

A black and white photograph of a chair. The chair has a dark wooden frame. A large cushion with a leaf pattern is on the seat. Above it is a plain, light-colored cushion. The background is bright and out of focus.

JUDE DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor Phil Emerson

NAME: _____

OUR DISCIPLESHIP FLOW

At Emmanuel Church, we are passionate about living out the call to be disciples of Jesus Christ, and make it our goal to see His Kingdom come in our lives and the world in which we live. We recognise that in Biblical times, a disciple was someone who followed a teacher or rabbi, not simply to gain head knowledge to pass an examination, but to be fully immersed in the life of the rabbi, and *learn his ways*, so that they in turn could replicate this to the world around them. As Christians, we are now those who have been invited to ‘follow’ Jesus and all of His ways, and we therefore call ourselves His disciples.

“This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” 1 John 2:5,6

We therefore want to take seriously the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 to make disciples and also commit to an ongoing journey of teaching and discipleship together.

We all have differing personalities and learning styles. At Emmanuel, we recognise this diversity within the church body and therefore desire to support and journey together as we relate with God and each other in some of the following environments:

- **Public (20+)**

In the Bible, we see Jesus seeking to make disciples as He engaged with larger numbers of people, e.g., His interaction with the crowds (Matthew 4:25; Luke 14:25), and the 72 (Luke 10:1-24).

At Emmanuel, we want to use each of our **larger gathered environments** as an opportunity to make disciples, e.g., **Sunday services, Friday Youth/Kids’** environments, **men’s/women’s** gatherings.

- **Social (10-15)**

Jesus demonstrated the necessity for **smaller accountable relationships** as an essential part of the life of a disciple. He did this by teaching and doing life with his twelve disciples (e.g., Matthew 10).

At Emmanuel, small accountable relationships are offered through:

Lifegroup 12s

These are **gatherings of 10-15 people** who meet bi-weekly in homes or around specific interests, e.g., crafts, football.

- **Personal (2-5)**

As well as having smaller accountable relationships amongst His twelve friends, Jesus also seemed to go to even deeper levels of trust with three in particular – Peter, James and John (Matthew 17; Mark 9). At Emmanuel, we seek to do this through:

Lifegroup 3s

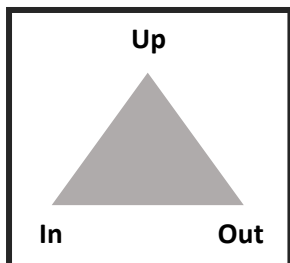
These are smaller **gatherings of 2-5 people** who are committed to transparent and accountable relationships in order to grow together in following Jesus. The aim for these groups is that after 1-2 years, each person in the group would be able to lead a smaller number of people themselves and replicate the process... **disciples making disciples!**

- **Intimate (1-1)**

Jesus regularly withdrew to spend time alone with the Father. This is the ultimate goal of discipleship, that each member of our church family would increasingly spend time alone with the Father and grow in devotion and desire to see the Kingdom come.

A TOOL TO USE

As stated previously, 1 John 2:6 makes it clear that for those of us who call ourselves disciples of Jesus, our goal should be to daily walk in the ways of Jesus, our Rabbi. As we examine the New Testament we see that Jesus lived His life based on three relationships: **Up** – with His Father; **In** – with His chosen followers; **Out** – with the hurting world around Him. This is illustrated in the following triangle:



Jesus taught and modelled out to His disciples how to live into each of these areas in life.

Up

Jesus frequently left the disciples to spend personal time with the Father (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16). He taught them the significance of prayer, and how to pray and communicate with the Father (Luke 11:1-13). When comparisons with one another or insecurities presented themselves, He spoke into it in love and challenged them into a greater depth of living (Mark 9:33-37; Matthew 18:1-5).

In

Jesus had significant relationships with others in which He intentionally invested (12s and 3s). When He went to engage with the Father He brought the three with Him (Matthew 17:1). He taught them and modelled out the significance of Sabbath and rhythms of rest (Mark 6:31). He demonstrated with His life the significance of generosity and sacrificial love for others (John 13:1-17).

Out

Jesus personally lived a life that engaged with the crowds and the broken world around Him. He healed the sick (Matthew 8:1-4), fed the poor (Mark 6:30-44), and cast out demons (Matthew 8:28-34). But with the people who were closest to Him, He challenged them to do the same (Mark 6:37), and when they took risks themselves He critiqued and gave honest feedback to call out more for them (Luke 10:17-20).

As we spend time alone or together in this devotional, we want to help and encourage you to engage in each of these ways – UP, IN, and OUT.

HOW TO USE THE BOOK

First

If you haven't already done so, please take a second to fill in your name on the inside of the front cover. There'll be a lot of identical books floating around, and we don't want yours to get lost.

Prepare

Get ready for each session by spending some time to invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you. The Bible is a written word (logos), which becomes a living word (rhema) as the Holy Spirit breathes upon it and speaks directly to our lives through it.

Commit

Commit to the journey. Discipleship is not a commitment to a moment, but to a lifetime journey. As you personally commit to journeying with God daily, commit to others by sharing what you are learning (possibly in Lifegroup 12s or 3s), and in this way encouraging one another in what God is saying.

Reflect & Respond

Each day, as you spend personal time with God, we encourage you to ask the following two questions:

- 1) What is God saying to me?
- 2) What am I going to do about it?

This is how we become doers and not just hearers of what God is saying.

INTRODUCTION TO ...

JUDE

I love this wee book; it is so meaty. Jude is out to expose the false teachers who had come into the church, yet he also wants to encourage believers to hold their ground, standing strong in their faith. He makes us aware of how deceitful and cunning these false prophets are. Keeping the faith was of utmost importance; Jude's exhortation to believers is to do this by remembering the teaching of the apostles, building one another up in the faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, and keeping themselves in the love of God.

Let us allow this book to challenge us to our core!

Phil

Live

Jude, the half-brother of Jesus must have had a powerful image of the Christ. He grew up in the same home, played and ate with the Saviour of the world. Jude's purpose in his letter was twofold: to expose the false teachers that had infiltrated the Christian community, and to encourage Christians to stand firm in the faith and fight for the truth. Jude recognised that false teachers often creep in unnoticed by the faithful. He thought it important that believers stand against those working against Jesus Christ. Believers were to do this by remembering the teaching of the apostles, building one another up in the faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, and keeping themselves in the love of God. Now that's a bit of sound advice coming from Jesus' wee brother!

How powerful and punchy is this little book. Jude shoots straight from the hip in his warnings against imposters in the church. He describes in vivid language the frightful conditions that were coming in the future. Someone once described this book as a burglar alarm alerting us to apostates who have broken into the church, sneaking in the window while nobody was watching.

Jude gives the only record in Scripture regarding the contention of Satan with Michael the archangel over the body of Moses. It is a remarkable passage. Jude also records the prophecy of Enoch, which is found nowhere else in Scripture. The little Book of Jude affords a fitting introduction to the Book of Revelation. Oh, how we all need to be discerning of the times and of the people that come along. We need to be merciful but wise. My Mum went home to be with Jesus in 2009 and her favourite verse was verse 24... *"To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!"*

Pray

Father, I love how Jesus can keep me from stumbling and that He is one day going to present me to You, the Father, with great joy and without fault. I'm awestruck at this and stand before You today redeemed by Jesus' precious blood. In Your strong name. Amen.

REFLECT

What is God saying to me?

RESPOND

What am I going to do about it?

