

STEP OF JOSEPH

WEEK 11

JOSEPH - יוסף

“Yahweh Adds”

THE WEAKNESS WE ARE STRENGTHENING

Many Christians don't see themselves as teachers, as “disciple-makers.” They don't feel they have the confidence or the strength or the knowledge to disciple others and may even feel it's not their role.

FOCUS

Beginning to disciple others.

KEY VERSE

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

(Matthew 28:19-20)

KEY POINTS

- God CALLS all of His followers to go and make disciples!
- 4 Steps to begin the discipleship process:
 - A. COMMIT – Commit to God that you're open to the process.
 - B. PRAY – Ask God to send you someone to disciple.
 - C. LOOK – Be intentional in looking for someone to disciple.
 - D. ASK – While conversing with others, ask “open” spiritual questions.

The Step of Joseph is about beginning to disciple others.

ICE BREAKER

Tell us about someone in your life you feel God used more than most to bring you to Christ?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1.) *Since we've embarked on this journey together, do you feel stronger? How has your spiritual walk improved?*

We have walked together a good way on the Path to Strength so far. Here is where we have gone as a group up to this point:

<u>TRIBE</u>	<u>MEANING</u>	<u>STEP</u>
REUBEN	<i>Behold, a Son</i>	Christ as Priority
SIMEON	<i>He Who Obeys</i>	Confess & Obey - Clear Relationship w/ God
LEVI	<i>My Joining</i>	Prayer Habit
JUDAH	<i>Praise</i>	Fellowship Habit
DAN	<i>Judge</i>	Bible Habit
NAPHTALI	<i>My Struggle</i>	Lord of Our Heart (Long Obedience)
GAD	<i>Sacrifice That Brings Blessing</i>	Lord of Our Mind (Sanctification from World)
ASHER	<i>Happiness</i>	Lord of Our Time (Observe the Sabbath)
ISSACHAR	<i>He is Hired</i>	Lord of Our Body (Serving God)
ZEBULUN	<i>Glorious Dwelling</i>	Lord of Our Money (Tithing Well)

The chart makes it self-evident why any believer would become stronger in their faith and relationship with God as they walk the Path 2 Strength.

The first two **STEPS OF REUBEN & SIMEON** are about re-orienting our life and mental focus to be centered around Jesus and then clearing the relationship with God by confessing any unconfessed sins and beginning to intentionally increase obedience.

The next three, the **STEPS OF LEVI, JUDAH, AND DAN** are about establishing the three foundational spiritual habits of Bible-reading, prayer and fellowship in a believer's life. Without all three of these habits, spiritual growth is not possible. With them, all things are possible.

The next five, **NAPHTALI, GAD, ASHER, ISSACHAR, AND ZEBULUN** are about progressively turning over to God a different part of our lives. If we make God the Lord of our Heart, our Mind, our Body, our Time, and our Money, what part of us could possibly remain outside His Lordship?

2.) *How important do you think it is for Christians across America to understand these lessons?*

If a Christian sincerely accepts everything outlined in the first ten lessons and commits these principles to heart and practices them, they will experience a new Spiritual Confidence and Strength, and a Reinvigorated Walk with God. They will have laid down a strong foundation, begin to feel the abundant life, and have a clearer sense of purpose.

The ELEVENTH Step in the Path 2 Strength is the **STEP OF JOSEPH.**

The name Joseph means "Yahweh adds," and so, this step is about discipleship. Specifically, you discipling others.

Does that thought intimidate you?

3.) *Have you ever thought of yourself as a teacher? Do you see yourself as someone who influences others?*

4.) *Do you think intentionally discipling others is something only some Christians should do? Or do you think it's a requirement for all believers?*

Right before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus gave all His followers one last command. He said:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
(Matthew 28:19)

As we are all aware, our country has some major spiritual and social problems that need to be fixed urgently. Our country’s future doesn’t look good if they aren’t.

5.) *Can our society’s problems be fixed without discipleship? Who will do the discipling if you don’t?*

6.) **READ** the following passages:

2 Timothy 2:2 – *“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.”* (NLT)

Luke 6:40 – *“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.”*

Luke 9:23 – *“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”*

Matthew 10:37 – *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”*

So, Jesus tells us that *all* of us need to be discipling others. That the responsibility to do the work of redeeming our country and people by expanding the Kingdom of God lies with each of us, one disciple at a time.

Let’s imagine a scenario with two Christians who want to disciple others:

Christian #1: Sometimes posts Bible verses on Facebook and makes the occasional comment on someone else’s political post when it seems outrageous enough to warrant it. When they see friends or family posting/saying things that aren’t very biblical, they resolve to pray harder for them and make a few finely crafted comments at family gatherings or parties in hopes it might plant a seed.

Christian #2: Looks around for struggling or lukewarm Christians to disciple. When they find someone who is teachable, they begin talking to them about the Step of Reuben. Then, over time, they try to intentionally walk them through each of the other steps of the **Path2Strength** in order.

7.) *Which of the Christians above do you think would be more effective at making disciples for Christ? Why?*

So, if we want to obey Jesus, we must commit to try to engage in discipleship.

Yet, we are immediately faced with an apparent obstacle. *Who am I going to disciple? How do I even get someone to let me disciple them?*

Here is how to begin the discipleship process in 4 easy steps:

- A.) Commit.** Tell God in your heart that you are open and available to disciple others. Tell Him that you want to disciple others.
- B.) Pray.** Ask God to send you someone to disciple. Decide to believe He will do it.
- C.) Look.** Decide to be intentional about looking for the right people to teach.
- D.) Ask.** Asking open spiritual questions is a great way to start a good conversation. A fantastic question that usually works pretty well is: *What is your relationship like with God right now?*

Many Christians will respond by admitting that it's not good, or they haven't heard from Him for a while, or they're struggling. If they say something along those lines, then they are *exactly* the kind of person **Path 2 Strength** was designed for.

If they say something like that, you can simply say, *"Hey, I've been going through this course called Path2Strength, and it's really helped me feel stronger and closer to God. That's what the whole course is about! Would you like me to start sharing with you some of the things I've been learning there?"*

If they say, "no, not interested," then move on!

If they say, "yes, that sounds good," or something along those lines, you've got yourself a disciple!

You can either begin teaching them some about the **Step of Reuben** right then, or if pressed for time, you can discuss setting up a regular day/time per week to talk.

REMEMBER: Structure is very important for the discipleship process.

It is important to emphasize that there are various lessons you've learned and want to share. That each one will help them grow stronger, but they need to be learned in order. Yet, you are confident they will feel the impact of them transforming their Christian life.

8.) *What are some other good "open" spiritual questions you could ask to start a conversation?*

9.) Do you have anyone in mind already that you know might be a discipleship candidate?

Let's not let this lesson fall through the cracks. Let's commit to do it!

Let's not be afraid! Pray through any fears or insecurities you might have. Be confident!

Don't worry you don't know enough. It is not hard to memorize the basic focus of each of the Steps of the Path2Strength and to remember what impacted you the most from each lesson. You can easily impart that much info to someone else and just refer back to your participation guide as needed.

They don't have to be long lessons. These small group sessions are designed to be long enough to achieve some level of spiritual growth *while* we are meeting together and to answer/work through most common objections or obstacles.

In an informal discipleship relationship, 10 – 15 minutes would probably be more than enough to teach someone the basics of the lesson and explain why it's important. Longer discussions would only be needed if there are objections or many questions.

Be structured. Not only should you follow-up with your disciple once per week to invite them into the next step, you should also be checking their progress on the last lesson. Don't forget to ask them to commit to whatever they need to commit to in order to fully embrace a lesson and put it into practice.

Let's go!

The Step of Joseph is about beginning to disciple others in order to obey the command of Our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ.

ACTION STEPS & HOMEWORK

Action Steps

COMMIT to God in prayer your willingness to be a disciple-maker.

PRAY for Him to send you someone to disciple.

LOOK for 4 -5 people in your life who might need the Path2Strength.

ASK at least ONE of them what their relationship with God is like before we meet again.

