

PHASE 4

Serve Through Me

Jesus' process for discipling his followers:

BELIEVE
in
ME

FOLLOW
ME

OBEY
ME

SERVE
through
ME

SHARE
about
ME

PHASE 4

Phase Four

of Jesus' discipleship ministry
could be described as:

Love your neighbor as yourself

PHASE 4

In Phase Four

**Jesus challenged his disciples
to love God and as a display of that love
to serve others, especially the least
deserving.**

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This *Serve Through Me* stage is highlighted in the middle to late parts of all 4 gospels, leading up to Jesus crucifixion.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, **‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**

Luke 10:27

"And who is my neighbor?"

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. **Luke 10:27-35**

So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine...he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

Luke 10:27-35

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, **“Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:27-35**

As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. Matthew 10:7-9

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you **must be your servant**, and whoever wants to be first **must be servant of all**. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve, and to give his life** as a ransom for many." **Mark 10:42-46**

"Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **Whoever serves me must follow me**; and where I am, my servant also will be. **My Father will honor the one who serves me.**" **John 12:25-26**

Sell your possessions, and **give to the needy.**

Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. **Luke 12:33-34**

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect,
go, **sell your possessions and give to the
poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven.
Then come, follow me."

Matthew 19:21

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that **you should do as I have done for you**. Very truly I tell you, **no servant is greater than his master**, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

Luke 13:14-16

Greater love has no one than
this, **that someone lay down
his life for his friends.**

John 15:13

"But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. **The greatest among you will be your servant.** For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. **Matthew 23:8-12**

I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **Matthew 25:35-40**

When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, **whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.**' **Matthew 25:35-40**

Acts & The Epistles

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they shared with anyone who was in need.

Acts 2:44-45

But if anyone has the world's goods
and sees his brother in need, yet closes
his heart against him, how does God's
love abide in him? **1 John 3:17**

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. **1 John 4:19-20**

Let each of you look not only to his
own interests, but also to the interests
of others. **Philippians 2:4**

Bear one another's burdens, and so
fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

Therefore, as we have opportunity,
let us do good to all people,
especially to those who belong to
the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10

Contribute to the needs of the
saints and seek to show hospitality.

Romans 12:13

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. **Romans 15:1**

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**

PHASE 4

The major emphasis by Jesus in this stage was the necessity to obey his teaching primarily by loving & serving others and helping those in need.

PHASE 4

Phase Four comes with it's own set of discipleship *distinctives*. What Jesus requires of his disciples in this stage is *builds on and advances* from the previous stages.

An open book with a bookmark, resting on a wooden surface. The text "Phase Four" is overlaid on the book's pages.

Phase Four

Distinctives

Distinctives

(1) Sacrifice in reality vs. theory:

Jesus required a higher level of sacrifice from his followers than in the previous stages. Now Jesus would speak regularly of the need to 'serve' 'give' and 'care' for others...even if it meant giving their life for another's gain. Sacrificial living is no longer something they believed & witnessed it was something they needed to do!

Distinctives

(2) Others centered vs self-centered:

Jesus required that his disciples be thinking of others first and foremost. Jesus regularly spoke about 'not as I will, but as you will' and the need to 'lay one's life down for' others.

Distinctives

(3) Giving possessions to gain people:

In this stage Jesus regularly illustrated giving & using your possessions in a way to help people and gain souls!

Distinctives

(4) *Heightened dedication to what is eternal & spiritual vs. what is earthly & physical.*

In this stage Jesus regularly pushed for the disciples to live out the priority of the eternal & spiritual over the earthly & physical, even if it mean great service/sacrifice on their/his part.

Distinctives

(5) *True love for God that over flows into joyful lovingkindness towards others:*

Parables in the mid-late portions of the gospels, such as 'the lost coin', 'the lost sheep' (Luke 15:1-10) 'the prodigal (lost) son' (Luke 15:11-32) all express the idea of the joy there is in love for God that gladly helps the lost/rejoices in the lost being found.

Distinctives

(6) *Meeting physical needs vs. spiritual needs:*

In this stage Jesus' demand of the disciples mirrored his own ministry...namely; in most instances he preformed a miracle that ministered to a physical need before preaching about spiritual needs. In this 'service' stage the aim was primarily to help the physical needs of people. The 'Share about Me' stage focuses more on the spiritual needs.

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Phase Four

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 Four:

**Disciples are instructed & trained at length
on how to do ministry on their own.
(Matthew 10:1-42)**

In Phase Four:

Disciples are given authority to heal (help) other's physical needs and are sent out on their own without the disciplemaker.

(Matthew 10:1, 5)

In Phase Four:

Disciples are now expected to live out and begin practicing all the elements of ministry & service for others that the disciplemaker had been modeling.

(Matthew 10:24-25, Mark 10:43-45)

In Phase Four:

A disciple realizes it is no longer sufficient to

(1) come-see-believe

(2) casually follow or

(3) individually obey...

In Phase Four:

the clear demand now is to

(4) corporately & collectively serve.

(Matthew 10:1, 5)

In Phase Four:

A disciple becomes increasingly aware that the end is near and life is temporary and only what is done in obedience to Christ and service to others will last.

(Luke 12:13-21, 21:10-38, John 9:4, John 16,
Matthew 18:1-5)

In Phase Four:

Similarly, a disciple becomes increasingly aware that the kingdom of God is at hand and that the world and everyone in it will face the judgement of God. A disciple lives daily in the light of the end.

(Luke 17:20-27, 21:10-38)

In Phase Four:

A disciple becomes increasingly aware of the cost of discipleship. They are continually reminded that obedience to Christ and service to others, in the name of the gospel, will carry a cost.

(Luke 14:25-33)

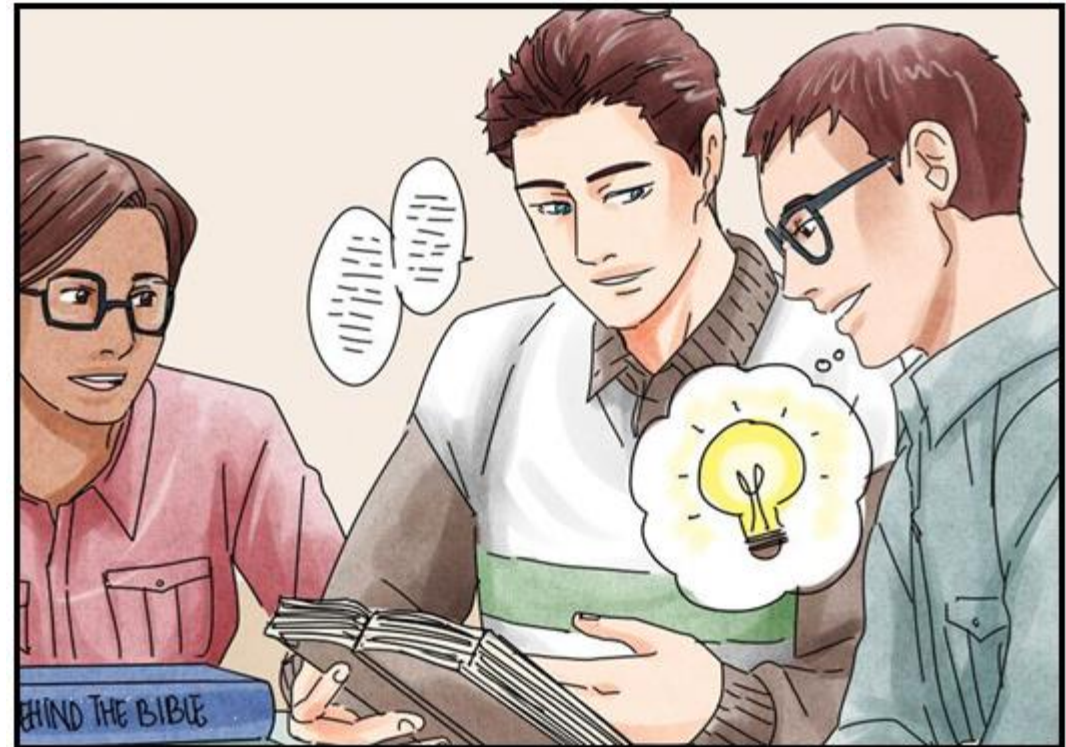
In Phase Four:

A disciple begins seeing things more as eternal or temporal, spiritual or carnal...there becomes less and less middle ground/gray areas in life. Everything becomes less casual and more serious.
(Luke 11:23, 16:13, 18)



Let's Summarize

In the 4th stage of discipleship a disciple should clearly understand that God desires them to **serve others** and that God has given them an important and unique role in serving the body.



This emphasis of service starts at the individual level; @home with serving their spouse, children & family, @work/play with friends, co-workers & neighbors and then corporately @church in official and non-official roles.

example

In this stage a disciple should be given exposure to many different ministry opportunities and be allowed to investigate and ‘feel out’ what may be the best fit.

The 4th stage of discipleship should focus on ministry training. A disciple's spiritual gifts should be evaluated and they should then be equipped & trained for ministry.



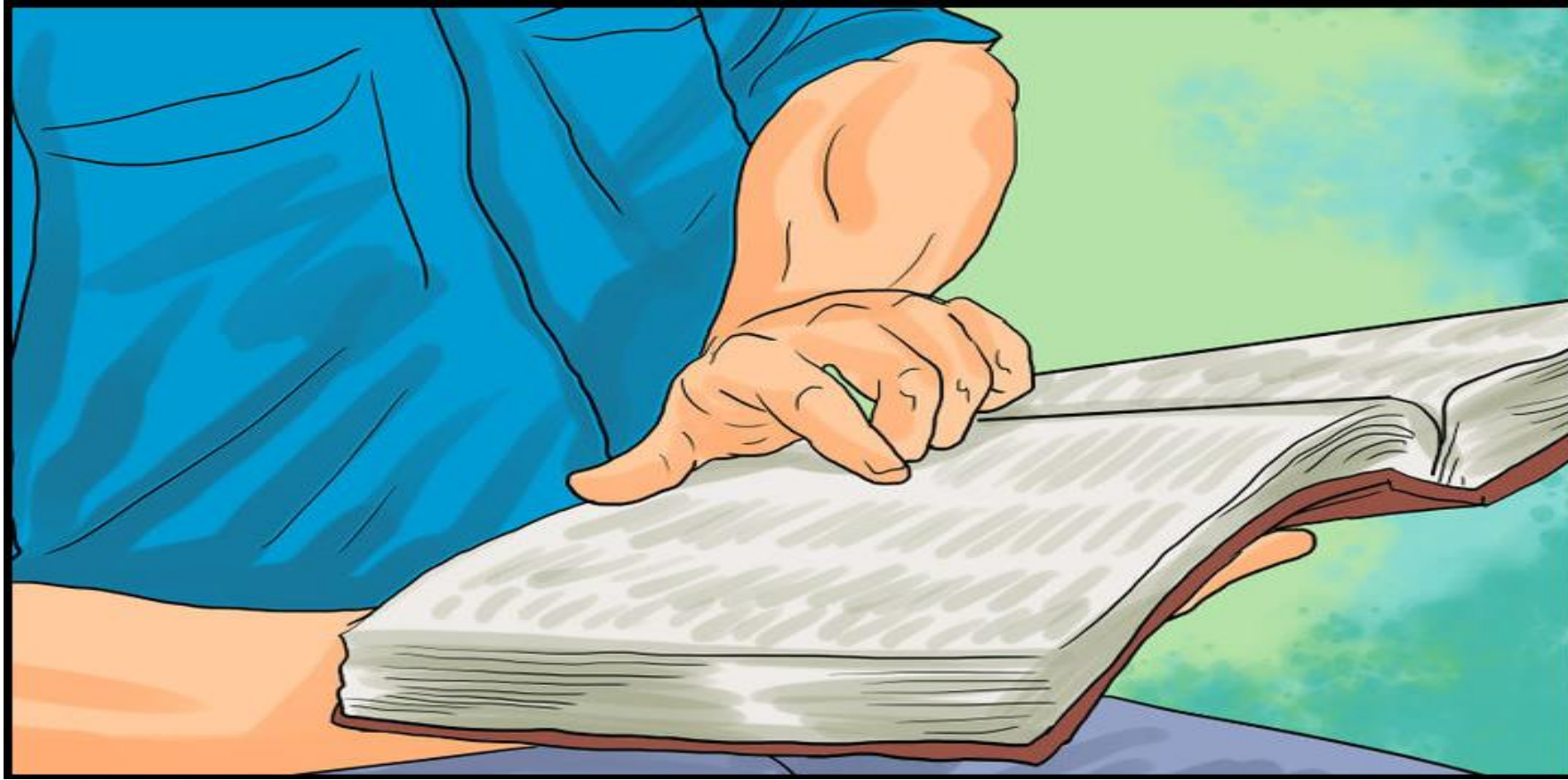
example

In this stage a disciple could be given a spiritual inventory/gift test and/or be given suggestions by the elders/deacons on what may be the best area of service.

The 4th stage of discipleship should focus on preparing a disciple to soon minister on their own. A disciple should be trusted with more and more responsibility.



Teaching in the 4th stage of discipleship should focus on **the task** that Christ has left to his disciples & church, the **2nd coming** of Christ, the **judgement** of the world & **eternal rewards** etc.



The 4th stage of discipleship should focus on helping a disciple to see all things through the lens of eternity. It is in the 4th stage that remaining worldly habits, addictions, expenses, possessions etc. should be evaluated in the light of eternity.



In the 4th stage of discipleship a disciple is ever aware of their limited time on earth & they seek to maximize their impact through love & service for God & others.



example

Much of this will be accomplished by modeling, asking pointed questions and forcing the conversation to go deeper.