

SIYAKHULA DISCIPLESHIP

LAUNCH



**IF ANYONE WANTS TO COME
AFTER ME, HE MUST DENY
HIMSELF, TAKE UP HIS
CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME**

The Siyakhula (We are growing) Discipleship Material is designed to facilitate the spiritual growth of individuals and groups in their connection with the Lord. Comprising four six-week sessions, this Discipleship series guides participants through a transformative journey, progressing from the internal to the external. The initial six weeks delve into the Basics, followed by an exploration of our Identity in Christ Jesus during the next six weeks. The third phase spans six weeks dedicated to an extreme makeover journey reflecting on the attitude of the heart and right priorities, while the final segment, also lasting six weeks, directs attention towards others and mission.

How does the Siyakhula Discipleship material work?

Think about farmers who grow crops. They have a simple way to ensure a good harvest. First, they get the soil ready by ploughing it. Then, they plant seeds in the prepared soil. After that, they water the ground, and with careful attention, the seeds grow into plants. Finally, after taking care of the plants, a harvest is there!

In a similar way, there's a simple plan for people who believe in God. If we desire a deeper and stronger relationship with God, we can follow a similar formula. First, we need to get our hearts ready, like farmers preparing the soil. We do this by learning about God's teachings, which is like planting seeds in our hearts. Then, we need to really think about and understand what God has said. It's like watering the seeds. Finally, we should live our lives in a way that shows the good things we've learned from God. This is how we get a "harvest" of Christlikeness in our lives. It's like taking care of the plants to get a good crop. So, by preparing our hearts, learning from God, and living what we learn, we can have an incredible "harvest" in our lives.

Each session has the following 4 easy to follow components to it. Plough, Sow, Water, and Harvest.

PLOUGH

This introductory part of the session is meant to make people feel comfortable and help everyone start engaging freely. The easy questions help to get things going, and they are designed to make everyone feel relaxed. This is a light and friendly way to begin, while preparing the ground for the topic that will be discussed. Encourage people to participate without adding pressure.





SOW

In the second part of the session, we plant or sow the seeds of God's Word by reading a specific passage together. It is recommended that each person in the group reads a verse if they are willing, encouraging everyone to participate.

WATER

During the 'Water' section there are some questions for discussion with the group encouraging them to think a little more deeply on what has been read from the Bible. These questions are not complicated but are designed to encourage people to meditate and think about what God could be communicating to them through His Word.



HARVEST



In the closing part of our session, the Harvest, we encourage what has been discussed to become more personal by giving everyone a chance for individual application. While there is no pressure to share personal thoughts or feelings, space is created for those who wish to do so. This time is crucial as individuals reflect on what God has communicated and consider how it might impact their journey with Him.

The material in this resource has been adapted from the questions in the Serendipity Bible.¹

¹ Coleman, Lyman, ed. *Serendipity Bible: For Personal and Small Group Study*. Revised & Enlarged edition. Grand Rapids, MI : Littleton, CO: Zondervan, 1996.

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Week 1: Sin (Genesis 3:1-23)



PLOUGH

1. What food tempts you the most, and why?
2. Share a childhood memory of when you got into big trouble with your parents.



SOW

Read Genesis 3:1-23 as a group. Invite each person to read one verse to encourage everyone to take part.



WATER

1. Who or what do you think the serpent represents – a real creature, a mythical symbol, or something else?
2. Examine the serpent's statements in verses 1, 4, and 5. Which parts are true, and which are false? Why do you think the serpent mixes truth with lies?
3. Compare Eve's responses (verses 2-3) with God's actual commands (Genesis 2:9, 16-17). How does Eve interpret and change God's instructions?
4. How might someone today be tempted by the same question, "Did God really say...?"
5. Explore the idea of something "good" feeling wrong. How does this relate to the mindset of the "if-it-feels-good-do-it" generation?
6. Why do you think Adam eats the fruit? Do you consider Adam more or less responsible than Eve, and why?
7. Why do Adam and Eve cover up and hide from God?
8. Did God allow Adam and Eve to fail when tempted, or did they make a choice? What does this reveal about God?
9. What do we learn about sin and its consequences in this passage?



HARVEST

1. Look at Jesus' temptation in Luke 4:1-13. How is it similar and how are Jesus' responses different? How could you implement Jesus' response to temptation in your own life?
2. How easy is it for you to admit when you are wrong?
3. Are there areas in your life where you are struggling with temptation?

Week 2: Redemption (John 3:1-21)



1 PLOUGH

1. In your family or culture, what do people say to young children when they ask where babies come from? How old were you when you learned the real story?
2. How do you feel when someone turns on the light while you are sleeping?



SOW

Read John 3:1-21 as a group. Invite each person to read one verse to encourage everyone to take part.



WATER

1. What can you learn about Nicodemus in verses 1-2? Why is it important that he came to Jesus, and why do you think it was at night (see vv. 19-20)? Why was Jesus direct with him?
2. Jesus and Nicodemus are thinking of two different types of birth, what are they?
3. What point is Jesus making by comparing spiritual birth to the wind? How does Jesus explain Nicodemus' lack of understanding?
4. Jesus refers to the "snake in the desert" (Nu 21:4-9) in verses 13-15? What does this tell us about what Jesus came to do?
5. What do verses 16-18 tell you about God, condemnation and how belief is evident (vv. 15-21)?
6. How did Jesus use the words "born again" and how would you explain it to someone who has never heard the phrase?



HARVEST

1. What first sparked your interest in Jesus? Why?
2. Where are you right now in the process of your spiritual life: Not yet conceived? Developing but not visibly? Ready to be born? Kicking and screaming like a baby? Growing daily? Explain.

Week 3: Law (Romans 4)



PLOUGH

1. Share something you saw on TV, YouTube, or from an election promise that seemed unbelievable or even funny. What makes you ignore it instead of trusting the promised "free" offer?
2. How do these tricks affect how you see big promises? Is it difficult for you to trust promises in the Bible?



SOW

Read Romans 4 as a group. Invite each person to read one verse to encourage everyone to take part.



WATER

1. Some Jewish converts believed following the law made them right with God. Why does Paul refer to examples like Abraham and David?
2. How does 4:3-8 show what is said in 3:27-28? How, then, is a good relationship with God given or credited to us?
3. Paul shows that Abraham was counted as righteous before God before being circumcised. In what way does 4:9-17 support Paul's statement in 3:29-31 about faith and the law?
4. What does Abraham's example in verses 18-21 teach you about faith? What do you think this promise felt like for Abraham?
5. How would you describe Abraham's understanding of God? How do these truths connect to what Paul wants us to believe in verses 23-25?
6. What are the main points of the gospel as seen in verses 23-25?



HARVEST

1. Name some other people from the Bible whom you see as examples of faith. Share the name of a person whose faith has recently been an example to you? What stands out most about these people to you?
2. Does it matter to you whether a good relationship with God is a gift or a prize to be earned? Why?
3. If a right relationship is a gift, how would you use Abraham's example to argue against the idea that we can earn or work for a right relationship with God?
4. Where are you finding it hard to trust God's promises? How can Abraham's example to encourage you?

Week 4: Grace (Luke 15:11-32)



PLOUGH

1. When did you leave home? Where did you go? What happened?
2. In your family, who is the one that follows the rules, and who's more carefree? Which one are you, and how do you all get along?



SOW

Read Luke 15:11-32 as a group. Invite each person to read one verse to encourage everyone to take part.



WATER

1. What stages does the younger son go through on his journey? What makes him realize his mistake, and what does he understand then? How does he feel when he goes back to his father?
2. What do you think the father was doing while his son was away? Why do you think that, and how does he welcome his son back?
3. How does the older brother feel about his younger brother's return, and why? What is his attitude like? How does the father respond to the older brother's concerns?
4. What's the main point of Jesus' story? What does it teach about sin, repentance, and God's love?
5. Could you suggest a different title for this story, like "The Waiting Father" or "The Elder Brother"? Why or why not?
6. How do these three parables answer the Pharisees' objection in verse 2? What does Jesus want to teach the Pharisees in verses 25-31? Considering the context (v. 2), why does Jesus leave the ending of the story about the older brother open?



HARVEST

1. Comparing yourself to the two brothers, which one do you relate to the most? Are you quietly content at home, living just for today, facing the consequences of yesterday, on your way home? Whom would you have identified with ten years ago or in your youth?
2. How have you experienced God as a caring and welcoming figure, like the father in the story?
3. When have you been like the older brother, a bit upset about God's generosity to others? Why did you feel that way?

Week 5: Atonement (Matthew 27:45-56)



1 PLOUGH

1. Share about a time when you attended a funeral that was difficult for you – maybe for a friend, family member, or someone important in the country. How did it make you feel?
2. Is there anything you enjoy about funerals?



SOW

Read Matthew 27:45-56 as a group. Invite each person to read one verse to encourage everyone to take part.



WATER

1. Why do you think Jesus cries out in verse 46? What does this mean for Jesus, and how does it affect you?
2. What do the people who feel sorry for Jesus see, hear, and do?
3. What is special about the miraculous things that happen when Jesus dies? How do these events impact the Roman soldier in charge?
4. Do you think this changed the way the disciples thought about Jesus? What might Jesus' followers be thinking about him now?
5. When Joseph asks for Jesus' body to be released to his care, what risks is he taking with Pilate and the religious leaders?
6. When the religious leaders put guards at the tomb, do they truly believe Jesus will come back to life? Or do they worry the disciples might steal the body? Or is there something else on their minds? Why?
7. What could happen to the Roman guards if Jesus somehow "escaped"?



HARVEST

1. Why do you think Jesus felt separated from God when he was on the cross?
2. Who did he go to the cross for?
3. How would you explain why Jesus had to die to someone who isn't a Christian?
4. Is Jesus' death more of a fact or an emotional experience for you? Why?
5. Have you ever tried to prevent God from breaking through into your life? Why did you do that, and what was the outcome?

Week 6: Lordship (Colossians 1:15-23)



PLOUGH

1. When you were a kid, who was a heroic character, either on TV or in real life, that you admired a lot? Why did you look up to them?
2. Reflecting on your childhood, did you ever feel the need to have someone who was strong or mighty to look up to? Why or why not?



SOW

Read Colossians 1:15-23 as a group. Invite each person to read one verse to encourage everyone to take part.



WATER

1. The "firstborn" has the rights of an heir. What rights does Jesus have according to verses 15-18? How is he related to "all things," and why is this emphasized?
2. What is Jesus' connection to God and the church? What does it mean when it says he has "fullness" (v 17)?
3. How would you describe "reconciliation" in simple terms?
4. How did Jesus achieve reconciliation?
5. What transformation or change can you see in the before-and-after story in verses 21-23?
6. Looking at Colossians 1:15-23, what does it mean for Jesus to be the image of the invisible God? How does this impact your understanding of God?
7. In the passage, how does Paul emphasize the role of Jesus in creation and reconciliation?



HARVEST

1. Based on this passage, what advice would you give to someone asking, "How can I get to know God?"
2. Are there times when certain people or things seem more powerful than Jesus? Why do you think that is, and how do you feel knowing that even those things are under Christ's authority?
3. What does that mean for us?