

Discipleship Essentials – from Pastor David Holt

1. The Gospel – how can we know that we are truly saved?

- a. God's love. Jn. 3:16
- b. Man's sin. Rom. 3:23
- c. Christ's death and resurrection. Rom. 5:8
- d. Man must repent and receive Christ. Jn. 1:12
- e. Salvation by grace through faith and not of works. Eph. 2:8-9

Resources: The Story gospel tract.

2. Identity in Christ – do you know who you really are?

- a. You were made new in your spirit-being the moment you were saved. 2 Cor. 5:17
- b. Get your identity from who you are in Christ and not from what you do. 1 Pe. 2:9-12
- c. Live in obedience to God to express who you are in Christ and not to become someone you are not already. Eph. 1-4

Resources: *Victory Over the Darkness* and *Bondage Breaker* by Neil Anderson

3. Intimacy with God – do you spend time alone with God?

- a. A relationship with Christ grows as we spend quality time with God each day. Lu. 10:38-42
- b. Time in the Word and prayer is one of the most important disciplines in the Christian life. 2 Cor. 3:18; Acts 2:41-47

Resources: *The God You can Know* by Dan DaHaan

4. Baptism – have you been obedient to be baptized?

- a. Baptism is an important area of obedience that is to follow one's conversion. Acts 2:41-47
- b. Baptism is an outward display of an inward change. Rom. 6:1-6

Resources: tract/pamphlet on baptism

5. Knowing God's character – Do you accurately know the true nature of God?

- a. God is holy and loving. Isa. 6; Jn. 3:16
- b. God is truth and grace. Jn. 1:14
- c. Accurately knowing the character of God provides a firm foundation for the Christian life.

Resources: *Knowledge of the Holy* by Tozer; *Knowing God* by Packer; *The God You can Know* by Dan DaHaan

6. Holy Spirit – are you living in God's power?

- a. We cannot live the Christian life in our strength. Jn. 15:5
- b. Only by God's Holy Spirit can we live an obedient and fruitful life. Eph. 5:18; Acts 1:8
- c. The Word and Spirit provide the best combination for lasting life change. Acts 2:41-47
- d. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit each day. Eph. 5:18

Resources: *Fresh Wind Fresh Power* by Cymbala; chocolate milk illustration; *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit* by Jack Deere; *Flying Closer to the Flame* by Chuck Swindoll

7. Lordship of Christ – is Jesus Lord of your life?

- a. A relationship with Christ involves allowing Jesus to increasingly become the lord of your life. 2 Cor. 3:18
- b. We need the Holy Spirit to help us yield to God. Eph. 5:18
- c. Sexual purity is one of the biggest areas of struggle. 1 Thess. 4:1-8

Resource: *My Heart Christ's Home* booklet; *Not Even a Hint* by Josh Harris

8. Community – are you closely connected with other strong believers?

- a. God made us to need each other. 1 Cor. 12
- b. We are commanded to both encourage and challenge one another in our walk with God. Hebr. 10:24-25; Gal. 6:1
- c. We are to be involved in a local church for growth, support, and ministry. Acts 2:41-47

Resources: *The Body* by Chuck Colson; *Quit Dating the Church* by Josh Harris

9. Your Gifts – are you serving where you are gifted and passionate?

- a. When we serve in our gifts areas we are most fulfilled and fruitful for God. 1 Pe. 4:10; 1 Cor. 12
- b. God has given every believer certain spiritual gifts. 1 Cor. 12

Resources: online spiritual gifts tests

10. Prayer – is your prayer life effective and joyful?

- a. Prayer is possible because of the blood of Jesus. Hebr. 4
- b. Prayer is both talking and listening to God. Jer. 33:3
- c. Prayer is able to bring about great results in the kingdom. Jn. 15:7

Resources: *Power Through Prayer* by EM Bounds; *The Praying Life* by Paul Miller; *Circle Maker* by Mark Batterson

11. Outreach – are you sharing Christ with others?

- a. God calls and empowers us to witness to others. Acts 1:8
- b. Our testimony is a great way to witness. Rev. 12

Resources: Gospel tract; *Walk Across the Room* by Bill Hybels; *Out of the Salt Shaker and into the World*

12. Discipleship – are you investing in others?

- a. God calls us to make disciples. Mt. 28:18-20
- b. Investing in a few faithful men is one of the most strategic ways of reaching the world for Christ. 2 Tim. 2:2

Resources: *Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman.

Other Resources/Suggestions

- a. Begin with an overnight retreat where you each share your life graphs.
- b. Obituary project – everyone write out your obituary like you want it to read when you die.
- c. Assign some scripture memory verses.
- d. Be transparent with your own struggles.
- e. Ask about sexual purity from time to time.
- f. Model spending time with God.
- g. Go to some event together (conference, etc.).
- h. Do some practical evangelism (Great Exchange, etc.).