Be Grounded in the Word
John 8:31-32

John 8:31-32 Indicates That A Disciple Must Be Grounded In The Word.

Not any word, but the Word of God, the Bible.
Remember, the key to discipleship is Lordship. That means Jesus is not only the Lord of our lives, but He is also the Center of them as well. We should want to spend time with Him because we love Him, and we want Him to live in and through us. Now, the key to having Christ living in you is to have His Word in you. Listen to what Jesus says about His Word and Disciples, **31** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **32** And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." **John 8:31-32**

True Disciples abide in the Word of God.
Look at it this way, as disciples we are to live in the Word, it is to become our spiritual food. Without it we will not grow as disciples. Therefore, the Word is absolutely a part of being a Disciple of Jesus. The truth is, we can't really know Jesus without the Word. Jesus says if we are in His Word, we'll know the truth. That's because He is the Truth. **John 14:6 -** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Believers need to understand that Truth is not some set of rules or theories.
Truth is a Person. When we get into the Word, we meet the Absolute Truth, Jesus Christ, and He sets us free! But the only way to understand that is to spend time with the Lord in His Word. So, we need to set aside time each day to be in the Bible. In other words, make an appointment and keep it like you would, a doctor's appointment. Then keep that time and after a while you will begin to cherish your time with the Lord in His Word. But many people still don't understand why it is so important that we make this an integral part of our lives.

FIRST, WE NEED THIS TIME TO GET TO KNOW GOD.

Most everybody has their own ideas about God.
In our world today, everybody voices their opinion when they get the chance. Even though so much of what they think about God has nothing to back it up. Basically, it's just their ideas and perceptions of who they think He ought to be. However, when we spend time every day with God in His Word, we really get to know Him. Then our knowledge of Him will be based on facts and a true experience with Him. How can we really know God if we don't let Him tell us about Himself? We can't, so we need this time in His Word to get to know our God.

NEXT, WE NEED THIS TIME TO GET GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION FROM THE LORD.

Proverbs 3:5-6 - **5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Unfortunately, too many people look to other sources for their guidance and direction.
There are the actors and actresses who always want to influence your daily lives; just don't look at theirs. Facebook is filled with millions of people trying to tell you what you should do. At work, at school, even at church, people will have advice for you; some good and some not so good. Their lives may be falling apart personally, but they're more than happy to give you advice! Are these really the best places to seek advice? In some cases, they may be helpful.

Yet, when we are in the Word consistently, we find out how God advises us to live.
Since He created life, He ought to know a thing or two about how it should be lived. But we will never live the way He wants us to, if we don't know what He wants us to do! That's why we need time with God. Otherwise, we will miss His guidance and direction for our lives.

WE ALSO NEED THIS TIME TO BRING OUR WANTS, NEEDS, AND DESIRES TO THE LORD.

Philippians 4:6 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

There are always things that are on our hearts and minds.
Many times, people don't think that they have an outlet for their concerns. Especially when they are hurting, and don't have someone to talk with. At times they feel overwhelmed and need a place to run and hide. If only, someone could invent a pill for this, right?

The truth is, when we are in the Word and spending time with the Lord, we always have Someone who cares and is available.
Jesus is the only One who knows our deepest needs, and the desires of our hearts. He's the only One who fully understands what's going on in our lives. And yes, we need time with Him; to be transparent and open with the One who can relate to all of this with us. The truth is, He is the only One who can bring about the changes that will make our lives livable again.

FINALLY, WE NEED THIS TIME TO SEE GOD MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH US.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. **1 Peter 2:9 -** But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Every day, we are faced with situations where we can make a difference for Jesus.
There are people around us who need to know there's a God who cares. There are situations that we can bring God into - for good. But more times than not, we don't do that. Why? Because too many times we are distant from the Lord. That's why we need to spend time with Jesus every day.

When we are in the Word daily, we're putting Jesus' thoughts in our minds.
It helps us to submerge our minds in the things of God and let them equip us for the day's events. We need this time to be prepared to be *'difference makers'*, in our world. It might help to remember, **Philippians 2:14-15 -** **14** Do all things without complaining and disputing, **15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, There is nothing in God's Word, that is not beneficial to us. **2 Timothy 3:16-17 -** **16** All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Conclusion

So, the key to becoming a Disciple, is to ground ourselves in the Word of God.
Get into the regular habit of meeting God in the Bible, daily. Schedule a time and stick to it. Find a place where you can be, with the least interruptions. If you haven't made your plan yet, make one. It will never happen if you don't begin. And then once you start, it will get easier.

It's simple, once you meet just Pray, Read, Record, and Pray again.