International Fellowship of Christians
For Christ and His Kingdom · Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Home Fellowship Outline
WEEK 14 · 2026

2026 THEME
Transformed to Bear Much Fruit

THIS WEEK'S STUDY

Christian Discipleship

The Need of the Hour

Matthew 28:16–20 · Mark 3:14

I Introduction

The African Church has grown rapidly, yet spiritual maturity has not kept pace. Many believers have never been intentionally discipled, making it difficult to reproduce true discipleship in others. As a result, nominalism, traditionalism, and false teaching have weakened the Church's witness. Jesus' model of discipleship remains the solution for a drifting church.

II The Stages of a Church's Decline

Movement

Passion, outreach, unity, strong identity, and charismatic leadership.

Maintenance

Structures, routines, and internal stability.

Mediocrity

Declining community impact and influence, loss of vision, decreasing enthusiasm, stagnation.

Monument

Tradition replaces mission; the priority is preserving the established practices of the past over engaging the present.

III Who Is a Disciple?

A disciple is one who believes in Jesus, confesses Him as Lord, and is a learner who adopts the teaching, lifestyle, and philosophy of Jesus Christ. A disciple, then, is a Christian who is winning others to Christ, devoted to God's Word, leading their family in godliness, and committed to the local church.

IV Jesus' Model of Discipleship

- **Intentional:** Jesus handpicked His twelve disciples (Mark 3:14).
- **Relational:** it stems from love (Matthew 22:37–40).
- **Transformational:** Zacchaeus showed repentance (Luke 19:8).
- **Missionary-minded:** it starts where you are and spreads to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).
- **Reproducible:** numeric growth and personal maturity were evident (Acts 6:7).

V Traits of Effective Discipleship

Gospel-Centred

Change of life begins with, and is made possible by, faith in Jesus as Messiah and Lord, and in His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.

Bible-Based

All Scripture is helpful to provide faith and is the backbone of discipleship and mentorship.

Local-Church Focused

The local church is the fundamental organisation of the body of Christ: where discipleship must begin, and from which it extends to the community and the world.

Culturally Sensitive

Discipleship reflects the image of Christ in the context of culture.

VI Discussion Questions

1. Why is intentional discipleship necessary for the spiritual maturity of the "discipled"?
2. Which stage of the church outlined above would you think IFC is currently in, and why?
3. Which aspect of Jesus' model resonates most with you, and which part is the most challenging for you?
4. How can we become more intentional in discipling others? Share some practical tips.

MEMORY VERSE

He appointed twelve that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach.

MARK 3:14

✷ ACTION POINT

Prayerfully identify one person God is calling you to disciple. This week, take one intentional step: reach out, show interest by asking how their day or week went, and ask if there is anything you can support them in prayer about. Where you can extend physical or material help, don't hold back.

Conclusion

The primary mandate of the Church is to make mature disciples. This mission is fulfilled when leaders equip believers for service and when every Christian embraces the call to reproduce disciples. Be a disciple that makes a disciple that makes a disciple.