



Invest time each week to
expand your vocabulary and
deepen your faith.

14 July 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Disciple \ˈdi-ˈsī-pəl\

Literally, one who learns. In ancient times, **disciples** followed and imitated a teacher, sharing in the master's way of life. In the New Testament, the term implies a broader definition than those described as "apostles" or "the Twelve."

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-disciple>

CONTEXT

Disciples have to expect to suffer the same fate as their master.

—*PHEME PERKINS*, Reading the New Testament

Authentic Christian **discipleship** is marked by a sense of wonder.

—*POPE BENEDICT XVI*

God did not tell us to follow Him because He needed our help, but because he knew that loving him would make us whole.

—*Saint IRENEUS*

WHY IT MATTERS

To be a **disciple** of Jesus today involves the same investment his original followers made. Imitating Jesus means embracing his way of healing, liberating, and forgiving. **Disciples** are called to be witness of Christ to the world and to live out the gospel daily. As Dorothy Day put it: "Everything a baptized person does every day should be directly or indirectly related to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy."

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "From the beginning, the first **disciples** burned with the desire to proclaim Christ: 'We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.' And they invite people of every era to enter into the joy of their communion with Christ" (423).

RELATED WORDS

Apostle | The Twelve | Evangelization | The Way

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What does the Bible say about discipleship?

A **disciple** is a student, from the Latin *discipulus*. In ancient times **disciples** lived with their teachers, listening to their words and imitating their actions. The intention was for a progression between the roles of student and instructor with **disciples** eventually becoming rabbis or prophets themselves. It was irregular for Jesus to make permanent **disciples** of his followers. "You have only one teacher and father in heaven," he told them. Another distinguishing feature of Jesus' school is that he chose his **disciples**, not the other way around.

The most intriguing part of Jesus' call to **discipleship** is that it took place in ordinary contexts, such as a fisherman's workday, not in a religious setting like a synagogue.

Discipleship then deepened "along the way" with Jesus.

—*Alice Camille*, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-discipleship>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

MEMORIAL OF SAINT BONAVENTURE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (JULY 15)

Discipleship explained

Like Saint Francis of Assisi, founder of his order, 13th-century Franciscan Saint Bonaventure saw in all creation vestiges of God and believed that through created things God speaks: "Every creature is a divine word because it proclaims God." In the search for knowledge, he encouraged humility: "If you desire to know, ask for grace, not instruction." And "in your deeds and words look upon Jesus as your model."

READINGS: Isaiah 1:10-17; Matthew 10:34-11:1 (389 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/071524.cfm>). "When Jesus finished giving these commands to his Twelve **disciples**, he went away from that place to teach and to preach in their towns."

FAITH IN ACTION

Remember that you are a unique reflection of Christ, Bonaventure advises: "A ray of light entering through a stained-glass window is colored in different ways according to the different colors of the various parts, so the divine rays shine forth in every creature in different ways and in different properties."