

We are a Discipleship Community Church, a Community on Purpose-- part 2

August 15, 2021

DAY 1: What is discipleship?

1. Jesus begins His ministry by calling twelve men to become disciples. What is the essence of what a disciple is and does? Jot down your answers for the next three verses.

John 1:43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

Mark 2:14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

John 10:27 (Jesus) "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."

2. There are folks who want to follow Jesus. What do each need to understand about following Jesus? In the following three episodes, what do we learn about discipleship?

Luke 9:57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Luke 9:59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

3. At its very core, discipleship is learning both by being taught and by following the example presented to you.

*Mark 3:14 And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might **be with him** and he might send them...*

4. The simplest way to think about discipleship is the "with him" principle. We learn by watching and emulating.

5. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 2: The cost of discipleship

Luke 14:25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:

1. If you had been Jesus and large crowds were following you and your teaching, what would you have wanted to say to them?

2. While we might have been tempted to “sign up” as many as possible, Jesus took the opposite approach!

Luke 14:26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

3. What is Jesus telling us about being a disciple?

Luke 14:27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

4. What is Jesus telling us about being a disciple?

Luke 14:33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

5. What is Jesus telling us about being a disciple?

6. Just in case the folks hearing this teaching missed the point, Jesus illustrates what’s He’s saying with two stories.

Luke 14:28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

Luke 14:31 “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

7. There is a very important principle about discipleship, following Jesus, that Jesus teaches here. What is He saying? Put it in your own words.

8. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 3: How does discipleship happen?

1. Discipleship can take on different forms.

2. One kind of discipleship is “formal discipleship.” This is what Jesus did in calling the twelve to be with him. Their commitment was to follow Him, learn from Him and “watch Him in action.” They were learning, not just from his teaching, but were also being shaped by His values and character.

2 Timothy 2:2...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.

3. Paul is instructing Timothy to be intentional about his discipleship. This is an example of *formal discipleship*.

a. Who are the different people represented in this verse?

b. This verse highlights four possible “generations” of discipleship. Who are the four generations?

c. Paul is describing his teaching and by inference his example (“in the presence of many witnesses”)

4. Another kind of discipleship is “informal discipleship.” Informal discipleship occurs through the power of example. We have opportunities to learn, not just by listening to a sermon or bible teaching, but also watching someone else’s example of living.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise men becomes wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

5. For example, you may learn some great principles about marriage from a good bible teacher. Additionally, you may see and be motivated by someone’s example of marriage.

6. Have you had one or more powerful examples in your life that you have sought to emulate? Who? In what ways were you taught and/or motivated by their example?

7. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 4: Why is discipleship done in community?

1. After studying the nature of discipleship, you may assume that the best way to grow is to find someone farther down the road than you and follow their example, and learn from them. That's a good idea.
2. But it's not a big enough idea.
3. The church is made up of many different people. Every Christian reflects something of the life of Christ through their life, example, values, character, relating and demeanor.
4. God has surrounded us with what C.S. Lewis called "little Christs." God's people each portray something of the wonder of Christ.
5. Informal discipleship is always happening even when we're not aware of it.
6. Someone's example becomes a "hidden curriculum" of sorts, that is until we can put words to how someone's example motivates us, or shows us how to move forward with Jesus.
7. In each of the passages below, jot down what strikes you about discipleship and the power of example:

1 Cor. 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

1 Tim. 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Philippians 4:8 And what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 3:17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

8. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: A case study of discipleship

1. The book of Titus was written by the apostle Paul to young Titus, who was on the island of Crete in the Mediterranean Sea.
2. If you read this short book you'll discover that Titus had his hands full leading the churches.

Titus 1:5 This is why I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you, ⁶ if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷ For an elder, as God's steward, must be above reproach; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of goodness, master of himself, upright, holy, and self-controlled; ⁹ he must hold firm to the sure word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it.

3. Titus was to appoint elders in the churches. As you read this list of qualifications, how many of these aspects are:

Ministry skills? _____

Knowledge? _____

Character qualities? _____

4. In chapter two, Paul gives specific learning outcomes for four different kinds of people. Underline each group.

Titus 2:1 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. ⁶ Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

5. What strikes you about this passage of scripture as regards discipleship and Christian growth?

6. What is both instructed and implied is that the process of discipleship, whether formal or informal is how most people grow to be like Jesus!

Titus 2:7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

7. Paul calls Titus to higher standards, as well. The example of Titus, in the ministry to the churches in Crete was of utmost importance!
8. We are a learning community, a teaching community and an exemplifying community!
9. What strikes you about discipleship from this week's devotionals?