groups, ventilation groups, search groups, etc. If all of the groups function in a well-coordinated effort, the incident can be controlled in a safe and timely manner. If one group, or one part of a group, fails to perform properly, then the entire effort is compromised. Someone has to cover for the failings. If one firefighter is a “yard walker”, then there is one less person to assist with the search or suppression efforts. Within the body of Christ, believers who are not growing and are remaining spiritually immature have a harmful effect on the entire body. Discipleship ministries encourage the effectual growth of the individual which supports the growth of the entire Church.
- Each Christian firefighter should be encouraged to identify his spiritual gift(s). As the gifts are identified, the firefighter should seek the opportunity to exercise the gifts in ministry as he serves others within the body of Christ.

What are the characteristics of a disciple?

A good firefighter is identified by how he/she performs on the fire ground. Until one performs at the fire scene, it is all theoretical. You identify a disciple primarily by how he/she relates...how he/she loves God and how he/she loves others.

Read John 13:35

- A disciple is known by his/her love for one another. The exercising of discipleship is seen in relationships; relationship with God and with others.

Read John 8:31

- A disciple is grounded in the sound doctrine of the Bible. The effect is Transformational Knowledge. Your love for God is limited by your knowledge of Him. The more you learn about Him, the deeper your love and understanding of Him will be.

Read John 6:69; 2 Peter 3:18

- A disciple is constantly increasing in his faith in Christ.

Read John 15

- A disciple is committed to Christ in all things. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit if it is disconnected from the vine, a believer cannot bear fruit if he is not abiding in Christ.

Read Gal. 5:22-26

- A disciple is increasingly evidencing the Fruit of the Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4-25)

Read Matthew 10:17-33; Matthew 16:24-26

- A disciple is willing to suffer for Christ. Being a disciple does not make life easier (Jn. 16:33).

Read Mark 10:45; John 13:1-17; Philippians 2:3-11

- A disciple seeks to serve others. Christ didn't come to be served, but to serve.

These characteristics will help you to know when a disciple is ready to begin discipling others. As the disciple matures in his/her relationship with Christ, as one grows in knowledge and understanding of God, one begins to be ready to move on from being disciplined to discipling. A disciple is called to bear much fruit (John 15:6, 8, 16). Just as Christ sent out His disciples, we should do the same. The relationship between the discipler and the disciple will begin to evolve into an Iron-Sharpens-Iron relationship (Prov. 27:17). It will be two friends encouraging and building up each other as they continue on the path of spiritual maturity.

How can I be a discipler?

What are the tactics of a discipleship ministry? The ministry must be intentional and relational. The pattern must be reproducible. As we have stated before, the goal is disciples making disciples who make disciples who make disciples....

How do I find someone to disciple?

- Begin with prayer. Ask the Lord to help you to see the opportunities that are around you. Ask Him for wisdom and discernment. Ask Him to open the hearts of those who are around you.
- Look within your home. Has your husband or wife been disciple? Are you discipling your children? Do not make the mistake of discipling others while ignoring your family.
- Matthew 28:19 gave us the phrase, "As you are going..." Look for someone to disciple on your truck, at your station, in your department. You can begin by asking others if they want to join you in a Bible study that will encourage each of you to grow in your relationship with Christ. If you have already developed a close relationship with another firefighter, then you may already have a good idea of the possible opportunities.

How do I begin?

- Once a person agrees to meet with you, both of you should make an initial commitment to discipleship. Be clear with the disciple that you desire to invest your time and energy into his spiritual journey. Ideally, both of you will take ownership in the ministry. You may want to begin with a 3-6 month commitment. Although effective discipleship usually takes much longer, getting someone to commit to a 1-2 years may seem overwhelming.
- The disciple and discipler should agree to be accountable to each other. Accountability provides safeguards for maintaining the commitment. It involves the encouragement to stay faithful in your thoughts, beliefs, and actions as you increase in the knowledge and understanding of the Lord God (Hebrews 3:13).
- A fire officer's initial step in controlling a structure fire is his size-up. What is the problem? Is it a structure fire? Is it a haz-mat incident? Is there a possibility of a rescue situation? What resources and what actions are needed to control the incident? The size-up sets the course for the entire response. The size-up in discipleship assesses the disciple's spiritual maturity. Do they have assurance of their salvation (John 3:1-36; John 20:30-31)? If not, then the direction must focus on salvation/evangelism. Are they a new believer or immature believer (Hebrews 5:11-14)? If the answer is yes, then use a study that covers basic biblical doctrine. Are they currently involved in a structured Bible study and have they previously been involved in a discipleship ministry? A positive answer may indicate that you can move into deeper, more challenging studies. Once you have determined the disciple's spiritual maturity, once you have completed your discipleship size-up, you can develop the direction and depth of the Bible study. The content of study must be appropriate for the current maturity level of the disciple with the goal of increased spiritual transformation. Use wisdom in deciding the content. Avoid free lancing; it doesn't work on the fire scene and it doesn't work in discipleship.

Discipleship Size Up Questions

The six questions below will guide you as you size up the potential disciple. These questions are based on the Barna Group's nationwide survey in 2009 in order to see how many adults would be considered to have a "biblical worldview". Does the disciple have a Biblical worldview? Take them through the following questions and ask them to provide a Bible verse to back up their answers if possible.

1. Do absolute moral truths exist?
 - John 14:6
 - Romans 1:2
 - Romans 3:2
 - Galatians 1:12
 - I John 5:9

2. Is the Bible totally accurate in all the principles it teaches?
 - II Timothy 3:15
 - II Peter 1:21
 - Psalm 19:7

3. Is Satan a real being or merely symbolic?
 - I Peter 5:8
 - II Corinthians 11:14
 - Ephesians 4:27
 - James 4:7

4. Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life?
 - I Peter 1:9
 - I John 3:5
 - Hebrews 4:14-16

5. Is God the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the world?
 - Genesis 1:1
 - Revelation 4:11
 - I Chronicles 29:11
 - Hebrews 1:3
 - Psalm 139:7-12

6. Can a person earn their way to heaven by being good or doing good works?
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
 - Titus 3:5
 - Acts 13:38-39
 - Romans 3:20

7. Do you know your spiritual gift(s)? Check out the following verses:
 - 1 Corinthians 12
 - Ephesians 4:1-16
 - Romans 12:1-8

8. Do you know your spiritual gift(s)?
 - 1 Corinthians 12
 - Ephesians 4:1-16
 - Romans 12:1-8

9. Will you share your salvation testimony?

What does a discipleship meeting look like?

Once the disciple and discipler have agreed to meet, there is no single format for the meetings. However, here is a suggested structure for the face to face meetings:

- Greeting.
- Prayer - Avoid limiting the prayers to petitions. Focus on relational prayer; prayer that acknowledges where you are in your walk; prayer that acknowledges that without Christ, we can do nothing; prayer that the Holy Spirit will increase our understanding of the scriptures.
- Discuss the content of the bible study.
- Reflect on how the Spirit is moving in your lives. Where are you at in your journey? Be curious with each other; be transparent; explore, develop a vision for where you can be if you seek nearness to God over every other desire.
- Touch on the goals for the next week.
- Closing prayer.
- There will often be situations when you will have difficulty in having weekly face to face meetings. You can supplement these with online or phone meetings. With today's technology, you can use programs such as Skype or Google + to have a meeting where you see the other person. However, be intentional in making the determined effort to meet in person as often as possible.

Resources for Additional Biblical Training

The following resources are provided to assist you in the Biblical training of a person who is already maturing in their walk with Christ. There are many very good studies that are easily accessible and appropriate for the person who is grounded in the basics and now ready for deeper studies. We suggest that you use these studies to continue your spiritual growth as well as the growth of the disciple.

Available studies

Fellowshipofchristianfirefighters.org

The FCFI website is a great location to access our discipleship material. These studies are in the website's "Training" section by clicking on the "Bible Study" button. These studies are perfect for firefighters and first responders because they were written by first responders and chaplains who have experienced many similar experiences that you are currently going through.

We suggest that you begin with the Back to Basic Series or Nine Appointments with the Chief. These series are an introductory study of foundational doctrines in the Bible. Every believer should be well grounded in their knowledge and understanding of these doctrines. Following the initial study, you and the disciple can begin to dig deeper with a study on Proverbs, Romans, Ephesians, or The Commands of Christ. There are many other studies on the website that are directed to Christian firefighters.

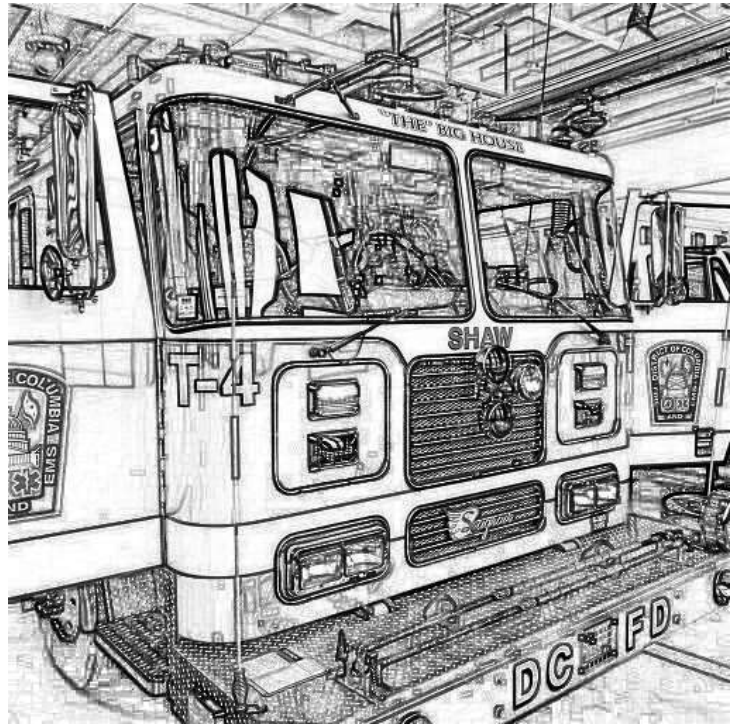
Other Resources

- The Theology Program at <http://bible.org/article/theology-program>.
 - A Bible college level study of basic theology.
 - Studies on many biblical doctrines, from basic theology to providing Soul Care for others.
- NavPress at <http://navpress.org/>.
 - An abundance of materials for building a discipleship ministry and resources for study for believers of all levels of maturity.
- Bible Broadcasting Network Bible Institute at <http://www.bbnradio.org/WCM4/BiblebrInstitute/Enroll/tabid/1642/Default.aspx>
 - A Bible college level study of basic theology and many additional doctrines.
- Biblical Training Institute at <http://www.biblicaltraining.org/>
 - Studies appropriate for new believers and those who are spiritually mature.



Final Thoughts

As you begin to disciple other believers, you need to understand that discipleship is different from eternal salvation. Salvation is the free gift from God through faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 3:22, 25; Gal. 2:16; John 3:1-36). Discipleship is costly. In Luke 14:25-35 Christ teaches about the three costs of being a disciple. First, a disciple must hate everyone, including himself, but Jesus (Luke 14:26; Matt. 10:37). While other passages tell us to love others, Christ is relating our ultimate call to love and trust God to our subordinate call to love others. You should never seek to have others fulfill the God given desires in the core of our hearts. God alone can satisfy those needs. Jesus alone is the source of living water (John 4:13-15). Second, a disciple must bear his own cross (Luke 14:27; 9:23). This pictures a suffering for Christ. It infers a willingness to suffer as you seek to live and love like Christ, especially in the face of hurtful relationships. Third, a disciple must renounce all that he has (Luke 14:33). A disciple does not live primarily for comfort in this life. A Christian is not home yet (1 Peter 2:11). Our eternal home is in the presence of the Lord God. Even believers are not entitled to a stress free, pain free, comfortable life in this world. Instead, we are called to be ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:21) and to renounce anything that hinders that mission.



Discipleship is costly; however, the rewards are eternal. Consider the words of Zane Hodges: “Discipleship to Jesus Christ is not an invitation to a Sunday school picnic. It is an invitation to spiritual warfare”

We encourage you to immerse yourself in this ministry. Begin to obey Christ’s command to make disciples. To God be the glory.

Are you up for the challenge?