
hearts on fire

MESSAGE MINISTRIES - RADICAL CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP MANUAL

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HEARTS ON FIRE

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

written by Brian Weller

Session #1

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Hello fellow Christian,

Jesus said in Matthew 16:24 "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Jesus took 12 men and taught them how to live out this verse in their individual lives. We call this discipleship and we call those men "disciples". The word disciple comes from the Greek word "mathetes" which means "a learner". He set the example on how to "make disciples" by taking men and women of his choosing and teaching, training and imparting to them all that He could about God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, the Kingdom of God, and God's purposes and plans for man etc..

The problem we face sometimes in today's church with our "regular" church & youth services and meetings is: 1) We have people in these services who are Christians (both committed and not so committed) and non Christians in attendance. 2) We also don't have a lot of personal contact with them to discuss the deeper things of God and how the various teachings relate to them in a personal way. Jesus quite often after speaking to large masses of people, would explain what he meant to the disciples as a smaller group. One good example of this is found in Mark 4 right after Jesus spoke to a large crowd the story of the "Parable of the Sower". In Mark 4:10 it says this: "But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. And He said to them, "to you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables....". Also look up Mark 7:17 & Mark 9:28

In a smaller discipleship group made up of people whose main goal in life is to know God and to serve God, we can address things that others who are not willing to make a "Radical Commitment" to God are not really willing or ready to hear or respond to. This "Hearts of Fire" group is not an elite group of people who are loved more by God than others. But a group of young men and women who are saying to God "I really want to be a true disciple of Jesus!" I want to stay focused on God! You're saying "I want to follow God with my whole heart, soul, mind & strength" and will do whatever it takes to accomplish this goal.

Remember, Jesus hand picked His disciples. Not by how they looked or by social status but by whether they wanted to know God and serve God. As leader of "Hearts of Fire", I reserve the right to not let someone into this group if they have not shown forth a heart that truly shows they are ready to be a part of a Radical Christian Discipleship group. I also reserve the right to ask someone to drop out if they are a hindrance to the overall benefit of the group by being a distraction or by not at least trying to live up to the principles and guidelines set for the "Hearts on Fire" discipleship group.

In His Service, *Brian Weller*

The Radical Christian Checklist

The Radical Christian

- 1) is not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Romans 1:8
- 2) lives with eternities values in mind! Matt. 6:33
- 3) separates himself/herself from the things and ways of the world!
Ephesians 5:1-21
- 4) flees from doing evil and brings others along with him or her!
2 Timothy 2:22
- 5) knows they are not of this world but are "strangers and pilgrims"
in this world and live like it! 1 Peter 2:11-12
- 6) does not want to be counted with the "lukewarm of heart" but
want to be considered "hot" and "on fire for God!"
Revelation 3:14-23
- 7) is more excited about serving God and the return of Jesus Christ
than about material things and the "things of the world!"
Colossians 3:1-2
- 8) knows that it is by grace they are saved and that the Lord will
never leave them or forsake them. He or she also spends much
time in prayer and study of Gods word!

The Radical Commitment

To do whatever God commands however difficult.

To endure whatever God appoints, however severe.

To obtain whatever God promises, however seemingly unattainable.

To die daily, however costly the crucifixion.

To love my "enemies", however misunderstood in this.

To pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks.

This will help give you a healthy soul and a conscience
void of offense before God and man.

taken from Leonard Ravenhill's book "Revival God's Way"

I am making this Radical Commitment in my attempt to follow the Lord and to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. I will attempt to follow the guidelines for living set out for me in the Bible, God's word. I understand I am saved by grace but I want my response to Gods grace to be a life of obedience and submission to His will. I am becoming a part of Hearts on Fire as one way to help me draw closer to the Lord and to understand His love for me in a greater way as well as His will for me!

Signed: _____

Date: _____

(3)

Hearts on Fire - Purpose, Outline and Focus

PURPOSE:

- To disciple you to the Father through the Lord Jesus, following the mandate of Jesus to make disciples out of believers.
- To provide you with opportunities to help you grow in your relationship to the Lord.
- To draw from this group, youth whom I believe have shown the ability to lead others in a Christlike manner of humility and servitude, and to give them opportunities to help lead.

OUTLINE and FOCUS:

1. STUDY OF GOD'S WORD
2. CHRISTLIKE ACCOUNTABILITY
3. SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION
4. OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Please write what you hope to get out of being a part of this discipleship group, and what you hope to give to God & to others by being a part of "Hearts On Fire"?

(4)

Hearts on Fire - Commitment Sheet - Goals

1. To make my speech acceptable to God. To refrain from language that I could not utter in the presence of God without being embarrassed. This also means in my relationship to the authorities in my life at home, school, at church etc.
2. To keep myself sexually pure until marriage regardless of what the people around me are doing. I will not do anything that I would be embarrassed to do before God. I will not degrade a brother or sister in the Lord by putting them in a compromising situation with myself or another.
3. To only listen to music which is uplifting to me, to others and to God, and will help me in my walk with God as a disciple of Jesus.
4. To only watch things, whether on TV or at the movies which I know are acceptable to the Lord and don't go against His word and my Christian principles as laid out in the Word of God.
5. To spend what I believe to be a reasonable amount of time each day in Bible Study, prayer and worship, so that I can continue to grow in my relationship with the Lord, and to record what the Lord is showing me in a personal Journal.
6. I will love my "fire check" partner as a brother or sister in Christ. I will always pray for them, be honest with them and will consider their needs even more important than my own. I want to help them keep their Heart on Fire for God in whatever way I can.
7. I will try to be a Christian witness at school, at home and wherever else the Lord puts me. I will try to be an example of God's love and grace to the world around me and to lead others to Jesus Christ.
8. If i see a brother or sister in the Lord (whether in this group or not) stumbling in their commitment to the Lord. I will pray for them in humility and ask God to show me what I can do to help them reestablish their relationship and commitment to the Lord.

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS LIST IS A GUIDELINE LIST. IT IS NOT MEANT TO BE A LEGALISTIC "DO" LIST. HOWEVER, I DO BELIEVE THESE GUIDELINES CAN HELP YOU TO ESTABLISH PATTERNS IN YOUR LIFE THAT CAN HELP YOU TO GROW IN THE LORD AND STAY FOCUSED ON HIM..

Hearts on Fire - Serving the Lord with your talents

Please list on this paper the gifts and talents that you believe God has given you to use in this life?

Please write here how you believe you can yield these gifts and talents to go in a way that He can use you to minister to others in this life?

Theme Verses on FIRE

"His word is in my heart like a FIRE, a FIRE shut up in my bones." Jeremiah 20:9

"He makes His angels winds, His servants flames of FIRE." Hebrews 1:7

"He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost and FIRE!" Luke 3:16

"He is like a refiner's FIRE" Malachi 3:2

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God" Hebrews 1:7

"These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:7

Fire Check Partner Responsibilities

1. Pray for your Fire Check Partner daily

- Pray for their spiritual, mental, physical and emotional well being.
- Pray for any situation they are in that needs prayer.
- Ask God to show you how to pray for your partner.
- God is going to use you to really intercede on their behalf.
- Don't take the power of prayer lightly.
- Be assured of this, the devil will try to distract you!

2. Talk to your Fire Check Partner every other day

- You can talk to them more often but try to talk every other day. This is going to help both of you.
- Don't be legalistic with each other about the guidelines, remember all of this is to help us to grow.
- Don't feel guilty if you're not doing everything and don't make your partner feel guilty if you're doing more than them.
- Try to encourage each other!! Lift each other up as much as possible, then if you have to confront something later it will be more readily accepted.
- Talk about how your life is going, how your relationship with the Lord is and what you've been learning in your "QUIET TIME". As you grow closer together and to the Lord you can ask some questions that might help keep you both living a holy life.
- Remember accountability is a good thing if used properly.

3. Help each other Memorize God's Word

There are Bible verses we will be memorizing as a group. If you aren't used to doing this it will seem hard at first but doing it together will make it much easier. The bible tells us that His "word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path", so it's a great idea to have the light of God's word stored away in our hearts. When you find yourself in a hard place in life you're going to be glad you took the time to memorize HIS WORD.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Since, then, you have been
raised with Christ,
set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at
the right hand of God.
Set your minds on things above,
not on earthly things.
For you died, and your life
is now hidden with Christ in God."

Colossians 3:1-2

Hearts on Fire is about living in REVIVAL

When we think about revival, we quite often think about what happens to us and in us at a special meeting we attended or are attending somewhere, for instance maybe a youth camp. However, revival is meant to be something that is going on in us on a daily basis. To have revival in our hearts on a daily basis will take a daily investment on our part in the following three areas:

- 1) time in the bible
- 2) time in fellowship
- 3) time in prayer

Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

To expect Radical growth and power without these elements is foolish thinking.
If you invest the effort God will respond and bring the desired results!
More love, more power, more joy, more peace, more confidence, more direction.
Less anxiety, less worry, less unforgiveness, less compromise, less sin

Look at these two verses.

Hebrews 11:6 "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Luke 11:9-10 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

More than 200 years ago members of John Wesley's Holy Club asked themselves questions every day to help spiritually tune up their hearts, to keep their Hearts On Fire. Wesley also used these questions in small group settings where participants asked one another the penetrating question, "How is your soul?"

The 22 Questions Members of John Wesley's Holy Club Asked Themselves Every Day in Their Private Devotions

- 1) Am I consciously or unconsciously creating an impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
- 2) Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
- 3) Do I confidentially pass on to other people what was told me in confidence?
- 4) Can I be trusted?
- 5) Am I a slave to what I wear, friends, work or habits?
- 6) Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
- 7) Did the Bible live in me today?
- 8) Do I give it time to speak to me every day?
- 9) Am I enjoying prayer?
- 10) When did I last speak to someone about my faith?
- 11) Do I pray about the money I spend?
- 12) Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
- 13) Do I disobey God in anything?
- 14) Do I insist on doing something that my conscience is not sure of or uneasy about?
- 15) Am I defeated in any part of my life?
- 16) Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?
- 17) How do I spend my spare time?
- 18) Am I proud?
- 19) Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
- 20) Is there anyone I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
- 21) Do I grumble or complain constantly?
- 22) Is Jesus Christ real to me?

**Ask yourself these questions every day
as a way to tune-up your heart with God's will!**

STUDY ASSIGNMENT - session #1

Read the materials provided on the
book of 1 Thessalonians, including:

1) The Introduction of the Book

2) The Outline of the Book

3) Now read the Book of 1 Thessalonians

As you read the book make notes on what the Lord is showing you as you read through. I'm not looking for a mental synopsis of the book or a "book report" but more of what the Lord is showing you. You made read some parts and nothing may "stick out" to you. You might want to underline verses that really "stick out". Generally when this happens it is because the Holy Spirit is trying to teach us something.

4) Pick out the verse that you feel the Lord wants you to hide in your heart from 1 Thessalonians. Write that verse on a index card and carry it around with you until you have it memorized and "hidden in your heart". You will use this verse over and over in your life.

5) Answer the questions provided with the study materials 1 Thessalonians.

NOTE: You may want to work with your Fire Check partner on this.

Book of 1 Thessalonians

AUTHOR

The writer of this book was the apostle **Paul**. His name is mentioned in the epistle (**2:18**). Some sources from early church history that attribute this letter to Paul are: Clement of Alexandria (200 A.D.), Tertullian (200 A.D.), and Irenaeus (200 A.D.).

THE CITY OF THESSALONICA

Thessalonica was the capital and largest city of the Roman province of Macedonia. Located on the Egnatian Way, which was a major road from Rome to the eastern provinces, the city served as center of trade and commerce. Today, it is known as Thessaloniki, or Salonica.

THE CHURCH AT THESSALONICA

The establishment of the church is recorded in **Ac 17:1-9**. On his second missionary journey, Paul and his companions (Silas and Timothy) had just left Philippi and passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia to arrive at Thessalonica. It was Paul's custom to immediately locate the local synagogue and try to reason with the Jews. He did this for three Sabbaths on this visit to the city concerning Jesus Christ. Many were persuaded to follow Jesus including a great number of devout Greeks and leading women. However, the unbelieving Jews became jealous and created quite an uproar in the city. Because of this Paul and Silas were sent away secretly by night to Berea. The church in Thessalonica had a hard beginning but in the long run a strong church was established in Thessalonica (1 Thess. 1:2-10).

TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING

First Thessalonians is considered one of Paul's earliest epistles. (**1 Thess. 3:1-6**), and the record of Paul's travels in Acts (**Ac 17:10-18:11**), it seems that Paul wrote this letter after arriving in **Corinth** on his second journey at around **52 A.D.**

Book of 1 Thessalonians

PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE

The abrupt departure from Thessalonica so soon after the beginning of the church naturally left Paul anxious about the condition of the brethren. When Timothy joined Paul at Athens (cf. **Ac 17:14-16**), his concern prompted Paul to send Timothy at once back to Thessalonica to encourage and ground the new disciples in the faith, and to learn how they were enduring persecution (cf. **3:1-5**). When Timothy returned to Paul in Corinth (cf. **Ac 18:5**), the news was mostly encouraging (cf. **3:6-7**). The First Epistle To The Thessalonians 3 Despite persecution they had remained strong (**2:13-16**), and even proved themselves to be an example to others (**1:6-8**). Yet, as with any young church, they needed further instruction concerning holy living (cf. **4:1-12**). They also needed to be reassured that their loved ones who died in Christ would not miss out on the blessings involving the coming of our Lord (cf. **4:13-18**). Therefore we can summarize by saying that Paul's purpose in writing was:

- w To praise them for their steadfastness under persecution
- w To instruct them concerning holy living
- w To correct any misunderstanding, especially about the second coming of Christ

Mark A. Copeland

THEME OF THE EPISTLE

This book is unique in that every chapter ends with a reference to the second coming of Christ (**1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23**). With his emphasis on steadfastness and holy living, an appropriate theme might be: **HOLINESS IN VIEW OF THE COMING OF CHRIST**

KEY VERSES: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

"And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints."

Book of 1 Thessalonians - OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION (1:1-4)

1. Salutation (1:1)
2. Thanksgiving for their faith, hope, and love (1:2-4)

I. PERSONAL REFLECTIONS (1:5-3:13)

A. REGARDING THEIR CONDITION (1:5-10)

1. Their reception of the gospel (1:5-7)
2. Their reputation in every place (1:8-10)

B. REGARDING HIS CONDUCT (2:1-12)

1. The manner of his preaching (2:1-8)
2. The manner of his life (2:9-12)

C. REGARDING HIS CONCERN (2:13-3:13)

1. For their faithfulness (2:13-3:10)
2. For their continued growth (3:11-13)

II. APOSTOLIC INSTRUCTIONS (4:1-5:28)

A. WALK IN HOLINESS (4:1-8)

1. To please God (4:1-2)
2. To abstain from sexual immorality (4:3-8)

B. WALK IN LOVE (4:9-10)

1. As they are taught by God to love one another (4:9)
2. To increase more and more (4:10)

C. WALK IN DILIGENCE (4:11-12)

1. To work with their hands (4:11)
2. To walk properly toward those who are outside (4:12)

D. WALK IN HOPE (4:13-18)

1. With no sorrow concerning those who have died (4:13-14)
2. For we will be rejoined with them when Christ returns (4:15-18)

E. WALK IN LIGHT (5:1-11)

1. For the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night (5:1-4)
2. For we are sons of light and sons of the day (5:5-8)
3. For God has appointed us to salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ (5:9-11)

F. WALK IN OBEDIENCE (5:12-22)

1. With respect toward those over us (5:12-13)
2. With concern for one another (5:14-15)
3. With joy, prayer and thanksgiving (5:16-18)
4. Don't quench the Spirit or despise prophecies, but don't be gullible either (5:19-22)

notes on 1 Thessalonians written by Mark A. Copeland

Book of 1 Thessalonians - QUESTIONS

1) While at Athens, whom did Paul send back to Thessalonica? (1 Th 3:1-2)

2) From where and when did Paul write 1st Thessalonians?

3) Why will the Day of the Lord not overtake Christians as a thief? (4-5)

4) How had the gospel come to the Thessalonians? (5)

5) How did Paul want them to walk? (12)

6) What DID characterize his conduct while at Thessalonica? (9-10)

7) What are we to put on? (8)

8) What six charges did Paul give concerning those around us? (14-15)

9) What three things does Paul say is the will of God for us in Christ Jesus? (16-18)

10) What five admonitions does Paul give related to the Spirit and prophecies? (19-22)