**The Disciple Series Week 1**

Welcome to the Disciple Series.

Here is a preview of the sessions in this series:

In week 1 we will learn that a disciple is Word-based.

In week 2 we will learn that a disciple is Prayer-filled.

In week 3 we will learn that a disciple isChrist-centered.

In week 4 we will learn that a disciple isSpirit-empowered.

In week 5 we will learn that a disciple isSocially-responsible.

In week 6 we will learn that a disciple isMission-minded.

In week 7 we will learn that a disciple isLeadership-empowered.

In week 8 we will learn that a disciple isChurch-connected.

In the final week we will review all that we have learnt.

So fasten your seatbelts - this is the Disciple Series!

But first, we need to answer this question: What is a Disciple? Turn to the person next to you and ask them to answer the question.

A disciple is a follower of Jesus. They have responded to the Gospel message and have accepted Jesus as their Saviour and Lord and they have commited their lives to following Jesus!

Today we are going to learn how a disciple is Word-based.

**Bible Passage:** *“How can a young person keep their way pure? By living according to your Word?”* (Psalm 119:9)

**Small Group Discussion:** How has the Bible helped you in your faith journey?

**Definition:** Bible-based: A Disciple Loves the Word and Lives by the Word.

**Biblical Character:** David

Video: The Story of David and Goliath from The Bible Series on DVD, Disk 2, Episode 4 from 8:08 to 12:08.

The story of David volunteering to fight against a giant, Goliath, is found in 1 Samuel 17 - the Israelites are under attack from the Philistines and the two armies are facing each other with a valley between them.

Their top fighter, Goliath - a giant of a man - steps forward and taunts the Israelites to send someone out to fight him but they are too scared - until a young guy, David, steps forward and volunteers to fight against the giant.

David is like an ant next to Goliath - it looks crazy for David to do this - but David is a shepherd boy who has spent his life defending his sheep - he even killed a bear and a lion! And more than that - David is a man after God’s own heart - he has a personal replationship with God - he spends all his spare time talking to God and listening to God’s word and recording them in songs for future generations to know God’s Word! And God’s Word has given him courage to face even impossible odds!

David had courage to face Goliath because he had faith in God! Faith comes from hearing the Word of God! Romans 10:17)

David knew that God would protect him and help him win!

He approaches Goliath with a sling…

And despite the odds…

He releases the stone…

And kills the giant.

And chops his head off!

Do we love the word like David? It wasn’t that David was some religious fanatic. He was a sinner like all of us. He was an adulterer, a murderer, one who trusted in armies rather than God - and yet God considered him a man after God’s own heart. Why? Because He followed hard after God’s heart, and that is the word of God. David panted for the word of God as the most precious food. David sought after the word of God as the most priceless treasure. David’s greatest love was for the word of God, the heart of God. David said: “I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands.” (Psalms 119:131)

**Knowledge:** A disciple knows the Word reveals God, builds faith and transforms lives.

**Attitudes:** A disciple believes the Word is a guard against sin and a guide to righteousness.

**Skills:** A disciple has skills to read, study and apply the Word.

**Relationships:** A disciple’s relationships are shaped by the Word and they share it with others.

**Challenge:** Create a habit in your life of reading and living by the Word! Start reading the Bible each day - just a chapter a day would be a great start!

So what will your response be to the message you have heard today?

**Prayer:** Let’s ask God to help us become Word-based.

Next week we will explore quality #2: A Disciple is Prayer-filled.