

## **Disciple Course via Skype**

*In Conversation with Joseph Musungu*

There are many ways to learn these days and the use of the free internet calls on Skype are being put to a new use with teaching the Disciple Course. See how Joseph Musungu and others are able to study on the Disciple course through this communication tool.

### **How is it all going?**

It is going very well, the technology has not failed us so far, a couple of little glitches, which has now been addressed. The communication is very clear, the biggest number of people we have had at one time on the conference calls was 13 to 15 people and it worked perfectly.

### **Is Skype for classes and tutorials?**

Yes, I use it for classes and tutorials each person already has a course book that they follow, containing weekly lessons and study guides for in between classes. There is a chair or class leader who gives direction of the lesson and encourages the quiet ones and aims to get a balanced contribution from everyone.

### **How is it helping with your studies?**

It is helping in a variety of ways. It is a very accessible way of studying, it is free to talk on Skype, you can be anywhere in the world like Una (another participant) travelled to France on an emergency but did not want to miss the class, so she joined us from France. Therefore because of all this the attendance rate is very high meaning you don't miss any lessons because it's easily accessible. You are also not rushed for time to get to and from the lesson and it is cheap because there is no transport involved as there is no travelling.

### **How does it encourage participation from all?**

For people who have always found it difficult to go for any form of Bible study because of logistics and time then this is an answer in solving this. Each person has a picture on their profile so it feels as if you are speaking to them in the same room, sometimes you actually forget that you are in different locations. For the shy ones it has helped in providing an unpressured environment, meaning they participate and share more. It has helped in providing daily reading of the Bible and being able to discuss and debate, share different view points on scripture in a structured format. It is also enabling spiritual growth in me and the other attendees. It provides a safe and secure environment for sharing personal experiences/testimonials.

### **Would you recommend this to others too?**

Yes I would very much recommend it to others, for those who have been frustrated with people not turning out for study, this is the answer. The initial set up cost is also quite little a microphone and headphones cost £6 at your nearest supermarket, and then there is the Internet connection and download Skype on your PC, laptop or phone, you are ready to go!

### **What is the experience with using Skype from others?**

**Una King:** I find it quite convenient to be studying with others in my own home in this manner. I feel that I am gaining a fuller understanding about God and what He requires of us. By studying at home it saves me the time of travelling and it is particularly useful that I do not have to leave home during the cold evenings. I probably would have missed some sessions if I had to get transport to church or some other venue. This medium also affords me a quiet space in which to study.

**John Glover:** I have greatly enjoyed our study together. It is such a good format simple and easy to use in the comfort of your own home it makes studying a pleasure. I have gained a lot from sharing each other's views and experiences in such a friendly way. Having been to both meetings at the church and on Skype, I find this by far the better way for me. As quite a shy person I find it easier to express myself with fewer distractions. The church in general seems to be using the Internet in so many good ways.

**Yvonne Rowe:** I too have enjoyed the convenience of studying the Bible from home in an interactive format. I would not be able to travel to your church to do the Bible study as I live so far away. There have been occasional hick-ups with my line going down, but I have enjoyed this way of studying and hearing each other's comments. The issue of back ground rustling of papers or whistles can be distracting but have not put me off. It's a really great way to study and I look forward to the rest of the course.

**Yoko Brewah:** Studying the Disciple course on Skype is a very convenient, accessible and cheap way to study this course. I enjoy the conference calls and hearing people's voices as we discuss and even seeing people's pictures gives the effect of almost sitting around in a group and discussing, the conference calls are still effective in giving the group effect. I have learnt a lot from studying as a group for the Disciple course. I pray that we will all continue in our study until we complete this course.