

LEADERS GATHERING

Characteristics of Discipling Like Jesus

BIG IDEA:

From the beginning, God has had a desire for multiplication. His original charge to Adam and Eve was to be fruitful and multiply. In the original Hebrew language “and multiply” is the word “rabah” (raw-baw) and it means to increase or make great. During His earthly ministry, Jesus echoed the desire of His Father to see the Kingdom of God made great and enlarged through His disciples. His is our greatest example of multiplying the Kingdom of God.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

- 2 Timothy 2:2
 - Matthew 4:18-22
 - Luke 9:1-17
 - Matthew 28:18-20
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Discipleship Topic: Three Characteristics of Discipling Like Jesus

1. Jesus **CALLED** Them

- Matthew 4:18-22
- OUT OF THEIR NORMAL. Peter and Andrew were fishermen by trade. Jesus saw the potential in them to be fishers of men. You have to see the potential in those you lead to see something outside of their “normal.”

- OUT OF THEIR COMFORT. Someone once said a rut is just a grave with both ends knocked out! If we're not careful, life could pass us by having done nothing for Jesus.

2. Jesus **COACHED** Them

- Luke 18:15-17
- *Coaching is CORRECTING*. When little children were brought to Jesus His disciples scolded the parents for bothering Jesus, but He corrected them and gave them a great truth about the kingdom of God. Correcting a wrong attitude or action can become a teaching moment for those we are leading.
- *Coaching is DIRECTING*. Chapter 9 contains a few of many moments when Jesus directed His disciples in ministry. Sending them out in verses 1-6, feeding the five-thousand in verses 10-17, and in verses 21-27 told His followers to pick up their cross and follow Him. As you lead, you have the advantage of experience. A great part of leadership is taking people where you have already been.
- *Coaching is ENCOURAGING*. In Matthew 6:31-34, Jesus encouraged His disciples not to worry about temporal things but to keep the kingdom of God the main thing and all those things that they were concerned about will be taken care of. As you lead others you will often need to prop up someone struggling with an encouraging word or scripture.

3. Jesus **COMMISSIONED** Them

- In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commissioned His disciples and reminded them that all authority belonged to Him, in heaven and on Earth. He has all authority and has given us authority to preach the gospel, heal the sick, and even raise the dead! A great part of making disciples is helping them understand they have been empowered by Christ and do what He has called them to do.

EVANGELISM BIG IDEA:

One mission we are to have is to bring all people into the life, family, and purpose of God. The key word is "bring." If we are not bringing people with us on our walk of faith, we are not fulfilling this mission. But bringing people is not as simple as it sounds! How do I approach someone with confidence? What if someone rejects my invitation? Will it be awkward moving forward?

Evangelism Topic: Be a Bringer

Successful bringers put three principles into practice: prayer, persistence, and appeal. When we pray before divine influence with people, determine to be persistent with every opportunity, and intentionally create an appealing relationship, our efforts will come to fruition!

1. PRAYER

- Prayer is the supernatural element of bringing people. When we witness, we don't do so alone. We partner with the Holy Spirit, we are a vessel for God's power.
- "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim the message clearly, as I should." Colossians 4:2-4
- God is the SOURCE of all evangelistic opportunities. He goes ahead of us and prepares the heart to receive the Gospel. He controls the timing of the Word so it is received exactly when needed.
- God gives CLARITY to the speaker. In the moment, the Holy Spirit will speak through you and give you the words to say. He will supernaturally do this regardless of your speaking ability.

2. PERSISTENCE

- God controls the timing of divine encounters. He determines when the seeds are planted and when the harvest comes to fruition. Our responsibility is to make the most of our opportunities.
- "Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity." Colossians 4:5
- You are responsible to take the OPPORTUNITY, but you are not responsible for the OUTCOME. Every person we encounter is at a different point in their journey with Jesus. Often, we will share the Gospel and it will not be received immediately. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit will confirm to them privately at a later time, using a life circumstance.
- Nevertheless, always be aware of the chance to share the truth. The Holy Spirit is always prompting and will use the words we speak.

3. APPEAL

- Our attitude, lifestyle, and character are as much a statement as our words. If we are unappealing people, why should they believe what we say?
- "Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone." Colossians 4:6
- Appealing ATTITUDE: When we share the Gospel, our words should be full of grace. Don't walk away from them if they don't come to church with you - make your love unconditional.
- Appealing CHARACTER: The lost should see Christ reflected in us with integrity.
- Appealing LIFESTYLE: Our actions should match our words. This is our testimony - that our very lives have been changed by what we believe!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you remember when a leader first "called out" the potential in your life? What was that like for you?
2. When giving correction as a leader, what steps can you take to make sure that correction is received well?
3. Why do some people resist the "commissioning" step? How can you encourage people to step out and begin leading themselves?
4. Why do we often make "bringing" people more complicated or difficult than it really is?
5. Share a moment when you had to be persistent in sharing the Gospel with someone.