

What Is Discipleship – 3 Illustrations (with Trainer's Notes)

Trainer/Group leader: To make this work within the 3/3rds format you'll want to make the first third shorter. Open with prayer and then go right to the check up. Apologize for rushing them but be very intentional about moving through things. Once you've finished the checkup, go to the 2nd third by praying and asking God to teach the group. Then begin to work through this sheet.

For the questions throughout the training, give the students an opportunity to respond. The points you will want to hear in the answers are highlighted throughout the training, below.

1 - Duckling Discipleship



Ask the group: What are all of the young ducklings doing?
Following. Discipleship is not knowledge, it is following.

Ask the group: How far ahead does a duckling need to be for another duckling to follow him? How can this apply to discipleship?

A duckling just needs to be one step ahead.

Even new disciples can lead other people to be disciples.

If someone knows enough to follow, he/she knows enough to tell someone else how to.

Ask the group: Who is the mother duck?

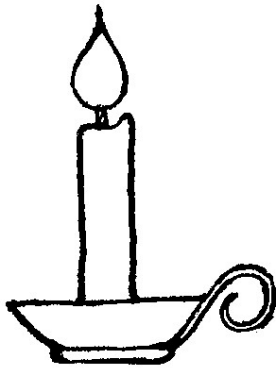
Jesus is the only mother duck - not a pastor, missionary, etc.

None of the rest of us are perfect like Jesus was

But all of us can lead other ducklings

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

2 - Candle



Ask the group: How long does the candle need to be lit to give off light?

Read Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world..."

Open Bibles and read Mark 5:18-19, about a man whose demons Jesus cast out.

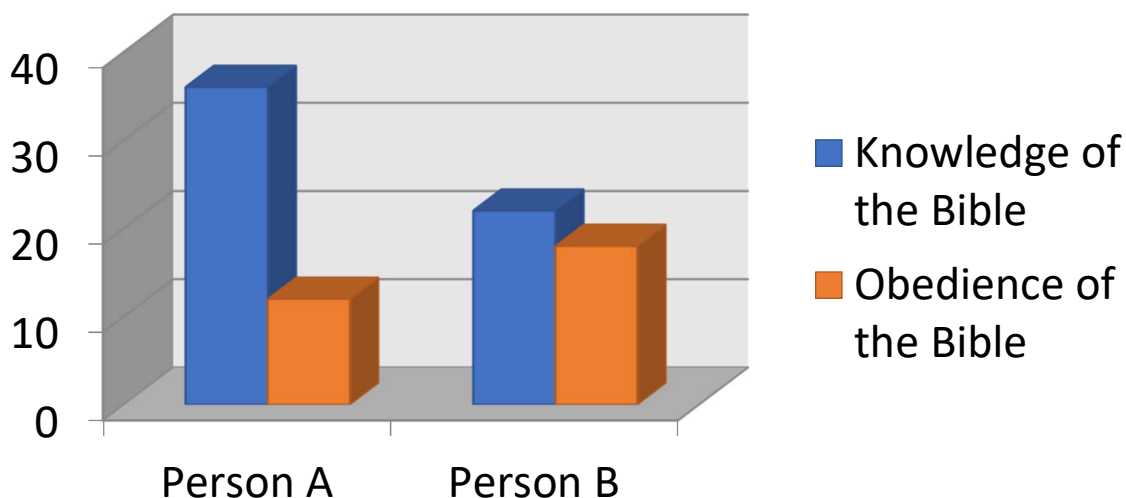
How does this story relate to the candle illustration?

Jesus wanted the man to immediately tell other

people about his healing.

All disciples have a story of the "great things the Lord has done" for them and "how he had mercy" on them.

3 – Mature Disciple



Trainer: Point out that Person A has been in the church for a long time. He knows the books of the Bible and has been to many good conferences and heard lots of good teaching. And much of it he puts into practice. Person B only has about 6 months in the church. He has to look in the index to find the verses that are being studied. He doesn't really understand the Bible too well, but he's doing his best to obey everything he understands Jesus to be telling him. Given that...

Who is really mature? Why?

Person B is more mature because of obedience, even without as much knowledge.

Open bibles and read John 14:21-24

What importance does Jesus attribute to obeying His commands?

Let the students respond – you want to hear at least these points:

- He says that it's the way we show we love Him. And loving God is the greatest commandment of all. Matthew 22:37–38 (NIV) Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.
- Vs. 24. If you don't obey Jesus it shows you really don't love Him.
- Vs. 24. Jesus wants us to understand that this teaching comes from the Father and thus it is very important.

What are the results/benefits/blessings of obedience?

Let the students respond – you'll want to make sure to hear these points:

- Vs. 21 The person who obeys is loved by God and by Jesus.
- Vs. 21. God and Jesus show themselves to the person who obeys Him.
- Vs. 23 God and Jesus make their home with that person.

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

What do we learn from Matthew 28:18-20 about discipleship?

Let the students respond – you'll want to make sure to hear these points:

- God has given Jesus all authority everywhere.
- God wants all people from all nations to become disciples.
- God wants us to be doing the discipleship.
- God wants everyone to be taught to obey Jesus.
- There are disciples to be made everywhere.
- We make disciples by going, by teaching them to obey Jesus, and by baptizing.
- Jesus is always with us when we are doing this.

For the third third - the Look Forward: do it as you normally would. Pray, ask the 3 questions, write the responses, and then say that for the practice you will break the group into pairs and practice explaining these 3 illustrations to one another.