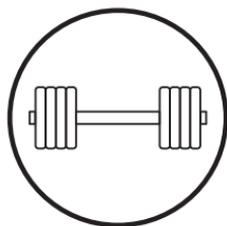


WHAT'S THE POINT?

Followers of
Jesus love
God and their
neighbors.



1. DISCIPLESHIP: FOLLOWING JESUS



JASON

Jason didn't have much money growing up. When he was a kid, his dad left him, his older brother, and their mother—and he took their money with him. So Jason and his brother could never afford video games or fancy bikes. Nonetheless, they discovered they didn't need money to have fun. As they played with their neighborhood friend, Chip, they grew to love other games, especially 'Follow the Leader.' The game was free and easy. Someone was named the 'head' of a line, and everyone else had to follow the head and do what they did; if they didn't, they lost.

In this chapter, we're going to answer two questions. **The first question is 'What is a disciple?'** The game Jason played as a child points to an answer: *A disciple is someone who follows their leader.* To be a disciple of Jesus is to be a follower of Jesus.

A disciple is a follower.

While Jason's childhood game gave us a basic picture of a disciple, let's also consider what the Bible says about being a disciple. After all, we don't want to only think in a basic way but a *biblically* basic way.

STOP:

What do you think it looks like to follow Jesus?

Looking at the Bible, Carl Ellis, Jr., defined being a disciple of Jesus like this: **‘A disciple is someone in the process of learning to obey all things Christ commands.’**¹ In other words, a disciple is a student. This definition comes from Jesus’ final instructions to His disciples. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said:



‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ (NIV)

With these words, Jesus was saying to His disciples: ‘I’m the leader. Go and make more disciples and teach them to follow me as I’ve commanded you to follow me.’ Since being a disciple requires learning from other disciples, no one can be a disciple all by themselves. A solo disciple is a contradiction in terms.

A disciple is a student.



JASON

Jason has found that though following Jesus is personal, it’s not private. In fact, following Jesus is a pretty public thing. Just as there are no solo disciples, there are also no secret disciples. Disciples are meant to show what God is like. We’re meant to be billboards you can see, not ninjas you can’t.

Jason is learning about following Jesus publicly. He’s known old Ms. Pearl for a long time. She was his family’s neighbor growing up, and she owns a store in the neighborhood. Though Jason always went to church with his mother, Marie, Ms. Pearl treats Jason differently now that he’s a Christian. When she sees him

1 Carl Ellis Jr, <<https://twitter.com/CarlEllisJr/status/931142058353549312>>. Date accessed: 5th July 2019.