

PHASE

Obey Me



Jesus' process for discipling his followers:

BELIEVE
in
ME

FOLLOW
ME

OBEY
ME

SERVE
through
ME

SHARE
about
ME

PHASE

3

Phase Three

of Jesus' discipleship ministry
could be described as:

Be with Me & Remain in Me

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In Phase Three

Jesus challenged his disciples to ***be with*** him in a most intimate way, by ***obeying*** all that he said and having all of their thoughts, desires & actions ***remain in*** line with his own thoughts etc...

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This **Obey Me** stage lasted approximately **24 months** beginning with the formal choosing of the 12 disciples and ending at the ascension...making it the longest segment of Jesus' training.

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This **Obey Me** stage

is highlighted in all four gospels,

Nearly ***two thirds*** of all the passages

of the gospels fall into this stage.

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will **obey my teaching**. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. **John 14:23**

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and **obey it.**" **Luke 11:28**

If you keep My commandments,
you will **remain in My love**, just as
I have kept My Father's
commandments and remain in His
love. **John 15:10**

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must **remain in** the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you **remain in me**. **John 15:4**

Acts & The Epistles

We demolish arguments and every
pretension that sets itself up
against the knowledge of God, and
**we take captive every thought to
make it obedient to Christ.**

2 Corinthians 10:5

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and **continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it**—they will be blessed in what they do. **James 1:25**

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

1 Peter 1:14

Now that you have purified yourselves **by obeying the truth** so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

1 Peter 1:22

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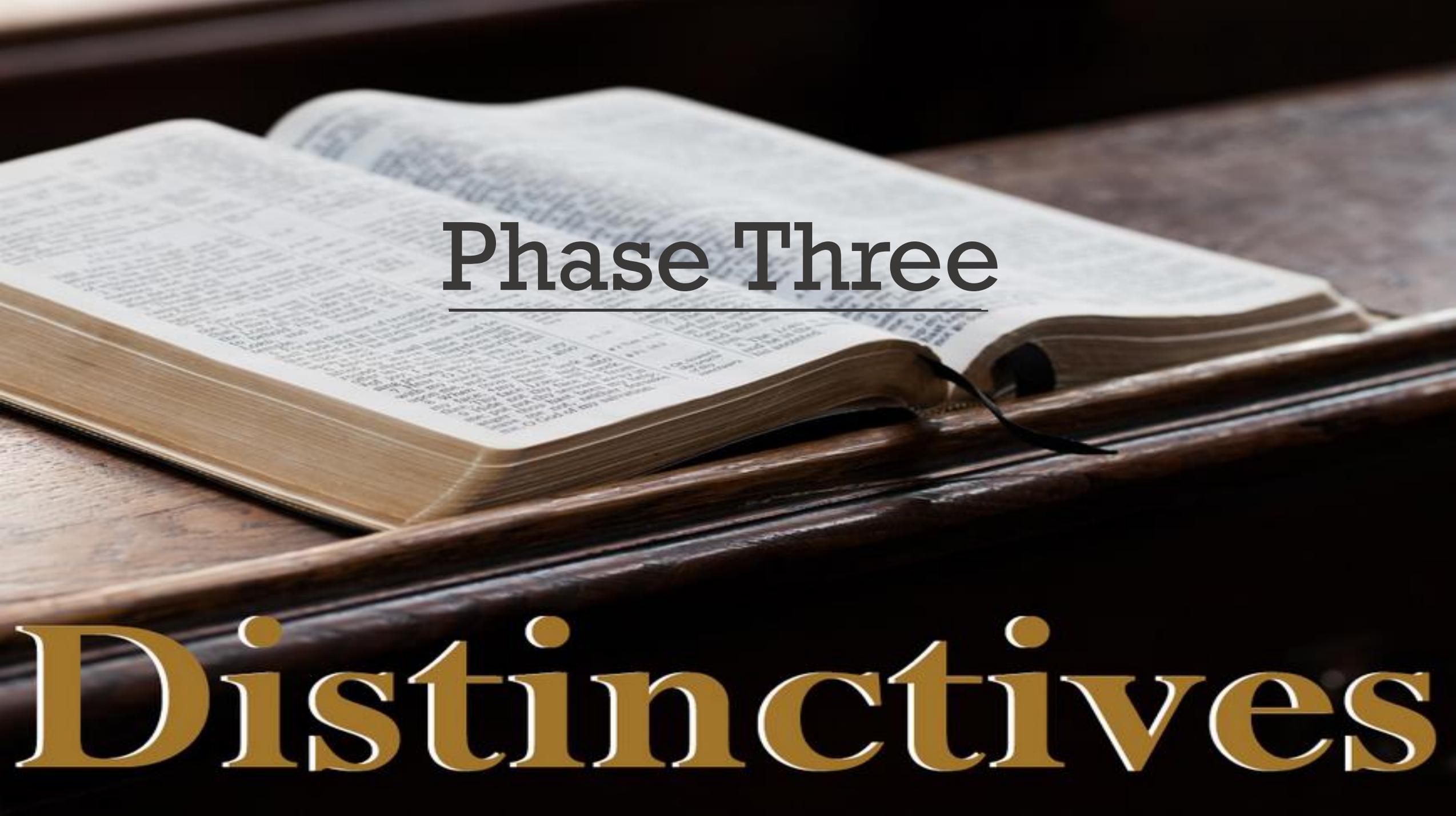
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The major emphasis by Jesus in this stage was the necessity to obey his teaching and through obedience, become more and more like him in thought, word and deed.

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Phase Three comes with its own set of discipleship *distinctives*. What Jesus requires of his disciples in this stage is *distinct* from the previous stages.

An open book with text on the pages, resting on a wooden surface. The text is centered on the page and underlined.

Phase Three

Distinctives

Distinctives

(1) Advanced commitment:

Jesus required an even higher level of commitment from his followers than in the previous stages. Now Jesus would speak regularly of the need to 'take up your cross' and 'follow him' daily. Jesus spoke regularly about the cost of following him including persecution etc.

Distinctives

(2) True obedience vs. basic habits

The focus in this stage moved from forming basic habits to true obedience based on worldview change...a change in value systems and a change in allegiances.

Distinctives

(3) Sacrifice vs. comfort & convenience

A major emphasis at the end of this stage is that sacrifice, suffering and difficulty will be faced when following Jesus and disciples need to be willing to surrender comfort & convenience.

Distinctives

(4) Ministry leadership vs involvement:

The focus in this stage shifted from the disciples having basic ministry involvement with some leadership involvement to full on ministry leadership and responsibility.

Distinctives

(5) Self sustaining vs. other dependent

The focus in this stage shifts from the disciple needing constant reassurance from a disciplemaker or being dependent on other believers or groups in order for the disciple to study, pray & grow...to the disciple being able to primarily function on their own (with the Spirit) to fuel their growth and development.

Distinctives

(6) Outward focused vs. inward focused

The emphasis in this stage begins to shift from the disciple focusing primarily on their walk & development to concentrating a significant amount of time & energy on reaching others and helping them grow.

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Phase Three

of our discipleship efforts must *mirror* the discipleship distinctives, as well as the *life indicators* of Jesus' second stage with his disciples.

Life

Indicators:



In Phase Three:

Disciples strive to obey Jesus teaching in all areas of life and they desire to submit their thoughts, attitudes & actions to the Lord.

(John 15:4, 14:15, 1 John 2:6)



YIELD

In Phase Three:

Disciples strive to be as close to Jesus as possible.

Their relationship with him becomes their top priority. (Luke 10:39, John 6:68, Mark 12:14-17)



In Phase Three:

Time with the Lord; being with him and learning from him is of utmost importance.

(Luke 10:39, John 1:39,
1 Timothy 4:13)



In Phase Three:

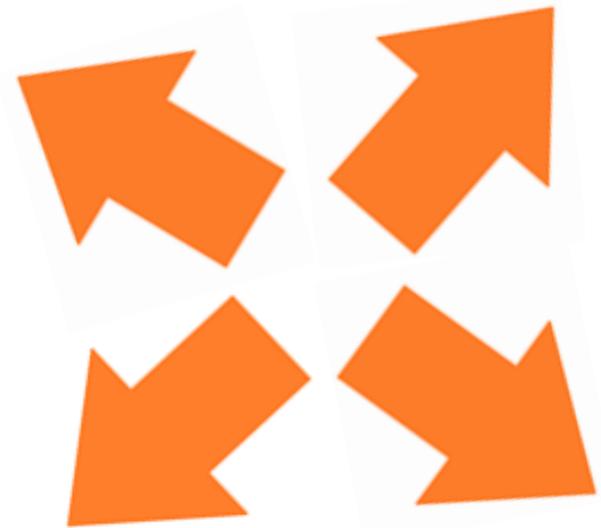
Disciples venture out into ministry on their own. They do not need constant supervision from the disciplinemaker. (Matthew 10:1-20, Acts 6:1-6)



In Phase Three:

Disciples become full-fledged fishers of men. Being *others focused* is a major character trait.

(Luke 6:31, Matthew 5:40-44, 7:12
Philippians 2:3-4)



In Phase Three:

Disciples make obedience to the Lord and pleasing God more important than any comfort and are willing to suffer greatly to maintain it.

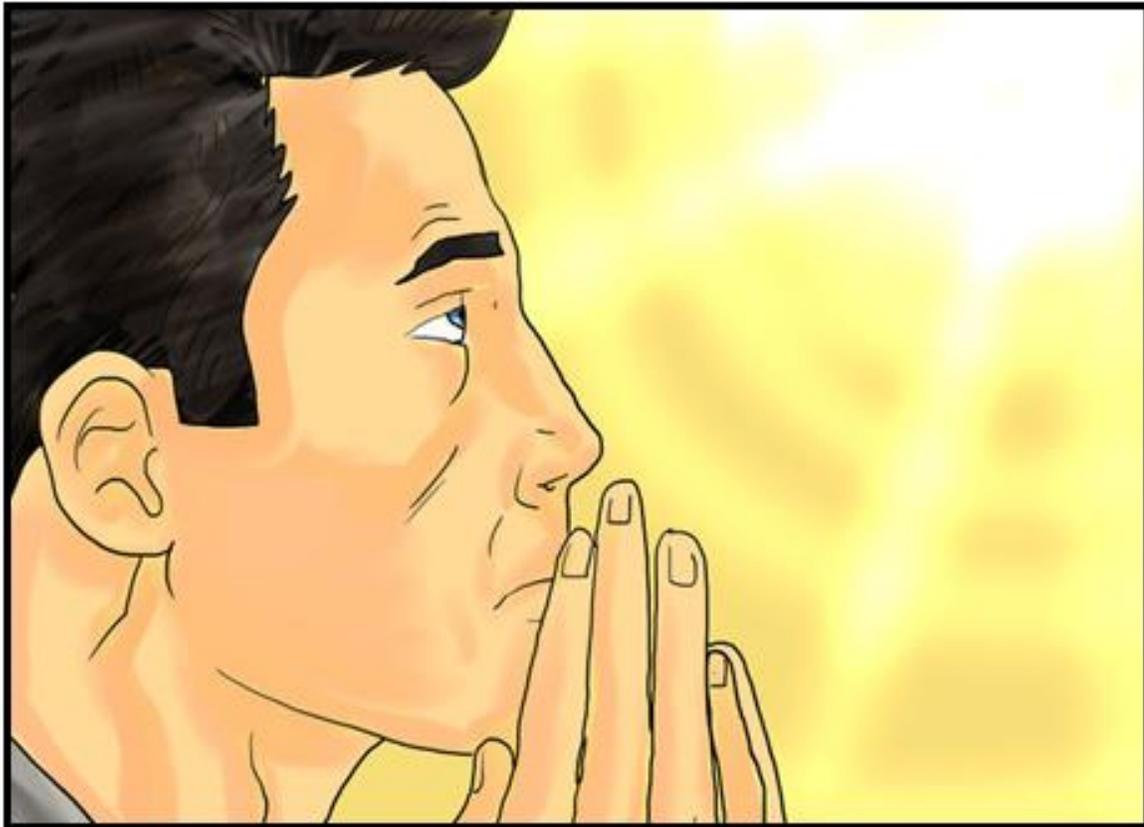
(Matthew 10:16-20, 37-19, 24:9, Acts 5:29-32, 6-7)





Let's Summarize

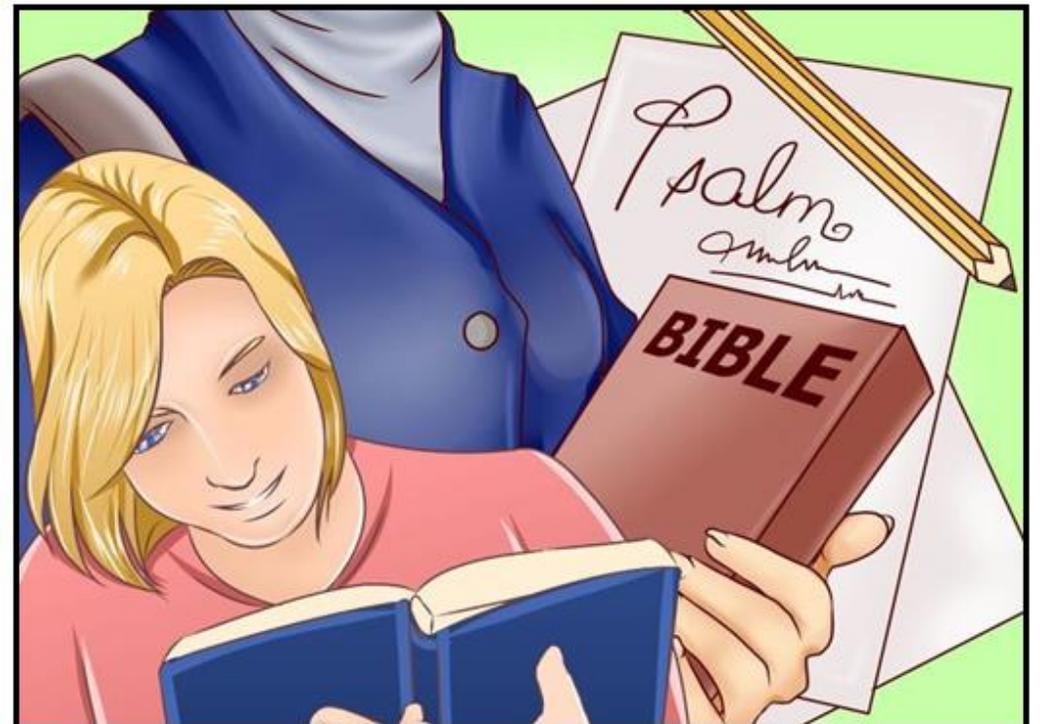
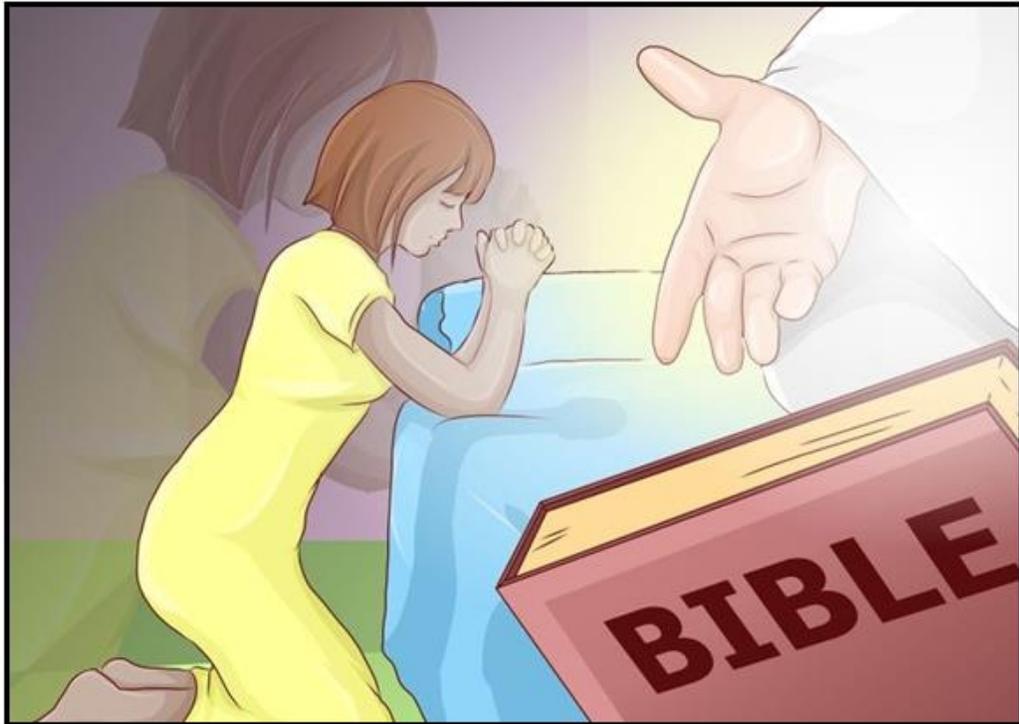
The 3rd stage of discipleship should focus on building ***advanced commitment***, centered on devoting more time, energy & concern to a ***daily relationship with Christ***.



example

We should begin to challenge a fellow believer in the realm of daily communion with Christ through prayer & study of the Word of God. At first we should do it with them, 1-3x a week.

Disciples understand and are taught that **prayer, bible study, walking in the Spirit, confession & repentance** are vital habits in ***maintaining*** their fellowship with Christ.



example

This best done by (1) modeling for them and (2) asking them how they are doing and (3) taking the time to really listen while (4) offering help/counsel when needed.

Friendly accountability is a must.

The 3rd stage of discipleship should focus on building ***complete surrender***, where the disciple's aim to put **everything** in their life at the feet of Jesus. Submission to his will, his design, his desires and his instruction is the goal.



example

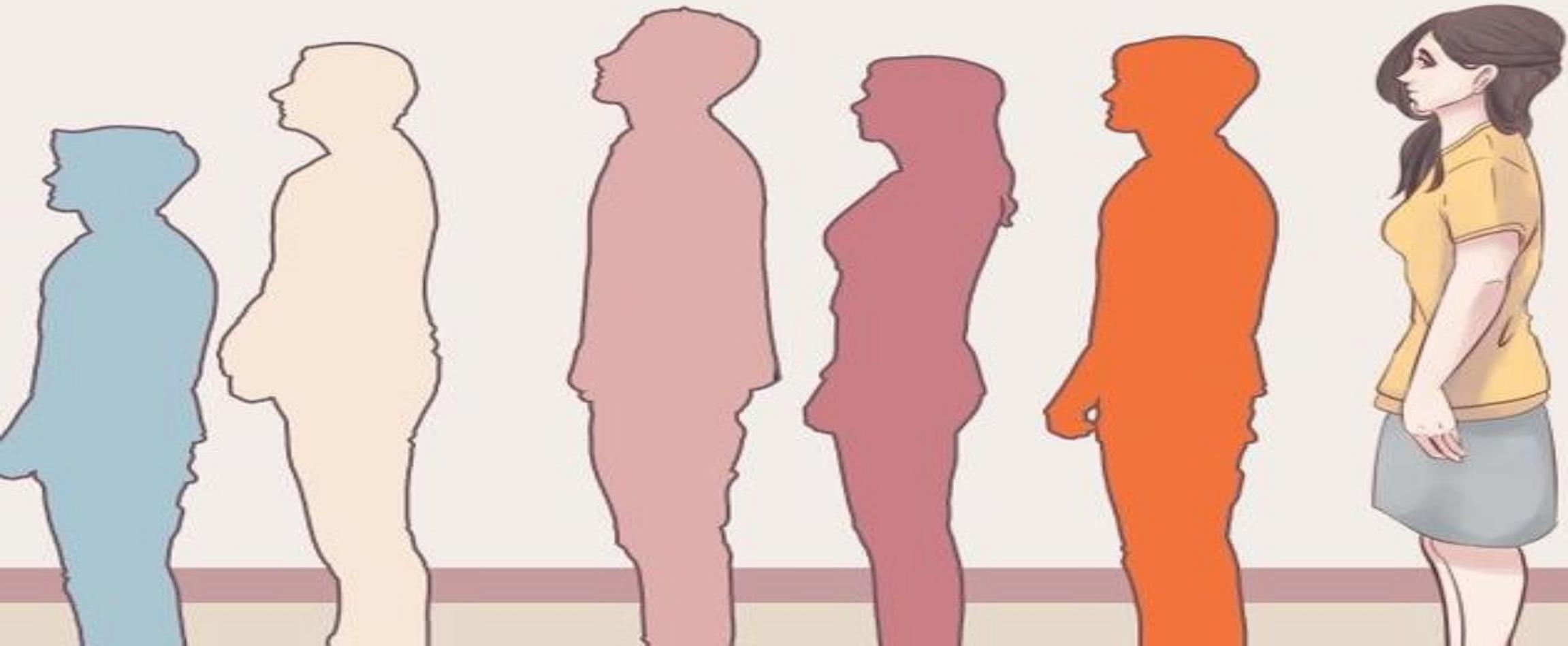
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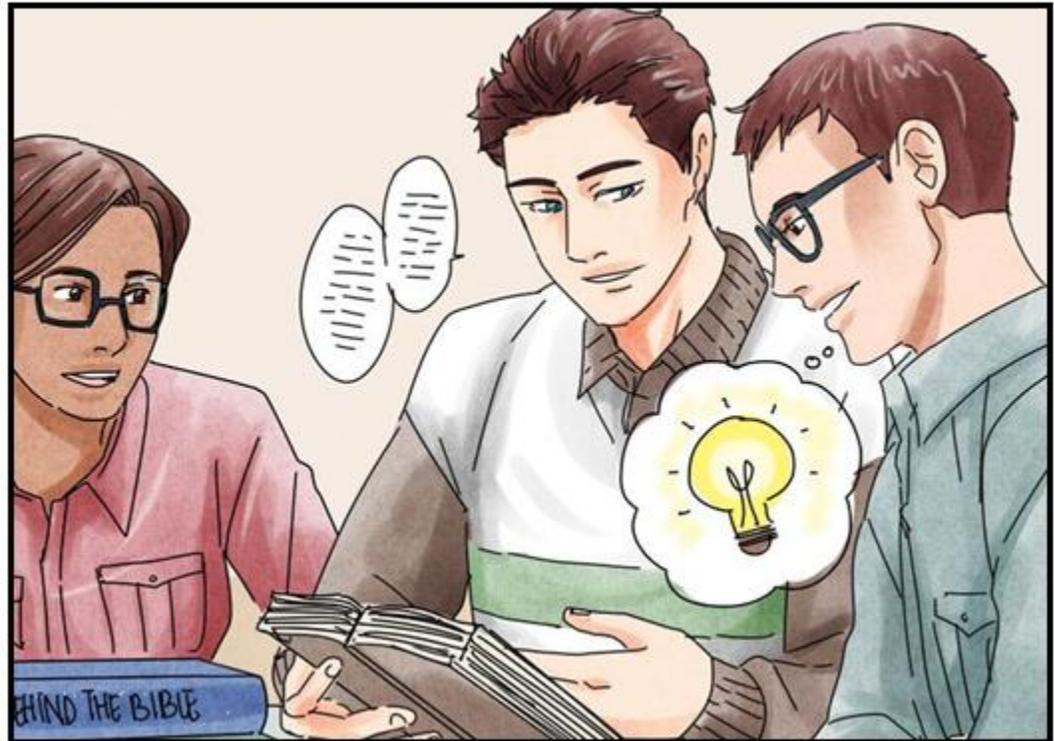
The 3rd stage of discipleship should focus on being willing to give everything over to God in obedience...even when it means **great sacrifice**. *Disciplemakers should help others learn to make small, incremental sacrifices.*



The 3rd stage of discipleship should focus on being willing to put others first...especially in order to fulfill the ***great commission & great commandment.***



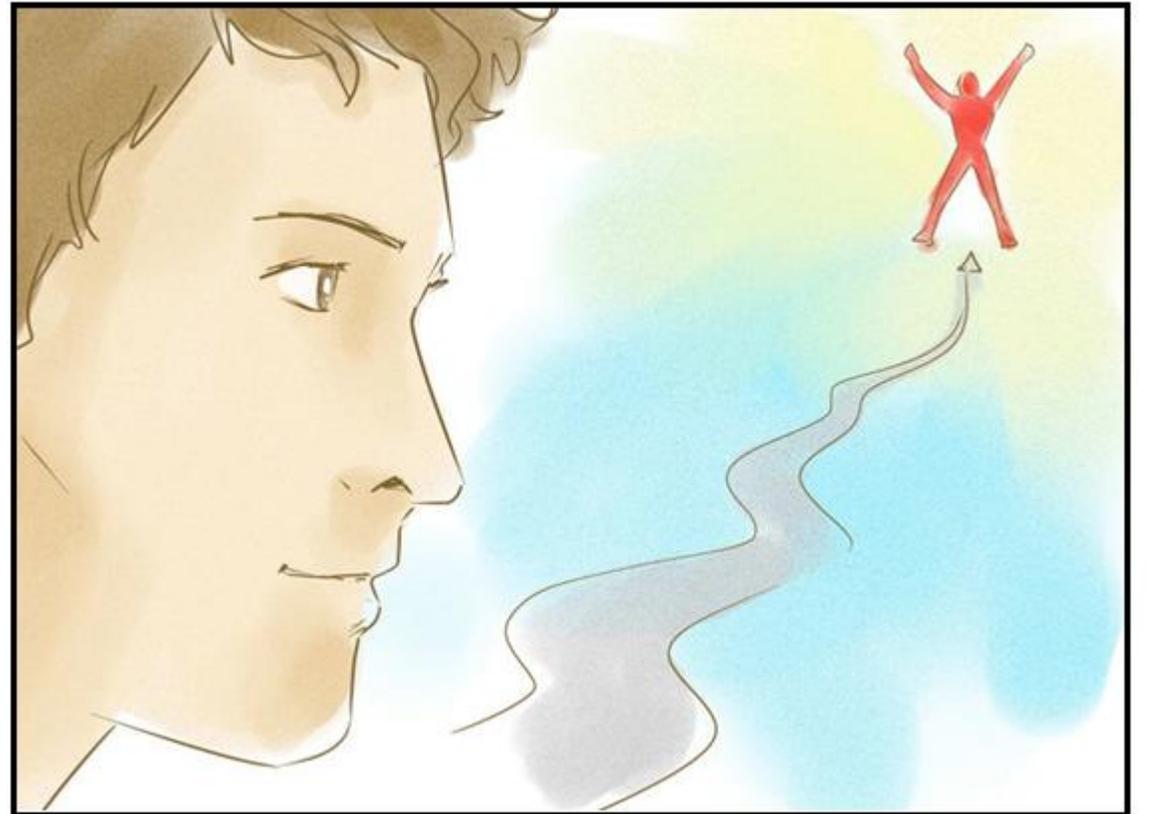
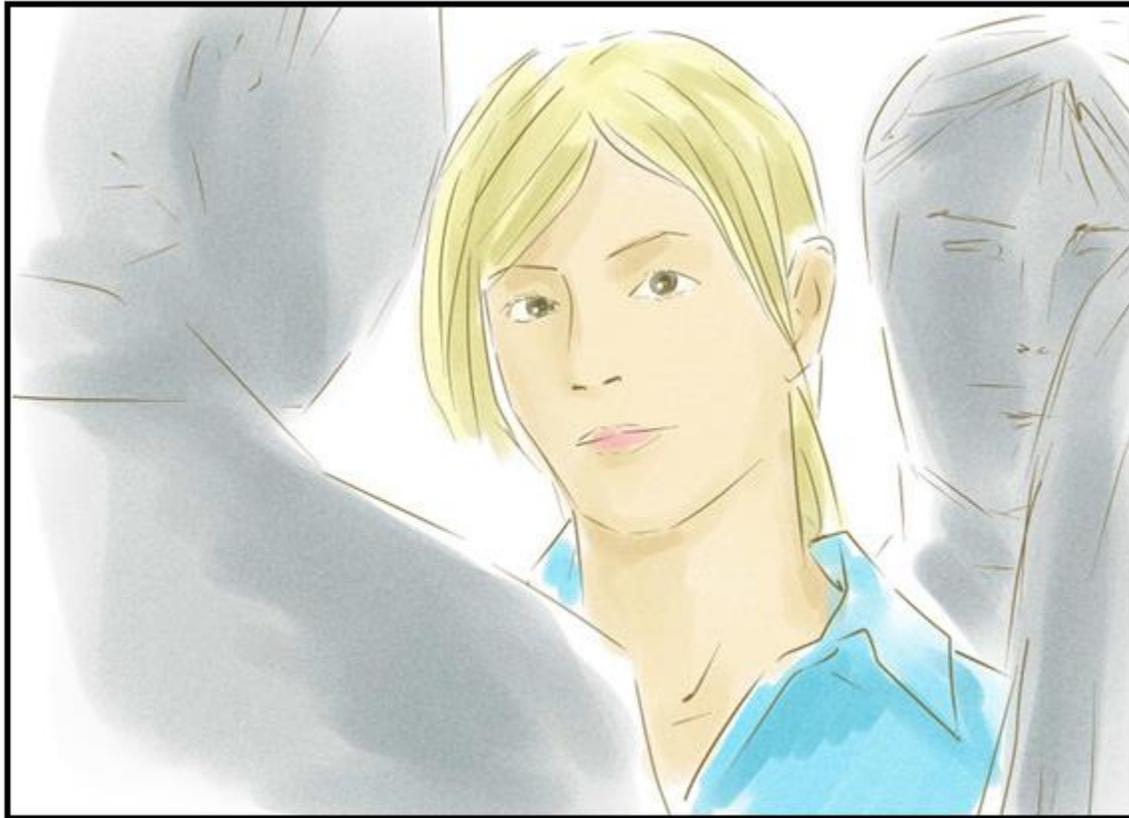
The 3rd stage of discipleship should focus on teaching & training disciples how to reach out to others through service, evangelism and discipleship.



example

This most likely will start with you reiterating the basics of the gospel with your disciple, many times...and then modeling for them how to share it with someone in your sphere of influence in their presence.

The 3rd stage of discipleship should focus on
teaching & training disciples
how to walk with the Lord on their own
& how to serve in ministry on their own.



example

This most likely will start with inviting your disciple to come along with you in ministry ventures that you are involved in. After letting them tag along and help in any way they can, begin to assign a weekly/daily role.