



# **Connecting, Discipling, and Transforming**

Sermon Based Group Discussion - Prepared for Weekly Discipleship Bands

## *Weekly Discipleship Band/Class Guide*

Week/Date: #20, Sunday, May 10, 2026 Sermon Title: *When Doing the Right Thing Costs Us Everything*

Primary Scripture Text: 1 Peter 3:13-22 Primary Theme: The cost of discipleship to faithful followers of Christ.

Group Leader/Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Purpose:

*The Deep Dive* exists to help us grow together as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ through meaningful Christian conversation, biblical accountability, intentional spiritual formation, and practical obedience to the Word of God.

*We gather weekly to:*

- Connect authentically with one another in Christian fellowship.
- Grow deeper in our understanding of Holy Scripture.
- Support our collective understanding of God's Word.
- Encourage one another in faithful discipleship.
- Strengthen our witness to the world.
- Develop intentional habits of prayer, service, generosity, worship, and mission.
- Become transformed by the renewing work of the Holy Spirit.

Our purpose is not merely to gain additional information about God, but to experience transformation through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

### Opening Scripture:

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*Romans 12:2 – NIV*

### Opening Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, as we gather here in the name of Jesus Christ, open our hearts and minds to the truth of your Word. Deepen our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and transform our lives through the power of your Holy Spirit. Teach us to listen carefully, speak graciously, encourage faithfully, and respond obediently to your call upon our lives. Shape us into courageous disciples who love deeply, serve joyfully, and witness boldly. May everything we say and do here in this place bring glory and honor to your holy name.*

*We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### The Deep Dive:

*One Dozen Useful Questions that Shape Obedient Disciples:*

- Connecting — Building Christian Fellowship and Understanding
- Discipling — Growing in Faith, Accountability, and Obedience
- Transforming — Living Out Our Faith in the World

1. *The Reality of Faithful Living*

- In what specific ways have you experienced—or *avoided*—adversity as a direct result of living faithfully for Christ?
- How does this align with 1 Peter 3:13–14?

2. *Recognizing Christ’s Presence*

- What does it practically mean for you to “recognize the presence of Christ” in your daily life?
- How does this recognition influence your response to difficulty?

3. *Obedience and Cost*

- Where in your life is obedience to Christ currently costing you something (comfort, reputation, or security)?
- Where might God be calling you to deeper obedience?

4. *The Call to Fearlessness*

- 1 Peter 3:14 says, “Do not fear what they fear.”
  - What fears most commonly compete with your faith?
  - How can you actively replace fear with trust?

5. *Setting Apart Christ as Lord*

- What does it mean to “set apart Christ as Lord” in your heart (v. 15)?
- What habits or disciplines help you live this out consistently?

6. *Being Prepared to Answer*

- How ready are you to “give a reason for the hope that you have”?
- What would you say if someone asked you today why you follow Christ?

7. *Gentleness and Respect Under Pressure*

- Why is it often difficult to respond with gentleness and respect when we are criticized or misunderstood?
- What would change if you intentionally practiced this in your next conflict?

8. *Maintaining a Clear Conscience*

- What does a “clear conscience” look like in real, everyday decisions?
- Is there anything currently troubling your conscience that needs to be addressed?

9. *Understanding the Rule of Adversity*

- The sermon states that “we are meant to suffer.”
  - How do you respond to that statement?
  - How does Christ’s suffering (v. 18) reshape your understanding of your own?

10. *The Spiritual Crosswinds*

- In the golf illustration, “crosswinds” represent opposition, distraction, and temptation.
  - What are the strongest “crosswinds” in your life right now?
  - How can you rely more fully on God when they arise?

11. *The Christlike Response to Hostility*

- According to 1 Peter 3:8–9, we are not to repay evil for evil.
  - Where is God calling you to respond with grace instead of retaliation?
  - What would that look like in a specific relationship?

12. *Living in Light of Christ’s Victory*

- How does knowing that Christ reigns (v. 22) change the way you face adversity today?
- What is *one concrete step* you will take this week to stand firm in your faith?

*Optional Closing Reflection for Groups*

- Which question challenged you the most—and *why*?
- What is *one specific action* you will take this week as a result of this study?

Personal Reflection and Action Step:

What is the *one specific thing* God is calling me to believe, to change, to begin, to stop, to confess, or to do this week as a result of this study and discussion?

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Prayer Concerns and Praises:

*Prayer Requests:*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

*Praises and Celebrations:*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly Accountability Check In:

*This Week:*

- Did I spend intentional time in prayer? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Did I spend time reading and reflecting on Scripture? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Did I intentionally encourage or serve another person? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Did I share my faith, witness, or invite someone into spiritual conversation? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Did I respond faithfully to God’s direction in at least one area of my life? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Closing Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of Christian community, the truth of your Word, and the transforming work of your Holy Spirit. Continue shaping us into faithful disciples who reflect the character of Jesus Christ in our homes, our congregation, our workplaces, and our community.*

*Strengthen us to stand firm in faith, to grow in holiness, to serve with humility, and to live courageously for your perfect kingdom. Send us now into the world as witnesses of your grace, truth, mercy, and love.*

*It is in the strong and saving name of Jesus Christ our Lord that we pray. Amen.*

Our questions for the week, *One Dozen Useful Questions that Shape Obedient Disciples*, are created, produced, and published from the Sunday worship sermon by the same title each week. Please obtain a copy of these, fresh each week, review the questions, and bring a copy to your discipleship meeting.

This collection is meant to supply choices to our discipleship meetings, with the expectation for the group to discuss two or three, depending upon their leadership and context. We look forward to your growth in Christ as a result of your participation in *The Deep Dive*.

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