

Growing One Another: Discipleship in The Church

Session Two: The Definition of Discipleship

Getting Started

1. What comes into your mind when you think about “discipleship”? Is it a good thing or a bad thing?

Main Idea

Discipleship means growing as followers of Jesus and helping others to do the same.

Digging In

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus calls people to leave everything and follow him. Read all of the following passages aloud:

Matt 4:18-20

Matt 9:9

Matt 16:24-25

John 12:25-26

1. Based on these passages, what does it mean to follow Jesus? List as many things as you can think of below.
2. Does following Jesus mean that we must leave our jobs or other responsibilities, as Peter, Andrew, and Matthew all did? Explain your answer from Scripture.
3. According to these passages, is following Jesus easy?

...Let’s consider another passage of Scripture that helps to define discipleship. At the very end of the book of Matthew, Jesus gives his eleven disciples the charge which has come to be known as the Great Commission.

4. What does Jesus say has been given to him (v.18)? What does that require of us?
5. What does Jesus command his disciples to do? How are they to do it (vv. 19-20)?
6. Do you think this passage applies to believers today, or was it only for the eleven disciples? Explain your answer from the text.
7. What encouragement does Jesus give us in this task of making disciples (v. 20)?
8. What are some things that could cause us to be discouraged as we seek to make disciples? How does Jesus's promise to be with us help us during those times?
9. We typically associate this passage with cross-cultural missions, which is certainly something that this passage requires. But is that this passage's only application? What do you think?

As we've seen in this passage, Jesus's followers are to obey all of his commands, which include this command to go and make disciples. This means that all disciples of Jesus are to work to make other disciples of Jesus, first by proclaiming the good news of the gospel to them, and then, for those who respond in faith, teaching them to do everything that Jesus has commanded.

To be a follower of Jesus is to help others grow as followers of Jesus.

10. Do you think about every single area of your life through the lens of being a follower of Jesus? What's one area in your life in which you struggle to follow Jesus?

Here's one practical way for you to follow up on the last question. Do you know a believer who sets a godly example in the area of discipleship you struggle with?

- If so, ask if you can get together with this person and discuss this matter. God means for us to grow through the help of others.
 - If not, ask around at church until you find someone who does!
11. Have you considered that a normal part of being a follower of Jesus is helping others grow as followers of Jesus? What are some ways this truth should impact:
 - a. Your daily schedule?
 - b. How you approach going to church on Sunday?
 - c. Casual conversations with friends?
 - d. Other areas of your life?