

DISCIPLESHIP

Quadrant

SAMPLE SESSION

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ABOUT THE DISCIPLESHIP QUAD GUIDEBOOK

Over 35 years ago, Greg Ogden discovered the powerful potential of “micro groups” while completing his Doctor of Ministry degree. Although he originally believed the way to make disciples was the one-on-one model demonstrated by Paul and Timothy in the New Testament, his advisor suggested that he consider a variety of other models. He did so, testing the micro group of 3-4 people, one-on-one discipleship, and small groups of 6-10. He discovered that the environment created with 3-4 people provided for a powerful “hothouse” of growth that was not present in the one-on-one model or a traditionally-sized small group. He documented all of this in his book, *Transforming Discipleship*.

The Discipleship Quad Process was created based on that model but is driven by new content that reflects the beauty and teaching of the Catholic Church. Numerous years of research and testing by a collaborative team went into the development of the Discipleship Quad Process. The Guidebook was written and designed by Dr. Bob Rice, Professor of Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Kristina Scheerbaum, who served at the Steubenville Conferences for over a decade, was the Chief Researcher and Editor. Mark Joseph, Vice President for Outreach and Evangelization at Franciscan University, oversaw the project.

The Discipleship Quad Process is a means through which the Holy Spirit will help us fulfill the mission Jesus gave to St. Francis to “Rebuild my church”... one disciple at a time.

This is a sample session taken from the *Discipleship Quad Guidebook, Part 1*. More information about the Discipleship Quad Process can be found at steubenvilleconferences.com.

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITMENT

For the Quad to be a life-changing experience for yourself and others, it is important that everyone is committed to the Quad to the best of their ability. At your first meeting, you and the other members will discuss and sign the following agreement:

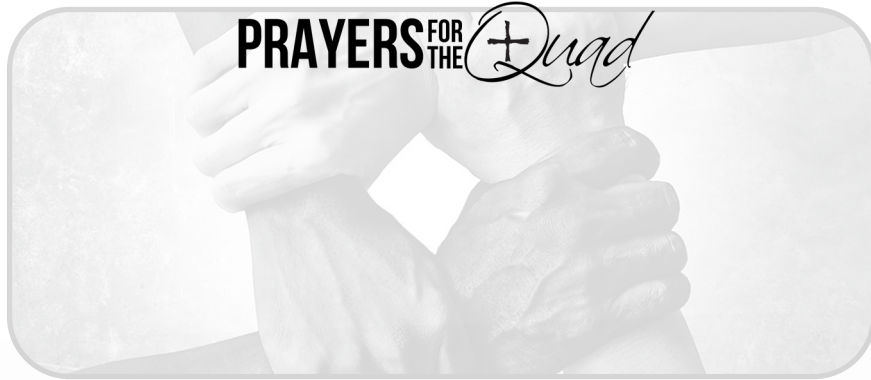
In order to grow toward maturity in Christ and be empowered to be a disciple and disciple-maker, I commit myself to the following:

1. Complete all assignments/readings on a weekly basis, prior to my Discipleship Quad, in order to fully contribute.
2. Meet weekly with my fellow Discipleship Quad members for approximately one and one-half hours to share life and dialogue over the content of the assignments.
3. Offer myself fully to the Lord with the anticipation that I am entering a time of accelerated transformation during this discipleship period.
4. Contribute to a climate of honesty, trust, and personal vulnerability in a spirit of mutual up-building.
5. Give serious consideration to continuing the discipling chain by committing myself to invest in three other people and participate in another Discipleship Quad following the completion of this one.

THIS WEEK
I WILL

WEEK 3

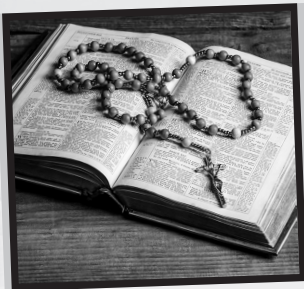
PRAYERS FOR THE *Quadrant*



The Daily Disciple

WANTED BY GOD

God does not call us because we are *worthy*, but because we are *wanted*.



Do not fear, for I have
redeemed you; I have called
you by name: you are mine.
— Isaiah 43:1

CHARACTERISTIC OF A DISCIPLE: IDENTITY

Heavenly Father, help us to see us as you see us. Not by what we do, but who we are—your beloved children. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.



THE *Daily* BREAD

The call of Isaiah: **Isaiah 6:1-13**

The call of Jeremiah: **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

The call of Matthew: **Matthew 9:9-13**

The call of the “rich young man”: **Mark 10:17-22**

The Annunciation: **Luke 1:26-38**

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING



In the gospel of Mark, when Jesus calls the twelve apostles, Jesus, “summoned those he wanted and they came to him” (Mark 3:13). The gospels do not mention the credentials of these twelve men to explain why they would be worthy of such a calling; they only mention that Jesus wanted them. In fact, when you look at the backgrounds of these twelve men—some fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, and one who would betray him—you could argue that Jesus could have done better. But that is precisely the point. It has been said that “God does not call the qualified, he qualifies the called.” His apostles are not described as “those who were worthy” but “those he *wanted*.” God loves us and wants us to be with him in everything we do.

His love for us is not dependent on our talent, for there are plenty of “untalented” people that God calls throughout the scriptures. The book of Judges tells a story of how a man named Gideon called the Israelites to rebel against their Midianite captors. When 32,000 soldiers showed up, the Lord told Gideon, “You have too many soldiers with you for me to deliver Midian into their power, lest Israel vaunt itself against me and say, ‘My own power saved me’” (Judges 7:2). So, he dwindled the number of soldiers down to just 300! Those were the ones God used to free the Israelites. (If you’d like to read the story, it is in Judges 7:1-22.)

NOT CALLED FOR OUR TALENT

When the Israelites wanted to have their own king, they chose Saul: “There was no other Israelite more handsome than Saul: he stood head and shoulders above the people” (1 Samuel 9:2). When that didn’t work (as God said it wouldn’t), the Lord sent the

prophet Samuel to the house of Jesse to show him who the real king should be. At first, Samuel came across Jesse’s oldest son, who he immediately thought would make a great leader. But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. God does not see as a mortal, who sees the appearance. The Lord looks into the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). The Lord guided Samuel to anoint the youngest of the sons, a shepherd boy who had no status within the family. His name was David, and he became the greatest king of Israel.

By now you are noticing a pattern, one that will continue throughout these weekly readings. It is almost as if God *intentionally* chooses the weakest so that when they do something amazing, God is glorified—and they share in his glory! This flies in the face of a culture that is obsessed with talent, achievement, and appearance. Many of us come from families or environments where we feel we must achieve something to receive recognition or love. It is almost impossible for us to comprehend that God would love us and want us, in spite of our sins, weaknesses, and failures.

WE ARE CHOSEN

We conclude with the words of Henri Nouwen:

The greatest spiritual battle begins—and never ends—with the reclaiming of our chosenness. Long before any human being saw us, we are seen by God’s loving eyes. Long before anyone heard us cry or laugh, we are heard by our God who is all ears for us. Long before any person spoke to us in this world, we are spoken to by the voice of eternal love (*Life of the Beloved* 48-49).

FAITH *into* LIFE

One of Caravaggio's famous paintings is "The Calling of St. Matthew." In it, Caravaggio modernizes the scene (so they are dressed in 16th century clothing). St. Matthew and his colleagues are in a dirty back room, counting money on a table. Jesus points to the well-dressed tax collector. St. Matthew's right hand is on his money, but his left points to his heart. His face bears a surprised expression, as if to say, "Are you really calling me?"

St. Bede wrote of St. Matthew's calling: "Jesus saw Matthew, not merely in the usual sense, but more significantly with his merciful understanding of men. He saw the tax collector and, because he sees through eyes of mercy and by choosing, he said to him: Follow me. This following meant imitating the pattern of his life—not just walking after him." The phrase of St. Bede, "he sees by eyes of mercy and by choosing," was the motto that Cardinal Bergoglio chose for his papal motto (*miserando atque eligendo*) when he took on the name and title of Pope Francis.

TRANSFORMING SINNERS INTO SAINTS

When Jesus calls us, it is common for us to initially question his decision or question if we even heard the calling at all. We might think that holiness and sainthood is for someone else and nothing we can do on our own. Yet Jesus looks at us, not through the eyes of the "world," but through eyes of mercy and love. He chooses us, just as he chose to create the world. He who has the power to separate darkness from light and the land from the sea has more than enough power to transform a sinner into a saint.

One of the most famous saints of our faith is St. Augustine, who

was from Hippo, a city in northern Africa. He was born in the middle of the fourth century and died in 430 AD. He was a brilliant scholar but wasn't very interested in living a Christian life (much to the sorrow of his mother, St. Monica, who continued to pray for his conversion). He had a child with a mistress, engaged in many vices, and explored many different religious ideas until, later in life, he converted to Christianity. He became one of the greatest theologians in the history of the Catholic Church. He wrote of his own conversion:

Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new,
late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was
outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my
unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you
created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created
things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you
they would not have been at all. You called, you shouted,
and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you
shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your
fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you.
I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You
touched me, and I burned for your peace (*Confessions*).

GOD INVITES ALL OF US

Notice in both stories the tension between created things and God's call. Just as St. Matthew had one hand on money and another on his heart, saying "yes" to God means we have to leave something behind. St. Matthew left his tax booth. St. Augustine left his sinful way of life. Yet they did not do this on their own—nor could they! God made the invitation and they accepted it. This was more than an invitation to serve; it was an invitation to experience the incredible love of God, a love so strong that St. Augustine said, "God loves each of us as if there were only one of us to be loved."

