



5. I believe God’s destiny for me is to become like Jesus.

Y N M

## Study Guide - 9 TRAINING FOR REIGNING

### INTRO

After a person is saved (forgiven, born-again, given a new spirit, given eternal life), God can now work on him to restore him to His original purpose for humankind. The question of his legal status is already a settled issue. He is now a full-pledged royal child of God and he has been qualified for the next phase of God’s Kingdom life process – training for reigning. While it is true that the new believer still has a long way to go before he can actualize his true destiny, the work of preparation, growth and maturity now takes place within the secure environment of the Kingdom – inside, not outside.

Sinners are saved not merely from hell-fire damnation, but for a greater purpose. They are saved to be restored to God’s original purpose and plan for Adam. New-born believers are called to follow Christ and become His disciples. While salvation is a free gift, discipleship will cost the believer everything he has.

### CONNECT

Share your response to this question:

What is God’s purpose in saving sinners?

### SNAPSHOT

Do you agree with the following statements? Please circle your answers (Y-Yes, N-No, M-Maybe) and also record on the Survey form.

- I’m not in a condition right now to follow Jesus’ teachings. Y N M
- I’m a long way from being able to emulate Christ in my daily life. Y N M
- I believe I have a faith that will produce “works of love.” Y N M
- I believe God has planned for me to live out “good works” in this life and for eternity. Y N M

### DISCOVER

Every child who is born to the king or queen of England becomes a member of the royal family. However, before they can rule England, they go through an extensive training period. They don’t train in order to become princes or princesses; they already are, simply by being born. They train so they can rule properly and effectively. The preparation of a monarch’s children for their royal duties is long, arduous and painstaking. There is no easy path of preparation for future rulers.

When Christ calls you to be His disciple, it is an invitation for you to enter a life of growing, maturing, equipping and training for a glorious work here on earth and in the earth to come.

What is the goal of Christian discipleship? What is involved in becoming a fully-devoted follower of Christ?

**QUERY-1:** What is God’s ultimate purpose for you as a believer?

### READ-1.01

Rom. 8:29

DISCUSSION: What is God’s ultimate purpose for His people?

### READ-1.02

Dan. 7:18

Rev. 22:1-5

NOTE: Both the Old and New Testaments point to a time when God’s people will rule with God forever as their destiny.

**DISCOVERY-1:** IT IS MY DESTINY AS CHRIST’S FOLLOWER TO \_\_\_\_\_ WITH HIM FOREVER.

**QUERY-2: What is Christ's command to His followers?****READ-2****Mark 16:15-16****Matt. 28:19-20****DISCOVERY-2: CHRIST COMMANDED HIS FOLLOWERS TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ AND TO**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ those who believe.
2. Make them \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

**QUERY-3: Why are the new believers to be baptized?****READ-3.01****Matt. 3:13-16****DISCUSSION: How was Jesus baptized? Why was Jesus baptized?**

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** Jesus was immersed beneath the water. It is clear from the Greek word "**baptizo**" (meaning "to dip," "to plunge," "to immerse" or "to submerge") that was used in the New Testament that believers were baptized by immersion.

John the Baptist, who baptized people as a sign of their repentance, didn't want to baptize Jesus. He knew that Jesus was sinless and did not need to repent. But Jesus insisted on being baptized, saying, "It must be done, we must do what's right."

**There are at least three reasons why Jesus wanted to be baptized:**

- (1) To set an example for His followers by identifying with sinners.
- (2) To depict a symbol of what he was about to do (die, be buried, and rise on the third day).
- (3) To openly declare the inauguration of His salvation ministry.

By going through baptism Himself, Jesus showed His followers how He felt about baptism as a symbol of His work.

**READ-3.02****Rom. 6:3-4**

**NOTE:** *Baptism is important because it is a symbol of your acceptance of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Unless you understand that you only need to accept Jesus' finished work in order to be saved, baptism does nothing for you. If you don't believe in salvation by grace alone, baptism is useless and meaningless to you.*

*Baptism is not an empty symbol of your faith in Jesus. There is a spiritual reality that baptism depicts that goes beyond public acceptance of Christ. The ceremony of baptism by water actually portrays the transition from our old life to our new life in Christ.*

**Acts 2:41**

**NOTE:** *Those who believed were baptized, and those who were baptized joined the church and committed themselves to fellowship, growing and serving. In the same way that Jesus began His salvation ministry by being baptized, new believers publicly commence their church life and ministry by being baptized.*

**DISCOVERY-3: NEW BELIEVERS ARE TO BE BAPTIZED BY \_\_\_\_\_ IN WATER BECAUSE:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was baptized by immersion at the beginning of His ministry.
2. Baptism is a sign that I am \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ and I am saved because of His:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - He set me free from the power of sin.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - He forgave my past, sinful life.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - He gave me a new life.
3. Baptism represents my \_\_\_\_\_ to follow Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ His church.

**QUERY-4: What is involved in the process of becoming a disciple of Christ?**

NOTE: When a person receives Jesus, he is also called to become His disciple. What is a disciple?

**Disciple** - One who receives instruction from another, a learner, a follower (**Webster**); Latin - “**discipulus**” - root word “**disco**” - to learn.

**Illustration** - How do you become a martial arts master?

- Buying a book and following instructions?
- Learning under a master by becoming his disciple.

**READ-4.01**

**John 2:11**

NOTE: Jesus had taken His disciples to a wedding where they witnessed His first miracle of turning water into wine. They followed Him because they believed in Him. You cannot become a disciple of Jesus unless you believe in Him. If you don't believe in Him, you won't learn from Him.

**Eph. 4:13**

NOTE: Jesus calls you to become His disciple, His learner, His follower. When you become a disciple of Jesus, it means that you are learning to be like Jesus.

**John 13:34-35**

NOTE: Every martial arts school master has a unique technique (a “trademark move”) that he teaches his students. Others will know that you are a student of your master when they see you performing that particular technique with expertise. Jesus' trademark move is loving. That's how the world will know that you are a disciple of Jesus – you have learned His trademark move – loving others.

**READ-4.02**

**Luke 4:18-19**

**Matt. 4:23-24**

NOTE: The ministry of Christ during His time on earth was composed of the following:

- a. Evangelism - Preaching the Good News
- b. Deliverance - Proclaiming liberty to captives
- c. Healing - Making the blind see
- d. Liberation - Freeing the downtrodden
- e. Reconciliation - Releasing God's favor

**READ-4.03**

**Luke 4:1, 14**

**Acts 10:38**

NOTE: Jesus ministered to the people with much power because He was anointed by the Holy Spirit. His disciples are to receive the same power if they are to minister in the same manner as Christ did.

**READ-4.04**

**1 John 2:27**

**2 Cor. 3:18**

NOTE: Christ's followers are to be dependent on the Holy Spirit for everything, especially for character transformation.

**DISCOVERY-4A: A DISCIPLE IS ONE WHO IS \_\_\_\_\_ TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST.**

1. To become like Him in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. To work like Him in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. To depend upon the \_\_\_\_\_ like He did.

**READ-4.05****Eph. 4:11-16**

NOTE: *Christ has given definite ministry gifts (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) to His church for the purpose of growing and maturing believers into Christlikeness and equipping them for ministry.*

**READ-4.06****Acts 2:42**

DISCUSSION: *What is the purpose of joining a church congregation?*

**READ-4.07****1 Cor. 12:7, 11-12**

NOTE: *Spiritual gifts are given to all believers, so they can build up the church.*

**DISCOVERY-4B: A DISCIPLE BECOMES PART OF GOD'S  
\_\_\_\_\_ COMMUNITY:**

1. For teaching and growth into Christian \_\_\_\_\_.
2. For \_\_\_\_\_ worship and fellowship.
3. For ministry of \_\_\_\_\_.

**READ-4.08****1 John 2:15-17**

NOTE: *Disciples must not love the values of the world:*

- a. *Physical pleasure*
- b. *Visual craving*
- c. *Material possessions*

**Rom. 12:2**

NOTE: *Disciples are not to copy the ways of the world but they are to be transformed in the way they think.*

**READ-4.09****Matt. 6:31-33**

NOTE: *Jesus said, "Make me and my kingdom your first priority and I guarantee that all of your needs will be met."*

**READ-4.10****Luke 14:26-27, 33**

DISCUSSION: *Following Jesus means loving Him more than your spouse, your children, your parents, your family. Why?*

THINK ABOUT THIS: *Unless Jesus becomes first priority, we remain self-centered and, thus, not really loving spouses, parents, children or siblings. But if we follow Jesus first, He makes us loving spouses, parents, children or siblings. By putting Jesus first, we end up much more able to love our families.*

**READ-4.11****Matt. 16:24-26**

DISCUSSION: *Following Jesus also means carrying your own cross. What did Jesus mean?*

THINK ABOUT THIS: *Our submission to Jesus will bring us at cross-purposes with our own desires, which are opposite to what Jesus wants for us. Every time we follow Jesus in a particular area of our lives, we must be prepared to suffer the pain of our own opposition and loss. Following Jesus means that we don't hold anything back from Him. He becomes the most precious thing to us, so precious that we count what we have to give up to follow Him as having no eternal value.*

**DISCOVERY-4C:** A DISCIPLE LEARNS TO \_\_\_\_\_ OUT GOD'S KINGDOM HERE ON EARTH NOW.

1. I learn to live out God's Kingdom \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I learn to make God's Kingdom my \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I learn to love \_\_\_\_\_ above all relationships.
4. I learn to love Jesus above everything else that I \_\_\_\_\_.

**NOTE:** *What do you want to achieve in life? Success? Fame? Wealth? Possessions? Whatever it is, there's going to be a cost. It's going to cost you something. What are you willing to give up to achieve your goals? Have you done a cost-benefit analysis? Have you counted the cost? Is it going to be worth it in the end? When you count the cost, what value system are you going to use? Following Jesus means believing His values. His value system is exactly opposite that of the world's. If you try to keep your life for yourself, in the end you lose it. If you give up your life for Jesus, in the end you find true life. Too often, we give up our souls for something that won't last. Jesus asked, "How do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? Is anything worth more than your soul?"*

*Jim Elliott - Missionary to an Amazon River village who was martyred for Jesus. He wrote in his journal before leaving for the mission station: "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."*

**QUERY-5:** What do Christ's followers have to look forward to?

**READ-5.01**

John 14:1-3

**NOTE:** *Jesus promised to return someday, "when everything is ready," to be with His followers.*

**READ-5.02**

I Cor. 15:50-55

**READ-5.03**

1 Thes. 4:13-17

**DISCUSSION:** *What happens to the believer's physical body when Christ returns?*

**READ-5.04**

Rev. 21:1-4

**NOTE:** *The Bible describes the home of God and His people when the heaven and the earth are made new.*

**DISCOVERY-5:** A DISCIPLE LONGS FOR CHRIST'S \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Christ promised to be with me \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Christ promised to give me a new \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Christ promised to give me a new \_\_\_\_\_.

**SUMMARY**

*God saved me for a grander purpose than merely avoiding eternal punishment. I was saved so I could be restored to God's original purpose for humankind – ruling earth. In the place of Adam, I now have Christ to rule with me. After my legal restoration to God's Kingdom, I am called to undergo a process of growth, maturity and equipping for my royal duties in this life and for eternity. The process involves increasing levels of commitment as my value system changes, until Jesus becomes my first priority in life, above all of the things of this world.*



## Key 9

### **MOVE TOWARD MY ROYAL DESTINY BY BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST.**

NOTE: *When I receive Jesus, I am also called to become His disciple, to follow Him, to learn from Him, to work for Him, and to be like Him. When I answer His call, God helps me to keep choosing Christ as my first priority in life until nothing on earth is more precious to me than my relationship with Him; until I am willing to lose everything – even my own life. For it is only by losing my life that I fulfill God’s destiny for me of ruling with Him forever.*

### **MY TAKE**

*Do you agree with the following statements? Please circle your answers (Y-Yes, N-No, M-Maybe) and also record on the Survey form.*

1. I understand that I am saved for a far greater purpose than just avoiding hell. **Y N M**
2. I understand that God wants to restore me completely to His original plan for humankind to rule with Him forever. **Y N M**
3. I understand that I am called by Christ to learn to become like Him in everything, so I can reign with Him for eternity. **Y N M**
4. I understand that learning to live and serve like Christ will turn my life upside down and I have to give up everything. **Y N M**

### **WHAT NEXT?**

(Please Check)

- \_\_\_ I believe I have a glorious destiny with Jesus Christ in His kingdom.
- \_\_\_ I believe Christ’s desire and promise to return to be with me in the new earth.
- \_\_\_ I want to make a commitment to become a follower of Christ, whatever it takes.