

# PARENT GUIDE

JOURNEY

## IDENTITY

### Lesson 8.3: The Discipline of Discipleship

#### ► SCRIPTURE READING

- » John 8:30–32
- » John 13:31–35
- » John 15:5–9
- » Psalm 100:2; 119:11;  
Matthew 6:9–13; John 14:15;  
Philippians 2:3–4;  
2 Timothy 2:15;  
Hebrews 10:24–25;  
1 John 5:14–15

#### SUMMARY:

Embracing a life of Christian discipleship is an important step for a Christian to take. There are three specific characteristics that identify a Christian as a disciple.

First, a Christian disciple is someone who abides in the Word of God and experiences the freedom that comes from being saved and following Jesus.

Second, a Christian disciple is someone who is marked by the love of Jesus. They understand the importance of His command to love one another and take that command seriously. They ask Jesus to help them display love constantly — even when it's difficult.

Third, a Christian disciple is someone who bears fruit. Jesus is the vine who sustains Christians (the branches) and enables them to bear the fruit of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives inside of Christians, prompting them to live out those fruits.

Finally, a Christian is someone who embraces God's calling of discipleship and incorporates the spiritual disciplines of Bible reading and study, Scripture memory, prayer, growth groups, service and worship into their everyday life so they can grow in their identity as a disciple of Christ.

#### ► MEMORY VERSE OPTIONS

*Students chose the memory verse most meaningful to them this year. Offer some encouragement and insight about their chosen verse during small group time.*

#### ► IDENTITY INSIGHT

Because I am a disciple of Jesus, I obey the commands of His Word. As I abide in Him, I am transformed by His love, enabled to love others as He desires and bear spiritual fruit.

#### ► IMPORTANT IDEAS:

**LOVE:** The kind Christians should have, as expressed in John 13:34–35, should reflect the love God has for us. It is expressed even when there is no response. More than an emotion, it is a deliberate act of will and conviction of the mind that determines a way of life.

**SPIRITUAL FRUIT:** the results evident in the life of a believer aligned with Christ that benefit others and advance God's work in the world such as:

- Responsive obedience to God's Word (Matthew 13:8, 23)
- People who put their faith in Christ as Savior (John 4:36)
- Christian character displayed through the traits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23)
- The righteousness of Christ displayed in a believer's life (Philippians 1:11)

**SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES:** practices found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ — habits of devotion and experiential Christianity — that promote spiritual growth among believers and have been practiced by God's people since biblical times<sup>4</sup>