

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



KNOWING GOD

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

**KNOWING GOD: 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



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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.

STARTER GUIDE

Authentic disciples have a hunger to know God. To have His heart. To see the world through His eyes. To serve as His hands. That's what Paul meant in Ephesians 5 when he called us to be God-imitators! But the tough reality is that we can't imitate God if we don't know what He looks like.

God gave us the Bible as the primary means of revealing Himself to us. Through meeting God in His Word, we come as close to a face-to-face encounter as possible this side of Heaven. Through prayer, we communicate with God in the intimate conversation of relationship. In these disciplines, we can know God, truly know our Creator!

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: KNOWING GOD*

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Main Passage: Psalm 63: 1-2

Purpose: A disciple has a need, or hunger, for God. The challenge is how to develop and sustain this hunger for the Almighty.

Session Snapshot: The disciple hungers to know God. Do you have a hunger to know God? David had that hunger, likening it to someone wandering in a desert, desperate for water. It was an all-consuming need. As Christians, we claim knowing God as our single greatest need. But does your life reflect it? How can we, as disciples, hunger to know God in deeper and more profound ways throughout our life?

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 *Knowing God*, and it will unpack the concept that we cannot truly be disciples of Christ without having and cultivating a hunger to know God. 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:

- **In the opening, Rick mentioned how we might set a higher standard for certain things of the world that we don't set for our spiritual life. Rick mentioned our children's pursuits in athletics or**

academics. But this doesn't just apply to fathers and children. What are areas in your life do you see yourself setting a standard higher than the one you set for your relationship with Christ?

- We can probably all agree that removing legalism from our faith is necessary for the true Gospel to be affirmed and lived out in our daily lives as disciples. Rick discussed this sound doctrine sometimes being overextended, to the detriment of sanctification and obedience. Have you seen this in the church? Or perhaps in your own life? In what ways?
- Are you a man committed to knowing everything there is to know about a certain subject? It could be a team or a hobby or someone else's achievements (like a son or daughter). Now, keep in mind that in and of itself is not bad or wrong. The issue at hand is, do you have that same commitment when it comes to your relationship with Christ? If the answer is no (or even "not all the time"), what makes the things of the world easy to commit to and the thing of eternal importance difficult to commit to?
- Rick boldly stated that if we do not desire to know God, we simply will not know God. What impedes you from having this desire, this hunger? Be specific.
- You may have heard it said that "only God can fill a God-sized hole," or something along those lines. Rick mentioned that nothing else would do when it comes to what knowing God provides us. Yet often, we deceive ourselves into thinking that something else will. For you, what have been those things? And how have they let you down? What does this point to?
- In what way has experiencing God made something in your life that was once so important seem so trivial? Is there anything specific that comes to mind?

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

- **David paints a vivid picture of what it means to only be satisfied by knowing God. Let's spend a few moments looking more intently at that passage and see what we can learn from God's Word.**

OPENING THE WORD

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

FIRST, explain that you're going to take a more in-depth look at Psalm 63:1-2. The picture that David paints here is a wanderer in the desert, pointing to what it means to have a thirsting soul which can only be satisfied by knowing God.

We 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:** God inspired various authors to write a majority of Psalms, including seventy-three by David, twelve by Asaph, eleven by the Korahites, and two by Solomon. Heman, Ethan, and Moses each wrote one, while the authorship of fifty other psalms remains unknown.
- **Time frame:** The Psalms were written during different eras of Israel's history, spanning from 1100 BC (i.e., Psalm 29, 68) to 400 BC (i.e., Psalm 119).
- **Purpose:** The Psalms are inspired by God to poetically reflect humanity's journey with Him. Each psalm serves a different purpose, such as a personal or communal lament, hymn, song, reflection, or declaration. Many were set to music and intended to be shared publicly, even when sharing a revealing confession (i.e., Psalm 51).

THEN, read or have a volunteer read Psalm 63:1-2. When the volunteer has finished, ask something like:

- **Notice that David refers to God as “my God.” Why is this important?**
 - Answers should speak to the personal relationship we have with God, as children with a loving Father. Even before the time of Christ, David could look at God and understand that there was a personal aspect to the relationship that was unique.
- **David says that he seeks God earnestly. What does that mean?**
 - *Answer:* To seek earnestly is to seek with sincere and intense conviction. This would be a good opportunity to discuss how a sincere and intense seeking of God looks in practical terms.
- **David's "dry and weary land" really was just that, as he was in the Judean wilderness. What has been a "dry and weary land" in your life? Perhaps it revealed a need for a closeness that comes from knowing God.**
 - Answers should reveal specific situations, circumstances, or even an actual physical place or period of life. Regardless, we've all been in these “dry and weary” phases of life at one time or another. There may be some in the group in one right now.

Before transitioning to the next question, say something like:

- **David had an intense need, a need that he knew at this point in this life could only be filled with the presence of his Heavenly Father. Therefore he thirsted and yearned for what God, exclusively, could provide him. Once we recognize that need and the solution, how might a life lived for God look like?**

FINALLY, direct your group's attention to James 4:7-8. Then, ask:

- **How does this text answer the previous question of what a life lived in the pursuit of knowing God might look like?**
 - Answers will vary, as this text speaks to several things. Submission, temptation, pursuit, and the continued longing for a relationship with God are some that may be brought up.
- **This text is straightforward. Yet, it can also prove difficult for us. If you had to hone in one thing, what makes these two verses difficult to live out?**
 - *Answer:* It could be the difficult and seemingly unnatural process of submission. It could be temptation and the desire to flee that must be present. It could even be the process of drawing near to God and the disciplines that must be in place to accomplish that.

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 the takeaways from your time together.

FIRST, explain that you want to challenge the group to focus on the takeaways from this session. Ask volunteers to share what THEY think the main application is of the passage you've just studied. You may ask something like:

- **As we strive to be disciples who hunger to know God, how do we go about seeing this truth blossom in our lives?**

Allow men to share their responses and discuss them as a group. If you choose, supplement their responses with the following takeaways:

- **We must make pursuing a growing knowledge of God primary in our lives.**

- How would you describe your pursuit of knowing God? Is it desperate? Or is it listless? Is it a secondary (or worse) pursuit in your life? How consistent are you in seeking to know God more?
- **God does not simply ask of us to thirst. He promises for our thirst to be quenched.**
 - Evaluate your life. What are you missing out on by not having the satisfaction that only comes from Him?
- **Hungering for God changes our desires. Have your desires changed?**
 - Are there desires in your life that are at odds with God's desire for your life?

FINALLY, encourage men to continue to marinate on 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.