

# **The Disciple's Lifecycle**

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## I. Introduction.

A. There is something significant about a public testimony. (Psalm 116:14)

B. Consider making a public commitment before the Lord to follow Him, to prayer or to the vision.

C. We have been chosen that we might bear fruit. (John 15)

1. Character. (Galatians 5:22-23)

2. Influence. (Proverbs 11:30)

D. Text: Matthew 13:36-38, John 12:24-26.

## II. We are “seeds.” If you are a child of the king Jesus, you are a seed among other things.

## III. Jesus is the farmer.

A. The seed does not choose where it gets to go.

B. The farmer decides where the seed will go.

## IV. The field is the world.

A. We must be available to serve wherever God wants us.

B. Our ministry will not be as fulfilling if we choose where to go instead of God.

## V. Unless the seed dies, it abides alone. If it dies, it bears much fruit.

A. The seed denies itself.

B. To hate one's life means to relinquish control.

C. We have to be open-handed about our possessions, activities and relationships.

D. Every test one passes only qualifies a person for a tougher test.

## VI. The seed that dies forms deep roots. (Isaiah 37:31)

A. Fruit is a result of relationship with Christ. (Romans 7:4)

B. We must develop our secret life with Christ.

VII. The seed bears life. (Mark 4:28)

A. The process is as important as the product.

B. There are no shortcuts to life.

C. It is a mistake to compare fruit with other Christians because everyone is in different season.

D. God has each person where he or she needs to be.

VIII. One bears fruit in season. (Psalm 1:1-3, Jeremiah 17:7-8)

IX. Multiplication. God chose us to bring forth fruit. (Genesis 1:29)

**Application questions:**

1. How does the seed illustration help us to see that we are not in control of our ministry?

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2. What does it mean to die to oneself?

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3. What areas of your life may God be calling you to die to yourself? Spend some time in prayer and write your reflections below.

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