

# SIYAKHULA DISCIPLESHIP

**OTHERS**



**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.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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: Global Purpose (Luke 4:14-30)



### PLOUGH

1. What's your favorite thing about the town you grew up in?
2. What was the sign that someone was successful in your hometown? Like having a big house, becoming a well-known sports person/politician/musician, or having a large following on social media?



### SOW

Read Luke 4:14-30 as a group. Invite each person to read one verse to encourage everyone to take part.



### WATER

1. Look at Luke 3:21, 4:1, 14, 18. What's the same in each of these verses? What does this tell us about where Jesus got his power from?
2. Why do you think Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue on the Sabbath? Why is it important?
3. What's Jesus' mission according to verses 18-19? How does he do this literally? Spiritually? What did it look like then? Does the Church still need to fulfill this mission. What does that look like today?
4. What is Jesus trying to say with the proverb and the stories about Elijah and Elisha?
5. Compare verse 22 and verse 28. Why do you think people responded in this way?
6. Looking at verse 30, did the people's response deter Jesus from his mission?



### HARVEST

1. Jesus talks about five things he came to do. If every believer were to keep doing these, which one do you think is most important? Which one do you forget about?
  - (a) Sharing the Gospel?
  - (b) Helping people to be free?
  - (c) Helping those in need?
  - (d) Making the world fairer?
  - (e) Reminding people of God's grace and goodness?
2. Who are the people outside of your usual friend/family group that God wants you to care for? How could you do that?

## Week 2: Global Possibilities (Isaiah 6)



### PLOUGH

1. When was the last time you got called into the school principal's office/your boss's office? What was it about? How did it make you feel?
2. What volunteer work have you done? How did you get involved?



### SOW

Read Isaiah 6 as a group. Invite each person to read one verse to encourage everyone to take part.



### WATER

1. What do you think would have happened to the country when the King died? Why do you think God chose to call Isaiah at this particular time?
2. What do you think Isaiah's vision was about?
3. What do we learn about God from what Isaiah saw and experienced?
4. Why does Isaiah feel scared for his life and admit he's done wrong?
5. People used to burn animals on the altar instead of the sinner dying. Why is it important that Isaiah's lips are touched with a coal from the altar?
6. Look at Isaiah's response in verse 5 and verse 8. Why do you think his response changes?
7. What's Isaiah's new job (vv. 9-10)?
8. Was the message that Isaiah was given a positive message or a negative message?



### HARVEST

1. How is your experience of God like Isaiah's? Are you amazed? Feeling guilty? Cleaned up? Are you willing to help out anywhere, anytime?
2. Isaiah was amazed by God's holiness and power. Which part of God impresses you the most? Why?
3. Why do you think God put you in your world? What does He want you to accomplish? What message are you meant to share?



## Week 3: Crossing Cultures (John 4:1-26)



### PLOUGH

1. When you were a kid, were there certain people you were told not to hang out with? Were there parts of town you were warned about going to? What would have happened if you went there?
2. Where was the popular spot in your community where everyone gathered and socialised?



### SOW

Read John 4:1-26 as a group. Invite each person to read one or two verses to encourage everyone to take part.



### WATER

1. If you were brought up to dislike Samaritans, how would you feel if Jesus chose to go through Samaria instead of taking the long way?
2. Since it wasn't normal for women to come to the well at noon ("the sixth hour"), why do you think Jesus risked his reputation to ask this woman for a favour?
3. How would you describe the woman's reaction?
4. How did Jesus surprise her in verse 10?
5. What is the woman really saying in her response?
6. Why do you think Jesus suddenly changes the conversation to talk about her personal life in verse 16? What do you notice about the way he reacts when she says she doesn't have a husband?
7. Why do you think this woman brings up a religious argument? What does Jesus mean when he tells her that God wants people to worship with "spirit and truth"?
8. Why is it important that Jesus chose this woman as the first person he revealed himself to (also see verses 39-42)?



### HARVEST

1. Are there any social, ethnic or religious barriers that are hard for you to break through? How do you think Jesus would connect with the people you find hard to talk to?
2. What parts of Jesus' conversation could you use as an example when talking to friends who are searching for answers?



## Week 4: God's Faithfulness (Romans 3:1-20)



### PLOUGH

1. What were the special benefits of being in your family?
2. When you were a child, who did you compare yourself to? Did you think you were better or worse than them?



### SOW

Read Romans 3:1-20 as a group. Invite each person to read one verse to encourage everyone to take part.



### WATER

1. One person pretends to disagree with Paul's ideas in verses 2:28-29. They read the questions in verses 1, 3, 5, and 7. Another person reads Paul's answers in verses 2, 4, 6, and 8. What are the main concerns in each objection? How do these questions show a misunderstanding of God's teachings?
2. Even though the Jewish Christians in Rome might have felt better than the non-Jews (2:1; 3:1), what does Paul say they have in common?
3. From verses 10-18, make a list of what's said about human thoughts, actions and words. How do you feel about living in a world like this?
4. Do verses 3:19 and 1:20 support Paul's idea that everyone is responsible to God? If yes, in what way?
5. Based on verse 20, do you think the law is more like a description (like a doctor's diagnosis) or a prescription (like medicine)? What's its purpose?



### HARVEST

1. What things (works) do people do to reassure themselves that they are in right standing with God? (e.g. go to Church, wear a uniform, participate in the musical sections.)
2. If this letter ended with verse 20, how would you feel about yourself? About God?
3. When did you first realize you were sinful and needed God? How can you share this part of your story with others?
4. In light of this passage, how does verse 24 make you feel?

## Week 5: Fishes of Men (Luke 5:1-11)



### PLOUGH

1. What was it like the first time you moved away from home? Whether for studying, a job, marriage or other reasons - what was that experience like?



### SOW

Read Luke 5:1-11 as a group. Invite each person to read one verse to encourage everyone to take part.



### WATER

1. Why do you think Jesus chose a fishing miracle to demonstrate His power and calling to Simon Peter?
2. How did Simon Peter initially respond to Jesus' instruction to cast their nets again, and what does this reveal about his character?
3. Why did Simon Peter react by acknowledging his own sinfulness after witnessing the miracle? What could this teach us about the awareness of God's presence?
4. What does Jesus mean when He says to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people"?
5. How do Simon Peter's actions demonstrate faith and obedience, even when the circumstances seemed unfavorable?
6. How did Simon Peter, James, and John respond to Jesus' call? What can we learn from their willingness to leave everything and follow Him?



### HARVEST

1. In your own work or business, how do you view Jesus: (a) Just an interesting teacher, but not really relevant? (b) Someone who could be a great partner if only they'd work for you? (c) The one who makes all the decisions? Why?
2. In what ways have you felt Jesus calling you to be a "fisher of men"? How have you responded to that call?
3. What "nets" or aspects of your current life might you need to leave behind to follow Jesus more fully? How can you take steps towards that today?

## Week 6: Feeding the Sheep (John 21:15-25)



### PLOUGH

1. Who had to do the most chores/duties in your house when you were a kid? Who got away with doing the least?



### SOW

Read John 21:15-25 as a group. Invite each person to read one verse to encourage everyone to take part.



### WATER

1. Why does Jesus ask Peter three times if he loves Him? What significance does this repetition have, especially in light of Peter's previous denial of Jesus?
2. How do Peter's responses to Jesus' questions demonstrate his understanding of love and commitment?
3. What does Jesus mean when He tells Peter to "feed my lambs," "take care of my sheep," and "feed my sheep"?
4. How does Jesus' prediction about Peter's future (verses 18-19) highlight the cost of discipleship? What does it teach us about commitment?
5. What does Jesus mean when He tells Peter to "follow me" in verse 19? How is this command significant for understanding discipleship?
6. Why does Peter ask about John's future, and how does Jesus' response redirect Peter's focus?
7. How does Jesus' interaction with Peter and John illustrate the idea of unique callings within the body of Christ?



### HARVEST

1. How can you practically demonstrate your love for Jesus in your daily life and ministry?
2. What are some ways you can "feed" and "take care of" the people God has entrusted to you, both spiritually and physically?
3. When have you been distracted by comparing your journey with someone else's? How can you stay focused on the specific path Jesus has for you?
4. If Jesus asked you, "Do you love me?" how would you respond, and what evidence of your love can you point to in your life?
5. What specific steps can you take this week to live out your calling in ministry and help others more effectively?