Harvester Christian Church

Life Groups | **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

FOLLOW THE LEADER | A DISCIPLE WHO DISCIPLES OTHERS

**WEEK 4**

The word “disciple” is both a noun and a verb. We have spent the last few weeks explaining that, as a noun, a disciple is one who “knows and follows Jesus, is being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus.” When used as a verb, “disciple” means to help someone else grow in their faith and become a better follower of Jesus. That’s the topic of our study this week. We want to be disciples who disciple others.

Once we make a commitment to being disciple-makers, we then have to consider *how* we go about doing that. Many have made the case that the best way to learn how to disciple another person is to look to the example of Jesus. That is to say, we can learn a great deal not only from the teaching of Jesus, but also from His *methodology.* We’re going to focus our attention this week on scriptures that reveal how Jesus made disciples.

**How Jesus Made Disciples**

**He focused on a few, not the crowds.**

Because of the urgency and enormity of the task, one might assume that Jesus’ strategy would be to preach before the largest crowds possible as often as possible. He seemed to go about it a different way. In Matthew 5-7, Jesus preached before a large crowd.

What did he do before that in Matthew 4:18-22?

After his sermon, Matthew 8:1 indicates that the crowds followed Him. What was His response to the crowds in Matthew 8:18?

Why you think he was focusing His attention on a few rather than the masses?

Why do you think He invested three years in training this small group of men?

**He shared knowledge and stressed application.**

Jesus was always teaching. Sometimes large crowds were the audience but often it was just a chosen few that he taught as they traveled from place to place. He taught not just to make people wiser, but with the expectation that they would take His words to heart and change their behavior and attitudes accordingly.

What did he say about the importance of application in Matthew 7:24-27?

**He modeled the behavior He wanted them to emulate.**

As Jesus spent time with these men, He was constantly modeling for them the behavior He wanted them to learn. Please read and summarize the following passages about a couple of these behaviors.

John 13:1-17

Luke 23:32-34

Why is it so critical that people see behavioral patterns in a mentor that is consistent with his/her instructions?

**He delegated important tasks to them when they were ready.**

Jesus gathered disciples to Himself who could be influenced, trained, and then sent out. Part of the task of discipleship is empowering other disciples to serve and do their part to build the kingdom. Please read and summarize the following passages that deal with Jesus’ habit of delegating and sending.

Matthew 10:1-20

Matthew 28:19-20

John 17:14-18

**Group Discussion**

Why do you think Jesus seemed to focus so much of His time and attention on a handful of men instead of the large crowds?

Who, if anyone, would you credit for discipling you? Who is primarily responsible for helping you grow in your faith up to this point?

What were some of the key ways in which they influenced you? What specifically did they do that helped you to grow spiritually?

Who have you discipled in the past or are currently discipling?

Who do you think God has placed in your sphere of influence that you could begin discipling?

What would you say are some of the barriers that keep us from getting serious about being disciples who can disciple others?

Is there anything else from the homework or teaching time you’d like to discuss?