



SHEMA JOURNEY

A Journey of Opportunity to Follow Jesus
THE COMMITTED LISTENER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Shema Journey with a Committed Listener.....	3
Shema Journey Assumptions and Context.....	4
Weekly Connections: Conversations and Care.....	5
Love . Serve . Shine Questions.....	9
Continue the Journey.....	11
Shema Journey Glossary of Terms.....	13

Acknowledgements and Thanks:

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.comThe “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.”

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

WELCOME

WHY AM I BEING ASKED TO BE A COMMITTED LISTENER? ... AND, WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

Typically, following Jesus well is not a solitary journey. And for the Shema Journey participant, a family member or friend is a perfect travel partner.

When Moses speaks God's words of the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), he speaks these words to a nation of tribes and families. No solitary conversations here.

When Jesus calls and dispatches His followers, He does not send them out alone. They travel as 12 ... they travel as 70 ... they meet as 120. Following Jesus well happens in connection to others. It happens well in community with conversation and care.

You are invited to be a Committed Listener for someone special who is joining others on a Shema Journey. You will receive feedback on how this Shema Journey is a journey of listening, learning, and living for Jesus in order to love, serve, and shine like Jesus. You are asked to journey as well by being part of the conversation and care of the experience.

As a Committed Listener you are asked:

- To pray daily for your travel partner's Shema Journey;
- To encourage full participation in your travel partner's learning experience;
- To connect weekly for conversation and updates concerning the journey;
- To inquire regularly about the progress of the journey and listen carefully to the answers ... regularly visit and revisit any steps that are performative.
- To provide accountability for the journey that affirms hearing God's voice and replicating the Shema Journey experience in the lives of others.

COMMITTED LISTENER

SHEMA JOURNEY ASSUMPTIONS

1. Being a “Jesus follower” is about identity; not about checking boxes and self-improvement.
2. Shema implies listening and learning ... action bias. The Shema Journey includes questions that process the idea of following Jesus based on hearing from God.
3. Disciple as a mental model: Discipleship is intersection/overlap of knowledge, skill, motivation. For this study the term “Jesus follower” is used.
4. In the Gospels you discover that each day of Jesus’ life, He is engaged in “Love” (praise, prayer, devotion, listening) expressed to the Father, “Serve” (unsolicited acts of care, instruction, encouragement, role modeling) with His family and friends, and “Shine” (unsolicited acts of kindness, invitations and welcome, conversations) as work and witness in the world. Love, Serve, and Shine is expressed in different ways, but tightly focused.
5. Concordia Lutheran Church “language” and experience that connects to Shema Journey:

Love – my connection to Jesus.

Serve – my connection to family, friends, and others who follow Jesus.

Shine – my connection to Jesus’ work and witness in the world.

SHEMA JOURNEY CONTEXT AND CONVERSATIONS: JOHN 13-17

Listening (“Hear” – Shema; Deuteronomy 6:4-9):

Jesus is addressed as “Rabbi” by both his followers and His enemies. This is a recognition of His teaching content and His teaching methodology.

Listening/hearing Jesus’ invitation to “Follow Me” (John 10:27); Peter is an example of how this invitation reoccurs, always immediate (Matthew 4:18-20; John 21:15-21).

Being a Jesus Follower is both caught/taught, conversation/demonstration, faith/faithfulness (John 13:1, 15, 17).

CONVERSATION #1

Each CONVERSATION is a weekly topic of the Shema Journey. This is a resource for the Committed Listener to use as the topic is reviewed with the Shema Journey participant. The discussion questions that follow are questions the participant is preparing to share at the next group meeting. The Scripture references are the primary Biblical source for the Conversations that include these questions. They will help inform the Committed Listener give helpful feedback to the Shema Journey participant.

Committed Listeners are encouraged to be familiar with the Bible texts and questions prior to the conversation with the Shema Journey participant.

CONVERSATION #1: Identity is Jesus Follower expressed as servant (John 13:1-17) – other-person focused (God, neighbor).

- Humility focus is always both vertical and horizontal.
- Philippians 2:5-8 – attitude is observable.

COMMITTED LISTENER DISCUSSION #1:

1. Who are examples you have seen who love, serve, and shine? What impression did that example make on you?

1. Listen and understand: To love, serve, or shine, what important initial step(s) on your Shema Journey will you take this week?

1. I feel _____ about launching the Shema Journey because _____.

NOTES FROM DISCUSSION #1:

CONVERSATIONS #2 & #3

CONVERSATION #2: Focused on Jesus ... directionally correct (John 13:18-32; Judas, Peter). Jesus followers about direction, not perfection.

COMMITTED LISTENER DISCUSSION #2:

How would you explain to a friend the difference between perfection and direction?

How does that distinction empower you to focus/center on Jesus?

Directionally correct: To love, serve, and shine, what important steps on your Shema Journey will you take this week?

NOTES FROM DISCUSSION #2:

CONVERSATION #3: Commanded to love ... obvious connection to Great Commandment. Language is performative >> "Love is something you do." (John 13:34-35; 14:15, 21, 23, 31).

COMMITTED LISTENER DISCUSSION #3:

How would you explain sacrificial love to a friend?

How would you connect sacrificial love to the life of Jesus?

Expressing sacrificial love to others: To love, serve, and shine, what important steps on your Shema Journey will you take this week?

NOTES FROM DISCUSSION #3:

CONVERSATIONS #4 & #5

CONVERSATION #4: Identity is an “inside out” experience ... connect to (love) Jesus (John 14:4-6). He is my Way, my Truth, and my Life.

COMMITTED LISTENER DISCUSSION #4:

Share a time in your life when your faith was particularly important to you. What did you learn from that experience that continues to focus your attention, affections, and actions on Jesus?

I feel _____ about my Shema Journey experience because _____.

NOTES FROM DISCUSSION #4:

CONVERSATION #5: Connect to Jesus’ “family” ... image of church from the shema; ... “garden” (John 15:1-8) ... image of church from Jesus.

“Fruit” = Internal (Galatians 5:22-23); External (Matthew 9:35-38).
Love one another (John 15:12, 17).

COMMITTED LISTENER DISCUSSION #5:

1) When you think about “fruit” as an internal and external reality, what is your “Aha!” insight?

2) To love, serve, and shine, what important steps on your Shema Journey will you take in the next 90 days? Be specific.

Who outside your group should be invited to share in a Shema Journey?

NOTES FROM DISCUSSION #5:

CONVERSATIONS #6 & #7

CONVERSATION #6: Connect to Jesus' work and witness to the world (John 15:27; 16:33).

Questions for missional connection:

What need do you see? (Cognition).

What hurt do you feel? (Emotion).

If you could do one thing to make the world a better place, what would that one thing be? (Volition).

COMMITTED LISTENER DISCUSSION #6:

Why would a person want to follow Jesus into mission?

To love, serve, and shine, clarify what important steps on your Shema Journey will you take in the next 90 days? Be specific.

Who outside your group should be invited to share in a Shema Journey?

NOTES FROM DISCUSSION #6:

CONVERSATION #7: Jesus' prayer for your Shema Journey (John 17:13-21):

Promise = "Full measure of My joy."

Protection = "Protect them from the evil one."

Purpose = "I have sent them."

Production = "For those who will believe in Me through their message."

COMMITTED LISTENER DISCUSSION #7:

What are the implications you understand concerning the idea of being sent?

To love, serve, and shine, clarify what important steps on your Shema Journey will you take in the next 90 days? Be specific.

How will you replicate this learning experience with others?

NOTES FROM DISCUSSION #7:

STRATEGIC DISCIPLESHIP QUESTION:

Would you be willing to be a Shema Journey participant, allowing your friend to lead you and others you invite through this experience?

A COMMITTED LISTENER RESOURCE

LOVE. SERVE. SHINE QUESTIONS

Texts: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Mark 1:15; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 28:18-20

When the Shema Journey is complete, continuing to connect with your travel participant as a family member or friend is a suggestion. Continuing to talk about Love . Serve . Shine deepens the daily expressions of the Shema Journey. These questions are a relevant and helpful resource for those important conversations.

LOVE: PRAISE, PRAYER, DEVOTION, LISTEN

- Do I make enough time in my day for prayer and devotions?
- Do I pursue a sense of closeness and intimacy with Jesus?
- Do I keep a Christian perspective on issues confronting me?
- Do I have a passion for Christ?
- Do I have a sense of God's purpose for my life?
- Do I have a consistent plan to study the Bible?
- Do I find joy in worshiping Christ?
- Do I anticipate answers to my prayers?
- Do I periodically take extended time for my prayers?
- Do I live with a state of peace that all will be well?
- Do I experience more of the characteristics of Christ in my life (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control)?
- Do I experience more of the presence and power of God in my everyday life?
- Do I seek to please God by surrendering every area of my life (health, decisions, relationships, finances, future, etc.) to Him?
- Do I accept the things I cannot change and become increasingly grateful for the life I've been given?

SERVE: UNSOLICITED ACTS OF CARE, INSTRUCTION, ENCOURAGEMENT, ROLE MODELING

- Do I model to other Christians what I teach?
- Am I teachable and accountable?
- Am I available and approachable for ministry needs in the church?
- Do I listen well to others?
- Do I make myself transparent and available to others?
- Do I demonstrate a servant's heart?
- Do I keep my promises to God, my family, and my Christian friends?
- Is my family happy?
- Am I a joyful and cheerful giver?
- Is the quality of my spiritual life growing?
- Am I consistent in giving grace and attention to other Christians, especially those in my church?
- In exchanges with people, do they experience grace?
- Am I willing to share my real needs for prayer and receive support from others?
- Am I resolving conflict constructively and willing to forgive others?
- Am I spending time with a Christian friend who keeps me accountable for my spiritual growth?
- Am I regularly praying to God to show me opportunities to serve Him and others?
- Am I avoiding addictive behaviors (alcohol, drugs, food, television, "busyness", etc.)?

SHINE: UNSOLICITED ACTS OF KINDNESS, INVITATION AND WELCOME, CONVERSATIONS

- Do I live my life with integrity outside the church?
- Do I have close relationships with others who are unchurched?
- Am I intentionally making new relationships with the unchurched?
- Am I willing to take risks in demonstrating or sharing my faith with others?
- Am I willing to make sacrifices for the unchurched?
- Do I practice hospitality with unchurched friends and acquaintances?
- Is my church/class/small group growing in numbers?
- Do I pray regularly for unchurched family and friends?
- Do I have a clear sense of mission to make impact for Christ among the unchurched?
- Do I have a heart for the lost?
- Am I regularly inviting unchurched family and friends to my church/class/small group?
- Do I regularly introduce myself to others and welcome them when I am attending a church function?
- Am I praying and learning about where God can use me cross-culturally for missions?

SHEMA JOURNEY/ COMMITTED LISTENER

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY ...

“BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DO NOT FORGET ...” DEUTERONOMY 6:12

“CONTINUE IN WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED ...” II TIMOTHY 3:14

So, here is the big question: For the Shema Journey participant and you, the Committed Listener, NOW WHAT?

Rabbinical learning always continues. There is no graduation. There is no arrival. There is no completion. In this sense, with the exception of Jesus, a rabbi (teacher) is always a talmid (learner, follower), and a talmid is always learning in order to instruct as a rabbi.

Moses describes ongoing rabbinical learning: “These are the commands, decrees, and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you ... so that you, your children, and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live.” Deuteronomy 6:1-2.

The apostle Paul describes ongoing rabbinical learning: “Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it ...” II Timothy 3:14.

There are no exceptions to this simple, significant truth - continue ... “keep on keeping on.” And remember: Rabbi Jesus is the teacher: listen, learn, and love. Rabbi Jesus is the example: love, serve, and shine. Keep on keeping on.

Here are some SUGGESTIONS:

With your Shema Journey participant choose daily devotions that you can do together. You don't need to be at the same place, at the same time, but you do need to establish common ground for continuing conversations. You do need to have regular conversations about what you are learning and doing concerning Love.Serve.Shine.

With your Shema Journey partner, use the Shema Journey Love.Share.Shine Questions to focus your devotional discussions. Focus on what you are hearing, learning, and doing as you continue your journey. Three other helpful questions:

What new thoughts come to mind as you listen to God's Word and continue your journey?

What steps are you taking to make your new thought a performative experience?

How do you feel about continuing your journey?

"I feel _____ about (insert your new thought) because _____.

With your Shema Journey partner, offer to convene the Shema Journey learning experience. The very best way to retain information and modify personal behavior is to teach and model to others the insights you have gained. Ask your Shema Journey partner to lead the conversations.

Be an advocate for the Shema Journey learning experience. Encourage others to participate in some way to experience the rabbinical learning. Encourage conversations about being a Jesus follower who intentionally loves, serves, and shines daily.

With your Shema Journey partner, make a list of your good ideas for you to continue and good ideas for you to multiply the Shema Journey experience ...

NOTES:

LOVE. SERVE. SHINE.

"You shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the words of life." Philipians 2:15-16.

GLOSSARY

Ahava (ah-ha-va):

Old Testament Hebrew word in Deuteronomy 6:5 translated as love. The literal meaning is “sacrificial love, to devote completely to another.” When Jesus quoted this verse, the New Testament writers used the Greek term agape, a term for unconditional love, love extended as the essence of the one who gives, not dependent on the qualifications of the one who receives. A word that describes the very essence of God. See Mark 12:28-31.

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIV)*

Chesed (ches-ed):

Old Testament Hebrew word translated literally as ‘kindness.’ When referring to God it is often translated as “loving kindness.” It is more than simple politeness or civility. It is extravagant, generous beyond ordinary courtesies. It is extended to others with no expectation of it being returned to the giver. It is the root of Jesus’ teaching concerning attitude and behavior, even toward an enemy. I Corinthians 13:4 defines kindness as an essential characteristic of love. Kindness opens doors and brings credibility to Christian care and Christian conversations.

*“The Lord is gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and great in loving kindness.”
Psalm 145:8 (NIV)*

Committed Listener:

Shema Journey participants are asked to invite a trusted friend or family member to join them for the learning experience. The invitation to be a Committed Listener is a request for compassion and encouragement as well as attentiveness to a process of spiritual engagement and depth built around listening, learning, and living as a Jesus follower. A “Yes” to this request is a promise of daily prayer for the process, making inquiry concerning your friend’s or family member’s progress and growth, and sharing in regular conversations about new insight and motivation to follow Jesus well.

“We walk in the light, as He is in the light.” I John 1:7 (NIV)

Grace:

Commonly understood as an undeserved but empowering gift received from an unobligated but generous giver. Grace empowers a Shema Journey participant to love God “with all your heart with all your soul and with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5. Grace empowers the YES response to Jesus’ invitation to listen, learn, and live as His follower.

“But by the grace of God I am what I am.” I Corinthians 15:10 (NIV)

Intrinsic Motivation:

The basic assumption that human beings are motivated by activities and experiences that connect with their internal values, desires, and sense of meaning. While external motivations of reward or punishment can be effective for the short-term, these are difficult to maintain at a high-level for the long term (think carrot and stick motivation ... think “burnout”). Following Jesus is the journey of a lifetime. Intrinsic motivation is a key.

*“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus,
so, we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)*

Jesus Followers:

In the Old Testament, followers or adherents of a particular rabbi/teacher were called talmid (tal-mid). In the New Testament, followers or adherents of a particular rabbi/teacher were called disciples. In the ancient world these followers actively imitated both the life and the teaching of the master instructor. Jesus’ followers, then and now, are defined as informed, enlightened, thoroughly dedicated to listen, learn, and live by the intelligence and example of the rabbi/teacher.

“Follow Me.” John 1:43 (NIV)

Kindness:

Kindness is an operative dynamic for ministry and mission and a key to “reframing” how Jesus’ followers become His presence to others. It is an outward orientation for life situations, going far beyond civility or politeness. Kindness is selfless and compassionate. In reference to Jesus, or Jesus’ followers, it is God’s grace in action. Absolutely unconditional ... infinitely generous. Kindness brings credibility to Christian care and Christian conversation. See also: Glossary; Chesed.

“Be kind to one another and compassionate ...” Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Kindness Opportunities:

Kindness is an intentional engagement with others. When you think about and plan for being kind to others, you see opportunities to be kind ... like Jesus ... kind to children, kind to the physically infirmed, kind to the troubled, kind in seeing and meeting human need. In other words, see the opportunity to be kind ... seize the opportunity to be kind. Seeing kindness opportunities follows the Shema Journey pattern of listen to God, learn from Him, live daily with the intention to love, serve, and shine. See also: Glossary; “Love, Serve, Shine.”

*“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.”
Matthew 25:40 (NIV)*

Learn/Learner:

In both Old and New Testaments, the idea of following a rabbi in order to learn the Jewish laws involved a growing competency and commitment to both the information and the consistent behavior aligned to that specific information. You listen to the rabbi. For clarity, you dialog with the rabbi. You choose to give the rabbi’s teaching expression in your life. To learn - to be a learner - is a lifetime process that follows the pattern listen, learn, and live.

“Come to Me ... learn from Me.” Matthew 11:28-29 (NIV)

Love, Serve, Shine:

Words that describe the daily example of Jesus’ life. Following the teaching example of a rabbi, Jesus taught with words and examples for daily living. “Love, serve, shine” describe the way Jesus expressed in daily life the eternal truths of His teaching words. Love = your connection to Jesus expressed in praise, prayer, devotion, and listening. Serve = your connection to Jesus’ followers in the church expressed in unsolicited acts of care, instruction, encouragement, and role modeling. Shine = your connection to the work and witness of Jesus in the world expressed as unsolicited acts of kindness, invitation and welcome, and conversations.

“For to me to live is Christ.” Philippians 1:21 (NIV)

Narrative Question:

In rabbinical teaching, often questions carry greater value than data points. A question that initiates the process of listen, learn, and live is referred to as a narrative question. It is the way Jesus taught. It is the gateway to the table discussions of Jesus and His followers (John 13-17). A narrative question engages the hearers and invites their reflective thinking as well as new insights for living as Jesus’ followers.

“Do you understand what I have done for you?” John 13:12 (NIV)

Normalize:

For the Shema Journey, “normalize” is a way to capture the Deuteronomy 6:7 phrase, “talk about them.” This specific conversation deals with the commands of God, but in the larger context of conversation, it references those things of God to which you listen, learn, and live. It means to be intentional about a process that is preparing you to live daily as Jesus did (See also: Glossary; “Love, Serve, Shine”) and have regular ongoing conversations about how this is impacting your life. As you “normalize” conversations about Jesus and following Him, you are inviting others to journey with you and broaden your understanding of what it means to listen, learn, and live.

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NIV)

Paradigm:

A paradigm is a particular set of assumptions or ideas that shape your view of reality. The Shema Journey assumes a rabbinical set of ideas and assumptions about learning. Briefly stated, learning is more than simply acquiring knowledge. For an Old Testament rabbi, learning involves both a combination of listening - the rabbi is speaking; learning - the follower acquires knowledge; living - the knowledge finds consistent expression and increasing competency. Jesus is a master teacher using the rabbinical paradigm: listen, learn, and live. Shema Journey also follows the rabbinical paradigm to multiply Jesus' followers. See also: Glossary; Shema Journey.

"As You sent Me into this world, I have sent them into the world." John 17:18 (NIV)

Performative:

Describes the necessary power and particular performance embedded in Jesus' teaching. Acknowledged by both friends and foes as "Rabbi," Jesus teaching is a call to action and life expressions that are transformative and distinct. One repeating example from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:41, "You have heard that it was said ... but I tell you." Rabbi Jesus comes to change lives and change eternal destinies. Jesus' followers listen, learn, and live with Him as their example for life and hope for eternal life.

"If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching." John 14:23 (NIV)

Pilgrim:

A New Testament identity based on the understanding of faithful Old Testament families who would journey to Jerusalem to worship God and bring sacrificial gifts to Him. "Pilgrim" (parepidemos) tells us we are people who spend our lives on a journey - listening, learning, and living for Him. The journey path is Jesus Christ. He is our direction, our path, and our destination. He leads. We follow. He is the Rabbi. We are the talmid.

*"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6 (NIV)*

Rabbi (rab-bi):

In the Old Testament and the New Testament years of Jesus, "Rabbi" was a term of respect and honor. It was a recognition of insight and behavior that was informed by and consistent with Old Testament law. And, Jesus' teaching paradigm was rabbinical. He excelled in His teaching content and life connected to the Father and the Spirit as well as people. Both His enemies and His friends addressed Him as "Rabbi". The first to see Jesus following His Easter resurrection, Mary, addresses Him as "Rabboni," the Aramaic word for Rabbi. Shema Journey is a learning experience led by Rabbi Jesus. Those who take the journey learn from Him in the same learning style as His first followers.

"She turned toward Him and cried out ... 'Rabboni!'" John 20:16 (NIV)

Shema (shem-ah):

Old Testament Hebrew word found in Deuteronomy 6:4. It means to intently hear or listen. Shema is a more encompassing word than simply being aware of a sound or simultaneous, multiple sounds. When God says, "Hear (shema), O Israel," He is declaring three things:

(1) God desires your undivided attention; (2) God is declaring a truth that empowers an action bias, your response; (3) God is teaching a proposition for which there is no expiration.

"Shema" means that what God said to His Old Testament people, and Jesus declared as the greatest commandment to His New Testament people, is what God continues to say to His followers today and for all the generations to come.

"Hear, O Israel." Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV)

Shema Journey:

"Shema" implies listening and learning. The Shema Journey includes questions and interactions, conversations and demonstrations that process the idea of following Rabbi Jesus based on listening carefully to God. It is about identity and life direction based on individual intrinsic interests and motivation; not about checking boxes that lead to a predetermined conclusion. On this journey, you discover that each day of Jesus' public life, He was engaged to love (praise, prayer, devotion, listening) the Father and the Spirit, to serve (unsolicited acts of care, instruction, encouragement, role modeling) with His followers, and to shine (unsolicited acts of kindness, invitation and conversation, welcome) as His work and witness in the world. See also: Glossary; "Intrinsic Motivation," "Love, Serve, Shine."

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8 (NIV)*

Soul:

Old Testament Hebrew word for soul is "nephesh" (nef-esh). Nephesh literally refers to the place of integration of the intellect, the emotions, and the will of a person. It is a word that defines identity for time and eternity. It is your place of undistracted, unhurried, unbiased response ... a sheep hearing and following the shepherd. God speaks. You listen and follow.

"My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me." John 10:27 (NIV)

Soul Listening:

Soul listening is essential to my Shema Journey ... listen, learn, and live. It is giving deep attention and high intention to how you relate to God and others. Soul listening is giving daily expression to love, serve, and shine as you follow Jesus. As you soul listen, you share what you are hearing with your trusted partner. Soul listening is a relentless pursuit of intimacy of thought, affection, and determination that expresses love for God and others. See also: Glossary; Trusted Partner.

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God." Psalm 42:1 (NIV)

Talmid (tal-mid):

Old Testament Hebrew word use to describe a follower of a rabbi. Implied in this word is the idea of an apprentice learning from a master craftsman ... listen, learn, and live. A talmid is committed to a learning process with the outcome of becoming an informed, enlightened, and dedicated follower of a master rabbi. Out of this relationship, the insight, skills, and purpose of the rabbi is replicated and multiplied for generations. It was Jesus' selected methodology to multiply the message and ministry that He began through His talmid. That same methodology continues through His Church today.

"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all." Mark 16:15 (NIV)

Third Person Learning:

A predisposition of the follower as she/he learns from the master teacher. The learning predisposition is simple: What you learn from the master you will share with others. This simple predisposition is basic to listening well when the master teacher is speaking. This simple predisposition is high octane fuel for adult learning motivation. For a rabbi this meant teaching with stories - parables - as a primary means of communicating important truth. The Shema Journey experience is built on conversation and stories that mark each participant's life in a profound and personal way. As your story emerges and your conversations occur, these are intended to inform and encourage others. Built into your Shema Journey are the skills to listen as God speaks, live daily as Jesus patterned His life daily, and normalize and multiply conversations that clearly communicate Jesus' love for all.

"You are the light of the world ... let your light shine before men." Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)