



THE GATHERING WELL

MAKING DISCIPLES IN PRACTICE

A KNOWING JESUS GROWTH GUIDE



MAKING DISCIPLES IN PRACTICE

01 INVITING, ENCOURAGING,
CHALLENGING

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THE HEART OF *knowing Jesus*

The Gathering Well uses these three focus areas of Spiritual Formation to support our approach to the journey of faith.



BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Communication with God is our starting point. Any resources with this icon are designed to support and equip you to pray, using Scripture as our primary lens and providing questions and prompts to encourage you to talk with God consistently.



STUDY THE BIBLE

All of our resources are anchored in the truth of God's Word. This icon will indicate spaces where you will engage the scriptures. We seek to provide educational resources and tools that will help God's Word come alive to you.



BUILD COMMUNITY

We believe that the life of faith is expressed in community, not isolation. Resources and prompts marked with this icon are geared toward reminding you that we are designed to be in relationship with God and with others.

REMINDERS



Our prayer as believers is that the Lord would transform our hearts and lives as we grow in our knowledge of Jesus. We ask the Holy Spirit to transform what we know about Jesus into what we love about Him. As this transformation occurs inside of us, our prayer is that it would transform the world around us. The practice of disciple-making is a part of how we change the world. **We help fill the world with people who know, love, and are transformed by Jesus when we participate with God in making disciples.**

TO BECOME DISCIPLE MAKERS, WE MUST BE ROOTED IN CHRIST.

- Stay rooted in your own spiritual formation: being formed by the Spirit of Christ to be more like Christ – so that we may follow Him and live as He did.
- Stay rooted in your own discipleship: following Jesus, living life as He did, and, as we do, seeking, inviting, and teaching others to do the same.
- Stay rooted in prayer: Prayer should stay at the center of your desire to make disciples.
- Stay rooted in Bible study: Bible study is a great place to spend your time and certainly your time with others.
- Stay rooted in community: Build and grow in community with those who know Jesus and those who don't yet know Him.

REFLECT

How can you make disciples that bring their questions to the Lord *first*, for answers in prayer and in God's Word?

PARTICIPATION IN MAKING DISCIPLES



When we participate in disciple-making, we are invited to enter into relationships to teach people who Jesus is, to follow all He has shown us, and to continue to grow in relationship with Him as we do.

We point to Matthew 28:18–20, a set of verses often referred to as **The Great Commission**. Here, Jesus invites those who follow Him to do as He did, co-laboring with Him to help others know the Father.

“

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



As you begin to think about how to make disciples of people around you, **go to God in prayer now** and ask Him to remind you of **how He has used others to help make you a disciple of Jesus**. Write down your reflections, focusing on who, what, where, when, and how.

We have the opportunity everyday to make disciples of the people around us. Through the life of Jesus, we see a replicable example of disciple-making. In this guide, we'll present some approaches to disciple-making we see modeled in the life of Jesus. In every instance, the intention is the same – **focus on your growing relationship with Jesus and invite others to focus on theirs**. Doing this, together, is a display of Biblical community.

INVITING, ENCOURAGING, CHALLENGING



INVITE

You can invite people around you to grow in their relationship with Him **by growing in relationship with you and others.**

- An invitation to share a meal or a moment.
- An invitation to spend time together.
- An invitation to hear and discuss the Gospel of Jesus.

ENCOURAGE

You can encourage people around you to grow in their relationship with Him **by reminding them of God's truth.**

- Encourage others to pray about their questions and circumstances.
- Encourage others to study God's word with you or others to search for truth.
- Encourage others by sharing how God's truth has changed/is changing your own life.

CHALLENGE

You can challenge people to grow in their relationship with Him **by seeking God's best.**

- Challenge others in love and humility.
- Challenge others when they've invited you into a place they might be struggling and trust you to help them.
- Challenge others by simply asking, "is this God's best for you?" Without expecting to give them the "right" answer to that question.

REFLECT

Think of a time when someone invited, encouraged, or challenged you in your growing relationship with Jesus.

How did that impact you?



TIME FOR PRAYER

Use the space below to pray and reflect on how you can take a step of inviting, encouraging, and challenging to help draw someone near to Jesus.

Who is someone you can invite to grow in relationship with you and with others? How will you invite them?

Who is someone you can encourage by reminding them of God's truth. How will you remind them?

Who is someone you can challenge to seek God's best in their life? How will you challenge them?

PRAYING, LOVING, LISTENING



PRAY

Your best strategy of disciple-making is prayer. Intentionally praying for others who know Jesus and who don't yet know Him is how we surrender to the Holy Spirit instead of ourselves to make disciples.

- Pray that God shows you who to pursue in a relationship.
- Pray that God shows you how to pursue them.
- Pray that God will help you show and tell about Jesus more than about yourself.

LOVE

Your best posture in disciple-making is love. We can love others in a way that we want what's best for them without crossing boundaries that lead to unhealthy relationships.

- Love with your eyes fixed on Jesus, not on shortcomings of yourself or others.
- Love with your hands open, not closed around an illusion of control over someone or a circumstance.
- Love with your own need for Jesus in mind, relying on the Spirit and not on yourself or others.

LISTEN

Your best action step in disciple-making is listening. There is a temptation to tell others what to do, to give opinions, or to recount personal experiences without pointing back to Jesus.

- Pay attention to the heart of the matter.
 - What core fears or motivations is someone willing to share with you that you can specifically come alongside them in?
 - How can you point to scripture and God's character?
- Pay attention to everyday life.
 - What parts of life can we say are "okay" or "fine", but are really a glimpse of a deeper need?
 - How can you and/or others serve to meet a tangible need as a result?



TIME FOR PRAYER

Use the space below to pray and reflect on how you can take a step of praying, loving, and listening to help draw someone near to Jesus.

How can you utilize prayer as a strategy for disciple-making? Use this space to personalize and expand on one of the prayers from the previous page.

How can you have a posture of love when considering disciple-making? Use this space to write a prayer asking the Lord to help you love in one of the ways listed on the previous page.

How can you take an action step of listening when considering disciple-making? Use this space to write a prayer asking the Lord to give you a heart that is quick to listen and slow to speak.

FORMAL RELATIONSHIPS



Choosing to engage in a formal disciple-making relationship is **inviting others to follow Jesus utilizing a strategy, structure, and specific accountability steps.**

Below are some considerations for engaging in a formal disciple-making relationship



BE IN AGREEMENT

You will want to have **intentional conversations** that make clear the invitation and opportunity to be in a formal disciple-making relationship. Pray for clarity on who to be in formal relationship with and encourage them to do the same.



CONSIDER THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE

If you're pursuing more than one person or a small group, consider what will be manageable for time, scheduling, and intentionality. Most would recommend 2 - 4 people if meeting in groups. **Focus on who God is leading you to be in formal disciple-making relationships with, not on a specific number of people.**



DETERMINE A STRUCTURE & SCHEDULE

You'll want to discuss and agree on the structure of your time together and an attainable schedule. Consider the following questions:

1. How often will you meet?
2. What materials or resources will you use to engage with the Bible together?

No matter what you choose, honor one another with clear and agreed upon expectations.

If you aren't sure where to start, we'd love to provide you with some intentional resources to provide structure and support to your time together. Email us at connect@thegatheringwell.org to connect with someone from our team!

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

Read these passages about Paul and Timothy and answer the questions below.

Acts 16:1-52 | Timothy 1:1-52 | Timothy 3:10-14

Write down some observations from these passages about the relationship between Paul and Timothy. What stands out to you?

Who comes to mind when you think about Paul and Timothy's relationship? Do you feel like you're ready to be a Paul, or do you wish someone would be your Paul?

Formal relationships are not a requirement of disciple-making, but can be helpful for intentional accountability. Pray and ask the Lord if a formal relationship is for you. If you feel the Holy Spirit leading you, write down 1 or 2 specific steps you can take towards initiating this type of relationship (you can be a Paul or a Timothy).

EVERYDAY RELATIONSHIPS



When we are thoughtful in pursuing disciple-making in our everyday relationships, we **follow Jesus and invite others to do the same in organic everyday opportunities.**

Below are some considerations for engaging in disciple-making in everyday relationships.

CONSTANT PRAYER

A first step, and ongoing step, in making disciples is prayer. Pray for those who know Jesus to be open to invitations and have a desire to make invitations with others. Pray for those who don't yet know Jesus to be open to invitations and to give you the opportunity to share the gospel with them in these moments.

SHARE LIFE TOGETHER

We have the opportunity to remind each other of God's truth when we are living life together. Living intentionally is influenced by circumstance, location, and stages of life. **Ask God to bring people to mind that you can invite to share a meal together, meet for a walk, or share other meaningful moments (birthdays, celebrations, events) with.** Living life isolated, too busy, or avoiding opportunities to share in our everyday lives leaves little room to remind or be reminded of God's truth as a result of a life lived in community.

BE VULNERABLE

Your own vulnerability will challenge others to consider looking at their own areas of sin struggles, patterns of self-reliance, and places they're grappling with trust in God. Asking yourself, "am I living God's best for me?" Sharing that answer (past or present) with others, gives an example to follow. When others can trust your vulnerability, they can trust you to ask them; "is this God's best for you?"

REFLECT

When has someone else's vulnerability and intentional invitation in everyday life encouraged you in your relationship with Jesus?

BLESS IT.

Engaging in intentional everyday disciple-making can be as easy B-L-E-S-S. The story in Luke 10 supports this BLESS strategy and will give you practical action steps for pursuing those around you.

BLESS

BEGIN

BEGIN WITH PRAYER. As you engage with those around you, how can you have eyes to see and ears to hear opportunities to pray for others in your everyday life?

LISTEN

LISTEN. Often we have a desire to share our thoughts and opinions instead of listening intently to those around us. How can you create space in your everyday life to be able to stop and listen to others as you are going?

EAT

EAT. Throughout scripture we see that sharing meals is a key way to engage in “one-anothering”. What would it look like for you to create a consistent rhythm of sharing meals with others in your everyday life?

SERVE

SERVE. There are always opportunities to serve, but sometimes it is difficult for us to see how we can help without a specific invitation. Use the space below to brainstorm some ways that you can be prepared to serve people in your everyday life.

SHARE

SHARE. We have the opportunity to be prepared to share Jesus and to share our story with those around us. Write a short prayer that you can pray each day to invite the Holy Spirit to lead you in being prepared to share.

JOT DOWN ANY IDEAS OR THOUGHTS THIS *BLESS* STRATEGY BRINGS TO MIND:



HE SEES ME HERE

Still thinking? Still reflecting? Have questions? Here you go: use this page as you wish for your own prayers and musings.



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Helping Everyday People Become Everyday
Leaders Who Know, Follow and Grow with Jesus.

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