



**Study Guide for Defining Discipleship Presentation 1:
Thinking Theologically about Discipleship
with Dr. Scott MacDougall**

[Click here to access the Defining Discipleship video presentations via YouTube.](#)

Notes:

Scott opens with what he calls the three questions of theology:

- Who is God?
- Who are we?
- How then should we live?

Scott defines discipleship as “placing ourselves at the disposal of the Triune God we find in Jesus of Nazareth in the power of the Holy Spirit; proclaiming the nearness of the Kingdom of God; and orienting those around us to love of God and love of neighbor.”

While we don’t get a recipe of what discipleship looks like in the Bible, we do get a set of principles and qualities, from Matthew 25 and other scriptures. Here are three aspects of discipleship:

- Discipleship is active, engaged, and committed. The path of discipleship is demanding, because it asks us to put God first in everything.
- A disciple is a learner. The path of discipleship is one of continual learning our whole lives long.
- Discipleship is always done as a member of the body of Christ. The path of discipleship is communal and involves discernment together and guidance from trusted spiritual leaders.

Questions:

- What are the challenges you face in trying to live as a disciple of Jesus in the world today?
- What would help you feel more confident in exploring theological questions for yourself or with other members of your congregation/faith community?

- How does your congregation or faith community discern what the shape of your discipleship together will look like?

Going Deeper:

- Read and discuss Fredrica Harris Thompsett's book [*We Are Theologians: Strengthening the People of God*](#) (Church Publishing).
- Read and discuss [*Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices*](#), by Scott Gunn and Melody Shobe
- What are some new ways members of your congregation/faith community could think theologically together, or discern new ways to live out your discipleship in community?