

▶ LESSON 8.3: THE DISCIPLINE OF DISCIPLESHIP

STUDENTS STUDIED:

- » 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

STUDENTS MEMORIZED AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING VERSES:

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

Students Learned the Following Definitions:

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 times⁵

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
Students learned one characteristic of a Christian disciple is abiding in the Word of God.	Students learned a mark of a Christian disciple is that they reflect the love of Jesus.	Students learned about a third characteristic of Christian discipleship: bearing fruit.	Students studied six spiritual practices that will help them grow as disciples of Christ.
They discovered that Christians who obey God's Word will learn firsthand what it means to be free in Christ.	They studied Jesus' command to love one another and discovered how it differs from the command given in the Old Testament. They considered what the new commandment means for Christians today.	They looked at Jesus' illustration of a vine and branches and considered how it is impossible to bear spiritual fruit without Him. Faith in Jesus makes it possible for the Holy Spirit to live inside Christians, which allows them to produce the fruits of the Spirit.	They looked at the spiritual disciplines of Bible reading and study, Scripture memory, prayer, growth groups, service and worship, and they thought about how to incorporate these disciplines into their lives.

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.

DISCUSSION

► SHARE

Think about the early stages of your Christian discipleship journey. Share a time when God enabled you to put one of the characteristics of Christian discipleship into practice.

► ASK

Being a disciple of Jesus means embarking on an identity journey. Even those who knew and followed Jesus while He was on Earth saw their identities change as they learned from Him what it meant to be His disciple. Ask students how following Jesus has (or will) shape their identities.

► ACT

Being a disciple of Jesus means sharing His love with other people. Encourage students to think about how they might share the love of Jesus with people they encounter. Invite them to share examples with the group.

TEACHING NOTES:
