

Reflections on the Character of God

The primary purpose of the Christian life is the pursuit of the knowledge of God. God reveals himself to us in scripture by His character. Each week we will give you one name, title or attribute that depicts God's nature. The idea is to reflect on one per week and allow the Holy spirit to convey who God is and what He is really like.

Each aspect will have 2 parts, a reflection and a life response.

The reflection section has 5 scriptures that pertain to that aspect of God's character. Take one passage a day and reflect on it in the context you find. Note insights. The life response sections gives you 2 more verses to ponder. These passages relate to your response to the name title or attribute of God. Write down practical responses.

God Almighty

Reflection:

Job 11:7-9; Isaiah 6:1-8; Revelation 4:1-11; Rev. 11:15-19; Rev. 15:1-4

Life Response:

Genesis 17:1; Amos 5:14



A Discipleship Journey – Kickoff **The Cost of Discipleship**

Our Mission Statement: **Gracepoint exists to make fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.**

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this; I am with you always, even to the end of the age. – Matthew 28:19

A "disciple" (noun) is someone who _____

A disciple of Christ:

Knows _____

Knows _____

Knows _____

Knows _____

Knows _____

Knows _____

"A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing." – Martin Luther

Matthew 8:18

There is a distinction between the _____ and the _____

Matthew 8:19-20

To follow Jesus as a disciple means I must _____.

Matthew 8:21-22

When Jesus calls, we must not _____

Mark 10:17-22 an invitation to follow

The results:

Luke 19:1-10 "I must stay at your house tonight"

The result:

Two men both encountered Jesus. One was unwilling to lose his possessions; the other was unwilling to keep them.

What made the difference?

If we count the cost of discipleship primarily in terms of what we will lose on earth, we're focusing on the wrong cost.

"Non-discipleship costs abiding peace; a life penetrated throughout by love, faith that sees everything in the light of God, overriding governance for good, hopefulness that stands firm in the most discouraging of circumstances, power to do what is right...in short, non-discipleship costs you exactly the abundance of life Jesus said he came to bring" – Dallas Willard

Resources:

Foxe's Book of Martyrs by John Foxe,
The Great Omission by Dallas Willard

To hear this message again, go to gracepointny.org/media or follow our podcast.

Community Group Discussion Questions

Since it is our first week together take a moment for introductions around the group. Share your name and how long you've been attending Gracepoint. Share one thing the group needs to know about you.

- 1) In this week's message Pastor Daniel shared the characteristics of a disciple. What is one characteristic from the list that you want to see more of in your life? Why?
- 2) Re-read Martin Luther's statement. Do you agree with it? Why or why not?
- 3) When you hear the statistics regarding persecution of Christians do the numbers surprise you?
- 4) In Matthew 8:18 there is a distinction between the crowd that followed Jesus and the disciples. Do you think there is still a distinction in the church of America Today? In what way?
- 5) To follow Jesus, I must sacrifice. What does sacrifice look like for us today?
- 6) What has caused you to hesitate to follow Jesus' leading in the past?
- 7) Read Dallas Willard's statement. Have you ever thought about the cost of non-discipleship? What would it cost you specifically to NOT follow Jesus.

Close in Prayer: Going back to the first question about the characteristics of a disciple, take some time around the circle to pray for the person to your left. Pray that through this journey God would shape them to be more like Christ.