



The Disciple's Foundation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...
God created man in His own image, in the image of God He
created him; male and female He created them. God blessed
them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill
the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and
over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that
moves on the earth". Genesis 1:1 & 27-28

Created By and For God's Glory

Rev. Dr. James Paul Humphries
Rev. Dr. Lahtaw, Zau Sam

The Disciple's Foundation

TITLE: The Disciple's Foundation

ISBN: 978-1-927468-25-8

COPYRIGHT © 2013 DR. JAMES PAUL HUMPHRIES

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Project L.A.M.B.S. Publications.

Author: Dr. James Paul Humphries

Editor: Sue Nichols

Copy-editor: Hkaw Win Humphries

Cover Design / Layout: Van Pelt's Design Plus

Printed in Canada by:

Project L.A.M.B.S. International Inc.
Box 20569 Steinbach, MB Canada R5G 1R9
E-mail: projectlambs@gmail.com

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, © The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.

December 15, 2006 First Edition
November 1, 2013 Second Printing

Ezra Project

Level One • Book 5

The Disciple's Foundation

Contents

Preface	3
Introduction	5
1. Created in His Image	10
2. Created by Design	14
3. Created for Relationship	19
4. Created for Procreation	24
5. Created to be Stewards	28
Conclusion	32
Application	32
Meditation	33
Memorization	34
Communication	34
Discipleship / Project Ezra	51
Project L.A.M.B.S. International	52

The Disciple's Foundation

Preface

Making disciples is the call and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus urges the disciples to follow Him. He has laid down the teaching and the walk before us that we need to follow in His steps as our supreme example.

It is key for every believer and the church to know that disciples are not born but they are made. For the church to be strong in the last days, we must be about the business of equipping the saints (disciples) for the work of service.

It is our belief here at Project L.A.M.B.S. that it is important and key for the disciples to know and understand clearly what and who they are in Christ before they will be able to pass it on to someone else. Our hope is that you will want to commit yourselves and take seriously this pilgrimage journey that you are about to take.

It will not be easy and for many it will be like looking in a mirror and seeing things you really do not want to know or see. But before something can become mature it has to start as a seed then be nurtured by its environment before it can become mature enough to produce more fruit. This takes time, dedication and training in the disciplines of Christ.

James 4:10 tells us that this discipleship journey starts by “humbling thyself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up.”

Secondly, we learn through Paul and James that it is important to draw closer to Christ, to who He is, so that we could begin to make the next step of making a lifelong commitment to Him as a disciple.

James 4:8a points out that as you draw closer to Christ; He will draw closer to you. This training is to help the disciple to understand who they are, so that they can give it away to someone else and to keep spreading the good news to as many as would receive it.

The Disciple's Foundation

This booklet is for you to learn from so that you could take two or three other people and teach and equip them in their faith so that they could in turn teach, equip and train also two or three more people (multiplication factor).

This is a pilgrimage that I believe that Jesus is taking us on so that we will be able to fulfill the great commission of making disciples so that they could become laborers who will bring in the last day harvest that is ready (Matthew 9:37-38).

Our call is not to be so much a Nehemiah, who built physical walls, but to be an Ezra, who built a spiritual relationship in people with God. Ezra means “the one who helps.” The role of the teacher is to help guide and equip others in their discipleship walk with Jesus Christ.

The Disciple's Foundation

Introduction:

At the beginning of each discipleship step you will find a key verse that sets the foundation for the entire book. The booklet is also set up in the “**A. B. C. Method**” of outlining. “**A**” representing the word **approach** (as known as introduction) which helps to introduce the section that will be discussed. “**B**” is the **body** of teaching that helps to better explain the topic and “**C**” represents the **conclusion**. This is where the teaching is summed up, plus it gives to the reader ideas on how to apply this truth to one life.

Each booklet also has as a memory verse, plus a little prayer to help the disciple to focus his prayer life on. Each section point contains one to three questions to help the disciple to think about that point in their own personal lives. There is also study question and extra Scriptures that could be used in a group setting. Example: cell groups, Sunday school etc. Pastors could also use these materials as a foundation for a sermon.

The best way for people to learn, is for the reader to clearly study and understand each step themselves personally and then for them to go out and teach someone else. This will bring greater discipline and understanding into one's own personal lives.

We pray that as you freely receive you will freely give to others around. The Holy Spirit is our great teacher and we need to call upon him as we study these lessons individually or as a group. God wants to use **YOU** as a channel of His love and grace, to be a vessel of faith and hope to people who you will come into contact with each day. I encourage you to “Keep on keeping on for Jesus Christ”.

The Disciple's Foundation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ...God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, “ Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth”

Genesis 1:1 & 27-28

APPROACH:

Right from the first chapter of Genesis God created all things. All creation was put in place during those seven days. God designed and created all the beauty of the earth, including man and woman. As disciples we need to see the bigger picture of how we fit into all creation. Even though we are individually made, we fit into God's overall plan and purpose. When we understand, this we are then able to move forward in God's strength and boldness. Also by studying the subject of creation we can see how we are made in His image, with talents, gifts and uniqueness all coming from God's heart of love. We will see that from the day of creation to now, God has moved throughout history to draw us into a personal and eternal relationship with Him. The word “stewardship” plays an important part regarding God as the Creator and ourselves as the created ones. We are called into a place of being stewards of God's creation.

FOCUS AND TARGET FOR TEACHER & STUDENT

TEACHER: You will be teaching your students how God created us all in His image for relationship with Himself and others so that we could reproduce ourselves and be stewards of His earth and His grace. You can

The Disciple's Foundation

use these truths to give them a secure sense of self-worth and meaning and mission in life.

STUDENT: You will learn how you are made to bear God's image and carry His gospel to the world. Understanding your relationship with God will enable you to fulfill His purposes for you as you realize how much God values you.

DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS

Understanding the meaning of words is the heart to understanding Scripture. Words are the bridge that can help us to understand more about ourselves and God and His word, the Bible. Please take time to meditate and reflect on the broad and narrow views of each word as defined, along with its synonyms.

Creator: one that creates, produces, or constitutes: *Synonyms:* author, writer, designer, deviser, maker, producer, originator, inventor, architect, mastermind.

Creation: the act of creating; the art of bringing into existence from nothing; the thing created. *Synonyms:* establishment, formation, foundation, initiation, production, fashioning, building, origination.

Create: to bring into existence, make out of nothing for the first time. *Synonyms:* generate, bring into being, make, fashion, build, construct, design, frame, develop, shape, form, forge.

SCRIPTURE

For this chapter, study this portion of Scripture. It is the key to a good biblical foundation and it is the next step to help you as a disciple to mature in Christ. Please look up and read it in its entirety. Take into account the author who wrote it, who it was written to and the context in which it relates to the other verses and chapters around it.

The Disciple's Foundation

Genesis 1:1, 27-28 In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth. ... Then God said, Let Us make man in Our **image**, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. God **created** man in His own **image**, in the **image** of God He **created** him; male and female He **created** them. God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth”

STUDY

In the very beginning of time God created and breathed life into all creation but the crowning work of this creation was man and woman. As humans we need to recognize that we were created by God. The created need to come under the authority and will of the Creator. Within creation God laid out parameters and boundaries by which man could hope to maintain a deep relationship with their Creator. Man has been created in the image of God. He was created for a purpose and God hoped that we would love Him and be grateful for who He is and all that He has done. He also envisioned for us that we would be fruitful and multiply throughout all the earth. The creation story is where the journey begins for all mankind, both then and now. It is the foundation that gives us direction and reason for living.

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATIONS

The Bible is full of illustrations showing how God created and speaks to His people. Take time to look up these verses and reflect on how Scripture speaks about God's creation.

The Disciple's Foundation

Old Testament

David: God's hand seen in creation.

Psalm 19:1-4

Gospels

Jesus: Will of God in creation.

Mark 10:6-9

Epistles

Paul: Fallen creation to be restored. Romans 8:19-22.

Proclamation of the gospel in all creation.

Colossians 1:23

Peter: Trust in God who created. I Peter 4:19

God spoke to ordinary people to do extraordinary things for His glory. They were His creation, people who bore a testimony of how great the Creator is.

OBJECT LESSON

Potter and Clay – We are formed from the dust of the earth, and one day we will return as a physical body back to the earth. God created each one of us as a vessel for a purpose. We are created in the image of God to house and to carry about within us that which He is. We are to be a temple for His glory. We are the clay that He takes up and begins to mold with loving hands. He makes us unique and special. The clay needs to be worked and purified by firing so that it can be used by the master. It is important for the clay to remember what and who it is in relationship to the Creator.

The Disciple's Foundation

Transition:

What follows are five key parts which give to us the bigger picture of what it means to be created by God for a purpose and which give reason for our existence here on earth.

BODY:

POINT ONE: CREATED IN HIS IMAGE

LEAD-IN: God's greatest or crowning achievement was when He created man. The Scriptures tells us that He created man in His own image. We all have been patterned after God Himself. We can be like Him in the areas of character, thinking, emotions and even through our actions. We are a direct work from His hands. He knows us from the moment of our conception.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS:

Image: representation of the external form of something; character or reputation of a person or thing. *Synonyms:* resemblance, portrayal, representation, reflection, likeness, impression, vision.

Likeness: the same as; identical to; in the manner of; in a similar way to; characteristic of. *Synonyms:* copy, portrait, uniformity, conformity, form, shape semblance, resemblance.

Unique: the only one of its kind. *Synonyms:* individual, special, unrepeated, exclusive, rare, unusual, notable, extraordinary.