

## Relationship with Christ – Good to Great Discipleship

### I. Introduction

1. “Just okay is not okay”
2. An Invitation and a Promise from Pope Francis
3. Go... Make... Baptize... Teach – Matt 28:19

### II. Discipleship

1. Three Journeys for Intentional Disciples
2. Four Cultural Obstacles
3. Making Disciples – Mark 3:13-15 and Matthew 11:25-30
4. St. Paul on Discipleship – 2 Cor 3:18, Gal 2:19-20, Phil 1:20-21, 2 Cor 5:17
5. “Being incorporated into Christ means becoming totally reborn,... involves dying w/ Christ, becoming dead to the power of sin, and living an entirely new life ‘in Christ.’ it means surrendering to the power of Christ in such a way that one allows the risen Christ to direct completely his/her life... In essence, it is a mutual indwelling of Christ in the believer and the believer in Christ.” Fr. Ron Witherup
6. For Reflection
  - *Obstacles to radical freedom in Christ in your life? What needs to go?*
  - *How can you make more room for Christ in your life right now?*
  - *What concrete steps can I take to move from good to great discipleship?*

### III. Holiness

1. Discipleship is a call to holiness – 1 Thess 4:3, Lev 11:44
  - Vatican II’s “Universal Call to Holiness”
  - Pope Francis on holiness from Rejoice and Be Glad
2. Challenges to Holiness
  - Romans 7:13 and 8:7
  - Matthew 8:18-27
3. Pursuing “Perfect Holiness”
  - Solitude
  - Silence
  - Prayer of the Heart
4. For Reflection
  - *What words would describe your personal discipleship?*
  - *How do you withstand the cultural influences that keep us from living a path to perfect holiness?*
  - *How can you pursue solitude, silence and prayer of the heart more zealously?*

#### **IV. Living as Missionary Disciples**

1. Pope Francis on Missionary Discipleship
2. The Importance of Witness
3. How?
  - Encounter
  - Accompany
  - Community
  - Send
4. For Reflection
  - *Who has been an effective witness in your faith life? What was it that made them effective? How could you serve as a compelling witness for others?*
  - *Where and when have you had significant moments of encounter with Christ?*
  - *What do you most appreciate about your community of faith?*
  - *Resolution: What concrete steps can you take during the next month to amplify your witness to Christ?*

#### **V. Reading Recommendations**

- The Reed of God – Caryll Houselander
- This Tremendous Lover – Eugene Boylan
- Seven Storey Mountain – Thomas Merton
- The Holy Longing – Ronald Rolheiser
- The Practice of the Presence of God – Brother Lawrence
- The Way of the Pilgrim
- Prayer of the Heart – Henri Nouwen
- Jesus Today – Albert Nolan
- The Power of Silence Against the Dictatorship of Noise – Robert Cardinal Sarah
- The Prayer of Jabez – Bruce Wilkinson
- Conversing with God in Scripture – Stephen Binz