

Summary of *Design For Discipleship* (DFD) Book 1 & Introduction to Book 2

27 Feb 2024

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Content

1. What are we trying to learn in the DFD Series?
2. What Is the Big Picture in Book 1?
3. What are the take-home messages of Book 1?
4. What Is the Big Picture in Book 2 in Relation to Book 1?
5. Q&A

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1. What are we trying to learn in the DFD series?

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4 Key Mentoring Questions

DMC DISCIPLE-MAKING
JOIN A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP
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 'Remain
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 ORPC
 ORCHARD ROAD
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE VINE BOOK

Jan- Feb DFD Book 1: Your Life in Christ
 Who are You and what are You doing, Lord?

Mar-May DFD Book 2: The Spirit-Filled Follower of Jesus
 How may we know and walk with You, Lord?

July-Sept DFD Book 4: The Character of a Follower of Jesus
 Who are we and how shall we live, Lord?

Sep-Nov DFD Book 6: Growing in Discipleship
 What are You calling us to, Lord?

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5 Keys Growth Areas We've Identified:

1. **Know God and His Word**
2. Love One Another
3. Develop Christlike Character
4. Serve One Another
5. Commit to Christ's Mission

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2. What Is the Big Picture in Book 1?

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Book 1: Your Life in Christ

- › Chapter 1: God Cares for You
- › Chapter 2: The Person of Jesus Christ
- › Chapter 3: The Work of Christ
- › Chapter 4: The Spirit within You

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Book 1 Lays the foundation for Knowing Our Trinitarian God

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It's Important Because the Gospel Is—An Invitation into the Life of God, the Trinitarian God

“Theology is practical. The whole purpose for which we exist is to be thus taken into the life of God.”

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p. 141.

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Why is DFD Book 1 Important

It Facilitates Our Key Growth Areas 1 & 5:

1. Know God through His word

- That we may experience more deeply **the Trinitarian saving work** of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit *through group learning*.

5. Commit to Christ's Mission

- That we may know the **key truths of the Gospel** to impart them.

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How do we experience the Trinity?

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Matt 28:18-20

- "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**
- teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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We Experience Our Triune God through Our Church Life

- We're baptised in His Name, who now lives in and among us.
- Our Triune God is there in the whole Bible, the NT especially, and believed in by all Christians.
- We confess Him in our hymns, doxology, creed, sacraments, and liturgy.

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By Growing in Discipleship—Working out Our Baptism in His Trinitarian Name

Realise everything we have as a Christian, is the work not just of Christ, but the Trinity.

And this is eternal life, that they **know you**, the only true God, **and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.** (Jn 17:3)

➔ **The Gospel (good news) is God giving us eternal life, inviting us into His Trinitarian life and fellowship.**

➔ **Everything in our Christian confession and worldview grows out of the Trinity—the ultimate reality in our universe.**

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Book 1: Your Life in Christ

- › Chapter 1: God Cares for You
- › Chapter 2: The Person of Jesus Christ
- › Chapter 3: The Work of Christ
- › Chapter 4: The Spirit within You

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3. What are the take-home messages of Book 1?

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Overview

- Lesson 1: How God the Father loves us by creating us and sending us His Son. (Jn 3:16)
- Lesson 2: How Jesus being fully God, became fully human to be the only Mediator between God and us. (1Tim 2:5)
- Lesson 3: How Jesus mediates for sinners like us through His life, death and resurrection. (1Cor 15:3,4)
- Lesson 4: How the Holy Spirit applies Christ's accomplished work on us. (Jn 16:14-15)

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Chapter 1: God Cares for You—Assured by the Father's Love

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We know the Father's love because

1. He created us—in making the world and us in our mother's womb
2. He saved us—in sending us His Son
3. He exalts us—in adopting us as sons (the Gospel's goal of drawing us into the Trinitarian family life of God).

→ Deep God-given Assurance.

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We know we are saved because:

And this is the testimony:

God has given us eternal life,
and **this life is in his Son.**

He who has the Son has life;

he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

- (1 John 5:11–12)

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Chapter 2: The Person of Jesus Christ--
How Jesus being fully God, became fully
human to be the only Mediator between God
and us.

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Message: Jesus is both God and man, our sole mediator
with God, be drawn to Him more and more (from DFD
Leader's Guide)

We know

- **He is fully human because of**—His birth, life, suffering, struggles, obedience, and death.
- **He is fully God because** – the Father's testified of Him in the Scripture, empowered His earthly life through His Spirit, resurrected and exalted Him to the highest throne in heaven.

Jesus is the eternal God-Man who lives forever to intercede for us (Rom 8:34)

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1Tim 2:5

For there is one God,
and there is **one mediator**
between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus.

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Chapter 3: The Work of Christ—His Life,
Death, and Resurrection

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Lesson 3—the truth of 1st Importance

For I delivered to you **as of first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died** for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he **was buried**, that he **was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:1-4)

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His Life: His Purpose-Filled Incarnation

- Heb 2:9 But **we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus**, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he **might taste death for everyone.**
- Heb 2:10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in **bringing many sons to glory**, should **make** the founder of their salvation **perfect through suffering.** (describes what He underwent)
- Heb 2:11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed **to call them brothers**,
- Heb 2:12 saying, **“I will tell of your name to my brothers;** in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”
- Heb 2:13 And again, **“I will put my trust in him.”** And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.” (describes His response and posture)

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His Death: His Victorious Sacrifice

- Col 2:13 And **you, who were dead** in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive together with him**, having forgiven us all our trespasses,
- Col 2:14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
- Col 2:15 **He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame**, by **triumphing over them** in him.

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His Resurrection: His Life-Giving Power

- Would Jesus' death have any meaning without His resurrection? Explain your answer.

"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and **on the third day be raised.**"
(Lk 9:22)

Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
(Jn 11:25-26)

- Can a person be a true follower of Jesus and not believe in Christ's resurrection? Why or why not?

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Why is this Lesson 3 so important?

Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel** I preached to you, which you received, **in which you stand**,

and by which you **are being saved**, if you **hold fast** to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you **as of first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died** for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he **was buried**, that he **was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:1-4)

That we may look to Jesus to stand firm and hold fast our salvation

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Chapter 4: The Spirit within You—How the Holy Spirit applies Christ's accomplished work in us

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Know, Discern, & Appreciate, to Join and Rely on the work of the Holy Spirit in and among Us

“He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and will proclaim it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he takes from what is mine and will proclaim it* to you.”

• John 16:14-15

The Holy Spirit points only to Christ, joins us to Christ’s Body, applies and **fills us to the brim with all of the blood-bought blessings of Christ.**

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Book 1 Message: We Can Love and Trust God Because

- The Father loves us and sent us His Son
- The Son died and is risen for us, interceding now at God’s right hand for us
- The Holy Spirit indwells us, seals and applies Christ’s work to us.



**Our Faith and Assurance
is Grounded in the
Trinitarian Saving Work**

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4. What Is the Big Picture in Book 2 in Relation to Book 1?

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Book 2: The Spirit-Filled Follower of Jesus

- › Chapter 1: The Obedient Follower of Jesus
- › Chapter 2: God's Word in Your Life
- › Chapter 3: Conversing with God
- › Chapter 4: Fellowship with Followers of Jesus
- › Chapter 5: Witnessing

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The Message of Book 2:

True Faith is
A Living Relationship with God—
Marked by Love and Trust
Producing Obedience
through Walking with God

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Connecting Book 1 to Book 2:

How to love and trust God? Book 1

- by Knowing Him—Father, Son and Holy Spirit

How to obey and walk with God? Book 2

- By walking with Him—through His Means of Grace


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The Message of Book 2:

True Faith is

A Living Relationship with God—

Marked by Love and Trust  **Book 1**

Producing Obedience
through Walking with God  **Book 2**

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Introducing Book 2

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Book 2 Helps Us Experience Our Triune God through His Means of Grace

Chapter 1:
The Obedient Follower of Jesus—How to have relationship of love and obedience



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Book 1
 Lesson 4's
 Intro to
 Book 2

The Spirit-filled life is:

- *A lifestyle of obedience to the Holy Spirit (questions 11, 12)*
- *A lifestyle centered on the person of Jesus Christ (questions 4, 8)*
- *A lifestyle founded on God's living word (questions 14, 15)*
- *A lifestyle of prayer (questions 6, 16)*
- *A lifestyle of fellowship (question 20)*
- *A lifestyle that reflects and shares Jesus (questions 17, 20)*

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Chapter 2. God's Word: Hearing the Word—A Trinitarian Experience

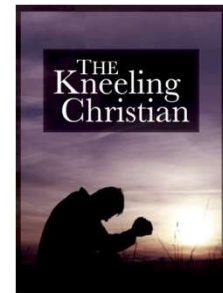
- Jesus is the word of God. His presence to us through the Spirit is the voice of the Father.
- The word of God is—the witness of the Father through the Spirit
 - Through reading Jesus' life in the Gospels, we could overhear the conversation within the Trinity.
 - And we are invited into that conversation.

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Chapter 3. Conversing with God: Praying—Rehearsing the Trinitarian Contour and Goal of the Gospel

- **Prayer is speaking to the Father through the Son by the Spirit** through whom we cry out, “Abba Father” like His Son.
- Prayer is **joining the eternal conversation in the Godhead**—the asking of the Son and the giving of the Father—on earth as it's in heaven (Ps 2:7-8, Jn 17).

Ephesians 2:18: “For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”



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Chapter 4 Fellowship: Connecting—The Gospel Invites Us into the Life of God *through His Community*

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one . . . (Joh 17:22)



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Fellowship—Connecting to Christ through His Body

- 1Jn 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that **you too may have fellowship with us**; and indeed **our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son** Jesus Christ.
- Eph 4:15-16 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way **into him who is the head, into Christ**,
- from whom **the whole body, joined and held together** by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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Chapter 5: Witnessing—the fruit of loving Christ and His people in obedience to Him

- Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
- Joh 13:35 **By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

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Book 1 + 2 = The Gospel Inviting **Us and Others** into the Life of God

- Every experience of our Christian life is an encounter with the Trinity
- May we know, learn, believe, and also experience and delight in the Triune God.
 - through our conversion, hearing & studying the word, praying, worship, fellowship, and mission.
- May we invite and help others to experience Him too

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The Aims of Our DFD Studies

- 1. Align and Reground** Members in the Basics of Our Faith
- 2. Equip** Members **to Impart** the Basics of Our Faith

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5. Q & A

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