

Discipleship Seminar

WEEK ONE



INTRODUCTION: Our goals for this evening

1. To clarify what we mean by discipleship by defining it four different ways.
2. To help you put on a mindset of discipleship in every relationship in your life.
3. To help you recognize that you are currently in multiple discipleship relationships that you may or may not be aware of.
4. To teach you to discern what types of discipleship relationships you are in with the people in your life.
5. To show you how to begin to making the most of your discipleship relationships.

Week Two: We will learn practical ways to flourish as a disciple.

Week Three: We will get very specific about how to make disciples who flourish with you.

PRAY

Let's flourish together as we cling to Christ and discover that He is better than everything in every way.

- That is more than just a catchy phrase that you're hearing us say all the time around here..
- It is an open invitation to join the pursuit your heart desperately longs for.
- It is an invitation to do what you were created for.
- It is an invitation to do what you were saved by Jesus to do.
 - Flourish.
 - Grow and mature in a healthy and vigorous way.
 - Flourish together.
 - The Christian faith cannot be done in isolation... Christianity requires community.
 - Let us flourish together as we cling to Christ.
 - That is the life of faith ... learning to put down our idols, distrust, sin, distractions, hindrances, bitterness, and anger so we are free to cling tighter and tighter to Christ.
 - Let us flourish together as we cling to Christ and discover that He is better than everything in every way.
 - This speaks to the supremacy of Christ.
 - Let us discover that He is better than all the sin, idols, comforts, and hobbies that are holding us back from being all in.
- It has taken me 30 years as a follower of Jesus to craft this sentence.
 - To boil down my life's mission and purpose.
 - I am here to invite you to flourish.
 - Let us flourish together as we cling to Christ and discover that He is better than everything in every way.

DEFINITIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP

- What is discipleship? That's why we're all here tonight, to learn about discipleship. So what's discipleship?
- Definition #1: Flourishing together as we cling to Christ and discover that He is better than everything in every way.
 - 2 Timothy 2:1-2 ¹ You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
- Definition #2: (core value) Pursuing a vibrant walk with God and helping others to do the same.
- Definition #3: Find someone [a mature Christian] to follow and be/become someone [a mature Christian] to follow.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.
 - 1 Corinthians 4:16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me.
 - Philippians 3:17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.
 - Philippians 4:9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things...
 - Hebrews 13:7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.
 - 1 Peter 5:2-3 Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.
 - Examples is the Greek work **τύπος** from which we get our English word "TYPE".
 - BDAG: an archetype serving as a model, type, pattern, model.
 - SENSE: A representative example for others to imitate.
- Definition #4: The Four Aspects of Discipleship
 - Aspect 1: A disciple¹ has been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ²

¹ Please note there is no distinction between a Christian and a disciple. The term "Christian" originated as a synonym for "disciple."

- Acts 11:26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

² Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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- Aspect 2: which results in him or her actively denying himself³ and deliberately seeking the ways⁴ of Jesus
 - His character⁵ (fruit of the spirit)
 - His discipline⁶
 - His resolve⁷
 - His wisdom⁸
 - His message⁹
 - His mission¹⁰ - Max Lucado
 - His methods (wait to discuss this under nets)
- Aspect 3: in an effort to follow His ways and become more and more like Jesus¹¹.
- Aspect 4: and intentionally helping others to do the same.
 - This is the point behind the great commission.
 - Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

³ Mark 1:17-20 ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him. Luke 9:23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

⁴ Acts 9:2; Acts 18:24-28; Acts 19:8-10, 23; Acts 22:4; Acts 24:14, 22

⁵ Galatians 5:22-24; Romans 12:9-21; Exodus 20:3-17

⁶ Luke 5:16 ¹⁶ But he would withdraw (present active participle: *often*) to desolate places and pray. See Mark 1:35 and Matthew 14:23 for more examples.

⁷ Luke 2:49; John 6:38

⁸ Luke 2:47; Mark 6:2;

⁹ Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 4:17;

¹⁰ Mark 1:17; Matthew 28:19-20

¹¹ Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 2:5 (NAS or NIV); 1 Cor 4:16; Philippians 3:17; Philippians 4:9; Heb 13:7;

DISCIPLESHIP: Mindset

- As Christians, we must take on a discipleship mindset. This means that we understand ourselves as being both a disciple and a disciple maker.
- Too often we fail to see ourselves as either a disciple, a disciple maker, or both.
- I want to help you see yourself as a disciple maker and help you learn how to become a better, more intentional disciple maker with the relationships that you already have in your life.

NETS: Modeling our Ministry After Jesus' Ministry (Mark 1:17)

Jesus was a fisher of men, but He had various nets of different sizes.

• **The Crowds:**

- This **was** His largest net used with the masses.
- This net consisted of His preaching, teaching, and compassion ministry to the masses.
- This group included both believers and unbelievers.
- What this net might consist of in your life: workplace, neighborhood, extended family, your general sphere of influence that is made up of both believers and unbelievers.
- We may not have that much influence over who is in this net.

• **The Seventy (two):**

- Luke 10.
- Larger net held the 72 disciples.
- What took place in this net? Modeling and instruction intended to exemplify and equip His followers. He literally reproduced aspects of His ministry with these people; they became living likenesses of Jesus.
- Think in terms of your church family when it comes to this net.
- We have some but not much influence regarding who is in this net.

• **The Twelve:**

- This was a small net of select Disciples.
- Matthew 10:1-4; Luke 6:12-16
- Jesus intentionally spent more time with these men than others.
- Think in terms of ABF or Growth Group
- We may or may not have influence over who is in this net.

• **The Three:**

- This was an even smaller net consisting in Jesus' inner circle. He seemed to spend the most time with these three men.
- Why them? Most likely the roles they would play in the church after Jesus' ascension.
 - Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-3)
 - Witnessed Jesus raising Jarius' daughter (Luke 8:49-56)
 - Garden of Gethsemane (Matt (26:36-38)
- We have a lot of say over who is in this net.

• **The One**

- This is the smallest of nets and is reserved for the most intimate of discipleship relationships.
- For Jesus, this was John the Apostle.
 - John 13:23 *...the disciple whom Jesus loved...*
 - John 19:26 *...Dear woman here is your son...*
 - John 21:7 *That disciple whom Jesus loved ...*

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IDENTIFY your nets and who is in them

Examples from Pastor Jeff's Life

NET: Elders & EIT

- Rick
- Ken
- David
- Andy
- Steve

NET: Unbelievers I have regular contact with

- Levi
- Cory
- Asia
- Scotty
- Sam
- Ashley
- Sierra

NET: Immediate Family

- Christine
- Christopher
- Shawn
- Samuel
- Andrew

NET: Church Staff

- Rick
- Steve
- Lindsey
- Jeremy
- Joyce
- Dave

NET: Revelation discipleship study

- Andy
- David
- Mike
- Rick
- Steve
- Josh
- Jeremy

NET: Extended Family

- Adam
- Andrew
- Joyce
- Jonathan

NET: Men I regularly meet with one-on-one

- Rick
- Steve
- Shawn
- David
- Paul
- William

NET: Neighbors

- Clark
- Elizabeth
- Dale
- Shirley
- James
- Crystal
- James
- Marianne

Who's in your net?

NET: Colleagues

NET: Neighbors

NET: Immediate Family

NET: _____

NET: Extended Family

NET: _____

NET: Small Group

CLASSIFYING each person in your nets

P stands for Paul.

- This is a person who is much more spiritually mature than you who lives an exemplary life that you would like to imitate in many respects.

B stands for Barnabas.

- This person is someone who is approximately at the same spiritual maturity level as you that can help spur you on in your relationship with Christ and be real encouragement to you in your faith.

T stands for Timothy.

- This person is a believer who isn't as mature as you in the faith but wants to grow in their walk with Christ and you can help them do that.

H stands for Hell bound

- This person is an unbeliever that will spend eternity in Hell and you possess the gospel message which he or she must believe in order to be rescued. Placing this designation on a person can transform the time you spend with him or her.

Placing these designations on people forces you into a discipleship mindset and helps you become a more efficient fisher of people.

GETTING STARTED: Don't stop now!!!

Once you recognize that everyone you've listed falls into one of your discipleship nets, and once you see that person as either a Paul, Barnabas, Timothy or Hell-bound, you must now prayerfully take the time to answer the following questions:

- How can I intentionally seek to help this person follow Jesus?
- How can/do they intentionally help me follow Jesus?
- What are my "intentions" with this person?
 - What are thoughtful, intentional, lead-in questions I can prayerfully ask this person to bring them closer to Christ?
 - Note: be careful to not be judgmental. People can tell when you are making a condemning, uncharitable judgment about them.