

Thank you for downloading one of the eight, five-session small group studies from *Be Disciples*.

Be Disciples is a 40-week, video-driven small group study for men. Each session features a video from best-selling author, Rick Burgess, and a small group leader guide. You can purchase all 40 weeks, or purchase the eight, five-week sessions independently.

If we can help answer any questions about ***Be Disciples*** or any other of the Iron Hill Men resources, please don't hesitate to email (customercare@ironhillpress.com) or call (800) 307-9366



ENGAGING *the* WORLD

A 5-WEEK, VIDEO-DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP
CURRICULUM FOR MEN

**ENGAGING THE WORLD: A 5-WEEK, VIDEO-DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP
CURRICULUM FOR MEN**

Leader Guides

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Videos

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A 5-WEEK, VIDEO-DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP
CURRICULUM FOR MEN

BY RICK BURGESS



PUBLISHED BY IRON HILL PRESS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MAN CHURCH

DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS

DISCIPLE MEN, CHANGE EVERYTHING.

There is a discipleship problem affecting Christian men today. Too often, men are absent from both the church pews and from the vital work the church is doing in the world. These men are not engaged spiritually in their homes and aren't making a Kingdom impact in their workplace. And it all points back to one major issue:

Many men aren't being disciplined.

But when men ARE being disciplined, powerful things happen as a result. They impact the church, their family, and culture. We have seen the influence godly men can have. The purpose of The Pursuit curriculum is to equip and empower men to become the man God has called them to be.

WHAT IS BE DISCIPLES ?

Be Disciples is a 40-week, video-driven curriculum designed to help men discover what it means to be a disciple. Be Disciples takes eight traits of disciples from Scripture and unpacks them through video and small group Bible Study.

Rick Burgess, best-selling author and co-host of the nationally syndicated radio show The Rick & Bubba Show, starts off each session with a 10-15 minute video introducing the session's focus. Then, for each small group session, there is a leader guide to help facilitate a meaningful time of discussion and Bible study.

The reason men aren't living a more authentic faith is simple: they have yet to embrace the call to real discipleship. By leading a group through Be Disciples, you're a part of the growing tide of leaders who are looking to awaken men to embrace their calling as Christ-followers.

START HERE

As Christ-followers, we are called to engage with our neighborhood, our community, our country, and the world in the name of Christ. This is the Gospel in action. God expects His men to be involved in compassionate service for the sake of Christ. This is what you may call being “missional,” and this is where many churches and Christ-followers shine, mostly through short term missions and community outreach projects.

But engaging with our surroundings goes beyond mission projects. It’s seeing life through the lens of making a difference and doing so in the name of Jesus, for the advancement of His Kingdom, and the glory of His name. This is what it means to engage with your surroundings. And it’s a vital aspect of being a disciple of Jesus.

WHAT YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

FIRST, preview your video. Every Be Disciples session starts with a video. You’ll need to preview your video ahead of time and be prepared to show it to your group. You can access your videos through your Iron Hill Press account.

THEN, get ready for your small group discussion and Bible study by preparing your lesson. Use this leader guide to help lead a time of discussion based on the video and Bible study based on the passage Rick covered. Pray that God would lead your preparation and your facilitation of the material.

FINALLY, lead your time of small group Bible study using this leader guide. It’s that simple.

If you have any questions or feedback, don’t hesitate to let us hear from you at feedback@ironhillpress.com.

EDGE ELEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



RICK BURGESS is the Co-Host of the nationally syndicated *Rick and Bubba Show*. He has co-authored multiple New York Times Bestselling Books covering topics such as politics, marriage, business, comedy, and what it looks like to be a follower of Christ in secular entertainment. Rick has appeared on the Fox News programs *Hannity's America*, *Your World with Neil Cavuto*, and *Fox and Friends*.

Rick speaks regularly at men's events and marriage conferences across the country, all while teaching youth and men's Bible studies on a weekly basis. Rick is married to the former Sherri Bodine, and they have five children: Brandi, Blake, Brooks, Brody, and Bronner. Rick's wife Sherri is the author of the book "Bronner: A Journey to Understand," a powerful story about what she and Rick learned about God through the earthly death of their youngest son, Bronner. Rick's eulogy for Bronner became the most-viewed video in the world on YouTube the week of the service.

ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO *BE DISCIPLES: ENGAGING THE WORLD*

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Main Passage: Acts 1:8

Purpose: That the Lord has called you and empowered us to engage your world.

Session Snapshot: It is the Lord who has called, and it is also He that empowers us to engage the world around us. As we consider those we meet on a frequent basis, we can trust in the truth that the Lord has sent the Holy Spirit to equip us as His witness. By engaging with the world around us, we can step into this opportunity for obedience with a power that can quite literally change the world.

GETTING STARTED

Kick off your time together by introducing a new theme.

FIRST, explain to your group that they will be beginning a new video series that continues your look at one of eight different aspects of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. This particular series is called *Engaging the World*, and it will unpack the concept that we cannot truly be disciples of Christ without engaging with our surroundings through sharing the Gospel in word and deed. This 5-week study will guide men to understand exactly how this plays out in their daily lives.

If this is your first session as a group, consider introducing yourself, if necessary, and having the men in your group introduce themselves. If you want to pass around a contact sheet or do any other first-session "housekeeping tasks," this is the time to do it.

FINALLY, if there are no questions or other input, transition into the *Digging In* section of your leader's guide.

DIGGING IN

Jump into the session by watching this week's video.

FIRST, if this is your first Bible study time in the *Be Disciples* curriculum, explain to the group how your time together will work. Explain that you will watch a video that is usually about 15 minutes long, followed by a short discussion of the video. Then, you'll spend a few minutes in Bible study, followed by a closing activity. Consider encouraging men to take notes as they watch the video. (Remember, a participant guide is available to you if you would like to distribute it to your group.)

THEN, play the video. You can access the video by logging into your Iron Hill Press account.

When the video is over, lead men in a short discussion based on what Rick covered. Feel free to come up with your own questions, or consider asking some similar to those below:

- **Rick opened the video with the statement, "There is a discomfort that comes in when it comes to sharing our faith or being involved with sharing our faith with other people." What thoughts often run through your mind when you begin to engage those around you?**

- **God calls us to be an ambassador. What was the description of an ambassador given in the video? How does or should this definition practically work in your day-to-day life?**
- **Rick said, "We need to treat our faith exactly the way we treat anything of value." He then gave examples of children, grandchildren, and football games. Can you define what makes something to be of great value to you? How do you define the value of Christ for you?**
- **Have you ever heard the phrase, "My faith is a private matter"? Likely so. The statement is often used to not engage those around the person saying it. What excuses do you often use as a go-to not to share your faith?**
- **Rick said that the standard to which we are held in the engagement of our surroundings has been elevated. What caused that elevation? How does that encourage or challenge you?**

FINALLY, transition into the *Opening the Word* portion of your time together by saying something like the following:

- **We are to engage our surroundings. For us to do so, it will take boldness and courage, but it can and should be done by the disciple. Before we can get into the practical ways to do this, we must understand where our call and power come from. Let's take time considering Acts 1:8.**

OPENING THE WORD

Spend time going deeper into a specific concept Rick introduced in the video.

FIRST, before you jump into your Bible study, you must make sure your people have a good understanding of the context of the passage you'll be studying. Provide the context for the passage using the following bullet points:

- **Author:** Acts has long been held to be a letter from Luke, a Gentile physician, to Theophilus, possibly a benefactor of some sort.
- **Time frame:** There is some debate over when Acts was written. The suggested dates are between 70 AD and 80 AD.
- **Purpose:** The Book of Acts is a second letter to Theophilus that tells the story of the early Church following Jesus' resurrection. The book begins with Jesus' ascension and His command of His followers to proclaim the Gospel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The rest of the book traces this journey as the early church leaders proclaim the Gospel and plant churches.

THEN, read or have a volunteer read Acts 1:8. When the volunteer has finished, lead the group in a brief discussion on the first half of this verse. Ask something like:

- **Scripture says, "you will receive power." What a bold statement by Jesus right before His ascension! He says that you, yes, you will receive power. Why is this power different from the power that we can gain or be given by the world?**
 - Answers will vary. The world will give an earned power that can be stripped away or can change very quickly. Culture may change. A business may struggle. Your account may get low. All of these are very temporary. When Lord places the power of the Holy Spirit in us, it is a holy, eternal, wise, and sovereign power. The world cannot take it, and Jesus wants us to know it and trust Him with it.
- **Why is it important to understand that we do not "earn" but instead "receive" this power?**

- *Answer:* Everything is culture says we must earn what we get. The beautiful yet astonishing grace of the Lord is that we do not earn power but that we receive it through the Holy Spirit as a gift. He gives it to us, and we live and move with it in our lives.
- **There is a definite moment when this power is given to you. Our verse says that it is when the "Holy Spirit has come upon you." There are varying ideas of different times of extreme wisdom or power given by the Holy Spirit. The clarifying question is, when do you first receive the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?**
 - *Answer:* At the moment of salvation, our old nature is reckoned with, and a new spirit is placed within us. The Holy Spirit is our power, guide, and counselor and is placed within us when we turn our lives to believe and follow Jesus Christ.

NEXT, turn your group's attention to the second half of Acts 1:8. Have a volunteer read the verse again, then ask something along the lines of:

- **There is a connecting word right between these two major statements by the Lord. He says, "and." When you read this, what is the application of this one word?**
 - *Answer:* We cannot separate the power given to us by the Holy Spirit and what we are to do with it. According to our verse, we are given the Holy Spirit with the intent of us being witnesses to the world, empowered by the Lord.
- **The verse goes on to say, "You will be my witnesses." We know that Jesus was talking to His disciples directly at that point. Do you also believe He was talking to you? What is the challenge of knowing the truth of this?**
 - Answers will vary for each individual. Guide the group to understand that the Lord's directions are for us today just as they were for the disciples in Scripture. There is a challenge in knowing this truth because we must consider if we believe and embrace it.
- **Here's a straightforward question: Do you believe engaging your surroundings is an optional idea for your faith or an opportunity for obedience? Why?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **Does reading that Jesus is sending us out as His witnesses encourage you, terrify you, or hit you somewhere in the middle as you consider engaging your surroundings? Why do you think your particular answer is the case?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **According to Acts 1:8, where were the disciples told to go? If you trust that Scripture is not just telling history but is alive and active and teaching you, where is it telling you to go?**
 - *Answer:* They were told to go to Judea, Samaria, and the end of the earth. It is instructing us to go to our neighborhood, workplaces, our city, our county, our state, our nation, and to the world. The Lord is instructing us to go far and go wide so that all will know Jesus.

Explain that In the video, Rick references Acts 8. The Church was under extreme persecution by Saul, and the people had been scattered throughout the region of Judea and Samaria. The Church had begun to spread, and the news of Jesus went forward through devout followers. We read in Acts 8 of Philip proclaiming Christ, people being healed, the magician believing, and the eunuch being baptized.

FINALLY, have a volunteer read Acts 8:40. Ask something like:

- **The wording, "as he passed through he preached the gospel," gives us a simple blueprint of how we are to be engaging our surroundings. How would you define it based on these words?**

- *Answer:* Philip gives us an incredibly clear example of how to engage our world by engaging as you are passing through. Everyone has errands to run, places to go, jobs to work, neighbors to engage with, and more. All our “passing through” gives incredible opportunities for sharing.

Before transitioning to the final section of your lesson, say something like:

- **The Lord has called and empowered us to engage the world around us. As we consider those we meet on a frequent basis, we can trust in the truth that the Lord has sent the Holy Spirit to equip us as His witness. By engaging with the world around us, we can step into this opportunity for obedience with a power that can quite literally change the world.**

Ask if there are any questions and if there are none, transition into *Accepting the Challenge*.

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

Focus your group’s attention on one key takeaway from your time together.

FIRST, explain that you want to challenge the group to focus on one main takeaway from this session. Consider starting this portion of your session by asking your group what they think are the main application points from your session. Allow discussion to go until there are no more suggestions.

Then, if necessary, supplement your discussion with the following application points. Say something like:

- **Each day will provide you an opportunity to consider the power of the Holy Spirit that resides within you as you consider engaging your surroundings. Keep a journal or log of when you see or hear the Spirit prompt you. Journal your first thoughts and what you choose.**
 - When you are intentional about being aware of how the Holy Spirit prompts you and speaks to you regarding your surroundings, you will begin to gain confidence in knowing that the Lord has chosen you as His witness. When you see and embrace this, your confidence in being empowered by Him grows.
- **What training or mentoring do you believe you need in sharing your faith and the Gospel? This week, take action in setting up a learning opportunity.**
 - There are many good evangelism courses and discipleship resources that you can learn from. Who do you know that engages the world around them, and the power of God works through them? Ask them if you can spend time with them and learn from them.
- **We have clear instruction in Acts 1:8 and an incredible example in Philip on how and where to go. To be intentional in your opportunities, where are the areas that would be where you pass? What is your Judaea, Samaria, and ends of the earth? Who do you need to be praying for, and how can you become intentional in engaging there?**
 - Being intent on engaging your world is critical. It is easy to pass by each day and not give a thought to sharing your faith, but the Lord has you where he has you on purpose! He has scattered the Church throughout the world to reach the world, and that includes you. Leverage the time you have in the place you pass and the opportunity to engage your surroundings.

FINALLY, encourage men to process these questions in the week to come. Challenge them to listen to what God is trying to tell them and to respond accordingly. If there are no more questions or input, close your time together in prayer.