

Navigator

Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Psalm 143:8b

The word “disciple” is used around 275 times in the New Testament. Though the word is used exclusively in the Gospels and in Acts, the concept of discipleship is found throughout the entire New Testament. The word translated “disciple” simply means “learner” or “pupil” and it carried with it the idea of being a student or a follower of a person. It would have been similar to the modern day idea of apprenticeship where the less experienced learned from the more experienced, seeking to emulate them and their life. The task of the disciple was to learn from the master and to then pass along his teachings to others and thus spread the teaching of the master beyond his own personal realm of influence.

What does it mean

When “disciple” is used in the New Testament it most often applies to followers of Jesus Christ. Sometimes it refers to the twelve disciples, it is sometimes a reference to a larger group of followers that included the twelve, but went beyond them, and in Acts it is used to refer to all those who are followers of Jesus Christ. This is important to see, because all Christians are disciples of Jesus: we are His followers who are committed to Him and to following Him and His teachings. And as such we are seeking to emulate Him. In Luke 6:40 Jesus said, “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.” Jesus’ point was that over time the disciple would begin to live as the teacher did.

We could define discipleship like this: discipleship is learning from God’s Word how to live my life as Jesus would live it, striving to live that way, and teaching others to do the same. So there is a learning component, a doing component where you put what you have learned into practice, and then a teaching component where you take what you have learned and what you are doing and transfer that to others helping them to become disciples as well.

This concept of discipleship is seen in the life of Ezra, a priest and scribe of the fifth century B.C. The direction of Ezra’s life is summed up in Ezra 7:10: “For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach His statutes and rules in Israel.” The phrase “set his heart” denotes certainty: Ezra had established that this was simply how it was

going to be for his life. He had set his heart upon learning and knowing God’s Word, doing God’s Word, and teaching God’s Word to others.

Ezra set his heart to “study the Law of the Lord.” The word “study” has the idea of “seeking or searching for frequently” and conveys a serious desire for something. So for Ezra, God’s Word was not just something that he could either take or leave; it was something in which he had a burning desire and passion to learn and know. Ezra realized that to know God’s Word is to know the God of His Word, so he came to the Bible with a desire to know God.

But Ezra also set his heart to do it. He wanted to be the man that James would later write about who is not just a hearer of the Word, but a doer of the Word (James 1:22). Studying the Bible

to be a *Disciple?*

and coming to know God in a deeper way is not just an academic exercise; it is a call to action. And God uses His Word to make disciples of Jesus more like their Master as He conforms their lives to the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29). Any study of God’s Word that does not lead to “doing” is not truly fruitful study!

Ezra’s study of the Word that led to his doing of the Word did not end there. He then sought to pass along what he was learning and doing. Ezra taught God’s “statutes and rules in Israel” so that people would come to know this God and what He expects of them. Teaching is not just standing before a class and giving a lecture. It is sharing your life with others so that they can learn and benefit from what Jesus is doing in your life. Colossians 3:16 gives instruction to every disciple of Jesus when it says, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.”

I pray that God would give us all a heart like Ezra: a heart that was set upon learning the Word, living the Word, and then teaching the Word. And when we have a heart like that, what was said of Ezra may be said of us: “For the good hand of His God was on him” (Ezra 7:9).

† Pastor Matt

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Schedule see calendar for more!

Sunday
 8:15 a.m. First Service
 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
 10:30 a.m. Second Service
Tuesday
 6:30 p.m. Youth Ministry
 at NorthRidge Fellowship
Wednesday
 6:15-7:45 p.m. Kids 4 Truth
 at NorthRidge Fellowship
Tuesday/Thursday
 6:00 a.m. Prayer and Devotions
 at Jolly Bean

Children's Ministries

Helping Children Become God-Focused Believers Through Essential Christian Truth

Fifth and Sixth Graders Journey Through Acts

In my Sunday School class the fifth and sixth graders are studying through the book of Acts. This has been a very exciting journey as we travel with Paul throughout his first, second, and third missionary trips. We feel as if we are with him going to each town and seeing what God was doing as he preached the Gospel. It has been so exciting to see how he handles the day-to-day situations that come up, both good and bad. We have seen how he has been stoned, mocked, thrown in prison, and even run out of towns. Through it all Paul gives us a great example because he continues to preach and meet people where they are. God uses Paul in a mighty way. Life is not easy for him and his companions, but God gives them the strength to accomplish what He wants done. God even encourages Paul when he is discouraged. In chapter 18 when Paul is in Corinth He speaks to Paul and tells him to have courage, be bold, and then God blesses him with new converts. During our study through Acts our class performed a play where we acted out Paul's first missionary journey for the church.

We have also started to practice memorizing Scriptures that we will use to share the Gospel. Each Sunday we talk about certain situations that might occur and how we too could be like Paul and share the love of Jesus in our towns and with the people around us. I have encouraged the students to give out Gospel of John booklets and then share their experiences and learn how to be bold like Paul. Studying the book of Acts is a wonderful way to get excited about missions. Paul's life is anything but glamorous, but what encouragement he is for staying the course and not giving up when times get tough.

Gayle Boyd

Children's Ministries: Kids 4 Truth Wednesday evenings, 6:15pm to 7:45pm
Sunday School 9:30am-10:20am ♦ **Bible Builders** During the 10:30 Worship Service

H₂O YOUTH MINISTRY

JOHN 4:13-14

New Purpose We are at an exciting point in the NorthRidge Fellowship Youth Ministry. I believe the direction we are now heading is one of purpose. I believe our youth can accomplish anything as long as we seek God's will first, even big things that other people may think impossible. Our youth ministry has a new purpose statement and it goes like this: Our youth ministry exists to REACH non-believing students, help them to GROW in God's Word, show them how to SERVE and HONOR God while RELATING with other believers.

- REACH is for Evangelism
- GROW is for Discipleship
- SERVE is for Ministry
- HONOR is for Worship
- RELATING is for Fellowship

I believe if we follow these purposes along with PRAYER we can build a healthy youth ministry here at NorthRidge Fellowship. In the following months I will go over each one of these purposes to help explain what they mean. Please be in prayer for us as we embark in this new direction.

Valentine's Banquet Remember "The Night Under the Stars" youth hosted Valentine's Banquet will be February 13th at 6:30 pm at the church. We still have tickets available. Cost is \$20 per couple. Tickets will be on sale until February 8th.

Thanks, Shannon Pharaoh



Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."



Meet Robin Plank

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Atascadero, CA and raised in the foothills of Yosemite National Park in a town called Cathey's Valley.

Who are (or have been) the most influential people in your life?

Jesus for His sacrifice and peace He brings to us; my son, Brendan for fighting so hard at his birth to stay with us and for his daily struggles with Autism; my daughter, Ryleigh for the beauty that lives inside her and her love for her brother; Peggy Peasnell for her example of faith; Pastor Matt, Gayle and Gina and Kevin Bickel for their obedience to Christ and devotion to all of us; foster families and anyone who like the example of Christ offers a helping hand to someone in need.

What is one of your favorite passages and/or books of the Bible?

My favorite verse is John 14:27.

Aside from the Bible, what are your favorite books?

I enjoy a good mystery and crossword puzzles.

If you were stranded on an island, what four foods would you most want to have?

I would like to have crispy chicken salad, pumpkin seeds, chocolate, and tacos.

Who in the Bible do you most identify with?

I find myself most like Mary, pondering things that I have kept in my heart.

What are the four most interesting places you have been to?

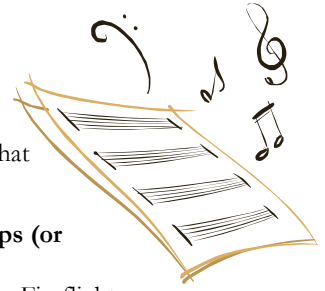
Life has taught me that interesting places don't always involve travel. My interesting places are the NICU at St. Luke's Boise, Humane Societies, Hagerman Elementary, and therapist's offices who are dedicated to helping children with special needs.

How did you come to know Christ?

I've always known "of" Jesus and believed but began my relationship with Him right here at NorthRidge. He drew me closer to Himself and revealed His mercy and love with the birth of my son and blessed me with His Spirit after taking the Getting To Know NorthRidge Class.



What Has Kassidy Been Listening To?



What kind of music do you like to listen to?

I love to listen to Christian rock, and some country that is approved by my parents! ☺

What are your three most listened to music groups (or CD's) right now? Tell us a little about them.

The most listened to CDs right now would have to be Fireflight, Third Day, and if I had one of the CDs from Capital Light that would be the third one. All of these groups are Christian and have good messages.

What radio station do you listen to most often?

88.1 and 88.9.

What is your favorite concert you've ever been to?

It was a Capital Light concert with two other bands called Philmont and A Rotterdam November. Ms. Candy took Ashley, Alleigha, and me last Monday night and it was a lot of fun!

What concert would you love to see?

My family and I are going to the Rock & Worship concert with Jeremy Camp and Mercy Me in March. I am really excited to see them!

Last year you sang with the Young Continentals. Do you hope to do that again this summer?

I am not going on tour this summer, but I hope to go again in the summer of 2010.

What CD have you bought that you wish you hadn't?

So far since I've been a Christian I haven't bought any non-Christian CDs, so I haven't had any regrets!

What are some of your favorite lyrics?

Here I am, I've got this baggage by my side
But I am ready now to leave it all behind
So I'm taking this moment to tell You I'm open
I'm taking this moment to give You everything

We're not meant to be another face in the crowd

There's gotta be a difference
It's gotta be significant
Cause You're really inside changing my life
And it's so evident that there's a difference

There's a difference

A Difference by Philmont

~Kassidy Kohler

Christianity is not just a mental assent that certain doctrines are true—not even that the right doctrines are true. This is only the beginning. This would be rather like a starving man sitting in front of great heaps of food and saying, "I believe the food exists; I believe it is real," and yet never eating it. It is not enough merely to say, "I am a Christian," and then in practice to live as if present contact with the supernatural were something far off and strange. Many Christians I know seem to act as though they come in contact with the supernatural just twice—once when they are justified and become a Christian and once when they die. The rest of the time they act as though they were sitting in the materialist's chair.

Francis Schaeffer

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

8:15 a.m. First Service
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Second Service

Sunday Services

www.norridgefellowship.org
314 West Ave]
Jerome, ID 83338



Place
Stamp
Here

To The Ends of the Earth



How Beautiful the feet of those who go

By the time that you are reading this Kevin and Gina Bickel will be in Diouloulou settling into their new life and ministry for the next three months. Please be in prayer for them and for the people that they will be seeking to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with. What a privilege and responsibility we have to be passionate senders who consistently and fervently lift them up in prayer.

A good way to remember to pray for this ministry and for the people of Diouloulou is to pray for them at every meal. Make this a time where your family focuses attention and prayers upon missions and the unreached peoples of the world.

Here are some suggestions for how to pray for Kevin and Gina and the ministry in Diouloulou over the next three months:

Pray for their spiritual life: that they would take sufficient time to study the Bible and pray; that they would be encouraged and experience joy in their new ministry; that they would be people of integrity, reliability, humility, discernment, and wisdom; that they would be led by the Holy Spirit in all of their day to day decisions.

Pray for their relationships: that they would strengthen relationships that were made on previous trips and cultivate new relationships with others.

Pray for them as they work in a different culture: that they would adapt well and be sensitive to new customs; that they would have clarity, creativity, and relevance in the way that they present the

truth of the Gospel; that they would be fearless in their telling others about Jesus.

Pray for their health and safety.

Pray for the people of Diouloulou: that God would make abundant opportunities for the Word of God to spread; that God would open their hearts to the message of the Gospel; that they would have a desire to study and learn from God's Word; that God would save some of the people of Diouloulou and that He would raise up leaders who are eager to be discipled and tell others about Jesus; that God would establish and grow a church there.

Praises from Kevin and Gina as they are in Pennsylvania and New York sharing the vision of reaching Diouloulou with the Gospel:

Safety: travel has been treacherous at times, but the Lord has kept them safe

Financially: the Lord continues to meet their needs

Prayer Support: churches and individuals are excited about the ministry in Diouloulou and are partnering with them in prayer

Housing: Lee and Donelle Kauffman (missionaries in Senegal) delivered the bags that they left in November to the “apartment” in Diouloulou. The walls of the apartment have been painted white and the “outhouse” has a toilet, sink, mirror, and shower!!!

FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN, come join the LEAD Bible Study every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Wok and Grill in Twin Falls. Come study *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges.

Be in prayer for Kevin and Gina Bickel as they minister the Gospel in Diouloulou, Senegal for three months.

Interested in NorthRidge? Attend the "Getting To Know NorthRidge" classes on Sunday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. on February 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

Don't miss the Valentine's Banquet! "The Night Under the Stars" will be February 13th at 6:30 pm at the church. Cost is \$20 per couple. Tickets will be on sale until February 8th. (Hosted by the youth.)

Contact Robert Kohler at 324-3545 or Candy Myhre at 644-6421 if you know of community service needs that NorthRidge can help with.

HEY KIDS! How many times in total did Joshua's army march around Jericho? Tell Mrs. Brockway, and you will get a prize!

NEW DELIVERY OPTIONS!

To receive the newsletter as a PDF in email, please send a request to newsletter@nrfellowship.org and you will be added to the Navigator email list.

To receive the newsletter through the U.S. Postal Service, simply do nothing, and you will continue to receive the Navigator as usual.

To be removed from the Navigator mailing list, please send an email to newsletter@nrfellowship.org requesting removal.

Running to Win

Training with whole-hearted desire and dedication

In 1996 I decided to run a marathon. I started this process by setting the goal for the following year. I then researched the different marathons available: the locations, the dates, the associated expenses such as lodging, travel, and time away from work. I bought a book to help me with the planning and training. I actually read it and incorporated the advice of its author who had run in many marathons, into my training. I planned a schedule for training. I went to a foot specialist and had special devices made to help my feet withstand the brutal effects of the many miles of running. I bought the best running shoes for me. I set my goal as the St. George Marathon in Utah and trained faithfully rain or shine for 9 months. Finally the day came, I ran the race and finished!! When it was over, I was initially excited but then emotionally let down. It had consumed so much of my time and effort. Was it worth it?

I find that our Christian walk or race is similar in many ways. We start by being led to Christ, and suddenly find that our goals have changed. No longer is being successful, popular, or powerful the goals for which we strive. Our goal is to be more like Christ, and we do this in daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly segments. We start the process by reading His Word, the Bible. It is our instructional manual. We then need to pray and seek the Lord's guidance in our life, both in the little things as well as the BIG things. Our Christian race is similar to running a marathon. We physically and mentally are not able to finish this race

without the proper training schedule. It requires a "desire" to compete.

Paul shows how this is done. It starts with the proper mindset. "I run thus: not with uncertainty" and "Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air" (1 Corinthians 9:26). I do not think that anyone would want to run a marathon half-heartedly. The thought is crazy. It is so much easier to sit on the sidelines and watch the race.

In this Christian race, not everyone will compete at the same level. The Bible tells us that each Christian was given spiritual gifts at the moment of conversion. Some will compete in the race. Others will support the runners, either physically at the race such as

Barnabas for Paul. Others will support financially or with prayers. Others will offer to help, but will not.

The race that Paul prepared himself for was the race that all Christians need to prepare for, the calling of God. Paul taught that Christians are rewarded for the calling that God gives them. Paul knew that if he was faithful to his calling he would receive a reward from the Lord for his service (1 Corinthians 4:2). Paul knew that if he ignored or treated his mission half-heartedly, he would not receive from Christ the victor's crown for service (2 Timothy 4:8).

At the end of my marathon, after crossing the finish line, I received a stone medal on a necklace and a T-shirt. As Christians we will receive rewards at the judgment seat of Christ. In our Sunday Adult Bible study class, we discussed these rewards which included crowns. After receiving these rewards, the Bible states that we will throw them at the feet of Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 4:10).

As I look back on the marathon, I realize that the greatest reward I received was from the training for the race and the sense of accomplishment of competing and completing the race. The actual rewards, though nice mementos, are now tucked away in a drawer. Similarly, the Christian life offers the opportunity for many people to be winners both in this life and the life to come with Christ.

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