



LIFE GROUP STUDY MATERIAL

Every Home a *Discipleship Centre*

Session #1

Modelling: Discipleship is
Imitation

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MODELLING - DISCIPLESHIP IS IMITATION

LESSON AIM

To understand how gospel-centred modelling shapes others and learn to model repentance, dependence, and grace in our everyday lives.

VIDEO LESSON

Link to video: <https://youtu.be/zpb4OOt2i7Y?si=3lSu3ZPzI0CtUiFM>

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 11:1

1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION

This series is inspired by the *M.O.T.I.V.A.T.E.* discipleship framework developed by Ps Peter Tan-Chi and Deonna Tan-Chi, which highlights key principles for building homes that become centres of discipleship.

The first principle is Modelling. Discipleship is not merely taught; it is caught. Long before people follow our instructions, they observe our example. Children, family members, and those we influence are constantly learning from our attitudes, priorities, and reactions. They are not only listening to what we say about God; they are watching how we trust Him, respond under pressure, handle failure, and treat others. Our lives become the lesson.

This is why modelling is so important. As followers of Christ, we are called to live lives that point others to Jesus, demonstrating through our everyday actions what it means to trust, follow, and depend on Him.

The Inevitability of Modelling

We cannot not model. Whether we realise it or not, our words, attitudes, priorities, and reactions are constantly shaping those around us, demonstrating what it looks like to follow Christ. People are often influenced more by what we do than by what we say, for we model most not through instruction, but through imitation.

The Inconsistency of Our Message

We don't pass on what we believe; we pass on what we love. While we may profess that God is our highest priority, those around us will ultimately learn from what captures our attention, affection, and trust. If our lives are driven by success, comfort, control, or performance, those values will be modelled more loudly than our words. Before God's truth can be on our lips, it must first be in our hearts.

The Integrity of Gospel-Centred Modelling

Daily rhythms disciple more than formal devotions. While church services, Bible studies, and family devotions are important, discipleship is most often shaped through the ordinary moments of everyday life. The gospel reminds us that Jesus is not first our example to imitate, but our Saviour and substitute to trust. As we model repentance, dependence on God, and grace towards others in our daily lives, we demonstrate the transforming power of the gospel to those around us.

What Gospel-Centred Modelling Looks Like

1. **Model Repentance, Not Perfection** - People do not need to see perfection; they need to see a genuine willingness to admit failure, seek forgiveness, and turn back to God.
2. **Model Dependence, Not Self-Sufficiency** - Rather than relying on our own strength, we model a life that trusts God through prayer, His Word, and daily dependence upon Him.
3. **Model Grace, Not Performance** - The gospel teaches us that we are accepted by grace, not by performance. As we extend that same grace to others, we point them to Christ rather than to their achievements.

Remember: you don't have to be a flawless model; you just need to be a faithful model.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Instructions for group facilitators: Every group is different. You may modify the discussion questions to suit your group and you do not need to use all the questions in the group discussion.

Question 1: Who is someone who has positively influenced your life, and what is one thing you learned from their example?

Question 2: Why do you think people are often influenced more by what we do than by what we say? Can you think of someone whose example has shaped your faith?

Question 3: "We don't pass on what we believe; we pass on what we love." "How do our priorities, conversations, and reactions reveal what we treasure most?"

Question 4: How do you typically respond under pressure, disappointment, or conflict? What might those reactions be teaching the people around you?

Question 5: In the video, Ps Paul reminds us that Jesus is not only an example to imitate, but also our Saviour to trust. How does this truth free us from the pressure of trying to be perfect?

Question 6: Which of the following do you find most challenging to model: repentance, dependence on God, or grace towards others? Why?

Question 7: What is one practical way you can model Christ more intentionally in your home, workplace, ministry, or relationships this week?

NEXT STEPS

Take some time this week to reflect on the example you are setting for those around you. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where your actions may not align with your faith, and invite Him to shape your heart so that your love for Christ is evident in your daily life. Look for opportunities to model repentance, dependence on God, and grace in your relationships, especially in the ordinary moments of everyday life. Remember, discipleship is not about being perfect but about faithfully pointing others to Jesus. Is there someone you can intentionally encourage or influence towards Christ this week through your example and words?