



360

APPRENTICES

INTRODUCTION | What are 360 Apprentices?

This notebook is a supplement to six weeks of intensive teaching at Christ Community Church, beginning Sunday, September 16 and ending October 28. This weekend, we embark on 43 days of Bible study and memorization as Jesus' disciples—his “360 apprentices”, called to see his word bring full-circle transformation in our lives. Consider this story from Michael Horton as we approach a season of discipline and reliance on his word:

THE STORY

A young entrepreneur becomes enamored on the superbly crafted cuckoo clock he picked up one day in a quaint village driving from Geneva to Zurich. A year later he returns with an idea. If he can figure out how the clock he bought was made, he could develop a prototype and put it out on the assembly line in China for mass distribution around the world. It can be made more quickly, efficiently, therefore cheaply once the secrets of its construction are put down on paper. Locating the craftsman who made this clock, the American opens his laptop, ready for notes and begins asking details about its construction. Soon however, the craftsman runs out of answers, so the entrepreneur looks over his shoulders as he sets to work. “How do you make that squiggle?” he asks. “I don't know,” the craftsman replied, “I've just done it for years. I grew up making these clocks with my father. This is his shop. It's just in my blood I guess.” Eventually the American did try to copy the clock, squiggles and all, but it wasn't the same. You can't just make a great piece of culture by formulas that can be 'routinized' and duplicated on the assembly line.

Christian discipleship is a lot like craftsmanship. It can't be reproduced with formulas, principles and steps. Disciples don't come off an assembly line. There's no get-spiritual-quick scheme. It takes time, energy, effort, patience and skill. It takes life in a community. It means belonging to a group that passes along habits, many of which can't be even stated explicitly in so many words. The habits of a craftsman are simply different from those of an entrepreneur or industrial manager.

For a lot of reasons that has been wisely explored by many people today, we are increasingly becoming a society and a church that has lost its habits of Christian formation. Some say, “Well, if we just get the doctrine right, everything else will follow.” Others shout back, “No, deeds not creeds!” But neither answer really gets to the point that growing up into Christ can't be reduced either to intellectualism or activism. There is no doctrinal proposition or spiritual program that will conform us to the image of Christ. The Gospel must transform us over a lifetime of very ordinary and sometimes even plodding habits that we cannot always even articulate. And that's why the disciples walked with Jesus, talked with Jesus, observed His actions as well as His teachings.

In this process, it is often hard to distinguish between doctrinal instruction and practical living. They were just there with Jesus as He was explaining who He was and showing them by His deeds that He was the Messiah. Reading the Gospels, we look over their shoulders and say, “Ah, that's what the kingdom is!”

MEMORY VERSE

*“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
This is the great and first commandment.*

*And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

Matthew 22:36-40 (ESV)

FOR REFLECTION | AS WE BEGIN

“We are not meant to die merely in order to be dead. God could not want that for the creatures to whom He has given the breath of life. We die in order to live.”

~ Elisabeth Elliot, *Passion and Purity: Learning to Bring Your Love Life Under Christ's Control*

“Those who aren't following Jesus aren't his followers. It's that simple. Followers follow, and those who don't follow aren't followers. To follow Jesus means to follow Jesus into a society where justice rules, where love shapes everything. To follow Jesus means to take up his dream and work for it.”

~ Scot McKnight

“[God says] Discipleship is not limited to what you can comprehend - it must transcend all comprehension. Plunge into the deep waters beyond your own comprehension, and I will help you to comprehend even as I do. Bewilderment is the true comprehension. Not to know where you are going is the true knowledge. My comprehension transcends yours.”

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

“How the disciple lives naturally comes out of who the disciple is. As Jesus' disciple, I am his apprentice in kingdom living. I am learning from him how to lead my life in the Kingdom of the Heavens as he would lead my life if he were I. It is my faith in him that led me to become his disciple. My confidence in him simply means that I believe that he is right about everything: that all that he is and says shows what life is at its best, what it was intended by God to be. 'In him was life and the life was the light of men.' (From John 1)

A disciple or apprentice, then, is simply someone who has decided to be with another person, under appropriate conditions, in order to become capable of doing what that person does or to become what that person is.”

~Dallas Willard

“Most people in America, when they are exposed to the Christian faith, are not being transformed. They take one step into the door, and the journey ends. They are not being allowed, encouraged, or equipped to love or to think like Christ. Yet in many ways a focus on spiritual formation fits what a new generation is really seeking. Transformation is a process, a journey, not a one-time decision.”

~ David Kinnaman, *Unchristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity...and Why It Matters*

Check the blog!

Keep an eye out for further reading throughout this study:
<http://christcommunitychurch.com/blog/category/360-apprentices/>

Sunday, September 16 | Day 1

READ: Mark 1:1-20

TODAY'S SERMON: "Apprentices Hear Jesus' Call"

SCRIPTURE:

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.
(Matthew 9:9 ESV)

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."
(Mark 1:17 ESV)

Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"
(John 21:22 ESV)

NOTES:

Monday, September 17 | Day 2

READ: Mark 1:21-45

FILTER: For the next 43 days, we will use these three questions to help frame each passage. Consider them lenses or filters through which we can see these scripture passages together as a church.

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Check the blog!

Today, you'll find our weekly blog posts on apprentices here:
<http://christcommunitychurch.com/blog/category/360-apprentices/>

Tuesday, September 18 | Day 3

READ: Mark 2:1-17

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Wednesday, September 19 | Day 4

READ: Mark 2:18-28

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

A PRAYER:

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things; Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday, September 20 | Day 5

READ: Mark 3:1-21

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Friday, September 21 | Day 6

READ: Mark 3:22-35

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Saturday, September 22 | Day 7

REVIEW: Mark 1-3

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: What did you learn about being an apprentice of Jesus this week?

Sunday, September 23 | Day 8

READ: Mark 4:1-20

TODAY'S SERMON: "Apprentices Take Jesus' Yoke"

SCRIPTURE:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
(Matthew 11:28-30 ESV)

NOTES:

Monday, September 24 | Day 9

READ: Mark 4:21-40

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Tuesday, September 25 | Day 10

READ: Mark 5:1-20

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Wednesday, September 26 | Day 11

READ: Mark 5:21-43

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Check the blog!

This week's blog post is up! Check it out today:
<http://christcommunitychurch.com/blog/category/360-apprentices/>

Thursday, September 27 | Day 12

READ: Mark 6:1-29

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

A PRAYER:

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday, September 28 | Day 13

READ: Mark 6:30-56

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Saturday, September 29 | Day 14

REVIEW: Mark 4-6

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: What did you learn about being an apprentice of Jesus this week?

Sunday, September 30 | Day 15

READ: Mark 7:1-23

TODAY'S SERMON: "Apprentices Bear Crosses"

SCRIPTURE:

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

(Luke 9:23-26 ESV)

NOTES:

Monday, October 1 | Day 16

READ: Mark 7:24-37

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Check the blog!

We're almost half way! Check the blog today for encouragement:
<http://christcommunitychurch.com/blog/category/360-apprentices/>

Tuesday, October 2 | Day 17

READ: Mark 8:1-21

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Wednesday, October 3 | Day 18

READ: Mark 8:22-9:1

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

A PRAYER:

Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy: and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday, October 4 | Day 19

READ: Mark 9:2-29

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Friday, October 5 | Day 20

READ: Mark 9:30-50

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Saturday, October 6 | Day 21

REVIEW: Mark 7-9

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: What did you learn about being an apprentice of Jesus this week?

Sunday, October 7 | Day 22

READ: Mark 10:1-31

TODAY'S SERMON: "Apprentices Intake Jesus' Words"

SCRIPTURE:

...not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.
Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life.
Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.
(John 6:46-49 ESV)

NOTES:

Monday, October 8 | Day 23

READ: Mark 10:32-52

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Tuesday, October 9 | Day 24

READ: Mark 11:1-14

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Check the blog!

Make sure you check the blog today for an update from Rob:
<http://christcommunitychurch.com/blog/category/360-apprentices/>

Wednesday, October 10 | Day 25

READ: Mark 11:15-33

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

A PRAYER:

Almighty and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that though wouldst have done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday, October 11 | Day 26

READ: Mark 12:1-17

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Friday, October 12 | Day 27

READ: Mark 12:18-44

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Saturday, October 13 | Day 28

REVIEW: Mark 10-12

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: What did you learn about being an apprentice of Jesus this week?

Sunday, October 14 | Day 29

READ: Mark 13:1-23

TODAY'S SERMON: "Apprentices Count (and Pay) the Cost"

SCRIPTURE:

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Other wise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

(Luke 14:25-35 ESV)

NOTES:

Monday, October 15 | Day 30

READ: Mark 13:24-37

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Tuesday, October 16 | Day 31

READ: Mark 14:1-42

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

A PRAYER:

Lord, we beseech thee, absolve thy people from their offences; that through thy bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the bands of those sins, which by our frailty we have committed: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Savior. Amen.

Wednesday, October 17 | Day 32

READ: Mark 14:43-72

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Thursday, October 18 | Day 33

READ: Mark 15:1-20

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Friday, October 19 | Day 34

READ: Mark 15:21-47

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Saturday, October 20 | Day 35

REVIEW: Mark 13-15

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: What did you learn about being an apprentice of Jesus this week?

Check the blog!

You'll find a helpful article today as we continue through Mark:
<http://christcommunitychurch.com/blog/category/360-apprentices/>

Sunday, October 21 | Day 36

READ: Mark 16:1-20

TODAY'S SERMON: Guest Speaker Chipper Flaniken

NOTES:

Monday, October 22 | Day 37

READ: Acts 1

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Tuesday, October 23 | Day 38

READ: Acts 2

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Wednesday, October 24 | Day 39

READ: Acts 3

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

A PRAYER:

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday, October 25 | Day 40

READ: Acts 4

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Check the blog!

Head over to the blog today for some supplemental reading:
<http://christcommunitychurch.com/blog/category/360-apprentices/>

Friday, October 26 | Day 41

READ: Acts 5

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: Write down a few notes about your encounter with God's word today.

Saturday, October 27 | Day 42

REVIEW: Acts 1-5

FILTER:

1. *Jesus sought me and bought me with a price. I'm not my own.*
2. *He called me, and I signed up to follow a man who is right about everything.*
3. *I am learning to yield to him unilaterally (in all things).*

RESPOND: What did you learn about being an apprentice of Jesus this week?

Sunday, October 28 | Day 43

READ: Acts 6

TODAY'S SERMON: "Apprentices Draw Near Through Disciplines"

NOTES:

Keep Reading!

Our scripture reading plan continues! You can keep track here:
<http://christcommunitychurch.com/blog/category/360-apprentices/>

MY TAKE-AWAY FROM THIS STUDY:

*I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.
Amen.*

~John Wesley, 1755

