

# To Know To Believe To Live – Module 10 Official Handout

02.13.21 Version

Developed by Msgr. Michael Clay

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## DISCIPLESHIP:

### Serving as Collaborators with God for the Redemption of the World

#### I. What is a Disciple: A Definition

##### A. Three Essential Components:

1. Follower of a leader perceived to be important; an adherent (loyal)
2. One who learns from a master
3. One committed to conversion as a way of life

##### B. Uniqueness of Christian disciples: Jesus initially chooses disciples rather than disciples choose Jesus

##### C. In baptism, we become “the chosen” of the Lord

##### D. Discussion:

1. To what extent do you live each day consciously aware that you are a disciple of Jesus? How does/can that awareness manifest itself in your daily life or how did/can it manifested itself (recently) on a particular day?
2. With rare exceptions, disciples choose the person they wish to follow. For Christian disciples, it is Jesus who chooses us. Are you aware that Jesus has chosen you to be his disciple? If so, how are you aware? If not, why not? Why do you think Jesus might have chosen you to be his disciple?

##### E. *Imago Dei* in Service to the *Missio Dei*:

###### 1. *Imago Dei* (Image of God):

- a. We are created in the image and likeness of God to be God’s collaborators for the redemption of the world by the witness of our lives.
- b. In baptism, we are equipped by the Holy Spirit to undertake this journey by making us priests, prophets, and servant-leaders.

###### 2. *Missio Dei* (Mission of God):

- a. When we accept the invitation to be God’s collaborators, we take up the *missio Dei* (mission of God) to restore our world to its “blessedness” as disciples and missionaries by incarnating the beatitudes in our own lives and conforming our lives to the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through our own lifelong dyings and risings as individuals and as a community of believers.

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## II. Manifestations of Christian Discipleship:

### A. Follower:

1. A lifelong learner of Jesus Christ and his ways
2. This is the first and foremost among the qualities of a disciple because it reminds the disciple that growth in Jesus' ways is a lifelong journey that always requires the disciple to remember that s/he can never be the master but can become an outstanding disciple.

### B. Worshiper:

1. A lifelong dialogist with the Lord because a relationship, both personal and communal, with the Lord is essential for growing in awareness, understanding, strength, and commitment to be a disciple.

### C. Witness:

1. Gives voice to the claim that Christ has made on my life by my words and deeds.

### D. Prophet:

1. Witnesses to those whose lives have become distorted from the values of God.

### E. Forgiver:

1. Takes up the most important act of God and Christ as personal mission.

### F. Neighbor:

1. Sees everyone as neighbor, especially the least and those different than the disciple.

### G. Steward:

1. Recognizes self as creature and cares for what has been given to him/her
2. Lives with an attitude of gratitude
3. Exercises "dominion" through lens of "care-takers of the household of God"
4. Has concern for the poor
5. Is generous
6. Increasingly motivated by the "need to give" rather than to "give to a need."

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## H. Discussion:

1. Why is being a follower the grounding dimension of discipleship?
2. Which one of these seven dimensions of discipleship seems most developed in your life? How might you or others know this to be true of you?
3. Which one of these seven dimensions of discipleship seems least developed in your life? Can you think of anything that might help you develop it a bit more?

## III. Ongoing Reflection:

- A. Reflect on where you are currently in knowing, believing, and living the Lord's call to you to be God's disciple today AND how you might be invited to take another step forward growing in this area of faith.

## IV. Prayer of St. Francis:

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
Lord, grant that I may seek rather  
to console than be consoled,  
to understand than be understood,  
to love than be loved.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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- A. “Be Still and Know That I Am God,” by Christopher Walker and Sr. Paule Freeburg, DC is used with permission by Oregon Catholic Press.
- B. *Living Your Discipleship*. Kathleen Cahalan and Laura Fanucci. New London, CT: 23rd Publications, 2015.
- C. “The Proof of Your Love,” composed by Ben Glover, Jonathan Lee, Joel, Luke, Fred Williams. Performed by For King and Country. 2012. Used with permission.

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