



Ring around the Rabbi Ring around the Rabbi!

**Christ-Led Evangelistic
Discipleship**

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



What do you think of
when you hear the
word, "**chef?**"

Ring around the Rabbi



What do you think of
when you hear the
word, "**chef?**"

Someone who makes
food taste good? A person
who prepares a variety
of dishes? A professional
cook like Rachel Rae
or Emeril Lagasse?

Ring around the Rabbi



What do you think of when you hear the word, "**chef?**"

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Well make room, galloping gourmet, for the **super** skewer

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Someone who makes food taste good? A person who prepares a variety of dishes? A professional cook like Rachel Rae or Emeril Lagasse?

We'll make room, galloping gourmet, for the **super** skewer

Germany now trains chefs who make only **one** dish—the doner kebab—at the Hamburg Vocational School of Gastronomy and Nutrition

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Clad in white overcoats
plastic gloves and caps,
super-skewers attend
class twice a week to
learn how to cut meat
properly, calculate how
much of it to put on a
skewer, and how to avoid
the spread of germs

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Clad in white overcoats plastic gloves and caps, super-skewers attend class twice a week to learn how to cut meat properly, calculate how much of it to put on a skewer, and how to avoid the spread of germs

Students will eventually earn a certificate in “Meat Processing with Doner Kebab Production Specialization” and know how to do one thing: how to stuff kebab meat into a piece of pita bread with a handful of salad

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We live in an age of **specialization**. The **sheer volume** of what the human race has learned makes it necessary to concentrate on and become expert in a **particular** subject or **certain** skill

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We live in an age of **specialization**. The **sheer volume** of what the human race has learned makes it necessary to concentrate on and become expert in a **particular** subject or **certain** skill

Specialization divides us into **two classes**: experts and amateurs. No matter how much you know about a subject, the world won't let you practice it unless you are a **trained professional** at it

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The need for professional training does **protect** us from quacks and con-artists; but we go too far when we use **specialization** to separate Bible students into experts and amateurs

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In Israel, for example, the priests started out as general practitioners—as both **scholars** and **guardians** of the Law; but over time this changed. The more highly esteemed the Law became in the eyes of the people

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In Israel, for example, the priests started out as general practitioners—as both **scholars** and **guardians** of the Law; but over time this changed. The more highly esteemed the Law became in the eyes of the people

the more its study and interpretation became a lifework by itself; and so a class of scholars emerged in Israel, devoted completely to the Law. These men became known as the **scribes**, professional scholars or experts of the Law

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The Pharisees emerged from Israel's deep desire to preserve its' way of life. Originally called **Hasideans** or faithful ones, who fought secular Greek influence, they separated into **two** groups: the **Essenes** who went to live in the desert

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The Pharisees emerged from Israel's deep desire to preserve its' way of life. Originally called **Hasideans** or faithful ones, who fought secular Greek influence, they separated into **two** groups: the **Essenes** who went to live in the desert

and the **Parushim** or separatists, who stayed behind to personally influence their fellow Jews. While Israel considered Scribes **experts** of the study and official interpretation of the Law, it also recognized the **Pharisees** as **expert** practitioners of it

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Time and again the scribes and Pharisees tried to stop Jesus from publicly teaching religious subjects on the grounds He had not graduated from one of their **official**, rabbinic schools

Ring around the Rabbi



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From that time the twelve-year old wonder wowed them at the Temple, to the day they crucified Him, Jewish authorities repeatedly questioned our Lord's **academic** pedigree and qualifications

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Ring around the Rabbi



Annoyed by His defiance and
frustrated by His popularity, they
angrily demanded:

Ring around the Rabbi



Annoyed by His defiance and
frustrated by His popularity, they
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*Tell us, by what **authority** are you
doing these things? or who is the one
who gave you this **authority**?*

Ring around the Rabbi



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Luke 20:2

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Ring around the Rabbi



Even the people saw the difference when **Jesus** taught them. For instance, when He finished His sermon on the Mount, Matthew reports:

Ring around the Rabbi



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*The people were **amazed** at His teaching, because He taught as one with **authority**, unlike the Scribes.*

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*The people were **amazed** at His teaching, because He taught as one with **authority**, unlike the Scribes.*

Matthew 7:28-29

They were surprised to hear someone **instruct** them **straight** from the Word, **without** quoting any of Israel's scholars

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Not only was Jesus **qualified** to teach,
but you and I are also **qualified** to learn for
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In his **first** letter, the apostle John said:
*“You have an **anointing** from the Holy One,
and all of you know the truth...the **anointing**
you received from him remains in you, so **you**
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Ring around the Rabbi



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1 John 2:20, 27

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What is this “*anointing*” that John says **eliminates** the need for **anyone** to *teach* God’s true people?

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What is this “**anointing**” that John says **eliminates** the need for **anyone** to **teach** God’s true people?

Well, in the Old Testament, **anointing** refers to **pouring oil** on people—usually kings or priests—to represent **equipping** them for their office with **the Holy Spirit**

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Since John also says, that:

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Since John also says, that:

“Jesus Christ...has made us **kings** and **priests** to God, His Father,” in Revelation 1:5, 6

Ring around the Rabbi



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*“the Spirit of Truth...who will **guide** you into all **truth**,” in his Gospel (16:13)*

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Ring around the Rabbi



So, **the Spirit** who *anoints* every true believer for a royal priesthood is also a **divine Teacher**, who **leads** pupils to pure **truth** *throughout* their lifetime, because God:

Ring around the Rabbi



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Something *amazing* happens when **the Spirit**
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Something *amazing* happens when **the Spirit** *guides* us through the Bible:

*“When **the Spirit of truth** comes, He will guide you into full truth. He won’t speak on His own. He will say what He hears and...will give Me glory, because He will tell you what I say (John 16:13, 14).”*

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*“When **the Spirit of truth** comes, He will guide you into full truth. He won’t speak on His own. He will say what He hears and...will give Me glory, because He will tell you what I say (John 16:13, 14).”*

The Spirit does not speak for **Himself; He** only *repeats* what **Jesus** tells **Him!**

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The Spirit does more than make sure you end up with *truth*; God wants you to be more than *right*.

Ring around the Rabbi



The Spirit does more than make sure you end up with **truth**; God wants you to be more than **right**. So, besides leading us into **all truth**—what's **right**, Jesus said **the Spirit** also: “*convicts the world of its sin, of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment, because it refuses to believe in Me*” (John 16:8ff.)”

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The Spirit wants you to **believe** in **Jesus**, to end up with the **truth**, **His Son**--so you can be **right with Him**.

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Unlike **human** teachers who can only show us what's **right**, as **the Holy Spirit** leads us into what's **right** by repeating what Jesus tells Him, He also **connects** us by **faith** with **Christ**, to make us **right with God**

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



So, **instead of** learning *about* Christ, Bible study is **actually** learning *from* Christ—through the ministry of the Holy Spirit! That's why:

Ring around the Rabbi



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Ring around the Rabbi



So, **instead of** learning **about** Christ, Bible study is **actually** learning **from** Christ—through the ministry of the Holy Spirit! That’s why:

Jesus told His disciples to, “*Take **my** yoke upon you and learn **from Me*** (Matt. 11:29)”

And Paul urged the Ephesians to stop living like they used to, because: “*this is not the way you have **learned Christ**--If in fact, you have **heard him**, and have been **taught by him**, as the truth is in **Jesus*** (Eph. 4:20, 21)”

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Even when someone shares a brilliant insight with us from the **Written** Word—we should explore it for ourselves with the **Living** Word, through the ministry of **the Holy Spirit**, to make sure we have been led into **full truth**, just like the legendary Bereans of Acts 17:11 who checked what Paul told them against the scriptures, for themselves

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



But, as you study for yourself, try to avoid an **Elijah** complex. Remember what Solomon said:

Ring around the Rabbi



But, as you study for yourself, try to avoid an **Elijah** complex. Remember what Solomon said:
A nation will fall when there is no direction, but with **many** advisers there is safety.

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So, the **safest** way to study the Bible is to check your discoveries with **many others**; we all need **confirmation** from **other** students of **God's** Word that we have heard **His** voice and understand a text as **He** intended

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Many Jews suffered
spiritually from dividing
themselves into **experts**
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Leaving Bible study
in the hands of a **few**
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Ring around the Rabbi



Many Jews suffered **spiritually** from dividing themselves into **experts** and **amateurs**

Leaving Bible study in the hands of a **few experts** robbed most of them of the ability to grasp God's Word for **themselves**

because studying what **others** have found in the Bible instead of discovering truth for **ourselves damages** our personal thinking **skills** and **destroys** our ability to **grasp** the deep meaning of Scripture

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Sacred history clearly shows that God **wants** us to **get** truth **straight** from **Him** instead of **through** others—even if truths that they **bring** to us, are **100%** **pure**

Ring around the Rabbi



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At Mount Sinai, “when the people **heard** thunder and a loud blast from the ram’s horn, and **saw** lightning flash and smoke billowing from the mountain, they **stood at a distance**, trembling with fear.”

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



They became
so frightened that
they made a bad deal
with Moses, saying: "**You**
speak to **us**, and **we** will
listen. But don't let **God**
speak **directly** to **us**,
or **we** will die! (Exod.
20:18-19). Sooo...

Ring around the Rabbi



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Ring around the Rabbi



They became so frightened that they made a bad deal with Moses, saying: “**You** speak to **us**, and **we** will listen. But don’t let **God** speak **directly** to **us**, or **we** will die! (Exod. 20:18-19). Sooo... that **whole** generation of Israelites **relied** on an inspired leader, Moses, for truth, and he **delivered** it **word-for-word** to them, **from** God **Yet, only 2**—Caleb and Joshua—made it to the **promised** land

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



To understand the Bible for ourselves, there are **three** things we **must** do:

Ring around the Rabbi



To understand the Bible for ourselves, there are **three** things we **must** do:

- **Revive** skills **lost** from lack of **use**

Ring around the Rabbi



To understand the Bible for ourselves, there are **three** things we **must** do:

- **Revive** skills **lost** from lack of **use**
- **Resume** development of our mind's ability to think, **underdeveloped** from lack of mental **exercise**

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- **Retrofit** Christ as your teacher, because now that you know Christ should have been your Teacher all along:

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- **Retrofit** Christ as your teacher, because now that you know Christ should have been your Teacher all along:
 - It isn't *good enough* to make Him your Teacher *from now on*
 - You must *go back* and study **everything** *all over again* with Him

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Anyone of us can:

Ring around the Rabbi



Anyone of us can:

- **Revitalize** **lost** or **rusty** skills by **using** them to study God's Word

Ring around the Rabbi



Anyone of us can:

- **Revitalize** **lost** or **rusty** skills by **using** them to study God's Word
 - Like riding a **bicycle**, they **come back** to you

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Ring around the Rabbi



Anyone of us can:

- **Revitalize** **lost** or **rusty** skills by **using** them to study God's Word
 - Like riding a **bicycle**, they **come back** to you
- **Resume** development of the **undersized powers** of our minds by comparing scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual
 - The **supernatural** thoughts of the Bible will **stretch** our minds **back** into shape

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



But you're probably wondering:

Ring around the Rabbi



But you're probably wondering:

How can **Christ**, Who sits on a throne beside His Father in heaven and is no longer **physically with** us in this world, still be **our Teacher**?

Ring around the Rabbi



But you're probably wondering:

How can **Christ**, Who sits on a throne beside His Father in heaven and is no longer **physically with** us in this world, still be **our Teacher?**

Your question deserves
an answer...

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Let me explain:

Ring around the Rabbi



Let me explain:

- In Jesus' day teachers called **rabbis** conducted classes in the tradition of the schools of the prophets —at the **center** of study groups, **surrounded** by **circles** of students.

Ring around the Rabbi



Let me explain:

- In Jesus' day teachers called **rabbis** conducted classes in the tradition of the schools of the prophets —at the **center** of study groups, **surrounded** by **circles** of students.
- Everyone **adopted** the **rabbi-disciple** model at the time—**even** Jesus, a longtime **opponent** of the rabbis!

Ring around the Rabbi



Let me explain:

- In Jesus' day teachers called **rabbis** conducted classes in the tradition of the schools of the prophets —at the **center** of study groups, **surrounded** by **circles** of students.
- Everyone **adopted** the **rabbi-disciple** model at the time—**even** Jesus, a longtime **opponent** of the rabbis!
- The **School of Christ** is actually, a **rabbinic-discipleship class**!

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Many people **think**
church discipline
puts them **at the**
mercy of fellow
church members.

They **picture** church
discipline as a **courtroom**
scene with brothers
and sisters as
judges

Ring around the Rabbi



Many people **think** **church discipline** puts them **at the mercy** of fellow church members. They **picture** church discipline as a **courtroom scene** with brothers and sisters as **judges**

To **guarantee justice** in the often misunderstood matter of church **discipline**, Jesus actually said: *"When two or three gather in my name, there I am in the **midst of them**"* (Matt. 18:20)

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Not only is Jesus **present** when His **true** followers come together, but they always gather **around** Him as their **rabbi**, at the **center** of the group, guiding, instructing, and directing them!

Ring around the Rabbi



Not only is Jesus **present** when His **true** followers come together, but they always gather **around** Him as their **rabbi**, at the **center** of the group, guiding, instructing, and directing them!

You see, **rabbis** are **always** in charge of their classes—**never** their disciples. Instead of **challenging, questioning,** or **debating** their rabbis, disciples **always repeat** word for word, what their rabbis tell them

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Like **disciples** around their **rabbi**, *“when 2 or 3 of Christ’s followers gather in His name, He is at the center, in their midst, instructing them,”* and they, like good **disciples** **repeat His** will, **word** for **word**

Ring around the Rabbi



Like **disciples** around their **rabbi**, *“when 2 or 3 of Christ’s followers gather in His name, He is at the center, in their midst, instructing them,”* and they, like good **disciples** **repeat** His will, **word** for **word**

It may **look** as though His **followers** act as **judges** during **church discipline**, but Jesus **never** lets go of His role as the **Leader**; He is **always** in charge, and He is the **only one** who **ever** judges His people

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



But please don't get the **wrong** idea

Ring around the Rabbi



But please don't get the **wrong** idea

- Jesus **adopted** only the rabbinic **format**—not the rabbinic **system**

Ring around the Rabbi



But please don't get the **wrong** idea

- Jesus **adopted** only the rabbinic **format**—not the rabbinic **system**
- He **broke** with rabbinic **tradition** when He told His disciples in Matthew 23:8:

Ring around the Rabbi



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- He **broke** with rabbinic **tradition** when He told His disciples in Matthew 23:8:
- *"Don't let anyone call you **Rabbi**--for you have only one Master, Christ; and all of you are family,"* and went on to say in verse 10,

Ring around the Rabbi



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- Jesus **adopted** only the rabbinic **format**—not the rabbinic **system**
- He **broke** with rabbinic **tradition** when He told His disciples in Matthew 23:8:
- *"Don't let anyone call you **Rabbi**--for you have only one Master, Christ; and all of you are family,"* and went on to say in verse 10,
- *"Neither let them call you **teachers**--for you have only one Teacher, Christ"*

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Every **Jewish disciple dreamed** of becoming a **Rabbi**. The whole **purpose** of **discipleship** was to **end up** a duplicate of the rabbi and become a **Master-Teacher** yourself. **Disciples** couldn't wait to **graduate** and **start** schools **of their own**

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Why did Jesus **deny His disciples** every Jewish boy's **dream** and **reserve** the titles, "**Rabbi,**" "**Master,**" and "**Teacher**" for Himself?

Ring around the Rabbi



Why did Jesus **deny His disciples** every Jewish boy's **dream** and **reserve** the titles, "**Rabbi,**" "**Master,**" and "**Teacher**" for Himself?

Because He didn't want **anyone** to **get** the **wrong** idea about **Him** or **His disciples!**

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Israelites put **rabbis**
on a **pedestal**.

Ring around the Rabbi



Israelites put **rabbis**
on a **pedestal**.

They **looked up** to
them as **heroes** who
had their **spiritual**
act together, **perfect**
specimens of what
God wanted
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Ring around the Rabbi



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In their eyes, **rabbis**
thought, spoke, and
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Ring around the Rabbi



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In their eyes, **rabbis**
thought, spoke, and
did **everything** right.
So, Jewish disciples
idolized their **rabbis**
and **studied** them
rather than **God**,
hoping to become
duplicates
of **them**

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



They called their
teachers, "Master"
and soaked up **all** they
could from them.

Ring around the Rabbi



They called their **teachers, "Master"** and soaked up **all** they could from them.

And when they **completely** mastered their masters, they **graduated** and became **rabbis** themselves

Ring around the Rabbi



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But unlike **Jewish** disciples, Christians **never** master Rabbi Jesus to **graduate** from the School of Christ in **this** lifetime.

Ring around the Rabbi



They called their **teachers, "Master"** and soaked up **all** they could from them.

And when they **completely** mastered their masters, they **graduated** and became **rabbis** themselves

But unlike **Jewish** disciples, Christians **never** master Rabbi Jesus to **graduate** from the School of Christ in **this** lifetime.

Jesus will **always** be the **only** **rabbi** of **His** class.

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Jews believed that studying **someone** who **mastered** his master was as good as studying with his **master**—but Christ rejected the idea

Ring around the Rabbi



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No one—not even a **gifted** Christian **leader, scholar, educator, or speaker** will **ever** get to the place in the **Christian** life that they can say:

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“You don’t need to study my **Master, Jesus** to **become like Him**”

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No one—not even a **gifted** Christian **leader, scholar, educator,** or **speaker** will **ever** get to the place in the **Christian** life that they can say:

“You don’t need to study my **Master, Jesus** to **become like Him**

Studying **me** or **with me**, is just as good as studying **Him** or **with Him!**”

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



And Jesus used the **YOKE**



Ring around the Rabbi



And Jesus used the **YOKE**

The most popular **symbol** of his day
for the **rabbi-disciple connection** to
prove His point

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



The **YOKE** represents a **relationship**
between **two** parties

Ring around the Rabbi



The **YOKE** represents a **relationship** between **two** parties

Farmers used the **YOKE** to **pair-up** an **obedient** ox with an **inexperienced** or **defiant** one, so the oxen could walk **together**, allowing the **obedient** one to **train** the **inexperienced** or **defiant** one to become **just like it**

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



So, when Jesus **invites** us to:
*“Take **my** yoke upon you and learn from **Me**” (Matthew 11:29)*

Ring around the Rabbi



So, when Jesus **invites** us to:
“Take **my** yoke upon you and learn from
Me” (Matthew 11:29)

He offers us a **personal** relationship—
with **Him** as **Rabbi/Teacher** and **us** as His
disciples—so **we** can walk **together** with
Him and **He** can make **us just**
like Himself

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



A disciple can't **wander**, when **yoked** to the rabbi; what's more, walking **side by side, close together**, and **facing the same way**, the master and disciple *synchronize* their steps.

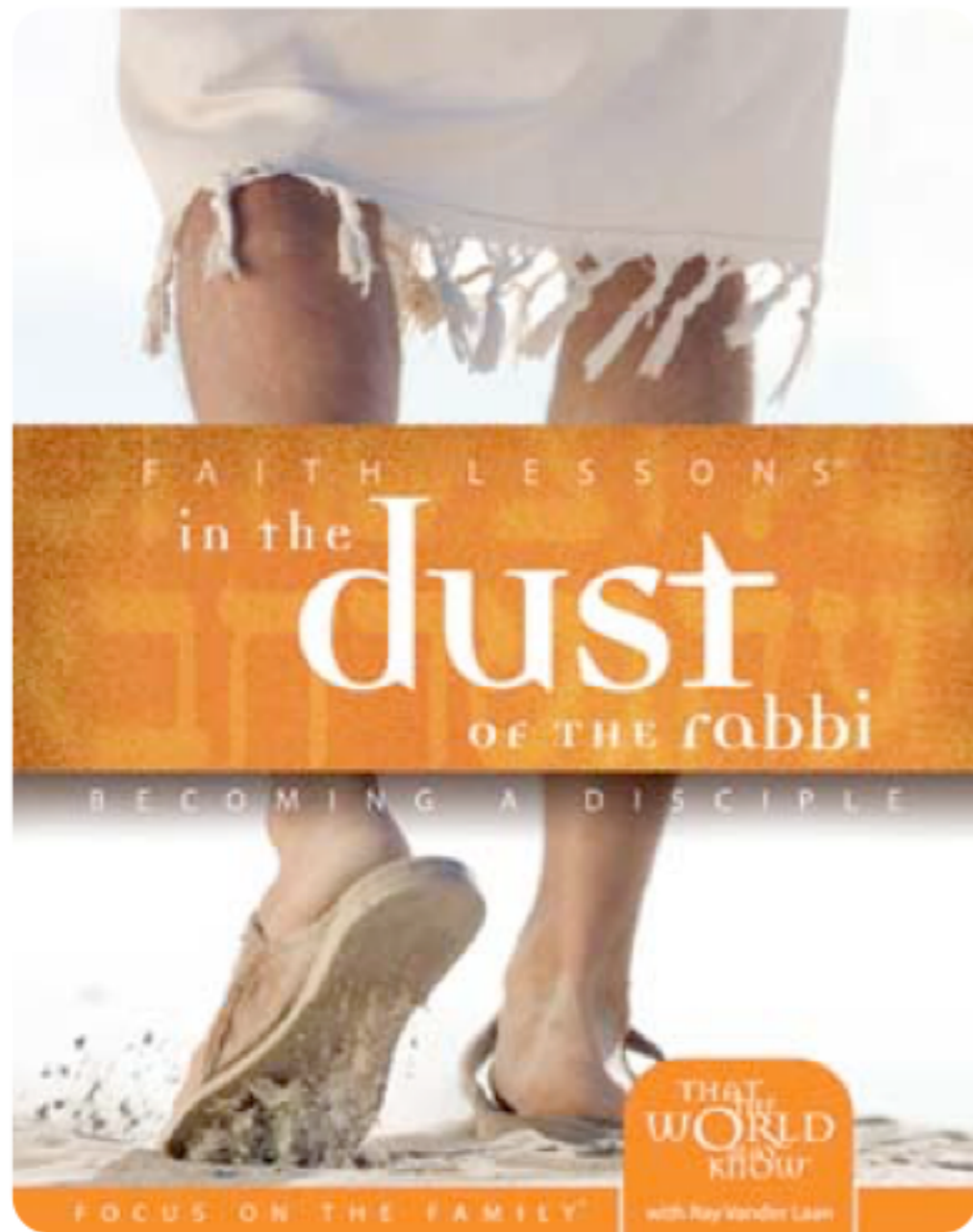
Ring around the Rabbi



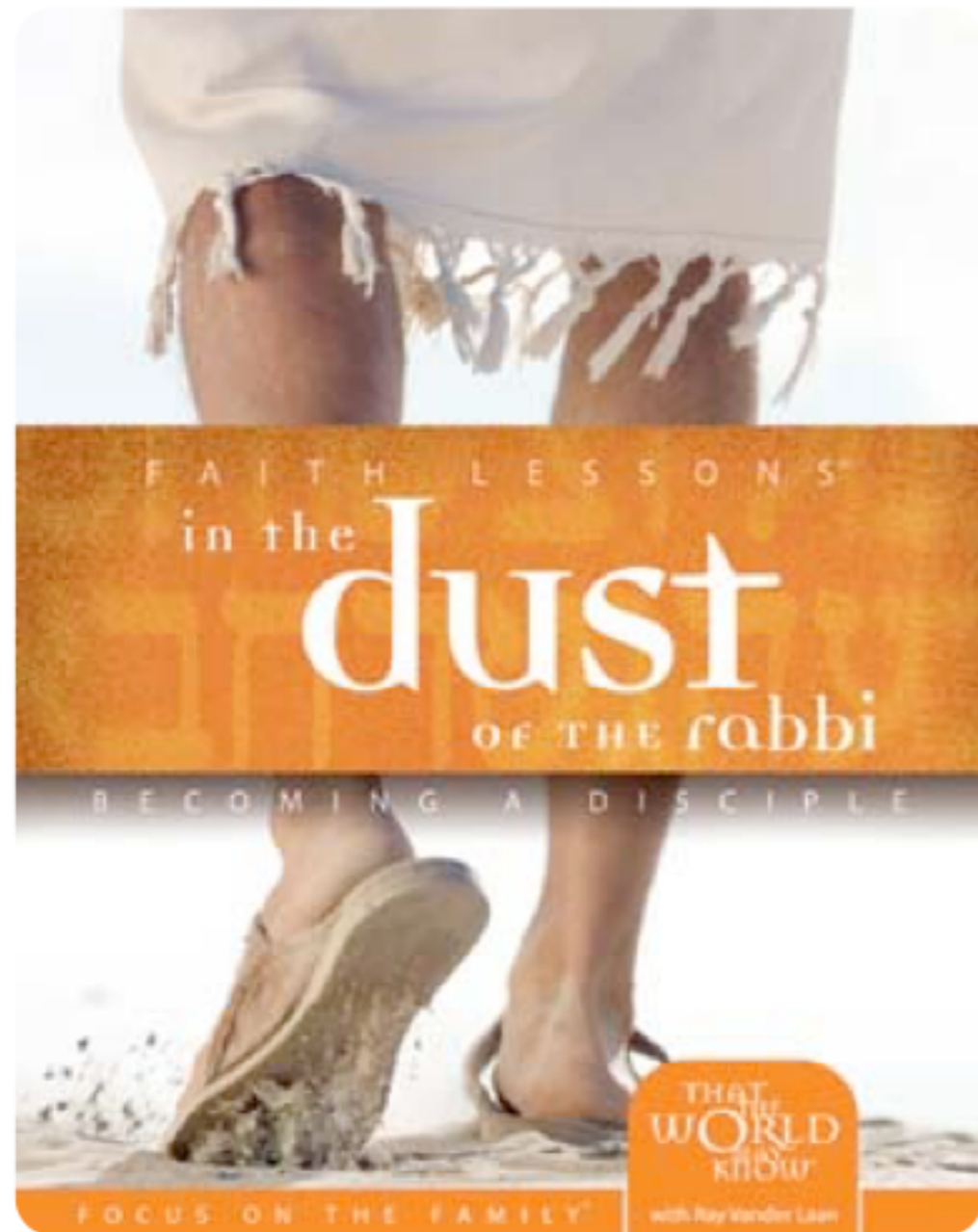
A disciple can't **wander**, when **yoked** to the rabbi; what's more, walking **side by side, close together**, and **facing the same way**, the master and disciple *synchronize* their steps.

"Follow a rabbi, drink in his words, and be covered with the dust of his feet," says the ancient Jewish proverb—because **disciples** followed so **closely**, the **dust** kicked up by their rabbi's feet *clung to* and *covered* them.

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Jesus' **disciples** should follow Him so *closely*, that *nothing* or *no one* gets between **them** and **His dust**. It's the only way to live the Christian life, **now**, and **end up** just like **Him**.

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



As **His** disciples...

Ring around the Rabbi



As **His** disciples...

We **must** step into the **YOKE** with **Him**
and **Him** alone...

Ring around the Rabbi



As **His** disciples...

We **must** step into the **YOKE** with **Him**
and **Him** alone...

Because **He** is the **only one** who can
mold and shape **His disciples** into **duplicates**
of Himself, and so **restore** in us the image
only He shares with the **Trinity**

Ring around the Rabbi



As **His** disciples...

We **must** step into the **YOKE** with **Him**
and **Him** alone...

Because **He** is the **only one** who can
mold and shape **His disciples** into **duplicates**
of Himself, and so **restore** in us the image
only He shares with the **Trinity**
—the image of **God**

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Jesus told His **disciples** not to let anyone call them **Rabbi**, because **discipleship** is the **supernatural process** by which **He** alone, makes **disciples** just like **Himself**.

Ring around the Rabbi



Jesus told His **disciples** not to let anyone call them **Rabbi**, because **discipleship** is the **supernatural process** by which **He** alone, makes **disciples** just like **Himself**.

Mentoring, on the other hand, is the **supervised process** by which **gifted disciples equip, train,** and **coach other disciples,** enabling them to be **better students of Christ**—in the **School of Christ**

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



It's time to join the **ring** of those who **revolve** around Christ, who understand they must have **Him and no other** for their Rabbi-Master-Teacher.

Ring around the Rabbi



It's time to join the **ring** of those who **revolve** around Christ, who understand they must have **Him and no other** for their Rabbi-Master-Teacher.

The only way to **get ready** for the Kingdom is to let **Him prepare** us for it through a transforming, personal relationship with Him, spending time with Him, alone and together, in **prayer** and **study** of His Word.

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



As His disciples we should **bring** prospective students to **Him** so they can check **Him** out and **enroll** in the School of Christ. That's how **classes** grow; it's also the way He has chosen for us to help build His church.

Ring around the Rabbi



As His disciples we should **bring** prospective students to **Him** so they can check **Him** out and **enroll** in the School of Christ. That's how **classes** grow; it's also the way He has chosen for us to help build His church.

As we walk with Him, we can gain the **goodwill** of others and **introduce** them to the Master; but it all **depends** on whether or not we have a personal relationship with Him.

Ring around the Rabbi



Ring around the Rabbi



Don't confuse **joining** a church with **belonging** to **Jesus**, or let **knowing** and **living** right *go to your head*. **Being** right is not enough; it's time to **get** and **stay** right with **Him** through a *personal* relationship

Ring around the Rabbi



Don't confuse **joining** a church with **belonging** to **Jesus**, or let **knowing** and **living** right *go to your head*. **Being** right is not enough; it's time to **get** and **stay** right with **Him** through a *personal* relationship

Turn down *every* alternative to **Him, now**, while you can see the truth clearly, and enter the **School of Christ** to become **His disciple**—otherwise you will **never** complete the mission or become just like **Him** and enter the Kingdom