

## What is a Disciple?

### Welcome

**Intro:** Some things are difficult to define, right? Time, beauty, energy, or 6 7. What does that mean? What does the word Disciple mean? This is important because Jesus commanded us...

**Read: Matthew 28:19, "Go and make disciples of all the nations."**

- **Disciple means follower.** The goal of the Christian life is to follow Jesus. We say it this way, **"To be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, and to do what Jesus did."**
- For years I was privately frustrated. I loved Jesus, and I wanted to change, but I seemed unable. Even today, often I feel the internal battle. **Listen to Paul describe this battle.**
- **You are not alone: Romans 7:14- Romans 8:17.** This is the Apostle Paul.

### How do we make disciples? Strategy

#### 1. Be with Jesus.

**Testimony:** I understood what Jesus did for me and accepted Jesus when I was six but did not learn to follow Jesus until I met Dr. Bennett at 24. I went to seminary, preparing to be a pastor, was a Christian but I was not a disciple.

**70% in the Bible belt,** claim to be Christians but few have been taught to follow Jesus.

- **Sharing your faith, I'm a Christian.** That's great. Are you following Jesus? Would you like to learn how? If you are a guest, if you will jump in over the next year you will be amazed.

#### What does it mean to follow Jesus?

- Recognizing my need for Jesus. **Romans 7:21-25**
- By grace, get close to Jesus. **Romans 8:1-4a**
- Learn to live in and be transformed by the presence of Jesus. **Romans 8:4b-14**

#### How do I learn to live in the presence of God?

- o **Spiritual Practices for formation** (Fasting, Bible study, Worship, Serving, Sabbath, Evangelism, Spiritual Gifts, Prayer, Silence and Solitude, Vision, Generosity) (**Community/Groups**)
- o **Tina-** Prayer, good-bye, daily check-in, dinner, chores, nights (TV, games, reading), bedtime, sex, date night, friends, trips, counseling, books, mature couples. 29 years of investing produces a very mature relationship.
- o **Top priority-** my relationship with Jesus touches everything else in my life.

#### 2. Become like Jesus.

**Explain:** You become like the people you spend time with. If you spend time with Jesus and people who are also becoming like Jesus, over time, you will become more like Jesus. Jesus invited to the disciples to follow, into relationship, 24/7. You learned by observing how your Rabi spent his day, what were his priorities, how did he interact with family, Jewish community and culture. It was not just information but formation.

**Illustrate:** This is how I learned from **Dr. Bennett:**

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Giving my mornings to Jesus | - Grace/encouragement         |
| - Reading                     | - Reading the paper           |
| - Value education             | - Getting around great people |
| - Preaching                   | - Dress well                  |
| - Mentoring others            | - Write                       |

**Argue:** **Proverbs 13:20, "Whoever walks with the wise, becomes wise."**

**1 Corinthians 15:33, "Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character."**

**Apply:** Keep pursuing Jesus, in community, and you will become like Him. **Group**

### **3. Do what Jesus did. Matthew 5-7**

**Explain:** The Bible shows us how Jesus lived. That is what we have been studying all year. When I live this way, I live my best life.

**The Culture of Jesus-** An organization's culture is driven by its values. Culture is so important. Culture is the organizational soil our church is growing in.

#### **Campaign Video 2**

- **Jesus is our focus.** As we have already said, if people do not learn to be with Jesus they are unable to behave like Him. Government cannot fix this. We have a spiritual problem, a character problem, and a moral problem and no law can fix it. **Romans 7:4-6.** Not even God's law has the power produce change only God's strategy and God's culture can do that. Therefore, we are focused on Jesus and what Jesus has called us to do.
- **People are our priority.** Churches are sometimes guilty of taking advantage of people to build the church. People become a number, a worker bee without a face or a story. This causes people to feel taken advantage of and devalued. People do not exist to build the church; the church exist to build people. Buildings are only tools that help us reach, disciple, and empower people. At Definition every person matters and every story counts.
- **Authenticity is our aim.** We do not want you to pretend to change but to be honest about your journey, honest about what you are learning and where you are struggling so you can actually change. If you fake it, you will never make it. When we are real, we

experience God's healing grace from Him and each other. We learn through our struggles and we actually change.

**Argue: Matthew 16:6**, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees..."

**Apply:** We know you are not perfect, you do not have to pretend, there is grace, let's help each other actually heal and grow.

- **Generosity is our Privilege.** If we are not generous, we are not following Jesus, because no one is more generous than Jesus.
  - **Luke 19:8-10**
  - **Mark 10:20-23**
  - **Matthew 6:24**
    - General Giving
    - Building Campaign
- **Amen is our Attitude!** We believe God is inviting us to take a step of faith, to build our next campus.
  - **Phase One-** (picture) Upgrade this campus, 37 acres (picture), all the site work, 31k/sqft, 575 seats (Worship space picture), kid's spaces (picture) and office space. 26 million. We have to have 8 million to break ground. Team Effort!
  - **Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>**, pledge, best gift

This culture is what people are so attracted to, why we are running out of space and why we need a new building.

## Invitation