## What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

A disciple of Jesus Christ is a person who follows Jesus and his Teachings. Is someone who has a testimony of His divine Mission and someone who make efforts to do the will of the Lord and try to become like Him. It is a person truly converted and has a desire to change his fallen nature into a newborn child of Christ. A disciple of Jesus Christ has the commandment of preaching the gospel through the divine authority of the Priesthood and it is a true minister of Jesus Christ. The fruit of being a disciple of Jesus Christ is to enjoy of the communion with Him, it is a profound relationship with God and a deep devotion and love to him.

## When was a time when you were prompted to increase your discipleship, and what changes did you make to follow that prompting?

I was participating in church not as much as I would like. My Bishop challenged me to serve a mission, but it was not in y plans, besides I was studying a promising electronic engineer degree. I had a testimony, but I felt something missing in my life. I understood that I had a commitment to God but that I had to make some changes if I wanted it to be serious. I made new friends in church, I went to institute classes, I quit things that were not so good for me and represented a temptation, I increased my efforts in prayer and service. Finally, I felt the calling of the Lord to go on a mission. My desire to do good and inherit the Celestial kingdom of God became my priority. It required effort and work, but it was worth doing it.

## What is the difference between knowing about discipleship and the gospel and becoming a disciple?

Elder Oaks in his talk entitled *Challenge to become,* taught this principle when he said that having a testimony or knowing the discipleship is not the same than having a conversion or becoming a disciple. He quoted “This process requires far more than acquiring knowledge. It is not even enough for us to be convinced of the gospel; we must act and think so that we are converted by it. In contrast to the institutions of the world, which teach us to know something, the gospel of Jesus Christ challenges us to become something. Our works or the things we do to become a disciple will determine our state in the final judgement. Unlike just having static knowledge, the challenge of becoming disciples is a process that involves a profound change in nature. Jesus challenged us to go. The Savior challenges us to go beyond our knowledge and put into practice what we learn. Elder Oaks taught that becoming a disciple involves suffering and adversity.

## As you ponder on this material and seek further guidance from the Lord in how these principles may apply in the world today or to you individually.

¿I do I know if I am doing well in my discipleship efforts?

The Lord has challenged me to be perfect. In the Sermon of the Mount, he gave a list of tasks we should do and live [apply], commandments I should experience. I believe that a good sign of effort is when I find some kind of natural rejection to a prompting of the Spirit or maybe it may feel inconvenient for me to obey. The Lord says in those moments that we should *“cut it off, put away, take away, turn on him, love your enemy”.* An important aspect of conversion is recognizing my own state, where I am, what kind of decisions I made and be responsible for my own state. Like Nephi said, “And if their works have been filthiness they must needs be filthy; and if they be filthy it must needs be that they cannot dwell in the kingdom of God”. Then, analyze my decisions and make small changes according to the promptings of the Spirit. Questions I can ask myself: Are these adversities and sufferings helping me gain a deeper conversion? How can I endure during the so called “furnace of affliction”? Do I have the pure love of Christ in my heart? Like Elder Oaks said, “Being a successful Church leader is not enough. Exaltation is an eternal family experience, and it is our mortal family experiences that are best suited to prepare us for it.” The best place to start is my family.

## Spend 1 additional hour researching and studying supplementary resources related to this week’s specific topic(s).

I studied the talk from Elder Ballard entitled "O be wise”.

Elder Ballard give a couple of counsels that help on my conversion process.

First, focus on people and principles—not on programs. I understand that we serve others in order to help them to become. Programs can be the tool to help us in that goal. Second, be innovative and that means sometimes to simplify. Sometimes we must work smarter and not harder. I can tell how many times I complicate myself, overthinking the matter and maybe we just need to follow Jesus’s example and “do” things. Anxiety and stress could be blocking the simpleness of the path. Simplify means to look after revelation. It is a lot easier when we “know” what to “do”. Third, divide the work and delegate responsibility. This counsel tells me over and over again that I can´t do ALL things myself. I have found relief just talking to my wife about my problems. When I listen or read the word of the prophets with a question in mind. My conversion is about trusting [relationship with Jesus Christ] and also a source of strength. Fourth, eliminate guilt. Which means, understand my own capabilities and by that, learn about it and get to know myself better. Conversion is a process, and we should have patience.