



# Getting Started

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21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY DISCIPLESHIP BOOK 1

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# 21st Century Discipleship

## **B O O K 1 : G E T T I N G S T A R T E D**

**A COURSE FOR NEW BELIEVERS**

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Developed by the Center for Evangelism and  
Discipleship (CED),  
a division of Global University-ICI

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# Introduction

*21st Century Discipleship* is for you, the new Christian. You have become a disciple of Jesus Christ and have begun an exciting journey. A disciple is someone who learns, matures, and becomes like his or her teacher—in this case, Jesus. The word *journey* implies forward movement into new territory. You are leaving familiar ground and heading to places you have never been before.

On this journey, your love and appreciation for the Lord will develop. Your understanding of the Bible and ability to put its teaching into practice will grow. Why Christians do what they do—like pray, give, help the needy, serve, preach—will start to make sense. Old habits and bad attitudes that used to drag you down will begin to disappear. You will discover that God has gifted you in specific ways and wants to use you to advance His kingdom. You will face tough challenges in a new way—with God's help. Your relationship with other Christians will become highly valued and a source of incredible joy.

*21st Century Discipleship* has been prepared to help you on this journey. We cannot walk in your shoes, but we can come alongside to help you. The lessons in this course were written by pastors, missionaries, and other mature Christians who care about what happens to people just like you. Their collective experience and teaching from God's Word, the Bible, make this course invaluable.

Our basic goals for this course are to help you know Christ better; to assist you in growing spiritually; and to encourage you to become everything the Lord wants you to be. Always remember, your life is important to God and many people. God really does have wonderful things in store for you if you will be faithful. Enjoy the journey of discipleship!

# How To Use This Course

## ABOUT THE LESSONS

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*21st Century Discipleship* is a series of three study guides with 13 lessons/study guide. Each lesson contains the following components:

- Title
- Introduction
- Outline
- List of objectives
- Lesson content
- Conclusion
- Suggested Bible verses to memorize
- Self-Test
- Answers to the self-test
- Information about the author of the lesson

## THE SELF-TEST

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The self-test is a very helpful way for you to review what you have studied in a lesson. The questions are a combination of True/False, Multiple Choice, and Fill-in the blank. Once you complete the self-test, check your responses with the answers provided. In case you respond to a question incorrectly, the answers to the self-test also indicate where to look in the lesson to find the proper response. For instance, an answer will look like this a (5.3). The letter “a” refers to the correct response to the self-test question. The number 5 refers to the number of the lesson, and the number 3 refers to the lesson objective where the answer is found. It may be helpful for you to review the entire objective if you find you answered a test question incorrectly.



## WAYS TO STUDY

There are at least two ways you can study the material in this course: independently or in a group. Let us get acquainted with these two methods.

### Independent Study

Helping people study independently is what Global University specializes in. We know that not everybody who studies God's Word has access to a church, pastor, and a wide variety of resource materials. Therefore, we endeavor to provide you with a complete study guide. A qualified Bible teacher has carefully planned and written each lesson so that you may experience intellectual and spiritual growth in the convenience of your home.

Since there are no prearranged class times, individual study requires high motivation and self-discipline. Please be sure to have a Bible handy as well. The Bible is your main textbook; it alone is inspired by God. *21st Century Discipleship* is simply a tool to help you get the most out of your study of God's Word. With an open Bible, the Holy Spirit, and your discipleship course, you are in the classroom of the Holy Spirit. Be diligent and expect great things to happen.

### Maximizing Individual Study Time

1. Set aside quiet and regular times for study.  
Concentration is easier if you turn your mind to your studies at the same time each day. Pick a time when you are most alert.
2. Pray as you begin each study session. Ask the Lord to help you understand the material and make appropriate applications to your life.
3. Do a quick read through of the lesson, observing the objectives or main points.
4. Look over the lesson objectives a second time.
5. Read the lesson again. This time look up references, follow the exercises, and take any notes

that may be helpful. Think about what you have learned and how it can be applied to your daily life.

6. Answer the study questions at the end of each lesson. Go back to the lesson if you need to find the answer. Then use the answer key to check your work.
7. Take your time. No bell will ring to force you to move on to new material.
8. Make good use of reference tools, such as a concordance and an up-to-date English dictionary, to help you understand words that may be unfamiliar.

## Group Study

You can also study *21st Century Discipleship* in a group. This is a very dynamic and helpful way to reinforce the lesson content. It also provides a way to build friendships with other Christians.

### Guidelines for Group Study

1. Set aside regular times for study with other believers. You can meet in a home, a church, or almost any place where you will be comfortable and uninterrupted. Plan to begin on time and end at an agreed-upon time.
2. Find someone to serve as a mentor or discussion leader. Usually the pastor of the church you attend can help you find just the right person to serve in this capacity.
3. We suggest that you study a lesson a week. Each person in the study group should carefully read the lesson at home before the meeting. Follow the instructions above for Independent Study.
4. Begin your group study with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your conversation and help you learn. Then, together discuss each of the objectives in the lesson. You may want to read the objective out loud and then open it up for comments and

questions. Do not be shy about expressing yourself. Your mentor may want to highlight points that he or she feels are especially important.

5. Be careful not to drift off the topic in the lesson during your meeting time. Stay focused.
6. Tactfully avoid letting one person in the group dominate the question and discussion time.
7. A good way to conclude your meeting is to pray for one another, especially for needs that pertain to the lesson topic.

If you have questions or comments, please contact us:

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