



# FAQ

## BeADisciple Study App

### **What's on the app?**

The app is designed to offer a growing list of small-group Christian studies to users around the world, and it will launch with the study, *Disciple Fast Track: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study*.

### **What's *Disciple Fast Track*?**

It's a 24-session adaptation of the popular *Disciple Bible Study*, a 34-week curriculum that has transformed millions of lives through small-group study since its hard-copy edition was introduced in 1987. Written by United Methodist Bishop Richard B. Wilke and his wife and ministry partner, Julia Kitchens Wilke, and published by the United Methodist Publishing House, the ecumenical study guides participants through an encounter with the entire Bible.

In 2013, the Wilkes' daughter, Susan Wilke Fuquay, an accomplished Christian curriculum developer, began creating a streamlined version of *Disciple Bible Study*, and three years later, the hard-copy edition of *Disciple Fast Track* was released by the United Methodist Publishing House. Then, in 2021, Fuquay began to reconceptualize the curriculum for use in a smartphone application. This digital adaptation is being developed through the Richard and Julia Wilke Institute for Discipleship, located at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, and in conjunction with the United Methodist Publishing House.

### **Why do a group study on an app?**

A smartphone app is the medium that more and more people are choosing for learning and communication, and it has the ability to offer a completely mobile small-group study experience. A study group also is no longer limited to a geographic location; it can include participants from miles — and even continents — away.

With the app, users will have mobile access to all class materials, including the CEB Bible, on their smartphones (iPhone or Android) or iPad, and they will have the choice to read or listen to their assignments and Scripture. Group members can enjoy quick access to one another and meet either virtually or in-person — or a combination of both. Real-time meetings can be accessed via the app with one click.

Before orientation, participants will receive onboard training through the app. Group leaders also will be able to access all their training materials on the app, as well as tools for small-group meetings.

### **What are some of the special features of the new version of *Disciple Fast Track*?**

The digital version will offer exciting opportunities for a multimedia experience. Users can access all of the materials in audio and text. All assignments can be completed by typing or using voice text. A

daily Psalm video will feature Disciple graduates from around the world, many praying a Psalm in their first language and lending a global spirit to daily study. New videos featuring biblical scholars have been recorded for each session to address the most challenging topics, and new video reviews will help participants retain their weekly lessons and the Bible chronology.

Participants will have opportunities to interact with their group virtually during the week. A prayer-request chain will allow prayer needs and updates to be communicated 24/7; participants will also receive notification of other group members' prayer activity. One or two study questions will be introduced weekly to stimulate discussion threads and foster community.

**When will the BeADisciple app be released?**

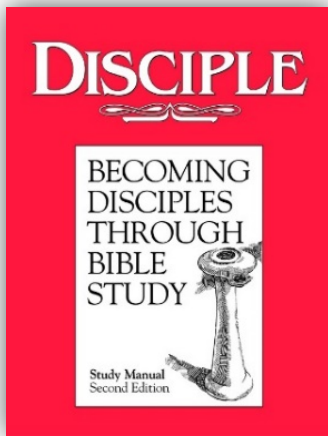
*Disciple Fast Track* is now in a testing phase, and it will be the first offering of the BeADisciple app when it launches in 2023.

# FAQ

## Disciple Bible Study

### How was Disciple Bible Study created?

The study was the brainchild of Bishop Richard Wilke and his wife and ministry partner, Julia Kitchens Wilke, who saw the need for Bible study in the congregations they served for over 30 years in Kansas. Traditionally, churchgoers received their scriptural education through sermons and lecture-style Sunday schools, but this meant the Bible was taught in piecemeal fashion, and its writings often seemed too intimidating to be read on their own.



Sensing a longing for deeper scriptural study, the Wilkes brought their idea for a small-group curriculum to the United Methodist Publishing House in 1986. With the help of other scholars and educators, they designed a program that would allow participants to encounter the Bible – from start to finish – both on their own and in groups. The curriculum was written to appeal to longtime students of the Bible, as well as beginners. The goal was not only education, but also transformation.

The Bible study pioneered the small-group experience for spiritual growth, and it's still ongoing today. Participants read the Bible and study manual at home; assignments cover 70 percent of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. Weekly in-person get-togethers feature a video introduction by a biblical scholar, group discussion, and prayer. In just the first few months after its introduction in 1987, *Disciple Bible Study: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study* proved so popular that participants began clamoring for more.

### How was the success of *Disciple Bible Study* followed up?

Because the original study takes a sweep through the entire Bible, the Wilkes set about to do deeper dives into several important themes that are shared in both the Old and New Testaments. By 2001, they had added three more studies, each 32 weeks in length, to the Disciple Bible Study curriculum.

The original study, now known as Disciple 1, is considered the foundational curriculum, and it's recommended to be completed first. After that, Disciple participants can choose among these three studies:

- Disciple 2, *Into the Word Into the World*, covers Genesis and Exodus in the Old Testament, telling the story of creation and the beginning of the Hebrew people. In the New Testament, it covers the Gospel of Luke and Acts, both written by the apostle Luke, which tells the story of the beginning of Christianity. The study manual's green cover signifies growth.
- Disciple 3, *Remember Who You Are*, covers the Old Testament prophets and their call to the rulers and their people to repentance. The curriculum also features many of the writings of Paul, the New

Testament's "prophet," who often called for repentance. The study manual's purple cover signifies repentance.

- Disciple 4, *Under the Tree of Life*, covers the Old Testament Writings – including Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, and Ruth – which address issues of daily life, both large and small. In the New Testament, the study covers the Gospel of John, which deals with the purpose and meaning of life; the Letter of James, which presents practical advice on how to live a Christian life; and, finally, the most mysterious of books, Revelation, which offers a response to life under extreme persecution. The study manual's gold cover alludes to passages in Proverbs and Revelation.

### **How has Disciple Bible Study grown and spread?**

Since the introduction of the first study manual in 1987, Disciple has truly turned into a global movement. All told, the four studies have sold more than 3 million copies. Disciple has reached into all 50 U.S. states, and it's been translated into several languages for thousands who have taken it around the world. Tens of thousands of church members from every Christian denomination have been trained to be Disciple leaders, and the study has become the backbone of congregations, the source of untold numbers of calls to ordained ministry and the catalyst for meaningful change in hundreds of thousands of lives.

### **What about *Disciple Fast Track*?**

As lifestyles have dramatically quickened in the 21st century, Christian educator Susan Wilke Fuquay, the Wilkes' daughter, identified the need to modify the original study into a more streamlined version. She developed *Disciple Fast Track*, which maintains the integrity and principles of the original study while also responding to the time constraints of a fast-paced world. *Disciple Fast Track* was introduced as a hard-copy curriculum in 2016 by the United Methodist Publishing House, which also continues to offer the original Disciple series.

### **What are the features of *Disciple Fast Track*?**

Though participants read less scripture, they still receive a thorough introduction to the entire Bible. The study lasts 24 weeks: 12 each in the Old and New Testaments. Group sessions last 75 minutes, about half the time of the traditional Disciple class.

*Disciple Fast Track* has its own study manual and scholar videos that review main points from previous sessions. Both *Disciple Bible Study* and *Disciple Fast Track* are designed for groups of eight to 16, but unlike the original version, *Fast Track* can easily adapt to groups as large as 100 when participants are divided into consistent table groupings.

*Disciple Fast Track* is the curriculum that is being adapted for use on the BeADisciple app.