Disciplines of the Christian Faith

History

Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Greek</th>
<th>Greek meaning</th>
<th>English meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>discipline</td>
<td>γυμνάζω</td>
<td>goom-nad'-zo</td>
<td>to exercise ________, to exercise vigorously, in any way, either the body or the mind</td>
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<tr>
<td>disciple</td>
<td>μαθητευσ</td>
<td>math-ay-tes'</td>
<td>a learner, pupil (derived from the Greek word μαντηνο (math-ayt-yoo'-o) meaning to learn, to increase in knowledge, to hear, to be informed, to learn by use and practice, to be in the ________ of or accustomed to)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>ξιρστιανος</td>
<td>khris-tee-an-os'</td>
<td>a ____________ of Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>faith</td>
<td>πιστος</td>
<td>pis'-tis</td>
<td>conviction of the truth of anything, ___________; in the New Testament of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things</td>
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Lists of Disciplines

Historical Disciplines

1. ____________
2. Meditation
3. Fasting
4. Praise
5. Patience
6. Evangelism
7. ____________
8. Discipling

Current Series Schedule

1. ___________ (11/29)
2. _____________ (12/06)
3. _____________ (12/13)
4. ___________ (12/20)
Introduction

Purpose
To become a __________ Christian and fulfill God’s will for my life (Colossians 4:12b; Ephesians 4:14-15)

Focus
The four basic habits every Christian must develop in order to grow to spiritual maturity (prayer, devotions, fellowship, and tithing)

Goal
To __________ to the habits necessary for spiritual maturity (Romans 6:19b)

Spiritual Maturity
Definition: being like __________ (Romans 8:29a)

I. Facts about spiritual maturity
   A. It is not automatic (Hebrews 5:12-14)
   B. It is a __________ (2 Peter 3:18a)
   C. It always takes discipline (1 Timothy 4:7)

II. Understanding Discipleship
   A. The more disciplined I become the more God can _____ me
   B. How can I become a disciple? Develop disciple __________

      Habit: something that you ______ when you miss it

III. Four Habits
   A. Prayer: __________ with God (John 15:7)
   B. Devotions: ______ with God (John 8:31-32)
   C. Fellowship: __________ God’s people (John 13:34-35)
   D. Tithing: __________ to God (Luke 14:33; Deuteronomy 14:22-23)
Disciplines of the Christian Faith

Schedule:
11/29: Prayer
12/06: Devotions
12/13: Fellowship
12/20: Tithing

1. Getting a Grasp on your Bible

I. ______ God’s Word (sermons, studies, devotions)
   A. Be ready and eager (Luke 8:8c, Psalm 119:103)
   B. Pay attention (Luke 8:18a)
   C. Act (James 1:22, 25)

II. ______ God’s Word (Revelation 1:3)

   Ideas: (1) Read systematically (2) Use a Bible without notes (3) Vary versions

   Fact: I can read the entire Bible once a year if I read ___ minutes a day

III. ______ God’s Word (Acts 17:11b, 2 Timothy 2:15)

   Question: What’s the difference between reading and studying?

   Answer: Level of ______________________ (reading is surface level, while studying is digging and researching)

   Gary’s recommendations: 1. MacArthur Study Bible
                            2. Scofield Study Bible
                            3. Ryrie Study Bible

   Jim’s recommendations: 1. studylight.org
                          2. biblegateway.com
                          3. blb.org

IV. ___________ God’s Word (Proverbs 7:2-3, Psalm 119:11, 105)
V. ____________ on God's Word (*Psalm 1:2b-3, Joshua 1:8*)

Definition: Meditation is focused ____________ about a Bible verse in order to discover how I can apply its truth to my own life.

Ways to do this: Picture, Personalize, Probe (*Sin to confess, Promise to claim, Attitude to change, Command to keep, Example to follow, Prayer to pray, Error to avoid, Truth to believe, Something to thank God for*)

VI. ____________ God's Word (*James 1:22, John 13:17*)

Determine the interpretation (what it meant to the original hearers), the implication (the underlying timeless principle), and the personalization (how can I wear it?)

2. Devotions
Definition: a daily time I set aside to be alone with God to get to _______ Him through the Bible and prayer

A. Why is it a big deal? (*Matthew 4:4b, Psalm 119:9*)


C. The object of your quiet time is not to study about Him but to spend _______ with Him (*Luke 10:38-42*)

D. How to begin: Select a time (when you are at your best), a place (with few distractions) and gather the resources (a Bible and a notebook)

E. What does it look like? Relax, read, reflect, record, and request

F. Problems you will face (discipline, distractions, ____________)

Educational fact: It takes ____________ weeks for you to become familiar with a new task. Then it takes another ____________ weeks before it becomes a comfortable habit.
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Schedule:
11/29: Prayer  12/13: Fellowship
12/06: Devotions  12/20: Tithing

1. Benefits of Giving
   1 Corinthians 16:2a; 2 Corinthians 8:7
   
   A. Giving makes me like (similar to) ______ (John 3:16)
   
   B. Giving draws me closer to God (Matthew 6:21)
   
   C. Giving is the antidote to materialism (1 Timothy 6:17-19: 17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give [literally, ‘ready to be __________’], willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.)
   
   D. Giving strengthens my faith (Luke 6:38)
   
   E. Giving is an investment in ________________ (1 Timothy 6:18-19)
   
   F. Giving blesses me in return (Proverbs 22:9a, 11:25: The generous soul will be made rich [fat], And he who waters [______________] will also be watered [rained on] himself.)

2. Tithing
   I. What is a tithe? the ________ ________ part of my income

   II. What is the difference between a tithe and an offering?

   III. Why should I tithe?

      A. Abraham ______________ it (Genesis 14:18-20)
B. God commanded it (Leviticus 27:30)

C. Jesus _______________ it (Matthew 23:23: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint [sweet smelling herb that the Jews spread on the floors of their houses and synagogues] and anise [dill—used as a spice and a medicine] and cumin [a seed used as a condiment], and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done [literally, ‘these were necessary that you continue doing constantly’], without leaving the others undone.)

D. God says that refusing to tithe is stealing from Him (Malachi 3:8)

IV. What does tithing show?

A. Tithing demonstrates that God has ________ place in my life (Deuteronomy 14:23b)

B. Tithing reminds me that everything I have was ________ to me by God (Deuteronomy 8:18a)

C. Tithing expresses my love to the Lord (Psalm 116:12; Deuteronomy 16:17)

V. Where should I give my tithe? Where I ____________ (Malachi 3:10a)

VI. When should I tithe? ________________ (1 Corinthians 16:2a)

3. Attitudes

A. Willingly and ________________________ (2 Corinthians 8:3-4; 9:1-2a)

B. Expectantly (2 Corinthians 9:6b)

C. Cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7: So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful [Greek is hilaros—from which we get our English word, _____________] giver.)

The key: 2 Corinthians 8:5b: they first gave themselves to the _______, and then to ___ by the will of God