

Rooted in Jesus

A Course in Christian Discipleship for Africa

Edited by Revd Dr Alison Morgan

Published by [The Mathetes Trust](#)

Rooted in Jesus is a discipleship course designed and written for Africa. Originally developed in 2002 in response to the needs of the people of the Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, it is now in use in many African countries. It covers the basics of Christian faith and ministry from an African cultural perspective and is contained in four books. The syllabus was designed by Canon Roger Morgan and Bishop Stanley Hotay, and the course was researched, edited and piloted by Revd Dr Alison Morgan, working with a small group of clergy, qualified teachers and experienced small group leaders from Leicester. It has now been translated into over 40 languages and is in use in 6 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. *Rooted in Jesus* is endorsed by the [Anglican Communion](#).

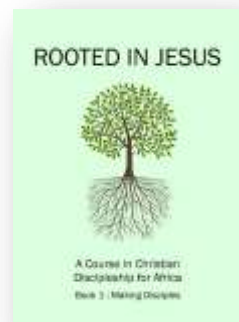


Rooted in Jesus takes its inspiration from Matthew 28.19-20 (go and make disciples) and 2 Timothy 2.2 (who will be able to teach others also). Anyone can join a group - a non-believer will find faith in Jesus, and a believer will learn how to live as a disciple of Jesus and become active in ministry to others. Many people who have completed the course have grown so much in their faith that they have gone on to become licensed evangelists or ordained pastors.

Because *Rooted in Jesus* is not a conventional Bible study course but an interactive programme designed to facilitate practical discipleship, it may be used by people of any educational background. *Rooted in Jesus* has been enjoyed both by bishops and their staff, and by groups of people in rural areas who have received no formal education. Deliberately simple in format, it is spiritually challenging — experience shows that if the group leader follows the books as they are written and prays faithfully for group members, he or she will find that lives are transformed, churches changed and communities touched. Certificates are awarded to group members who complete a book and are able to repeat the memory verses and give a short personal testimony.

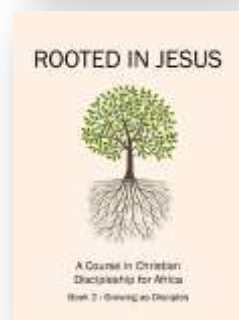
Book One : Making Disciples

The first book of *Rooted in Jesus* helps group members understand what it means to be a Christian. It starts by going back to the beginning of time. Why did God create us? How does he feel about us? How do we connect with him - what is the problem? Who is Jesus, and what response is he looking for from us? It then looks at the work of the Holy Spirit. How can we be sure God will never leave us? What difference does it make if we have the Holy Spirit within us? How do we know we are forgiven? Finally, this book helps the group to begin to grow in their faith, so that the change is seen in their lives. How do we pray? What does it mean to belong to one another and to love one another? How does God speak to us through the Bible? How do we pray, not just together in church, but privately and personally, using the Lord's Prayer? Book 1 can be previewed on [Google Books](#).



Book Two : Growing as Disciples

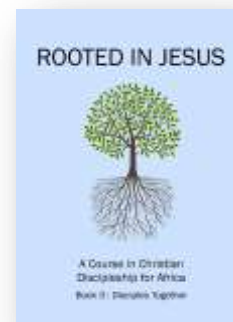
Book 2 helps the group to find out more about Jesus, about the Holy Spirit, and about the Bible. Who was Jesus? How can he be both man and God? Will he come back? What does it mean to make Jesus the Lord of your life? Who is the Holy Spirit? What are the gifts of the Spirit, and how do we learn together to use them? How do we pray for healing? How do we recognise and defeat Satan and evil spirits? What about traditional medicine and



traditional religious practices? And then the Bible. How do we use it? How do we find out about how God wants us to live? How do we claim his promises in our lives?

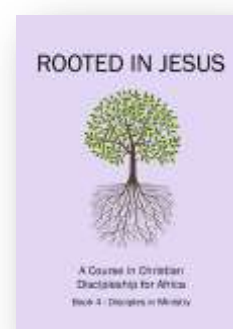
Book Three : Disciples Together

Book 3 is a very practical part of the course. Its aim is to help people change their daily lives so that they live not just as believers but as disciples of Jesus. Members learn to forgive those who have hurt them. They learn how to handle suffering. They learn how to deal with temptation and live by the truth. They look at what the Bible teaches about marriage and family life (including some of the problems raised by AIDS), and about work. They look at money - how does God want a Christian to handle money, and why should we give money to the church? They look at the dangers of alcohol and of ungodly speech. And finally they learn what it means to belong to the body of the Church, and to live together as the family of Christ - this includes a discussion of the implications of biblical teaching on community life and tribal identity. This book concludes with two sessions explaining what is happening in baptism, and what is happening as we take communion.



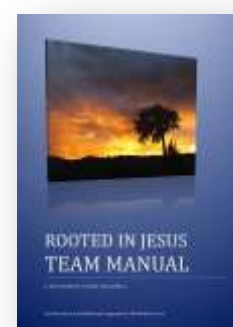
Book Four : Disciples in Ministry

Book 4 prepares people for ministry and mission. It covers how to listen to God, how to live by faith and how to live as disciples of Jesus. It looks at the ministry of women and at leadership in the church - what does God require of the Christian leader? There is a module on evangelism, which examines both traditional religion and Islam, and equips group members to share their faith confidently and effectively. The final module is about ministry to the community - what are the spiritual needs of the community? How can the group pray for the community? And what particular ministry is God calling each person to next?



Using Rooted in Jesus

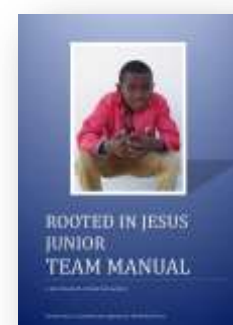
Rooted in Jesus is designed to be used by a trained leader with small groups of between 6 and 20 people; the group leader needs a book but the group members do not. Each session has been carefully planned to include time for prayer, for worship and for fellowship as well as for teaching. If a group completes one lesson every two weeks, on average, they will finish the course in two years. Many of those who do complete it go on to lead their own groups; others are encouraged to identify their particular calling – for example the healing ministry, prayer, evangelism, community support. Normally introduced through a residential training conference, *Rooted in Jesus* is supported by a comprehensive Training Manual.



Rooted in Jesus is normally introduced to a diocese or network through a residential training conference. There is a Team Training Manual for the guidance of facilitators.

Rooted in Jesus Junior

Rooted in Jesus Junior is a companion course based on the first two books of the adult programme. Designed to be used in Sunday Schools, confirmation classes and primary or secondary schools, by leaders who have themselves completed the adult course, *Rin Junior* is aimed at young people aged 8 to 14. Each lesson includes simple interactive activities using commonly available materials, and the only additional resource required is a Bible. In order to allow the children time and space to absorb the material in appropriate ways, each lesson of the adult course has been adapted to form two lessons in the Junior version. For more information visit the [Rooted in Jesus website](#).



There is also a *Rooted in Jesus Junior Training Manual*.

The Rooted in Jesus Syllabus

Book 1 : Making Disciples

Module 1: What is a Christian?

- Session 1: God knows you
- Session 2: What is the problem?
- Session 3: Who is Jesus Christ?
- Session 4: What must I do?

Module 2: Introduction to the work of the Holy Spirit

- Session 1: How to be sure God will never leave you
- Session 2: The Holy Spirit is in you
- Session 3: Assurance of victory
- Session 4: Assurance of forgiveness

Module 3: Growing as a Christian

- Session 1: An introduction to prayer
- Session 2: An introduction to fellowship
- Session 3: An introduction to the Bible
- Session 4: Deeper into prayer

Book 2 : Growing as Disciples

Module 4: Learning more about Jesus

- Session 1: The Life of Jesus
- Session 2: Human and divine
- Session 3: Jesus is coming back
- Session 4: Jesus is Lord

Module 5: Learning more about the Holy Spirit

- Session 1: The gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Session 2: Praying for healing
- Session 3: Knowing the enemy
- Session 4: Defeating the enemy

Module 6: Learning from the Bible

- Session 1: The Bible – God’s part and our part
- Session 2: Using the word of God
- Session 3: Knowing God’s will
- Session 4: Claiming God’s promises

Book 3 : Disciples Together

Module 7: The Christian character, Part I

- Session 1: Growing in Christ
- Session 2: Learning to forgive
- Session 3: Coping with suffering
- Session 4: Living by the truth

Module 8: The Christian character, Part II

- Session 1: Work
- Session 2: The Christian and wealth
- Session 3: The Christian and self-control
- Session 4: Marriage

Module 9: What is the Church?

- Session 1: The Church is a body
- Session 2: The Church is a family
- Session 3: Baptism
- Session 4: Communion

Book 4 : Disciples in ministry

Module 10: Developing in ministry

- Session 1: Hearing God’s voice
- Session 2: Living by faith
- Session 3: Women in ministry
- Session 4: Leadership in the church

Module 11: Sharing the good news

- Session 1: The task of the church
- Session 2: Talking about the cross
- Session 3: Living like Jesus
- Session 4: The gospel and other religious beliefs

Module 12 : Living in the world

- Session 1: Living in the community
- Session 2: Understanding the spiritual needs of the community
- Session 3: Praying for the community
- Session 4: Finishing well

Sample sets of Rooted in Jesus are available from [The Mathetes Trust](#).

The Rooted in Jesus website is www.rootedinjesus.net.

