

**Lesson Aim:** To discuss what it means to respond to God's call to discipleship - specifically in our call to connect with Him through Jesus Christ and others through the local church.



*connecting*

Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on summer break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the summer break.

**Prayer:** Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion or devotional time.

1. **Read Matthew 28:16-20.** In Sunday's message, Scott made the point that "our faith journey with Jesus is an ongoing process of becoming more and more like the One we follow." Was this a new concept for you? In what ways does this differ from believing that the life of a Christian is primarily about following a list of rules?

2. **Read Matthew 11:28-30 & John 7:37-39.** What are some things that stand out to you in these invitations from Jesus?

3. Can you think back to moments in your life when you experienced the truth of these words? Tell your group about it. In what ways do you need to experience them in your life today?

4. Have you set out on the pathway to discipleship by believing in Christ and asking Him into your life? If not, what's holding you back?

5. If your answer to question 4 is yes, when did this happen in your life? What has this journey of knowing and following Jesus been like for you since that time (example: changes came instantly; it's been a very gradual process; I'm still trying to figure this out; etc.)?

6. This question was also asked on Sunday: If you have received Christ into your life as Lord, have you taken the next connection step of water baptism? If not, what's holding you back? Would you consider attending the September 9 class at 11:15am in the Conference Room?

7. If yes, what were some of the circumstances surrounding your life at the time of your baptism?

8. One of the principles from Sunday's message was "there is no such thing as a church-less believer in the New Testament." What are some reasons the mindset that a "church-less believer is okay" has been able to develop in our culture?

9. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.** What are some things these verses tell us about the follower of Jesus and their connection to others in the body of Christ? What role might the local church have in this?

**Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.**

This LifeGroup Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at [theBridgeFresno.com](http://theBridgeFresno.com) by clicking on the "Resources" link.



*growing*



*sewing*



*reaching*

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CONNECT ► GROW ► SERVE ► REACH

## INTRODUCTION

- The Bridge exists to... help people find Jesus Christ & follow Him fully.
- Jesus' mandate for every Christian and church is to MAKE DISCIPLES (Matthew 28:16-20)

## DISCIPLE DEFINED

- brdg.es/discipledefined (or... [www.thebridgefresno.com](http://www.thebridgefresno.com); then type "disciple" in search box)
- μαθητής = disciple, pupil, follower, apprentice
- The word "disciple" beautifully combines the concepts both believing & learning; it is a relationship of trust & voluntary submission that brings about some form of life change
- Luke 6:40 - *The student (μαθητής) is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.*

PRINCIPLE #1: Our faith journey with Jesus is an ongoing process of becoming more & more like the One we follow.

**PATHWAY TO DISCIPLESHIP: Connect ► Grow ► Serve ► Reach**

## CONNECTING

- ❶ Connect with God
  - A) **CONVERSION:** John 3:16

PRINCIPLE #2: To begin a faith journey with God, we have to open up a new relationship with Him. (Hebrews 1:1-3; John 17:3)

PRINCIPLE #3: To become a disciple of Jesus Christ, you have to agree to submit to Him & follow Him.

B) **WATER BAPTISM:** Matthew 28:18

- ❷ Connect with a local church
  - brdg.es/bridgemembership (or... [www.thebridgefresno.com](http://www.thebridgefresno.com); then type "membership" in search box)
  - Matthew 16:18 - *I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*
  - 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (Church = The Body of Christ / Every Christian = Member of His Body)

PRINCIPLE #4: There is no such thing as a church-less believer in the New Testament.