



DISCIPLE STEW

Props:

<i>Very large kettle</i>	<i>Long-handled mixing spoon</i>
<i>Few small Bibles</i>	<i>Large rock</i>
<i>Small pitcher</i>	<i>Apron for each lady</i>
<i>Five spice jars</i>	<i>Few small Bible study booklets</i>
<i>Potholders</i>	<i>Few sheets of paper</i>

Participants: *Four ladies and one pastor*

Lady 1: Ladies, I've called you together today because we've been assigned a special cooking project. The pastor wants us to make Disciple Stew.

Lady 2: That's new to me. Have you got a recipe?

Lady 1: Yes and no. Pastor said it was in the Bible, but I haven't been able to find it. Do any of you know where it could be?

Lady 3: I don't recall ever coming across it, but stew is stew after all. Let's just get to work and see what happens.

Lady 4: Maybe a good place to start would be in Matthew 28. After all, it is about making disciples. It says, *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*
Matthew 28:19-20 NIV

Lady 2: All nations. Hmm...so it's an international dish?

Lady 3: Oh, I should say so. It will be the healthiest diet for anyone anywhere. So I guess we better be pretty careful about what we put into it. Has anyone figured out how we're going to handle the conversions on this recipe?

Lady 4: Well, it says to make disciples by **baptizing** and **teaching** them. Perhaps we should start with **water** and **the Word**.

Lady 1: Great idea! We could hardly go wrong there.

(Lady 4 puts Bible in kettle; Lady 1 adds "water" and Lady 3 stirs.)

- Lady 2:** Oh, look. Here in the 13th chapter of John Jesus says, *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.* John 13:35 NIV
Sounds to me like we should add plenty of love.
- Lady 1:** What do you say, ladies? Shall we give it all we've got?
(Group hug around the kettle. Lady 2 stirs.)
- Lady 3:** Ah! Here's something more. *They **preached** the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples.* Acts 14:21 NIV Do we have any preaching on hand?
- Lady 4:** I wonder if we could find any of Pastor's old sermons around here. *(Get some papers from the pulpit.)* Sure enough! Here's one. *(Tears up papers, adds and stirs.)*
- Lady 2:** I hope that was a good one.
- Lady 4:** Well, we'll just rely on the Lord for quality control!
- Lady 1:** Oh, listen to this, when Jesus turned the water into wine. *He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their **faith** in Him.* John 2:11 NIV
- Lady 2:** Faith! Now why didn't we think of that before? I'd say this recipe calls for a good deal of that.
- Lady 4:** If it's faith we need, this should add quite a bit. *(The other ladies follow her lead in bowing heads and folding hands over the kettle.)* Lord, we thank You in advance for making this the best stew ever. Amen.
- Lady 1:** *(Stirring)* Now we're cooking, but we're not quite there yet.
- Lady 3:** If we really want stew with substance, I think we need to add still more of **the Word**. Jesus says, *If you hold to my **teaching**, you are really my disciples.* John 8:31 NIV There's only one source for that teaching.
- Lady 1:** Yes, this stew needs to be packed with vitamin "T" - teaching and truth in every bite! Let's add more.
- Lady 4:** There's nothing like a really great Bible study to teach us more about the Word. What about throwing in some of these? *(Picks up some Bible study booklets and goes to put them into the kettle.)*

Lady 1: Say, this one does look good. *(Takes one of the booklets and starts leafing through it.)*

(Lady 4 waits a moment, then, in order to get on with the stew, tugs it back and adds all the studies to the pot. Lady 3 stirs.)

Lady 2: *(Looking through Bible...)* Wow, here's a gold mine. I was just looking in Acts again and found all these things St. Paul used in making disciples: strength, encouragement, prayer, fasting, trust...

Lady 4: *(Interrupting)* And here I thought we were almost done. Let me see that list. I don't suppose any of these ingredients are optional? Hmm...wait a minute! This also says that disciples have to have hardships. Won't hardships make our stew bitter?

Lady 3: Not at all. They'll just give it character.

Lady 1: Well, ladies, I think we almost have it. It's beginning to smell wonderful. Let's add these last seasonings and have a taste test.

(Using a separate jar for each seasoning, they each sprinkle in their respective spices and say:)

Lady 2: Strength,

Lady 3: Encouragement,

Lady 4: Prayer and fasting

Lady 1: ...and hardship.

(Then drops a big rock into the kettle as loudly as possible. She then stirs the stew, tastes it and reacts as if it tastes horrible.)

Lady 2: What is it? What's the matter?

(The other ladies taste the stew in turn and also react very negatively.)

Lady 3: There is definitely something missing.

Lady 1: What can it be? What else do you need to make a good disciple?

Lady 4: I don't think it's something that's missing. I think it's something that never should have gone in to begin with - that **hardship**. I told you it would ruin the flavor!

Lady 3: That is not what is wrong with the stew. But if you really don't understand that and need to hang the blame on someone, it might as well be me.

Lady 4: Oh! So you're saying I can't tell what makes things taste good and bad? Well, if you're so good at it, how do you explain that **thing** you brought to the last potluck?

Lady 2: Excuse me! You may not care, but you two have just spilled an awful lot of anger right into the stew...

Lady 1: Oh, dear! You're certainly right. Not a very pleasant aroma either, but now at least it's pretty clear what we left out of the stew - forgiveness. Jesus died to take away our sins and make us acceptable to God. Maybe some forgiveness will save our stew.

(Ladies 3 and 4 make up and Lady 3 sprinkles forgiveness from a jar into the stew. They stir and taste again and everyone looks satisfied.)

Lady 2: Looks like stew is served after all. I hope Pastor will enjoy it.

(One of the ladies carefully picks up the kettle with potholders and they all carry it proudly to the Pastor.)

Lady 1: Here it is, Pastor. We've made the Disciple Stew.

Pastor: Disciple Stew? No, no! I didn't say **Disciple Stew**. I said, "I am called to make disciples, but **you** need to make **disciples, too!**"