



**40 DAYS
OF DISCIPLE-MAKING
JOURNAL**

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6 WEEK STUDY

BE A DISCIPLE WHO MAKES DISCIPLES



40 DAYS OF DISCIPLE-MAKING JOURNAL

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40 Days Of Disciple-Making Journal

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40 DAYS OF DISCIPLE-MAKING JOURNAL

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM THIS STUDY

God has done some amazing things in 40 days! Noah was instructed to build an ark to preserve the human race prior to God flooding the earth with rain for 40 days. Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai. The Israelite spies took 40 days to spy out Canaan. Goliath taunted King Saul's army for 40 days before David arrived to slay him. Elijah traveled for 40 days when he fled to Mount Horeb from Jezebel. Jesus' public ministry began with 40 days of prayer and fasting while He was tempted by Satan in the Judean wilderness. Jesus' public ministry ended with 40 days of encouraging and commissioning His disciples from the time of His Resurrection to the Ascension. What could these next 40 days hold in store for you?

The *40 Days of Disciple-Making Journal* is a resource for small groups or individuals who have a desire to study the life of Christ and go deeper in understanding what it means to [BE a disciple who makes disciples](#). This resource has been developed as a 6 week / 40 day study, but can be adapted to a longer time frame, depending on the needs and interests of the group.

The *40 Days of Disciple-Making Journal* is designed as a companion resource to Sonlife's [4 Chair Discipling Seminar](#) and [4 Chair Discipling book](#) so that churches or youth groups can use these resources together for a comprehensive ministry-wide disciple-making journey through large group teaching, small group discussion and personal study.

Each week of this study begins with an introductory overview of that week's emphasis. Each day of the study will take approximately 20 minutes to complete and includes an *Apart from Him* prayer prompt and a *Walking As Jesus* disciple-making application. And remember, this is a journal. Use your pen freely. Fill the pages with your own thoughts, words, insights and questions.

The *4 Chair Discipling Inventory* is a tool designed to help you discover which Chair you're at in the disciple-making process and what your next steps might be to move to the next Chair. The Inventory is included in this Journal and can be taken at the beginning of your study to help you understand your starting point on this journey. It can also be taken at the end of your study to help you see the progress you've made in your disciple-making journey.

For over 40 years, we have been studying the life of Christ, encouraging and equipping others to walk as Jesus walked and make disciples as Jesus did. Our prayer is that you will take a fresh look at Jesus as our model for how God intended us to live life. Hebrews 3:1 in *The Message* version of the Bible challenges us:

"Take a good hard look at Jesus. He's the centerpiece of everything we believe."

So let's do just that! Together, let's embark on a disciple-making journey with Jesus as our guide.

NOTE: How can you best use the eBook version of this resource?

1. Read each day's eBook journal entry with your Bible, a journal notebook and a pen in hand.

2. When you come to a question in the eBook, write down the question with your response in your journal, along with the Scripture reference if you're journaling about a particular verse.

3. At the end of each day's journal entry, be sure to write out your disciple-making plan for that day. At the end of the day, you can look back and write down what you saw God do that day.

*Look for the printed version of the *40 Days of Disciple-Making Journal* in the Fall of 2018.

WEEK ONE // JESUS AS OUR MODEL



Our study will begin by looking at the person of Jesus. Our understanding of Him is crucial to our understanding of what it means to be and make disciples. Misconceptions about the person of Jesus can lead us down the wrong path in our disciple-making journey or leave us feeling inadequate for the challenge ahead.

The Trinity

Jesus is a member of the Trinity. God is three Persons, yet One. God the Father. God the Son. God the Holy Spirit. All three equally God, yet all three distinct. It's a mystery we see reflected from the very beginning of the Bible when God says, "Let *us* make man in *our* image, in *our* likeness..." all the way through to the Gospels when Jesus told His disciples to "baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The Incarnation

Jesus was both fully God and fully man. He was not merely God in a human body, nor a man with God-like qualities. He was *fully* God, *fully* man. God the Son becoming man in the person of Jesus is what we call the *incarnation*. As a man, Jesus had a body, mind, emotions and will just like you and me, and yet He was at the same time fully God. This is a mystery too big for our minds to grasp.

The Gospels

The Gospels aren't merely stories with a moral, they are in fact history... His Story! Jesus was a real person who lived in a real time and a real place with real people. Each of the Gospel writers tells the story of Jesus from their unique vantage point, writing to a unique audience. It is generally accepted that the four Gospels were written in the order we read them in our Bible.

The Gospel of Matthew was written by the tax collector turned disciple and eventual apostle, Matthew.

The Gospel of Mark was written by John Mark, though many believe he was merely the scribe and the Apostle Peter was the author.

The Gospel of Luke was written by first century physician and historian, Luke. As a historian, he set out to write 'an orderly account' and thus helps form our chronology for the Life of Christ. The Gospel of Luke is the life of Jesus through the eyes of many eyewitnesses, including Mary, the mother of Jesus.

The Gospel of John was written by the youngest of the twelve apostles, John, who outlived all the others. John's Gospel is our most intimate look at Jesus through the eyes of his closest friend.

The Person of Jesus

Jesus was the promised Messiah of the Jewish people. He was born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth, of the tribe of Judah and the line of David. Jesus lived under the oppressive rule of the Roman Empire, which created a longing and an expectation for a savior, the Messiah, to deliver his people from their enemies. Jesus was not the conquering hero the people of Israel had expected, but instead came as a suffering servant to model a new way of thinking and living. Jesus' model, mission, motive and message was centered on the kingdom of God.

WALKING AS JESUS WALKED

*“Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did..” 1
John 2:6*

The phrase ‘What Would Jesus Do?’ became popular among Christians in the United States in the 1990’s. WWJD bracelets, necklaces, bookmarks, plaques and coffee mugs were everywhere. It was a marketing bonanza! The idea was simple. Before you do or say anything, simply ask yourself, “What would Jesus do?” Then just do it! The movement was inspired by Charles Sheldon’s 1896 book, *In His Steps*, subtitled *What Would Jesus Do?* In the fictional book, Sheldon tells the story of the transformation that takes place in one person’s life, and as a result, in their church and in their community, as a result of asking this simple question.

Now I have a confession to make. I wore a WWJD bracelet. As a youth pastor, I bought the WWJD curriculum and taught it to my students. It was both inspiring and convicting. In fact, I ordered an entire bag of WWJD bracelets so all my students could wear one.

But what if ‘What Would Jesus Do?’ was the wrong question to ask. Instead of WWJD, wouldn’t we be better served to consider WDJD. Shouldn’t we be asking, “What Did Jesus Do?”

We often look at the Gospels as a collection of stories about Jesus. In them, we find the message of Jesus. We see what He taught. We marvel at His words. Maybe we find the methods of Jesus. We see what He did. We are amazed by His miracles. And so we're in awe and we worship Him as our Lord. But imitating Jesus? Now that's impossible, right?

But look at what Jesus said to his disciples.

"I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."

John 13:15

What were Jesus' expectations of His followers?

We need to see Jesus for more than just His message and His methods. We need to see Him as our model. More than just modeling *what* to say and *what* to do, Jesus modeled *how* to live.

Read 1 John 2:6.

Re-write this verse in your own words.

It's impossible to ask 'What would Jesus do?' and truly do it without first asking 'How did Jesus live?' and following His model. How did Jesus relate to the Father? What were His habits and priorities? What were the convictions that guided His habits and priorities? How did what Jesus would say and do flow out of who He was?

From what you know of Jesus' life on earth, write down some thoughts on how you think Jesus walked (lived). How was Jesus

able to do what He did?

For those of us who feel like it is an impossible challenge to 'walk as Jesus walked,' listen to His words to the disciples who were with Him day after day for three and a half years and witnessed His radical love, amazing teaching and awe-inspiring miracles first hand.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." John 14:12

What does Jesus say we will do? How will this be possible?

Do you believe Him? Jesus says, *"I tell you the truth!"* Jesus would not say, *"I have given you an example to follow"* if it were not possible. John would not write, *"Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did,"* if John himself had not walked as Jesus walked. Yes, it is entirely possible for you and me to be like Jesus, to walk as Jesus walked, and to do what Jesus did. This challenge is a command, but it is also a promise, and that should give each of us confidence for the journey that lies before us.

Apart From Him...

Ask the Father to help you see Jesus more clearly and pursue Jesus more passionately. This is not a journey toward personal development or your life's purpose, but rather a journey toward (and

with) a person, Jesus. You will find your purpose and fulfillment in Him.

Walking As Jesus...

Connect with at least one friend today to share what you have learned and invite them to take this journey with you.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS DEPENDS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.” Luke 4:1-2

Jesus did things normal people don't, maybe even can't, do. Jesus turned water into wine. Jesus returned sight to the blind. Jesus made the leper whole. Jesus made the crippled to walk. Jesus calmed storms, walked on water, filled boats with fish. Jesus took a meal made for one, and turned it into a meal more than sufficient for 5000. Jesus raised the dead.

There has never been anyone like Jesus. Albert Einstein said, *“As a child I received instruction both in the Bible and in the Talmud. I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene. No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life.”* Jesus is amazing!

How could we ever be like Jesus?

It's simple really. Jesus was fully God and fully man, but He willingly humbled Himself and chose to live His life as a man complete-

ly dependent upon the Holy Spirit. He refused to play the “God-card” and use His own God-power to do what He did. If Jesus played the “God-card” and used His innate God-power to do what He did, how could you or I ever hope to be like Jesus. We don’t have a “God-card” up our sleeves. But we do have the Holy Spirit, living inside of us, to lead us and give us God’s power.

Read Luke 4:1-2.

What does Luke tell us about how Jesus related to the Holy Spirit?

Re-read the first paragraph above again. We need to understand something here. Jesus was able to do everything you’ve just read, not because He was fully God, but instead because the Father asked Him to do it and the Holy Spirit gave Him the power to do it.

“Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit’s power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.” Luke 4:14-15

We are to walk as Jesus walked. According to Luke’s words here, just how did Jesus walk?

Jesus lived and ministered ‘in the power of the Holy Spirit,’ completely depending on the Spirit to give Him the strength to obey the Father and carry out His will. Another phrase for living and ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit is ‘the Spirit is upon me’ or ‘the

Spirit has anointed me.” Jesus, reading from the prophet Isaiah, described the kind of a ministry He would have.

“When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”

Luke 4:16-19

What would the Holy Spirit give Jesus the power to do?

If it was possible for Jesus, it is possible for you and me. The same Holy Spirit that would give Jesus the power to do all of this is the very same Holy Spirit that Jesus promised He would give to you and to me. Here are a few the Bible’s promises about the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit lives within us. *John 14:16-17*
- The Holy Spirit will lead us to do what is right. *John 16:13*
- The Holy Spirit marks us as belonging to God. *Ephesians 1:13-14*
- The Holy Spirit produces the character of Christ. *Galatians 5:22-23*
- The Holy Spirit fills us as we yield control to Him. *Ephesians 5:18*

- The Holy Spirit is grieved / quenched by sin. Ephesians 4:30 / 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Which of these promises is most meaningful to you right now?

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Father to fill you with His Spirit and lead you by His Spirit each day, making it possible for you to “walk as Jesus walked.”

Walking As Jesus...

Place a rubber band or bracelet on your wrist and let it serve as a reminder today and every day of your **40 Day** journey that God’s Spirit is with you and lives in you. Ask yourself throughout the day, “Am I depending on God’s Spirit right now, or on myself?”

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS OBEYS THE FATHER

He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Matthew 26:39

Finish these statements.

- Rules are meant to be _____. (I bet you didn't say "obeyed")
- It's better to ask forgiveness than _____. (Permission? Really? So we know we're doing wrong, but we go ahead with it anyway?)
- The speed limit is... a) important; b) a suggestion; c) a nuisance. (Aren't we allowed to drive 10 miles over the speed limit before we get a ticket?)

Why is obedience so hard for us to understand?

Perhaps nowhere in our culture is obedience better understood than in the military.

UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice) Article 92 states:

Any person subject to this chapter who:

- 1. violates or fails to obey any lawful general order or regulation;*
- 2. having knowledge of any other lawful order issued by a member of the armed forces, which it is his duty to obey, fails to obey the order; or*
- 3. is derelict in the performance of his duties;*

Shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.

Obedience is a big deal in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard. Failure to obey a direct order has significant consequences. Their actions have the potential to put not only themselves but their entire unit at needless risk. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Corpsmen depend on one another. They have to trust their commander. They have to trust the code.

Jesus understood obedience. He didn't just expect it from others. He honored His Commander (the Father). He honored the code (the Scriptures).

Consider the Apostle Paul's words in **Philippians 2:5-11**. What do they tell us about how Jesus honored the Father?

Jesus was *“obedient to death, even death on a cross.”* Now we might think that kind of obedience was easy for Jesus because He was God, but remember, the writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus *“had to be made like His brothers in every way.”*

Read Hebrews 4:15 & 5:8.

What does this tell us about the meaning of obedience in Jesus’ life?

Delayed obedience... is disobedience!

Partial obedience... is disobedience!

Unknown obedience... is disobedience!

Wouldn’t it be amazing if our understanding of obedience in our home, our youth ministry or our church exceeded that of the military. Impossible? Not really. An obedience motivated by love beats an obedience motivated by fear by a long shot.

Apart From Him...

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a sensitivity to how and where the Father wants you to obey today. If you listen, He will lead.

Walking As Jesus...

Make a list of at least 10 things you already know God wants you to do today. These can be very simple, like: Read the Bible, Pray,

Speak the Truth.... Revisit your list at the end of the day and see how you did at obeying in simple, obvious ways.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS LIVES WITH PASSION

Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these.'" Mark 12:29-31

What fires you up? What floats your boat? What turns your crank? What churns your butter? What stokes your flame? What revs your engine? What flips your switch? What primes your pump? What spins your cycle? What rocks your socks? What flies your kite? What flips your lid? What tickles your fancy? What stirs your pot? What melts your butter? What fries your bacon? What steams your broccoli? What makes your heart sing? What makes you cuckoo for Cocoa Puffs?

You get the point, right? What are you passionate about? What motivates you?

Throughout His earthly life, Jesus had ONE driving motivation.

LOVE

In what has come to be known as the Great Commandment, Jesus is asked how we can live to please God. What's the "greatest commandment?" What's most important? In reply, Jesus puts the cookies on the bottom shelf where everyone can reach them. Simply put, LOVE!

LOVE GOD - LOVE PEOPLE

Yes, it really is that simple! Easy? No! But simple? Yes!

"And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."

From what you know of the life of Jesus, from what you have read in the gospels or heard taught in church, how did Jesus demonstrate His love for God?

Jesus says that our love for God should be reflected in every area of our lives. Heart. Soul. Mind. Strength.

What do you think it looks like to love God with all our HEART?

What do you think it looks like to love God with all our SOUL?

What do you think it looks like to love God with all our MIND?

What do you think it looks like to love God with all our STRENGTH?

Again and again throughout His earthly life, we read of Jesus longing to bring His Father glory, to please His Father, and to do ONLY what He saw the Father doing. His love for the Father was the driving motivation behind everything Jesus did, and He asks us to make love for God our driving motivation as well.

This motive has a second part to it.

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus wants us to know that if love for God is our motive in everything we say and do, then we will also love people. It's impossible to truly love God without loving people.

"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love." 1 John 4:7-8

Here is a true statement:

We love Jesus as much as the person we love the least.

Read that again. Let it sink in.

Do you agree with this statement? In what ways do you think our love for people is directly affected by our love for God?

This kind of love for others is impossible... without God's love being in us and flowing through us to make it possible. The Apostle John put it this way:

"We love each other because he loved us first."

Apart From Him...

Ask the Father to supernaturally fill you with His love today. The fruit of the Spirit is love...

Walking As Jesus...

Write an encouraging note for a friend today. Rather than texting your encouraging message, write a handwritten note and mail it!

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS LIVES WITH PURPOSE

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,[a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

What do you use duct tape for? Everything, right! Duct tape Bible covers, wallets, bracelets, prom dresses, suits, hats, sandals, purses, hammocks. Duct tape shoe repairs, furniture repairs, engine repairs. Duct tape reinforcement for boxes, shelves, suitcases. Doesn't every home have a roll of duct tape lying around somewhere? But what was duct tape originally created for? No, it wasn't created to seal ducts. In fact, it wasn't even originally called duct tape. Created for the military during World War II, *duck tape* was army green in color and was used as a waterproof seal to keep moisture out of ammunition cases.

It makes me wonder. How many other things do we have in our homes that are being used for a purpose other than what they were originally designed for? Play-Doh was designed to be wall paper cleaner. Does anyone still have wall paper? Actually, bubble wrap

was originally created to be wall paper. Coca Cola was invented as a cure for morphine addiction. The slinky toy was intended to stabilize naval equipment. Frisbees were originally pie containers. Chainsaws were designed to cut through large bones during operations. According to the father of the bride in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, Windex could be used to cure just about anything.

And what about us? What were we created for? What is our purpose? Are we living for a purpose other than the one we were created for?

Jesus knew His purpose was to bring the Father glory by obeying the Father's will and completing the Father's work.

"I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." John 17:4

Again and again, we see Jesus being true to His purpose.

Read Mark 1:29-39.

Write down some observations from this encounter about the purpose and priorities of Jesus.

The simplest summary of the purpose Jesus fulfilled and the purpose Jesus invites us to fulfill is found in Matthew 28:18-20. How would you summarize the purpose Jesus outlines in the Great Commission?

We can summarize this purpose with two words.

MAKE DISCIPLES

What impact might it have had on Jesus' ministry if He had stayed in Capernaum in Mark 1?

What impact might it have in our lives if we don't live in alignment with the purpose we were created for?

What are the greatest threats to you living according to the purpose for which God created you?

Reflect on King Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes:

"So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere." Ecclesiastes 2:9-11

Apart From Him...

Write out a prayer expressing your desire to find your meaning, significance and satisfaction in God's purposes and plans for your life...

Walking As Jesus...

Commit Matthew 28:18-20, the Great Commission, to memory. Write it down on a note card and place it on your bathroom mirror as a daily reminder during this 40 day journey in disciple-making.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS REPRODUCES HIS LIFE IN US

“Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.” Luke 6:40

Have you ever asked the question, “What is a disciple?” If we are called to be a disciple of Jesus, what does one look like? Imagine trying to put together a 1000 piece puzzle without looking at the picture on the box. That’s how many of us approach being a disciple.

Found among the papers of a young African pastor after he was martyred in Zimbabwe was the following declaration about being a disciple.

I’m a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I’m a disciple of His and I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I’m done and finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, or first, or tops, or recognized, or praised, or rewarded. I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by Holy Spirit power.

My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road may be narrow, my way rough, my companions few, but my Guide is reliable and my mission is clear.

I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice or hesitate in the presence of the adversary. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He does come for His own, He'll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear!

(This vibrant declaration was contributed by Dr. Nina Gunter, who received it from veteran missionary Louise Robinson Chapman, Africa: 1920-1940)

Underline those parts of *The Declaration Of A Disciple* that are the most challenging to you. What is your gut-level response after read-

ing *The Declaration Of A Disciple?*

Read Luke 6:40

According to Jesus' words here, what do you think His intent is when He invites us to be His disciples?

Christian artist TobyMac coined the phrase "Jesus Freak" to call out a new generation of true disciples for Christ. Other words for disciple are: student, learner, follower, mimic. A disciple is a person who is becoming just like Jesus. They are becoming like Jesus in their character. They are becoming like Jesus in their habits. They are becoming like Jesus in their priorities. They are becoming like Jesus in their impact. They are becoming like Jesus in their joy.

Acts 11:26 records, *"It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.."* The idea conveyed by the title Christian is literally 'little Christ.' The surrounding community looked at the disciples and essentially said, *"Look at these people. They are trying to be just like that guy named Jesus, the Christ. They're a bunch of little Christs... Christians!"* The term wasn't used to define a religion, but instead to describe a person. It identified them as one who looked like, lived like, loved like... Jesus Himself. Hardly how we or the world around us uses the word 'Christian' today. The terms 'Christian' and 'Disciple' should be synonymous.

Read Luke 6:43-45.

What does Jesus tell us here about how we can evaluate if we are truly a disciple of His?

Think about this. If a disciple is one who is just like Jesus, and Jesus made disciples, then built right into the DNA of being a disciple is that we must make disciples. It is impossible to be a non-reproducing disciple. That's an oxymoron. Disciples make disciples. That's what they do.

As Jesus reproduces His life in you, who is one other person into whom you can reproduce your life? What will that process look like?

Apart From Him...

Pray through *The Declaration Of A Disciple*. Read it out loud. Read it slowly. Allow each phrase to settle into your heart. Make it your own prayer.

Walking As Jesus...

Who is a person in your life that reflects what it means to be a disciple of Jesus? Ask them today if you can spend one hour a week with them over the next six weeks to better learn what it means to follow Jesus.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS JOURNEYS WITH HIS DISCIPLES

Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” Matthew 4:19

What does disciple-making look like? When we think of discipleship, we often think of curriculum. What discipleship studies have you found to be effective? Or maybe we think of programs. What discipleship programs do you run that you have found to be effective? Or maybe we think of classes. What structure for discipleship classes have you found to be effective?

When you read through the Gospels and study the life of Jesus, you quickly discover that discipleship isn't about curriculum, classes or programs. Discipleship is about relationships! Curriculum doesn't make disciples. Programs don't make disciples. Classes don't make disciples. People do. Disciples make disciples. Disciple-making is done in the context of relationships.

Consider Jesus' words to Andrew, Peter, James and John, four of His initial followers.

Come.... with me!
Follow me... stay close to me!

*I will show you... model your character
and priorities after me!*

Relationship! Relationship! Relationship!

Jesus invited these young men on a journey to BE disciples who would make disciples.

Along their journey, Jesus gave His disciples FOUR CHALLENGES. We identify the process of the disciple-making journey with FOUR CHAIRS that correspond to these four challenges.

CHAIR ONE: The Spiritually Lost

Read John 1:35-39.

Here, Jesus issues His first challenge, "Come and see." What was Jesus inviting them to come and see? Did they already know that He was the Messiah? Had they already placed their faith in Him?

CHAIR TWO: The Believer

Read John 1:43-45.

Here, Jesus issues His second challenge, which immediately follows the first. "Come, follow me." A disciple is a follower, a student, an apprentice, a mimic. Following then is a journey of becoming like Jesus. From what you know of the disciples, what are some of the ways they would need to become more like Jesus?

CHAIR THREE: The Worker

Read Mark 1:16-20.

Though this is the first account of the disciples in both Matthew and Mark, this event actually happens 18-21 months into Jesus' journey with His disciples. Why do you think Jesus waited 18-21 months before challenging the disciples to fish for people?

CHAIR FOUR: The Disciple-Maker

Read John 15:1-16.

This was the night before Jesus would be crucified. He had been with the disciples now for over three years. He was now laser focused on the disciples living fruit-bearing lives. Fruit is full of potential. Fruit multiplies! How many times does Jesus mention fruit in this passage? What is the key to bearing fruit as a disciple?

When Jesus selected the Twelve to be Apostles, He reaffirmed the value of relational disciple-making. Circle the statements here that speak to the priority Jesus placed on relationships.

"Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him. Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach,..." Mark 3:13-14

Jesus invested in *"the ones He wanted."* Who is God placing on your heart to make a significant relational investment into their life?

Apart From Him...

Relationships are not easy. They are messy. People will disappoint us. They will frustrate us. Pray for God to give you the overflowing, supernatural strength you will need to invest in others.

Walking As Jesus...

Write down the name of at least one person in your life for each of the Four Chairs. Begin praying for each of them daily for God to work in their life as you journey with them to become disciples who make disciples.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

WEEK TWO // WINNING THE LOST // CHAIR 1



The names we use to describe people who have yet to put their faith in Christ for salvation and eternal life can be unflattering, even offensive, especially if you're the person who has yet to put your faith in Christ. Calling someone a heathen, pagan, reprobate or damned is no way to win friends and influence people. A little less offensive, but still not flattering are words like unchristian, non-believer and spiritually lost. Perhaps the most positive term we could use for those who have yet to put their faith in Christ is to call them a spiritual seeker. However, not all spiritually lost people would consider themselves spiritual seekers.

Most of these terms find their origin in the Bible and accurately describe the person without Christ. Many of them are in the "red letters" sections of the Bible, coming from the lips of Jesus Himself. And of all of the terms we could use, the one Jesus Himself used the most was "lost." He came to *"seek and to save the lost"* and devoted three successive parables in Luke 15 to the joy He finds in rescuing those who are spiritually lost.

The Lost Sheep

“When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!” Luke 15:6-7

The Lost Coin

“And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.” Luke 15:9-10

The Lost Son

“But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.” Luke 15:22-24

By telling three successive stories, Jesus is putting a triple exclamation point at the end of His statement. A few simple observations from these three stories.

Something or someone is LOST... we are to take notice of that which is lost.

What is lost is of great VALUE... the value of that which is lost should motivate us to pursue with an all out search.

Recovering the lost is a PRIORITY... we must be both intentional and determined, not giving up our search until the lost are found.

Recovering the lost brings GREAT JOY... God throws a party in heaven when those who are spiritually lost become found. There are few greater joys we can experience in the Christian life than seeing a spiritually lost person place their faith in Christ.

Lost people matter to God!!!

THE SEEKER'S INVITATION: COME AND SEE

"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

John 1:39

What does the fox say? The Evolution of Dance. Charlie bit my finger. Why do we know what any of these random sentences mean? Two words. Viral Video. A friend says, *"Hey, you've got to check this out. This is hilarious/amazing/awesome/unbelievable!"* You're curious. You can't resist. You come and see, staring at their iPhone screen as they share the latest viral video to blitz the internet.

Think about the last time you told a friend, *"Hey, you've got to come and see this."* What were you sharing with them? Did someone share it with you first? Did you share it with others?

In much the same way, this is how the gospel spreads to those who are spiritually curious- seekers. The Gospel, literally the Good News, is meant to be shared. Both the message and the messenger should create a curiosity among those who are spiritually lost.

John the Baptist had ignited a curiosity throughout Israel. Word of this crazed prophet who might just be the Messiah spread beyond Jerusalem 70 miles north to the Galilee region. John was quick to tell his followers that he was not the Messiah, but had been sent to pre-

pare the way for the Messiah. And then, as Jesus came walking by, John boldly declared for all his followers to hear, *“Look, the Lamb of God!”* Two curious followers of John the Baptist then approached Jesus and asked, *“Where are you staying?”* Jesus reply was simple. *“Come, and you will see.”* This was more than just an invitation to a location though. It was an invitation to a relationship. These two young men went with Jesus and spent the rest of the day with Him.

One of these two curious followers was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter.

Read John 1:40-42.

What was Andrew’s response to the time he spent with Jesus? How do we see the Good News begin to spread virally?

Philip was a friend of Andrew and Simon Peter, coming from the same region of Galilee. Evidently, he also learned the Good News, likely from his friends.

Read John 1:43-45.

What was Philip’s response to the Good News about Jesus? How do we see the Good News continue to spread virally?

Read John 4:28-30, 39.

When Jesus shared the Good News with the Samaritan Woman, what was her response? How do we see the Good News continue to spread virally?

In the three stories we've just read, what do you think made Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, Nathaniel and the Samaritan woman curious? Why do you think they began to seek Jesus?

Before you had put your faith in Christ for forgiveness and the free gift of eternal life, what made you seek Jesus?

Read Matthew 9:35-38.

Jesus tells his disciples the spiritual harvest is great. What makes the harvest so great? What did Jesus see when He looked at people that He believed would cause them to seek after Him?

What do you see when you look at your spiritually lost friends? How can your life and the way you communicate the Good News create curiosity among your spiritually lost friends, increasing their desire to "come and see?"

Apart From Him...

Ask the Father to help you see your spiritually lost friends as Jesus sees them. Pray for one spiritually lost friend by name, asking the Spirit to create a curiosity within them and to give you an opportunity to invite them to "come and see."

Walking As Jesus...

Be a “friend of sinners” like Jesus. Connect with a spiritually lost friend today. Maybe you can catch up over coffee, or even just text them to let them know you value their friendship.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS' MISSION: THE PROMISED MESSIAH

The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus told her, "I am the Messiah!" John 4:25-26

What is your name? Why did your parents give you that name? Did they just like the way it sounded? Were you named after one of your parents or another relative? Does your name itself have a special meaning that your parents hoped would reflect your character or your destiny? I've got a pastor friend in Kenya whose name is Oral Roberts, named after the famous American evangelist. My friend has named his two sons Billy Graham and Reinhard Bonnke, two more famous evangelists who have visited Kenya.

What's in a name? Jesus Christ. His name speaks to His identity.

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:20-21

Jesus, Yeshua in Hebrew, means Savior.

And what about His last name, Christ? Actually, Christ isn't a name. It's a title, as in "Jesus, the Christ." The title "Christ" comes from the word Christos, which is the Greek version of the Hebrew title, Messiah. Christ, or Messiah, means "anointed one."

Jesus, the **Christ**, was the promised Messiah, the Savior of the world.

Here are just a few of the over 400 prophecies about the coming Messiah fulfilled in Jesus.

Read Genesis 3:15 & Galatians 4:4.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Genesis 12:3 & Acts 3:24-26.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Genesis 49:10 & Luke 3:33.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Numbers 21:6-9 & John 3:14-18.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Numbers 24:17 & Matthew 2:2.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Deuteronomy 18:15-19 & John 1:21.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read 2 Samuel 7:12-16 & Matthew 1:1.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Psalm 2:1-12 & Mark 1:11.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Psalm 16:8-11 & Acts 2:22-32.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Psalm 22:1-31 & Matthew 27:39-46.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Psalm 118:22-24 & 1 Peter 2:6-8.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:22-23.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Isaiah 11:1 & Matthew 2:23.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Isaiah 35:5-6 & Matthew 11:4-6.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Hosea 11:1 & Matthew 2:13-15.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Micah 5:2 & Matthew 2:1-6.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Zechariah 9:9 & Matthew 21:1-7.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Zechariah 11:12-13 & Matthew 27:3.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Read Zechariah 12:10 & John 19:31-37.

What is the Messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?

Describe the confidence these prophecies give you in the identity of Jesus the Christ:

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father for the fulfilled prophecies about His Son, Jesus, the Messiah.

Walking As Jesus...

Share some of these Messianic prophecies with a friend who is in Chair 1 or Chair 2.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS' MISSION: TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” Luke 19:10

My wedding ring was lost.

Let those words sink in. Now think how much trouble I was going to be in! Who loses their wedding ring and lives to tell about it?

Fortunately, I had given my wedding ring to my wife to hold. She was the person who lost it. This wasn't MY crisis. This was OUR crisis. I was playing softball and had given my ring to my wife to hold during the game. When I went to put it back on after the game, it was gone. The pocket she had placed it in was empty. We searched the area frantically, trying to find it before darkness set in, but to no avail. The ring was gone!

The next morning, I searched and found a metal detector to rent and we headed back over to the park to search in the daylight. Kids were in school. The park was empty. We held out hope that the ring was still there. After a twenty minute search, when we saw the gleaming gold wedding band nestled down in the blades of grass, what emotions do you think we felt?

Excitement. Relief. Joy. It was a cause for celebration!

Every year, we hear stories of hikers lost in the mountains, facing the dangers of exposure to the elements or wild animals. Park rangers, police, emergency personnel and volunteers coordinate to make an all out search, knowing that if those who have been lost are not found within 24-48 hours, they could be lost for good. Every available resource is used. Helicopters. Technology. Search dogs.

Urgency is felt. Lives are at stake!

Do we have that same sense of urgency in sharing the gospel message with the spiritually lost people that come across our path each and every day?

Let's read Jesus' statement of purpose again.

*"For **the Son of Man** came to seek and save those who are lost."*

The "Son of Man" is a Messianic title. When Jesus' first century Jewish listeners heard this phrase, they would immediately make the connection to Daniel's prophecy about the coming Messiah.

Read Daniel 7:13-14.

What does this prophecy tell us about the coming Son of Man?

*"For the Son of Man **came** to seek and save those who are lost."*

Jesus was sent by the Father. He came. He took the initiative. He doesn't wait for us to find Him. He comes to find us. What does the

fact that Jesus came reveal to you about His heart? What does the fact that Jesus came reveal to you about your value?

*“For the Son of Man came **to seek** and save those who are lost.”*

To seek speaks of an active pursuit. Jesus takes action. This action is continual. Jesus does not stop seeking. He does not give up the search. He will not give up on us. He keeps seeking until we are saved... or until we are lost forever.

In what ways was it evident that Jesus was seeking after you before you put your faith in Him for salvation?

*“For the Son of Man came to seek **and save** those who are lost.”*

Jesus came to save us, but save us from what? He came to save us from being lost forever. He came to save us from a purposeless, meaningless life. He came to save us from our separation from the Father. He came to save us from the wrath of God. He came to save us from the fires of hell.

Read Jude 1:23.

When you read *“snatch other from the fire,”* what does this convey about the horrors of hell?

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and save **those who are lost.**”*

What does it feel like to be lost? What are the characteristics of the person who is lost? What are the consequences of being lost? Reflect for a moment on what it means to be lost.

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father that He sent His Son, and that Jesus never gave up seeking you until you were found. He never gave up on you, and He won't give up on your lost friends, no matter how far lost they might seem to be.

Walking As Jesus...

Text a spiritually lost friend today who you know is facing some challenges. Tell them you're thinking of them. Tell them you are praying for them. Ask them if there is anything you can do to help them.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS' MISSION: TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

The word “ransom” carries negative connotations because of what we associate it with. Kidnapping. Being held hostage.

The largest ransom ever paid? \$134 million. Victor Li, son of the Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka Shing, was kidnapped by “Big Spender” Cheung Chi Keung in 1996. The gangster who kidnapped him would be arrested and executed in 2000.

Perhaps the most famous kidnapping in the United States was a sophomore at Cal Berkley, the 19-year-old heiress to the Hearst media conglomerate, Patty Hearst. The left-wing radicals known as the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) kidnapped Hearst, demanding her grandfather, William Randolph Hearst, distribute \$70 worth of food to every needy Californian, which would have been a total of \$400 million. He eventually paid for \$6 million worth of food, but the kidnappers were unsatisfied, and Patty Hearst was never released. In a shocking twist of fate, Patty Hearst would join the SLA in their crusade, eventually being arrested.

When you convert the ransom into today's dollar, the largest sum ever paid was for King Richard the Lionheart. The 150,000 marks paid for King Richard in 1190 would be the equivalent of \$3.3 billion today. The king was sailing back from the Crusades when bad weather forced him to land in unfriendly Corfu. Richard and his men disguised as Knights Templar and made their way back to central Europe, but while passing through Vienna they were captured by Leopold V, Duke of Austria. The Duke demanded 150,000 marks, 2-3 times the annual revenue of England, which was paid around one year later.

But think for a moment about the powerful concept of giving a ransom for another person.

In the 1998 movie, *Les Miserables*, there is the powerful scene where Jean Val Jean has been offered a warm bed and a hot meal by a priest, only to steal the church's silver, knock out the priest, and flee in the dark of night. After being captured by the police and brought back to the priest, Val Jean is stunned when the priest refuses to press charges, instead saying the precious silver was a gift. In doing so, when the police had left, the priest said this:

"Jean Val Jean, my brother, you no longer belong to evil. With this silver, I bought your soul. I've ransomed you from fear and hatred. And now I give you back to God."

While \$6 million was paid for Patty Hearst, \$134 million was paid for Victor Li, and \$3.3 billion was paid for King Richard the Lionheart, an even greater ransom was paid for you and for me.

Read the following verses.

Pause and reflect on the ransom that was paid for you.

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.” 1 Peter 1:18-20

What thoughts and emotions does the concept of ransom stir in your heart?

One of the titles used for Jesus is the *Lamb of God*. John the Baptist was the first to call Jesus by this name.

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29

The concept of the Lamb of God comes from the priestly sacrificial system where a spotless lamb was offered as a sacrifice for sins. The demands of God's justice had to be met, but in His mercy, God would allow a lamb to be offered as a substitute. While this sacrifice was temporal and had to be made over and over again, Christ's sacrifice was perfect and eternal.

"With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever... Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins... Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people."

Hebrews 9:12,14,28

When we think of ransom, we think of bondage, of being held hostage. What does Christ free us from when He offered His life as a ransom for us? What have you been ransomed from?

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father that through the ransom paid for you, you have been freed from both the penalty and the power of sin in your life.

Walking As Jesus...

Watch the *Les Miserables'* clip, ["I give you back to God,"](#) on YouTube. Pray and ask God if there is someone with whom you should share this video clip.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS' MESSAGE: REPENT AND BELIEVE

“Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God’s Good News. “The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”” Mark 1:14-15

I’d been caught! I was playing at my neighbor’s house, and he had a toy gun that I really liked. When he wasn’t looking, I put it in my pocket, snuck it out of his house and took it home with me. My depraved five year-old brain reasoned, *“It’s just a little toy gun. He has lots of toys. He’ll never miss it.”* Later that week, while playing with my newfound treasure, my dad asked me where I had gotten the toy gun. He knew he and my mom hadn’t bought the gun. They had not seen me play with the gun before. I think the conversation went something like this.

“Son, where did you get that gun?”

“I found it outside.”

“Oh, really? Show me where you found it outside.”

At that point, I led my dad out the front door, around to the side of the house, and pointed toward a random patch of grass. *"I found it there."*

My dad knew I was lying, and he knew the gun wasn't mine. He knew I stole the gun from somewhere, and eventually I confessed. What followed my confession was punishment, a spanking, and then restitution, which was worse than the spanking. My dad walked me over to my neighbors house where I had to confess my thievery and return the shiny, cool toy gun.

This vivid memory reminds me of the words I heard often in Sunday School as a child that I thought my mom had penned herself. *"Be sure your sins will find you out!"* (Actually, you can find this verse in the Bible in Numbers 32:23.)

Sinning came naturally to me. Sinning was easy for me. I was a born sinner. In fact, we all were natural born sinners.

How does God want us to deal with our sin? This was the message Jesus came preaching. *"Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"* What's the Good News? God forgives sinners like you and me!

If God wants us to respond to our sin by repenting, what exactly is *repentance*? Is it feeling sorry for your sin? If so, then how do we know if we've been sorry enough for it to truly count as repentance? Is it turning from our sin? That sounds an awful lot like we have to clean up our act, stop sinning, and make ourselves presentable to God so that He will accept us. Is that true? Is that even possible?

The Biblical word for repentance is *metanoia* (μετάνοια), which literally means "to change your mind." What do you think God wants us to change our mind about?

Read Romans 3:23.

What does God want us to repent about, to change our mind about, in this verse?

God wants us to change our mind about our **SIN**. He wants us to recognize our sin and see it as an offense to a holy God.

Read Romans 3:10.

What does God want us to repent about, to change our mind about, in this verse?

God wants us to change our mind about our **SELF**. He wants us to recognize that there is nothing we can do to fix our sin problem on our own. We can't be good enough to get into heaven on our own.

Read Romans 5:6-11.

What does God want us to repent about, to change our mind about, in these verses?

God wants us to change our mind about the **SAVIOR**. He wants us to understand that He sent His one and only Son into this world to live a sinless life and die a horrible death to pay the penalty for our sin and make us right with God.

Jesus came with this message. *"Repent of your sins and believe the Good News."* We know what repent means, but what does believe

mean? Does it merely mean that we accept something as fact, that we believe it to be true?

The Biblical word for believe is *pisteuo* (πιστεύω), which means to have faith in or to put your trust in. What do you think God wants us to put our trust in?

Read Romans 10:9-10.

What kind of belief is it that will rescue us from our sins?

Saving faith is when we put the full weight of our trust in Christ alone, in His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, to rescue us from our sin and make us right with God.

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father for His forgiveness. It's undeserved. It's unearned. It's unbelievable!

Walking As Jesus...

Have a conversation with someone today about the Biblical concepts of repent and believe.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS' MESSAGE: YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." John 3:3

I've traveled to Kenya over twenty times, preaching the gospel and training leaders. Our family lived in Kenya for six months while we were adopting one of our daughters. We have dear friends there. Early on in my travels to Kenya, my friends there gave me some insight on christianity in Kenya. If you ask anyone in Kenya if they are a Christian, more than 80% will say that they in fact are a Christian. However, only 16% of the country attends church regularly. Basically, when a Kenyan says they are a Christian, what they are saying is, *"I'm not Muslim."* Because of this, my friends there don't call themselves Christian. When they introduce themselves to someone they don't know, they will say, *"I'm Daniel, and I'm born again!"* You see, In Kenya, the phrase "born again" identifies a person as a true follower of Jesus.

One day, I was in a taxi and the driver, wanting to be polite, asked me what I was doing there in Kenya. When I told him I was a pastor, the driver quickly replied, *"Oh, I'm a christian."* With the cultural intelligence I'd already been provided, I quickly replied, *"Oh,*

so you are born again?" He quickly shot back, *"Oh, no. I'm not one of those."* Interesting, right? I'm not "one of those." I'm not one of those people who takes it that seriously. I'm not a fanatic. I don't get too crazy about that Jesus stuff.

Essentially, when a Kenyan says, *"I'm born again,"* what they are really saying is, *"I'm a true Christ-follower. My life has been changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I'm a new person!"*

Are you familiar with the phrase "born again?" What thoughts or images come to mind when you hear that phrase?

Read John 3:1-8.

Here, Jesus is speaking with a well educated religious teacher and leader named Nicodemus. What thoughts or images came to Nicodemus' mind when he heard the phrase "born again?"

Jesus made being born again a requirement for entering the kingdom of God. Why do you think this is a requirement?

Read Ephesians 2:4-6.

What does the Apostle Paul say here about why we need to be born again?

The Apostle Paul makes it clear. Because of our sin, we are spiritually dead. We need new life!

Read Romans 6:5-11.

What does the Apostle Paul say here about why we need to be born again?

When we place our faith in Christ alone for the forgiveness of our sins, we are born again. In that moment, we go from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive. We are reborn. We are raised to new life by the same transforming power that raised Christ from the dead.

When we become a Christian, it is not just a decision that we make to believe something in our head. When we become a Christian, a change happens in our heart. We are a new person. Years ago, I was with friends in New York during the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament. Hundreds of thousands of people filled Flushing Meadows. We had some amazing spiritual conversations. One friend got in a gospel conversation with one of New York's finest, a police officer named Tony. God was at work, and right there amidst the throngs of people, Tony bowed his head and prayed, placing his faith in Christ to forgive and save him. A while later, we were walking back in that area, and my friend saw Tony about 50 yards away. He shouted above the crowd, "*Hey Tony! What's up?!*" Tony, in front of fellow police officers there in the crowded park, shouted back, "*I'M A NEW MAN!!!*"

That's what it means to be born again. I'm a new man! You're a new person! We've been brought from death to life. We have been forever changed by the power of the Gospel!

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father that you've been given new life in Christ. You couldn't bring yourself back to life. Dead people are dead. They can't act on their own behalf. Jesus acted for you!

Walking As Jesus...

Take a blank sheet of paper and draw a line down the middle. At the top of the left column, write the phrase, "DEAD IN MY SIN." At the top of the right column, write the phrase, "ALIVE IN CHRIST." Now fill each column with a description of your life before trusting in Christ and after trusting in Christ. Share your story with someone today.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

JESUS' MESSAGE: THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

“And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.” John 3:36

I was only four years old when I knelt by my bed and prayed with my mom, asking Jesus to come into my heart, forgive my sin, and give me a home in heaven with Him. As a four year old, my decision was pretty simple. I believed in God. I believed there was a heaven. I believed there was a hell. I made my choice. I chose Jesus! I chose heaven!

We began introducing our girls to a God who loved them, a Savior who died for them, and the hope of heaven at an early age. Our oldest, being the independent one that she is, didn’t want to pray with her mommy or daddy. She was going to do this all by herself. One night, on her own, while laying in her bed, she prayed and put her faith in Jesus as her Savior. She didn’t even tell us until it came up in conversation later.

Knowing how important this was, our oldest began to encourage her younger sister to pray to receive Christ as her Savior too. One day, while we were waiting at the car for the girls to come out, she

sat on the couch with her sister and helped her pray to receive Christ as her Savior. When we asked what they were doing, why they had kept us waiting, they informed us of the thrilling news.

Our second daughter, then in pre-school, wanted her best friend to know Jesus too, so she explained the ABC's of salvation that she had learned at Vacation Bible School to her friend. Right there on the playground at pre-school, her friend prayed a simple prayer, asking Jesus to be her Savior too. The two girls then made their way around the playground, telling their other classmates that they needed to ask Jesus into their heart so they could go to heaven too!

Her three older sisters were concerned that our youngest was taking so long to ask Jesus into her heart. Didn't she know what was at stake? Heaven. Hell. This was a big deal! They were both relieved and excited when she told her mommy that she wanted to pray and ask Jesus into her heart to be her Savior. It was a cause for a family celebration!

Heaven is a big deal. Hell is a big deal. Jesus speaks about them both. They are real places where real people will spend their eternity, either with God or separated from Him. Do we take this reality seriously, or do we practically live each day as if this life is all there is?

Read Romans 6:23.

What observations do you make about the two possible fates that await each one of us?

Just as eternal life means we will be together with God in His presence for all eternity, eternal death means some will suffer the misery and anguish of being separated from God for all eternity. Jesus

paints a vivid picture of eternal death for us in His story about two men who die, one rich and the other a poor beggar named Lazarus.

Read Luke 16:19-31.

What observations do you make about eternal death from Jesus' story here?

The Bible makes it clear. We all have a choice, and that choice is simple. We can choose between eternal life and eternal death.

"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!" Deuteronomy 30:19

Read 1 John 5:11-13.

What observations do you make about who has eternal life and who doesn't from this passage?

Read Isaiah 25:8-9.

What observations do you make about the reality of eternal life with God from Isaiah's prophecy?

Read Revelation 21:4-8.

What observations do you make about the reality of eternal life with God from John's prophecy?

When he was a teenager, a friend of mine was challenged by his youth pastor to go to the mall, sit on a bench, and watch all the people walking by. With each person, he was to imagine that they had a sign on their forehead that either read HEAVEN or HELL. As he sat there that day and imagined all the people that were going to hell because they had never put their faith in Christ for forgiveness of their sins, he wept. Not just little tears either. Uncontrollable sobs. This thought fueled his love for the lost and his passion to share the Good News.

People's eternities are at stake. Eternity is a long time. Eternity is forever. Eternity is real.

Apart From Him...

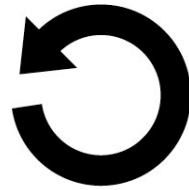
Thank the Father for the gift of Eternal Life that He has given you through His Son.

Walking As Jesus...

Go to a park, a mall, or a busy city street, and do some people watching. Imagine every person you see either has HEAVEN or HELL written on their forehead. Ask God to break your heart for the lost, giving you a love for them and a passion to share the Good News with them.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

WEEK THREE // BUILDING THE BELIEVER // CHAIR 2



When a person puts their faith in Christ, they become a child of God. They are now a spiritual infant. From a natural point of view, what do infants need us to do for them? Everything, right? An infant needs their parent to care for them. An infant can't yet walk, getting to where they need to go. They need to be carried or pushed in a stroller. An infant can't talk. They will need to learn to formulate words and communicate. An infant can't feed themselves. They need to be breast fed, or bottle fed. An infant can't clean themselves. They make messes. Dirty diapers, slobber-covered clothes and crusty noses all have to be cleaned. A good, loving parent will gladly do all of this and more for their child, but they don't plan on doing it forever. The hope, the goal even, is to teach your child how to care for themselves so they can grow to be happy and healthy. A good parent teaches their child how to clothe themselves, clean themselves and feed themselves.

Every new Christian, as a spiritual infant, must learn several basic things in order to be healthy and grow spiritually. We use the acronym, **IWTFC**, or *I Want To Follow Christ*, to outline five of these essentials for growing as a believer.

IDENTITY

Every believer must know whose they are, that they now belong to the family of God. They must also know who they are in Christ. They must understand their new spiritual identity.

WALK

Every believer must learn how to walk with Christ. They must learn how to walk in the Spirit, walk in obedience and walk in love.

TALK

Every believer must learn how to talk to God in prayer. They must also learn how to talk to other believers, encouraging and building them up. They must also learn how to talk to their spiritually lost friends, sharing their faith story in a simple, clear way.

FEED

Every believer must learn how to feed on God's Word. They must learn how to read God's Word, study God's Word, memorize God's Word, meditate on God's Word and apply God's Word to their everyday life.

CLEAN

Every believer must learn how to confess their sin and be restored to fellowship with God. We all make mistakes. We all sin.

We must learn how to come clean with God and ultimately have victory over sin and temptation.

As each of these essentials are established in a new believer's life, they will grow to become more like Jesus.

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6-7

THE BELIEVER'S CHALLENGE: FOLLOW ME

The next day, Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." John 1:43

Katy Perry has over 75 million of them. Taylor Swift has 65 million. Soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo has 38 million. Jimmy Fallon and Oprah Winfrey each have 30 million. Harry Styles, One Direction, Bill Gates and LeBron James each have 25 million. Cold Play, Ed Sheeran, Jim Carrey and Kanye West each have 15 million... followers... on Twitter.

How many followers does Jesus have?

Statistics tell us there are over 2 billion Christians in the world. This represents almost one third of the global population. But are there really over 2 billion people following Jesus? While almost 80% of the US claims to be Christian, only 40% say they regularly attend church, and only 20% actually attend church on any given Sunday. (Hartford Institute of Religion Research)

When someone clicks Jesus' follow button, what kind of a commitment are they making? When Jesus said "follow me," what was He really inviting the disciples to do?

Follower is another word for disciple. It also carries with it the idea of being a student, an apprentice, a mimic. When Jesus invited Philip and the others to follow Him, He was asking them to devote their lives to becoming just like Him. For the disciple, their character and priorities were to be a reflection of the one they were following.

From what you've read in the Gospels, how would you describe Jesus' character?

Read Matthew 5:1-12.

This passage at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount is called The Beatitudes. What character traits does Jesus highlight in these verses for His followers?

From what you've read in the Gospels, what do you think are Jesus' priorities?

Read Matthew 22:37-40 and Matthew 28:18-20.

These two passages are called the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. What priorities does Jesus highlight in these passages for His followers?

Love God. Love People. Make Disciples.

Six words that clarify the priorities of true disciples. When we follow Jesus, this is what we will do. Will it be easy?

Read Luke 9:23.

What kind of commitment does Jesus say will be required in following Him? What do you think is the significance of Jesus saying that we must *“take up our cross daily?”*

Read Luke 9:57-62.

What are the excuses these would-be followers give for not following Jesus? Do their reasons for not following Jesus yet seem legitimate?

Many things can distract us on our journey in following Jesus. Not all of these things are bad in and of themselves, but when they take priority over Jesus in our lives, then they become a problem. What are the potential distractions that could keep you from growing as a Christ-follower whose life reflects Jesus' character and priorities?

Apart From Him...

Ask the Father to help you set aside the distractions and follow Jesus closely. Yes, following Jesus involves commitment, but it is also about companionship. Following Jesus is an invitation to walk with Him, talk with Him, listen to Him, learn from Him and work with Him.

Walking As Jesus...

Spend time with Jesus each day. Set aside a time and a place to meet with Him. Put it in your calendar and don't let other things

squeeze Jesus out. Read your Bible as if you're reading a personal letter from Him to you. Get a journal and write out your prayers. At the top of the page, write "Dear Jesus" and then continue as if you're writing a personal letter to Jesus.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Richard Dietrich, a youth pastor friend, was leading a student mission trip to Poland years ago. Knowing that his wife had Polish ancestry, he decided to find the town where her family was purportedly from, go to the city hall, and see if they could provide him with a family tree to take home as a keepsake for his wife. When Richard mentioned his wife’s family name, Promnitz, he was met with a shocking discovery for both himself and the city officials. It turns out, Richard’s wife is a direct descendant of the royal Von Promnitz family, who were thought to have been extinguished centuries before. The city officials began to apologize to Richard profusely, informing him that they had just sold his castle recently since they thought the family had long since disappeared. Now known in Poland as Count Dietrich, Richard has also been knighted. Sir Richard! He and his family can have an audience with the President of Poland any time they wish. He has met with Poland’s Generals and religious leaders. When Richard walked into the Zary City Hall that day, he had no idea who he was and what he owned. Land, cas-

bles, treasures. Richard had no idea the opportunities and privileges his new identity would afford him. He can walk into any school or Catholic Church in the country and freely share his faith in Christ. Each year, his family hosts the Von Promnitz Music Festival that draws hundreds of thousands to hear the uncompromising message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. His new identity has turned out to be a big, big deal!

Do we know who we are? Do we know our true identity? The Bible makes it clear. When we put our faith in Christ for forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life, we are given a new identity. It's a big, big deal! The Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that *"anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person."*

Let's investigate what the Bible says about our new identity "in Christ." Which of these blessings and privileges do you treasure the most right now?

Read 1 John 3:1.

What does John tell us about our new identity?

Read Matthew 5:13-14.

What does Jesus tell us about our new identity?

Read John 1:12.

What does John tell us about our new identity?

Read John 15:5.

What does Jesus tell us about our new identity?

Read John 15:13-15.

What does Jesus tell us about our new identity?

Read Romans 8:1.

What does Paul tell us about our new identity?

Read Romans 8:37.

What does Paul tell us about our new identity?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-10.

What does Paul tell us about our new identity?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20.

What does Paul tell us about our new identity?

Read Galatians 2:20.

What does Paul tell us about our new identity?

Read Ephesians 1:5.

What does Paul tell us about our new identity?

Read Ephesians 1:11.

What does Paul tell us about our new identity?

Read Ephesians 2:10.

What does Paul tell us about our new identity?

Read 1 Peter 2:9.

What does Peter tell us about our new identity?

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father specifically for those aspects of your new identity in Christ that are most significant to you right now.

Walking As Jesus...

Think of a friend who needs encouragement in their identity in Christ. Text them one of the above verses that you think will be especially encouraging to them.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

WALKING WITH CHRIST

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves... Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.” Galatians 5:16, 25

Have you ever taken the time to observe how others walk? What can you learn about a person from the way that they walk? If they walk with a limp, or shuffle their feet along slowly, you might guess that they are injured or lame. If they walk quickly, unaware of their surroundings, you might guess that they are in a hurry for a very important appointment. If they walk slowly, shoulders slumped, you might guess that they are discouraged. If they walk with their head down, not looking anyone in the eye, you might guess that they are shy or lack self-confidence. If they walk with their shoulders back and their head held high, you might guess that they are confident and optimistic. If they walk slowly, frequently gazing around with a puzzled look on their face, you might guess that they are lost.

Is there a right way to walk? In our relationship with God, there is absolutely a right way to walk. The scriptures are filled with instruction about how we are to walk in our relationship with God.

While we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone, and not at all by walking a certain way (good works), we will only fulfill God's purpose for our life and ultimately please Him by walking with Christ.

In the New Living Translation, the word "walk" has generally been replaced with the word "live." The word used in the Greek, *peripateite* (περιπατεῖτε), directly translated as "walk," generally carries with it the meaning of "live" in these contexts. If you read the following verses in the English Standard Version, you will see them translated as "walk."

Journal your insights on how we are to "walk" in our newfound relationship with Christ.

Read Romans 6:4.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:7.

Read Galatians 5:16, 25.

Read Ephesians 4:1, Colossians 1:10 & 1 Thessalonians 2:12.

Read Ephesians 5:2.

Read Ephesians 5:8, 1 John 1:7.

Read Ephesians 5:15, Colossians 4:5, 1 Thessalonians 4:12.

Read Colossians 2:6.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1.

Read 1 John 2:6.

Read 2 John 1:4, 3 John 1:3-4.

Read 2 John 1:6.

If we are *“walking in Him,”* we will then *“walk as Jesus walked”* by *“walking in the Spirit,” “walking by faith,” “walking in obedience,” “walking in the truth,”* and *“walking in love.”* If this is how we walk, then the result will be that we are *“walking in newness of life,” “walking in the light as children of the light”* and *“walking in wisdom in the way we interact with outsiders.”* By doing so, we will *“walk in a manner worthy of the Lord”* as we *“walk to please God.”*

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father that He sent His Son to be your model for how to walk and He has given you His Spirit, indwelling within you, to enable you to walk in a way that pleases Him.

Walking As Jesus...

Which of the above “walk” verses is most impactful for you right now? Share that verse with a friend today, telling them what God is teaching you about how to walk with Christ.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

TALKING WITH CHRIST

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." Luke 11:1

I grew up in a Christian home. We went to church religiously. My grandfather was a pastor. My mother was the church secretary. I placed my faith in Christ when I was a child. Yet with all this being true, I have to confess that I didn't really know how to pray. Oh, don't get me wrong. I "said my prayers" religiously, praying before meals or before bedtime as part of the regular routine of life in the Christian home in which I was raised, but I didn't really know how to pray.

I'm sure that was how the disciples felt. They had grown up in religious homes. They had learned their prayers. This was the Jewish culture in which they were raised. Yet they quickly recognized there was something remarkably different about the way that Jesus prayed. When they listened to Jesus pray, it wasn't religious. It was relational!

Rich had been discipling me for a while. We always ended our Bible studies together with prayer. Really, though, it was Rich clos-

ing our time in prayer. Then, one day, everything changed. Rich and I were driving to his parents' lake house to spend the day together sailing, and as we drove, he said, "*Hey Doug, let's pray! I'll dial and you can hang up.*" (His way of saying he would start and I could finish.). As Rich began to pray, eyes open as he drove, he just began talking out loud to God, as if He were sitting there in the car with us. Rich was having a conversation with God. His prayer wasn't religious. It was relational. When it was my turn to pray, I followed Rich's lead and just began talking out loud to God, as if He were sitting in the car with us as we drove. It was my first real, conversational prayer with God.

When Jesus prayed, the disciples saw intimacy and passion and purpose and joy. Jesus was talking to His Father. They were hungry to learn. "*Lord, teach us to pray!*"

What followed, what we now call *The Lord's Prayer*, was not meant to be memorized and recited as a religious exercise. This model prayer was meant to be a pattern for the disciples. Remember, Jesus was not telling them WHAT to pray, but rather HOW to pray.

P.R.A.Y. is a simple acronym to remember the pattern for prayer that Jesus gave His disciples.

PRAISE

"Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy." Matthew 6:9

Jesus begins His prayer with praise of the Father, recognizing His holiness. When we come to God in prayer, praise and thanksgiving

is a great place to start.

What are some things about God's character, who He is, that you are grateful for today? What are some of the things God has done for you that you are grateful for today?

REQUEST

"Give us today the food we need...". Matthew 6:11

Jesus asks the Father to meet their needs. In praying for "us," He is bringing both His needs and the disciples needs before the Father, trusting that He will provide.

What are some of your personal needs that you would like to bring before the Father today? What are some of the needs of friends and family that you would like to bring before the Father?

ADMIT

"and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one." Matthew 6:12-13

Confession of sin is a critical aspect of prayer. We are to bring our sin before a holy God, asking for His forgiveness that we might be restored to fellowship with Him. Jesus, though, doesn't just pray a reactionary prayer, where sin is dealt with after the fact. His prayer is a preemptive strike against sin, asking for God's strength and leading to avoid the pitfalls of temptation.

What are some sins that you need to confess to the Father today? What are the temptations you're currently facing that you need the Father's help to battle?

YIELD

"May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." Matt 6:10

Some manuscripts have Jesus closing His model prayer with *"For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."* This reflects the mindset that God is Sovereign. He is the King, and the King reigns. He gets His way. We are to submit to Him. Jesus reflected this kind of submission to the Father's will throughout His life., obeying all the way to the cross, where He prayed, *"Not my will, but Yours be done!"*

What are some areas of your life that you need to yield to the Lordship of Christ? Are there decisions or choices you sense God wanting you to make, but you are hesitant, or even resistant to saying "yes" to Him?

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father that He desires a relationship with you and invites you to talk to Him anytime.

Walking As Jesus...

Use the pattern Jesus gave to His disciples to talk to your Father right now.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

FEEDING ON GOD'S WORD

"When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God of Heaven's Armies."

Jeremiah 15:16

What is your favorite food? A few of mine are steak, tacos, enchiladas, fettuccine alfredo, lasagna, chicken parmesan, pepperoni pizza, orange chicken, Swedish meatballs, Italian beef and sausage sandwiches, cheese omelettes, French toast, cheesy potatoes, baked sweet potatoes with butter and brown sugar, bacon cheeseburgers, bacon.... Come to think of it, there's not much that doesn't taste better with bacon and cheese on it.

From the time we were children, we were all taught that a healthy diet consists of a daily balance of the five basic food groups: Grains (bread, rice, pasta, cereal), Vegetables, Fruit, Dairy (milk, cheese, yogurt), Meat (including other proteins like eggs, nuts and legumes). Growing up, I had my own five basic food groups: Candy, Cookies, Chocolate, Ice Cream, Cake. I have a definite weakness for bakeries! Of course, feeding on my five basic food groups, like sin, offers short term pleasure but produces long term pain... like cavities!

We need to eat to live, and we need to eat healthy to be healthy.

When it comes to feeding on God's Word, it's no different, and there are five basic ways that we can do this.

LISTEN

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching...". Acts 2:42a

We listen to God's Word when it's taught in church, youth group or a small group. We also listen to God's Word when it's taught through podcasts, blogs or video.

How can you become a better listener to God's Word?

READ

"And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:6-9

There is no substitute for reading God's Word. Just as it was for the children of Israel, God's Word is to be integrated into our everyday lives. I always recommend reading out loud to yourself. In doing so, you are taking in God's Word using three different senses. You are reading it with your eyes, speaking it with your mouth, and

hearing it with your ears. It takes an average reader about 10 minutes to read three chapters of Scripture. If you did this morning and night, you could read through the entire New Testament in about 6 weeks. What is your favorite part of God's Word to read? The Psalms? The Gospels? Paul's letters?

What is your plan for continuing to read God's Word when you finish the *40 Days of Disciple-Making Journal*?

MEMORIZE

"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

Psalm 119:11

Jesus memorized God's Word. We see this evidenced when Satan confronts Him with three specific temptations, and each time, Jesus combatted the temptation by quoting from God's Word. When we commit God's Word to memory, it begins to transform the way that we think and speak. It offers us comfort and strength in times of discouragement, hope in times of despair, and weapons and willpower in times of temptation.

Have you committed any scripture to memory? Write out, from memory, one of your favorite verses of scripture.

MEDITATE

"Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." Joshua 1:8

To meditate on God's Word is to ponder it, to think deeply about it. One of the best ways to meditate on God's Word is to journal. Write each day about what God is teaching you in His Word. I journal digitally, creating a text each day that I send out to friends and family for both encouragement and accountability.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Journal some thoughts here about the significance of God's Word in your life:

STUDY

"I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways." Psalm 119:15

It is easier now than ever to study God's Word. There are so many free tools available on the web, as well as amazing apps for your phone or tablet like [BibleGateway](#), [YouVersion](#), [ReadScripture](#) and [The Bible Project](#). There are guided studies like this one.

What are some of your favorite tools for studying God's Word?

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father giving you the wonderful, indispensable treasure of His Word!

Walking As Jesus...

Ask a friend to hold you accountable to reading God's Word each day, and commit to text each other what God has taught you through His Word.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

COMING CLEAN WITH GOD

“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:9

Did you ever watch the Discovery Channel TV show, *Dirty Jobs*, with host Mike Rowe? In episode after episode, Rowe was shown performing difficult, strange, disgusting or messy occupational duties alongside typical employees. Throughout the series, Rowe had such unenviable jobs as Worm Dung Farmer, Roadkill Cleaner, Sewer Inspector, Sludge Cleaner, Cheese Maker, Chimney Sweeper, Avian Vomitologist, Casino Food Recycler, Alpaca Shearer, Monkey Caretaker, Poo Pot Maker, Dairy Cow Midwife, Aerial Tram Greaser, Turkey Inseminator, Sheep Castrator, Maggot Farmer, Toilet Crusher, Worm Grunter, Mardi Gras Bladder Banger and hundreds more. Fun stuff, right?

What’s the dirtiest job you’ve ever had to do?

Years ago, I had a friend who had his own version of *Dirty Jobs*. One summer, he was the *Septic Tank Evacuator*. His job was to go to homes or businesses his company serviced, hook up a hose to their septic

tank, turn on the evacuator motor and suck all the human waste out of the tank. Some people say their job stinks. His really did! And one day, he carelessly attached the hose to a septic tank without the seal being locked tightly. When he turned on the evacuator motor, human waste sprayed everywhere. He was covered!

Do you think he went to the remaining homes on his list for that day to finish up? No! He went straight home, dumped his stinky, filthy clothes in the washing machine, and put his stinky, filthy body in the shower. He said of that experience, *"It never felt so good to be clean!"*

"It never felt so good to be clean!"

That's what it feels like to be forgiven. We confess our sins, and God promises to make us clean. Bill Bright, the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ (now CRU), developed a simple word picture for this. He called it "spiritual breathing." Exhale. Inhale. We exhale the poison, carbon dioxide. We inhale life-giving oxygen. It's part of the regular rhythm of life.

So how do we spiritually exhale?

Read Psalm 32:3-5.

What does David say here about exhaling spiritual poison?

Read Psalm 38:18.

What insights do you draw about confession from David's experience?

Read Psalm 66:18.

Why insights do you draw about confession from David's experience?

Read Proverbs 28:13.

What insights do you draw about confession from Solomon's wisdom?

Read James 5:16.

What insights do you draw about confession from James' admonition?

Confession should be a regular practice in our lives. Confession is simply agreeing with God about our sin, admitting we have wronged Him, and asking for His forgiveness.

If we exhale when we confess our sins, then how do we spiritually inhale? We inhale by yielding control of our lives back to God's Spirit.

Read Romans 6:12-14

What insights do you draw about yielding control of your life back to God from Paul's challenge?

Read Romans 8:5-9.

What insights do you draw about yielding control of your life back to God from Paul's challenge?

Read Galatians 5:16-18.

What insights do you draw about yielding control of your life back to God from Paul's challenge?

Read Colossians 3:5-10.

What insights do you draw about yielding control of your life back to God from Paul's challenge?

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father for the freedom of forgiveness. "It never felt so good to be clean!"

Walking As Jesus...

Take time right now to EXHALE. Confess your sins to God. Be specific. Thank Him for His forgiveness. Now INHALE. Invite God's Spirit to fill you, control you and lead you today.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

SHARING WITH OTHERS

*“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts.
Use them well to serve one another.” 1 Peter 4:10*

What was the first word you spoke? More than likely, your first word was either “mama” or “dada.” Not long after that, though, I bet you learned to say “mine.” Because we are all born with a sin nature that we inherited from Adam, we are all born selfish. What is natural and normal for us is to think about ourselves before we think about others. We think about what we want. We think about what will make us look good. We think about what is in our own best interests. It is natural, even expected in our cultural, for us to put our interests ahead of the interests of others.

Let me give you a personal example. I’ve ordered a lot of pizza in my life. I’ve eaten a lot of pizza in my life. After many years as a youth pastor, small group leader, and father of six kids, I’ve probably ordered thousands of pizzas. And when it comes to pizza, and looking out for my own interests, I’ve got a dirty little secret to tell you. When it’s time to dish out the pizza, what might appear on the surface as an act of service is in reality an act of selfishness. You see, as the leader and “servant,” I’ll take responsibility for dishing up a slice

of pizza for everyone else before myself. However, the moment that pizza box is opened, my eyes have spotted the primo piece of pizza... the biggest, cheesiest, pepperoniest (is that even a word?) piece with the perfect crust. As I dish out the pizza, I make sure that piece is left for me. Sinner!

One of the things every parent wants their children to learn how to do is to share with others, be unselfish and be generous. It's the same with our Father in heaven. He wants His children to learn how to be gracious and generous.

Read Acts 2:42-47.

List all the ways that you see unselfishness being demonstrated by the early church.

We demonstrate unselfishness when we generously give to help others in need. God has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others. Is there someone in need that God has put on your heart? How could you be a blessing to them?

Read Romans 12:3-8.

God has given each of us gifts. Who are they meant to benefit?

Which of the gifts Paul that mentions to you think God might have given to you?

Read Romans 12:9-18.

After detailing the gifts God has given us to serve with, he then outlines the attitude we are to serve with. Which of these statements stands out most to you right now?

We demonstrate unselfishness when we use the talents and abilities God has given us to serve others and build them up in their faith. God has uniquely gifted each of us to make a necessary contribution to the lives of others. As you consider how God has gifted you, is there someone or some way that you believe God wants you to serve?

Read Romans 10:13-15.

What is the greatest need others have that God has given us the ability to meet?

The Apostle Paul states the obvious. People need to hear the gospel. They can't hear though unless someone tells them. Who do you know that needs to hear of God's love, Christ's death, the freedom of forgiveness and the gift of eternal life?

When I fail to tell someone about Christ because the timing is inconvenient for me, or because I think they'll reject me, it is the ultimate act of selfishness. I'm putting my desire for comfort or acceptance above their need for Jesus. Just like my pizza confession, I must also

confess that I have been selfish with the gospel more times than I care to admit.

We demonstrate unselfishness when we freely share the good news that has changed our life with others who need to hear it. God has given us a story to tell. Our story. His story. The message of reconciliation. We are His ambassadors!

What can you do today to share Jesus with a spiritually lost friend?

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father that He has given you a new heart filled with His love and grace. He has given you the ability and the capacity to love others.

Walking As Jesus...

Of giving generously, serving with your gifts or sharing the good news, which is the greatest challenge for you? Ask the Father to give you an opportunity to demonstrate unselfishness in that way today.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

WEEK FOUR // EQUIPPING THE WORKER // CHAIR 3



For the first 18-21 months of His public ministry, Jesus' disciples were largely spectators. They had front row seats to hear amazing teaching and see the miraculous. There had never been anyone like Jesus. They had never met anyone who spoke like Jesus. They had never met anyone who could do the things that Jesus did. The front row was an amazing place to be. I'm sure they were both thrilled and honored to be invited along for the ride. They cheered for Jesus. They worshiped Him. He was their long-awaited Messiah.

And then... then Jesus did the unthinkable! He invited them onto the field. He challenged them to be players, not just spectators. *"Follow me... and I will teach you how to fish for people! Everything you've heard me say and seen me do, I will now train you to say and do."*

Our churches today are filled with spectators, and we've become very comfortable spectating. We like our seat in the stands. We like to cheer on Jesus. We're content to sit in the stands and watch the professionals play the game, the pastors and youth pastors and ministry directors and elders and deacons.

Many who are sitting in the stands, spectating, don't even realize that their destiny awaits them on the field. They have been created

for a purpose, called to live on mission and custom-fitted with special equipment to make a contribution on the field that only they can make. The real spectators are the believers who have gone before us, watching on from heaven, cheering us on as we run the race that has been set before us.

When Jesus looked around and saw the vast spiritual need, He told His disciples that the harvest was great. There was great need, which meant that there was great opportunity. What He needed was more workers. He told His disciples He needed more workers. He asked the Father to send more workers.

The needs in our world today are great. Open your eyes. Look around you. The harvest is great, and Jesus needs more workers. But what is a harvest worker? Is it anyone who helps in any way with anything in the church? No. That would be a servant.

What is a harvest worker? A harvest worker is a disciple-maker. They lock arms with Jesus and help bring in the spiritual harvest. They share the gospel with spiritually lost people and help new believers to be established in their faith.

The person who is in Chair 3 is engaged in disciple-making by investing relationally in the person in Chair 1 and inviting them to place their faith in Christ.

The person who is in Chair 3 is engaged in disciple-making by investing relationally in the person in Chair 2 and inviting them to follow their model as they follow Christ.

Jesus delights in turning spectators into players, helping them to live lives filled with purpose and passion as they make disciples who make disciples.

THE WORKER'S CHALLENGE: FISH FOR PEOPLE

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Matthew 4:19

I watched in amazement as my father sat strapped into a chair bolted to the deck of the fishing boat, where he fought for what seemed like hours before finally bringing in the massive marlin. We were on a three day fishing adventure in Mazatlan, Mexico. I still have the picture proudly framed of my brother and me standing next to our dad and the 9 foot long, 180 pound marlin he caught. As for me, my prized catch was a 4 foot long mahi-mahi.

As a young boy, my father taught me how to fish. First, we walked to the pond near our home with tackle box and fishing rod in hand. It was there that I first experienced the thrill of a nibble, then a tug on the line, and then the fight to bring in my big catch. It wasn't long before I graduated from walks to the pond or fishing off the pier to all-day excursions on chartered fishing boats off the coast of Southern California. It was there I battled with and caught barracuda, or even a small 5 foot long nurse shark. Fishing is exciting!

I also remember the day Rich taught me how to fish. Rich had been meeting with me every week to disciple me, which usually

meant going to a fast food restaurant and doing a Bible study together. This time, Rich showed up at my door and said, *“Hey Doug, let’s go to the mall and witness!”* That day at the mall, Rich began to teach me how to fish for men. Fishing is exciting!

Peter and Andrew were taught by their father how to fish. James and John were still learning to fish from their father, Zebedee. The young men had been following Jesus for over a year when He approached them at their place of business, near their fishing boats and nets on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Read Matthew 4:18-22.

What did Jesus challenge Peter, Andrew, James and John to do? If you were them, what would you have thought of Jesus’ challenge?

How did Peter, Andrew, James and John respond to Jesus’ challenge? Do you think this was difficult for them?

Jesus was inviting these young men to work alongside Him in fishing for people. They had already journeyed with Jesus for over a year, following Him closely enough to see Him preach, teach, heal and perform miracles (John 1-4). Their response was immediate. They didn’t question. They didn’t delay. They didn’t negotiate. Leaving behind their nets and boats, and in the case of James and John, even their father, the four followed Jesus on a new adventure.

The disciples laid down their nets. What might you have to lay down to join Jesus in the work of making disciples?

Jesus told these fishermen that he would “*make them fishers of people.*” He would prepare them, equip them, to work alongside Him. The Greek word for equip is the very same word used when speaking of fishermen ‘preparing’ or “mending” their nets. The word *katartizo* means to both prepare and repair something or someone to make them ready.

How has God been repairing and preparing you for the work of making disciples?

As fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John knew that being effective at catching fish involved several things. There was a right time and a right place to catch fish. You would need to know where the fish were, and when they would come closer to the surface. There was also the knowledge and skill involved. You had to know how to cast a net and how to draw it back in without losing the fish. And of course you needed the right equipment, a reliable boat and a good fishing net.

Where is the best place for you to “fish for people?”

Let's say that the fishing boat represents your testimony, both visible and verbal. How strong is your testimony with your spiritually lost friends? Can you easily articulate the story of how God rescued you?

And if the fishing net represents the gospel, how prepared do you feel to clearly articulate the gospel message?

Apart From Him...

Ask the Father to show you how you need to be repaired and prepared to become effective at fishing for people, and to reveal to you if there is anything you need to lay down to join Him in the work of making disciples.

Walking As Jesus...

Write out your story. Keep it short and simple, something that you can communicate in two minutes. What was going on in your life before you put your faith in Christ that caused you to seek after Him? When and how did you put your faith in Christ alone for eternal life? What difference has Christ made in your life? After you write out your story, share it with a friend.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

PRAYING FOR THE HARVEST

These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." Luke 10:2

My children have probably heard me say at least a hundred times, *"work smarter, not harder."* This statement is intended to make them think about what they're going to do before they jump in and do it so they take the wisest course of action. I've also said this to teach them that its "smarter" to ask for help when they need it. Instead of struggling to move something heavy all by themselves, they can ask their dad for help. That is smarter, instead of the hard work of moving it by themselves. It's another way of saying, *"you don't have to attempt the project alone."*

Working in the harvest field ("fishing for people") is something you're not intended to do alone. In fact, it's not just "harder" to do alone, it's impossible to do alone. If you try to harvest alone, you will absolutely fail. We need help from the "Lord of the harvest."

Read John 6:44.

What does Jesus say needs to happen before people come to Him?

Read John 16:7-11.

Jesus told his disciples that He was going to send someone to help them. Who was Jesus sending?

According to **verse 8**, what was the Holy Spirit going to do?

Without the Holy Spirit working to convict lost people of their sin and the Father working to draw people to His Son to save them, our efforts to harvest are useless. We may try harder, but it's not smarter. We need God's power enabling us to fish for men and reap a harvest.

Working smarter means **praying**... asking God for help. Corrie ten Boom said, "*prayer is powerful. The devil smiles when we make plans. He laughs when we get too busy. But he trembles when we pray.*" Let's spend a few minutes praying.

Take a moment now to write the names of three spiritually lost friends. Now spend a couple minutes praying, asking the Father to draw your friends to Jesus, and asking the Holy Spirit to convict them of their sin and their need for Jesus to forgive and save them.

Now ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up workers (fishers of people) for the harvest. Remember that it is God's field, and He desires a

harvest.

Are you willing to be a worker for Him? Would you like to see a friend of yours who is a believer become a worker? Write down their name. Tell God you're willing to become a worker in His Harvest, and pray for that friend right now to become a worker too.

Read Colossians 4:2-6.

The Apostle Paul asked his friends to pray with him and for him. What can you ask the Father to do for you as you work (smarter) in the harvest?

v.3 - that He will _____ doors for you to share

v. 4 - that you will proclaim the gospel _____

v.5 - that you will be _____ in your conduct

v.5 - that you will recognize _____ and take advantage of them

v. 6 - that you will share with humility and _____ (engage, not enrage people)

v. 6 - that you will ask good questions and provide good

Apart from Him...

Pray for lost friends who are in the harvest field. Ask God to draw them to Jesus and convict them of their sin. Ask Him to give you opportunities to share with them, that you will share clearly and graciously, that you will have good answers, and He will use you to reach them.

Walking as Jesus...

Tell the Lord that you will be a worker in the harvest field. Tell Him you will do your part, but you need Him to do His part. Call a friend and tell them you are committing to be a worker in the harvest, and ask them to pray for you every day. Give them Colossians 4:2-6 and ask them to pray that for you every day.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

BECOMING A FRIEND OF SINNERS // CULTIVATE

“The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’ But wisdom is shown to be right by its results.”

Matthew 11:19

My dad grew up on a farm, and we did a little farming during my teen years. We usually harvested the corn in October. But before we harvested in October, we had to plant in April. Before we planted, we had to get the soil ready for the seed. The soil had to be plowed, prepared with a disc and cultimulcher ([google it and check it out](#)), and then rocks "picked" and removed. It had to be **cultivated**.

Before you can harvest lost people for Jesus with the gospel, the soil of their heart needs to be cultivated. Jesus did this through loving relationships. A loving relationship softens people's hearts and removes barriers (like picking rocks) so they will be more receptive to the message of the gospel.

Read Matthew 9:9-13.

Where was Jesus? Who was He with?

What did the Pharisees, the religious self-righteous people, accuse Jesus of doing?

Was Jesus guilty of doing this? Yes, absolutely. Why did he do this?

"A friend of tax collectors and sinners" was an insult, not a compliment, for any Jewish man, especially a Rabbi. This was a condemning accusation for scandalous behavior. Tax collectors were considered sinners because of their dishonest reputations. They often cheated people by over-charging for taxes, and they worked for the Roman government. The Jewish people despised the oppressive Romans, and hated the cheating tax-collectors. They viewed tax collectors as some of the worst of sinners, like murderers and rapists.

But Jesus spent time with them, ate with them, and had loving relationships with them. And it wasn't just a one-time offense. It was part of Jesus' lifestyle.

Read Matthew 11:19.

Who did Jesus have a reputation of associating with?

Did you notice in **Matthew 9:9** that one of the tax collectors, Matthew, became a disciple of Jesus? He even wrote the book of Matthew in the Bible. Jesus had spent time with Matthew and culti-

vated Matthew's heart through a loving relationship. Then Matthew believed Jesus was the Messiah, the savior, and became a follower of Jesus!

When I moved to Belgrade, Montana to plant a church, I didn't know anyone in town. I discovered that a group of guys played basketball at the local middle school every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning. I needed exercise and I wanted to be a worker in the harvest field, so I started playing to cultivate relationships with lost people.

As I started to play and build relationships with all the guys, I began praying daily for one guy in particular named Brandon. Brandon could cuss the paint off the wall with more colorful language than a Quentin Tarantino movie. Not only did I pray (working smarter), I began encouraging Brandon and everyone else for any good basketball play they made.

Then I spent a day hunting with Brandon. That's what you do in Montana! At Christmas time our church went Christmas caroling at Brandon's entire mobile home park, so not only did I cultivate, our entire church cultivated love into Brandon's life. A year later Brandon prayed in my office to put his faith in Jesus to forgive and save him, and then I baptized him on our church's 2-year anniversary! It all started by working smarter (prayer), and then cultivating the soil of Brandon's heart with a loving relationship, like Jesus did with Matthew.

Who is someone who cultivated a loving relationship with you, and helped you come to faith in Christ? What did they do?

What are some things you can do with lost friends that will help you build a loving relationship with them, like basketball, hunting, or caroling were for Brandon?

Apart from Him...

Thank God for the people who have built a loving relationship with you. Pray now for God to help you use gracious, encouraging words with people you meet today, so you can build loving relationships wherever you go.

Walking as Jesus...

Matthew had lost friends over to his house to meet Jesus. Invite a lost friend to your home for a meal, or dessert, or just to hang out. Ask questions to get to know them, encourage them, and build a loving relationship.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

INITIATING GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS // PLANT

“I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow.” 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

My wife loves to garden. She has planted and grown all kinds of flowers, vegetables, and even trees. She has planted in the ground and pots all types of seeds, bulbs, and seedlings. She has made our home and yard very attractive, and has fed our family as well, all through her planting.

Planting is hard work, just like cultivating. It takes time, effort, and even a plan. The planter must space the seeds the right distance apart, and also the proper depth in the soil. The planter must plan for the right amount of sunlight or shade, depending on the species of plant. Planting requires both insight and foresight. Insight is knowing what you're planting, and foresight is knowing what you need to do to achieve the desired end-product. Planting is WORK.

Planting is an essential part of the work in the spiritual harvest field. After cultivating the heart-soil of lost friends with a loving relationship, we plant seeds of spiritual truth. These seeds are verbal or

written questions or comments specifically about God. You bring God into the conversation.

Read John 4:1-26.

We see Jesus **cultivating**, showing love by talking to the woman, and **planting**, asking questions and making statements that bring up God and spiritual things. List some questions or statements Jesus made to insert God or spiritual topics into His conversation with the Samaritan woman.

John 4:7, 10, 13-14.

John 4:16-18.

John 4:21-24.

This took WORK on Jesus' part. I suspect that He didn't just think up these questions and comments on-the-spot, off-the-cuff. I think He probably thought of some of these things ahead of time and planned out some questions He might ask and answers He might give.

Think of some questions you can ask your friends that can insert a spiritual topic or God into a conversation.

Write out three possible questions.

1.

2.

3.

Jesus started planting seeds by asking questions related to His surroundings. He was at a well, so he began the conversation by talking about water. From there He directed the conversation to spiritual matters and God. He planted spiritual seeds about God with His questions and His statements.

My friend from Idaho, Don, likes to plant seeds by simply asking people he meets, *"Do you ever think about spiritual things?"* My friend Zane from Minnesota likes to ask a lot of personal questions first, then admire anything he can about them and their beliefs, and finally admit why he needs Jesus in his life.

I like to ask questions about popular movies or songs, like, *"Have you seen the Book of Eli? What did you think about it?"* And then start talking about God. Or, *"Have you ever seen the show 'The Walking Dead?' Do you like it? Do you think zombies are real? What do you think really happens when we die?"* And then share what the Bible says about death & eternal life.

What are some popular movies or songs and their topics that you could use to start a planting conversation about God?

Apart from Him...

Ask God for wisdom to know what questions to ask your friends, and what statements about God will have the greatest planting results.

Walking as Jesus...

Call a friend who is a believer and ask some of the questions you listed above to practice getting the hang of planting gospel seeds. Then, call a lost friend and ask these questions to start planting gospel seeds today.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

BRINGING IN THE HARVEST // REAP

“The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!” John 4:36

Every farmer is excited when it's time to reap the harvest. Whether its corn, soy beans, peaches, cherries, cotton, or apples, reaping time is the best time, because that's when you get paid! If you don't reap, you don't get paid. You can't reap if you don't first cultivate and plant, but you don't get paid if you only cultivate and plant. In order to get paid, you've got to reap.

In God's spiritual harvest field, it is very important and vital to work hard cultivating and planting. But just building loving relationships (cultivating) and talking about God (planting) does not translate to lost people receiving the gift of eternal life. We must finish the work and REAP with lost people by sharing the gospel.

Read John 4:27-38.

This occurred at the end of the encounter with the Samaritan woman that we read yesterday. What does Jesus say in verse 36 that

the reaper harvests a crop for?

Reaping is done when we present the gospel clearly, ask for a response, and give the person a chance to receive the gift of eternal life by placing their faith in Jesus to forgive their sin. Whether they respond by trusting Jesus for eternal life or not is really out of our hands. Only God can draw people to Jesus and make seeds “grow” (John 6:44 and 1 Corinthians 3:7). Your job as a “reaper” is to simply present the Gospel clearly and give them a chance to respond.

Read John 4:38.

What does Jesus say is the hard work?

That's right. The cultivating and planting is the "hard work." When you build loving relationships and are able to talk with genuineness, grace, and truth about God, it really assists the work God is doing on their heart and makes it easier for them to respond to the gospel. The reaping is easier when you work hard to pray for your friend, love your friend, and share the truth about God with your friend.

I can remember lost high school students named Matt, Kyle, Olivia, and many others who came to our youth groups over the years. They were "loved on" by other students, heard the truth about God many times in many ways, and then responded to the gospel by receiving eternal life through Jesus. The reaping was easier because many students in the youth group did the hard work of cultivating and planting. Many students showed them love, and many students shared about God.

Remember, although cultivating and planting are HARD, they are not the END of the work. We must reap to "get paid." After the hard work of cultivating and planting, a student named Nicole led Matt to Christ, a student named Albert led Kyle to Christ, and a student named Destiny led Olivia to Christ. After the cultivating and planting came the reaping! And after the reaping is when you "get paid."

Philemon 1:6 (NIV) says:

"I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." What are some of your benefits (getting paid) when you reap (share your faith)?

Read Luke 15:1-7.

Who was Jesus hanging out with again?

Think about the effort required to go find the lost sheep. What do you think the shepherd had to do to find the lost sheep?

According to verse 7, what is the ultimate pay-off for reaping?

Reaping is rewarding, both for you and the people you "harvest." Jump in and enjoy the work in the Father's harvest field!

Apart from Him...

Pray again for your lost friends, and ask God to help you do whatever it takes to go find those "lost sheep." Ask for the courage to share the gospel and ask for a response.

Walking as Jesus...

Practice sharing the gospel today with a friend who believes. Then share it for real with a friend who doesn't. Do it today.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

ESTABLISHING IN THE FAITH

"Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

I did a little work for a farmer during my teenage years putting up hay in the loft of a barn. After the hay was cut down and harvested, the work wasn't done yet. It still needed to be baled, loaded on a wagon, and stacked in the barn. If you've ever "done hay," you'll never forget the hot, dusty and sneezy job of stacking hay in the barn on a hot, humid summer day.

The work of harvesting doesn't stop when you "reap" and lead your friend to faith in Christ. There is still "baling, loading, and stacking" to be done. You still need to work at growing and establishing them in their walk with Jesus. You still need to help them *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* You need to help them learn to *"walk as Jesus."*

Read John 4:39-42.

After Jesus led the Samaritan woman to become a believer, she led many in her town of Sychar to faith in Christ. What did Jesus

then do with those people in verse 40?

What do you think He was doing with them during that time?

If you had two days with Jesus, what would you want to do?

Read John 2:1-12.

This account is when Jesus first started spending time with his initial disciples. What did He do to help them grow? How would this deepen their faith in Him?

This was Jesus' first miracle, and it most likely helped strengthen His disciple's belief in His identity as the Messiah. I'm guessing that during the two days He spent with the new Samaritan believers in John 4:39-42, Jesus was helping them deepen their faith in Him too.

Read Ephesians 1 & 2.

Write down some things about the identity of Jesus and your identity in Jesus. These are things you can share with new believers to help them *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

Ephesians 1:3.

Ephesians 1:4.

Ephesians 1:5.

Ephesians 1:7.

Ephesians 1:11.

Ephesians 1:13-14.

Ephesians 1:22-23.

Ephesians 2:4-5.

Ephesians 2:6-7.

Ephesians 2:10.

Ephesians 2:12-13.

Ephesians 2:18.

Ephesians 2:19.

Ephesians 2:22.

Apart from Him...

Pick out three truths about the identity of Jesus and/or your identity in Jesus from Ephesians 1 & 2. Spend some time meditating on them and praising God for them.

Walking as Jesus...

Share these three truths with a new believing friend to encourage them and help them grow.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

ENCOURAGING IN THE FAITH

“If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple... So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.” Luke 14:26-27, 33

I have coached kids of all ages in football, baseball, and basketball. I have learned that a good coach gives both positive reinforcement when an athlete does something right, and correction when an athlete does something wrong. Maybe you've had a coach who only notices the wrong... not much fun for you, right?

I've also learned that I need to speak to middle school athletes differently than I speak to varsity athletes. Middle school athletes need to be pushed and challenged, just like varsity athletes, but as a coach I'm a lot more patient with them. They're still learning the basics. They will make more mistakes, so I cut them more slack. I'm not as demanding as I am with varsity athletes, who should know better by now.

When Jesus made the comments in Luke 14, his disciples were "varsity athletes" by now. Jesus made these statements just a few months before his crucifixion; His disciples had been following Him for over three years now. So He set the bar really high and gave them some lofty expectations: *He is to be more important than anyone or anything else in their life.* Period.

As you are discipling a believing friend and encouraging them to grow in their walk with Jesus, there comes a time to set the expectations as high as Jesus does. You probably won't do this early on, when you're just helping them get started and grow in the knowledge of Jesus and their identity in Him. But as they get stronger in their faith, they need to be challenged more.

Read Luke 17:1-4.

How can sin hinder someone from growing in their relationship with Jesus?

What should you do when the person you are discipling sins?

Believers who have been following Jesus for a while need to be challenged to "give up everything." This means to resist temptation, die to sin and self, and put Jesus first. But there are other things besides sin that we are called to give up for the sake of Christ.

Read Luke 18:18-30.

The man said that he had no sin hindering him, but he had other things. What were they?

If you were really rich, what would be hardest for you to give up to follow Jesus?

What do you have in your life that is most difficult for you to give up for Jesus... maybe a relationship, a prized possession, entertainment, social media, certain habits, etc.?

Read Ephesians 4:17-5:20.

There are LOTS of great verses here about living as a follower of Jesus. As you read, put a star next to the verses that "speak" to you. After you finish reading, write out your 5 favorite verses from this passage.

1-

2-

3-

4-

5-

Now pick one of these verses to memorize. Write it on a note card and keep saying it over and over again throughout the day. Say it every time you get or send a text to keep it memorized.

Apart from Him...

Confess to God whatever sins are the biggest struggle for you. Ask God to help you resist them and rest in Him and the freedom and refreshment He gives!

Walking as Jesus...

When you're discipling someone, it's important to be vulnerable and transparent about your own struggles. You don't have it all together and you're not following Jesus perfectly. Share with someone today what hinders you from following Jesus completely. Be honest. It will feel good. And share the verse you memorized with a believing friend to encourage them.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

WEEK FIVE // MULTIPLYING DISCIPLE-MAKERS // CHAIR 4



As a person moves along the disciple-making pathway from seeker to believer to worker, how do they know when they have arrived at the fourth Chair as a disciple-maker?

In Luke 6:40, we see Jesus say this to His disciples.

“Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.” Student is another word for disciple. *“The disciples who is fully trained will become like the person who disciplined them.”*

If a disciple is going to be like their teacher, they have to know what the teacher knows so they can say what the teacher says and do what the teacher does.

If a disciple is going to be like their teacher, the character and priorities of the teacher must be reflected in the way the disciple lives.

If a disciple is going to be like their teacher, and their teacher disciplined them, then the only way they can truly be like their teacher is to disciple someone else.

Built right into the DNA of being a disciple is the priority of making disciples!

So again, as a person moves along the disciple-making pathway from seeker to believer to worker, how do they know when they have arrived at the fourth Chair as a disciple-maker?

The only way you can know if you are a disciple-maker is to look around you and see if you have actually made any disciples. Have you helped someone move from seeker to believer to worker, and now they are helping someone else move from seeker to believer and eventually worker? If so, then you have a disciple who is doing what you have done with them. You have a disciple who is making disciples. If you have a disciple who is beginning to make disciples, then, and only then, do you know that you are in the fourth Chair as a disciple-maker.

This has been Jesus' plan from the beginning. He chooses to use ordinary, unschooled men and women just like you and me to carry out His plan to take the gospel from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth. He chooses to use ordinary, unschooled men, women, children and students to reach this world one block at a time... one school at a time... one workplace at a time... one city at a time... one state at a time... one nation at a time.

Ordinary me. Ordinary you. We have always been God's plan!

"So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"" 2 Corinthians 5:20

THE DISCIPLE-MAKERS CHALLENGE: BEAR MUCH FRUIT

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:8

Have you ever counted the number of seeds in an apple? Give it a try. I just cut one open and found seven. What would happen if I took just one of those seeds and planted it? Would it produce an apple? No. It would produce an apple tree... with hundreds of apples. And if I were to then cut each of those apples open, we would presumably find about seven seeds in each one. Each of those apples have the potential to reproduce seven trees with hundreds more apples with seven seeds. Given time, I could cover the planet with apples!

The DNA of each seed contains the potential to multiply itself and bear much fruit.

But what about the DNA of a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Read John 15:8.

How does Jesus say we will we show ourselves to be His disciples?

How do you think we "*bear much fruit*" spiritually?

Read Matthew 3:8, Matthew 7:16-20, Philippians 1:11, Colossians 1:10.

What kind of fruit is the Bible speaking about here?

Read Galatians 5:22-23.

What kind of fruit is the Bible speaking about here?

Read Colossians 1:6.

What kind of fruit is the Bible speaking about here?

The Bible speaks about bearing spiritual fruit in *three* ways. We bear fruit spiritually as we obey God, producing acts of righteousness. In doing so, our behavior matches our new identity as a Christ follower. We also bear fruit spiritually as our character reflects the character of Christ. This is called the fruit of the Spirit. Finally, we bear fruit spiritually as we share the Gospel with those who are spiritually lost and see them put their faith in Christ alone for salvation. This is the abundant spiritual harvest that Jesus speaks of in Matthew 9:35-38.

Bearing much fruit involves all three. We bear fruit as we share the Gospel with those who are spiritually lost. After they have put their faith in Christ, we model what it means to follow Christ, and as they follow our lead, they bear the fruit of righteousness in keeping with repentance. As these new believers learn from us how to live in dependence upon and walk in step with the Holy Spirit, their lives will begin to produce the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

Disciples make disciples. That's what they do! In Luke 6:40, Jesus tells us, "*The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.*" Jesus uses the words 'student' and 'disciple' interchangeably. Here He makes it clear. The fully trained student will BE LIKE the one discipling them. Their life will reflect the character and priorities (the fruit) of the one training them. Since their teacher disciplined them, if they are to be like their teacher, they must then reproduce spiritually by discipling others.

One apple. Seven seeds. Seven trees full of apples with seven more seeds. Through multiplying apple trees, we can cover the planet with apples. The Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20, gives us Jesus' mandate to cover the planet with disciples. Jesus has a clear strategy.

Read Acts 1:8.

What is Jesus' strategy for covering the planet with His disciples?

Would you currently describe your spiritual fruit-bearing stage as an *apple* (Chair 2- developing your own spiritual fruit), an *apple seed* (Chair 3- planting the Gospel message with those who are spiritually

lost), or an *apple tree* (Chair 4- multiplying disciples who make disciples)?

Apart From Him...

Ask the Father to help you bring Him glory and show yourself to be His Son's disciple by bearing much fruit. Ask for His help in bearing fruit in every way- the fruit of righteousness, the fruit of the Spirit and the fruit of the Gospel.

Walking As Jesus...

Take an honest inventory of your own spiritual fruit. How does your character reflect the fruit of the Spirit? In what ways are you producing fruits of righteousness in your actions toward God and others? Who have you spiritually invested in that is now investing in others?

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

REMAINING: APART FROM HIM WE CAN DO NOTHING

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

When I fly, I hate connecting through Chicago. Why? Besides the potential of weather delays, both O'Hare airport and Midway airport have limited their free wi-fi to your first 20 minutes. Houston, Denver, Cleveland, Bozeman, Orlando, and others have unlimited free wi-fi. I'd much rather spend time in those airports, wouldn't you?

Imagine having the latest iPhone or iPad, but no wifi to use it. How would you ever stay connected on Facebook or Instagram? Or more importantly, how would you stay up to date on the scores on ESPN. Without that connection, you're left with a blank screen.

An ongoing connection with Jesus is absolutely essential if we're going to bear fruit spiritually. We must *"remain in him."* Just like a branch withers and is fruitless when it is disconnected from the vine, we too wither and remain fruitless when we're disconnected from Jesus.

What do you think is needed in your life for you to remain connected to the Vine, Jesus?

Read Galatians 2:20 and Romans 8:34.

Where is Jesus right now?

Read Hebrews 1:3.

What is Jesus doing right now as He sits in Heaven?

Jesus is at the Father's right hand in heaven, praying for you and *sustaining* you, helping you and strengthening you to walk as a disciple and bear fruit. He is also living inside you in the person of the Holy Spirit, giving you power to bear fruit.

Read Acts 1:8.

What kind of fruit does Jesus want to produce through us by the power of the Holy Spirit?

It's critically important that we "remain" in and "abide" with Jesus (the word for "remain" also means "abide"). How do we remain though? How do we stay connected to Jesus like a branch connected to a vine? How is that practically lived out?

Read Galatians 2:20.

"Christ lives in me!" He is not currently living on planet earth in physical form, where we can see Him, talk to Him and get direction and encouragement from Him. However, He does live inside us, and we can talk to Him, asking for sustaining strength to bear fruit by making and multiplying disciples. We can also ask for direction and get encouragement from reading the Bible.

Remaining in Christ means having an active relationship with Him, spending time with Him daily (like you're doing with this 40 Day devotional), asking Him to lead you to whom you should reach out to, and asking Him for the power to do it, just as He promised His disciples in Acts 1:8. If you stay connected to Jesus in this way, you will be able to bear much fruit!

Read Matthew 25:14-30.

How could being connected to the master help the first two servants "bear much fruit?" How could being disconnected from the master keep the last servant from bearing fruit?

Whatever level of ability or giftedness (Matthew 25:15) God has entrusted to you, leverage it to bear much fruit for Jesus. You will be rewarded, both in this life and in the life to come. You will live your life with a sense of joy and purpose, and then in heaven you will receive great treasure! And maybe best of all, one day Jesus will say to you, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your master's happiness!"* Remain. It's so worth it!

Apart from Him...

Ask Jesus for power to be a witness for Him. Talk to God throughout the day, asking Him to show you who He wants you to start a gospel conversation with.

Walking as Jesus...

Keep your eyes open as you go about your day, looking for people to impact and encourage, and listening to Jesus for where and when He wants you to cultivate, plant and reap.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

MODELING: IMITATE ME AS I IMITATE CHRIST

“ And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.” 1 Corinthians 11:1

Imagine you are driving on a highway in the right lane, and you are approaching an entrance ramp. There is a car on the ramp and it is getting ready to enter the highway and merge with traffic. You can tell it is going to merge at the same time you will be even with it. What are you supposed to do? Move over to the left lane to allow the car to enter the highway, right? But what if there is a car beside you in the left lane and you can't move over? One option would be to speed up, allowing the merging car to enter behind you. The other would be to slow down, allowing the merging car enter in front of you. What if you chose to slow down, but the merging car slowed down too, thinking they would enter behind you? Each of you keep deferring to the other, going slower and slower, causing all kinds of traffic problems as cars are hitting their brakes on both the highway and the entrance ramp.

This happened to my son when he was riding in the car with his girlfriend. She slowed down, trying to allow another car to enter the highway in front of her. As she and the other car kept slowing down,

my son said to her, "WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!?!!" As you can imagine, that didn't go over very well.

Guess where my son got those brilliant words of reassurance and encouragement. That's right. He had heard his dad say those words to him multiple times. I had modeled this reaction for him, and he imitated me. Hopefully that is not all he's learned from me, and I have modeled many good things for him to imitate.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1.

Paul gave this instruction to the church he started in Corinth. When you disciple someone, who should they imitate? Who should you imitate?

What are some habits of Jesus that you should imitate and pass on to your disciples?

Read Mark 3:13-14.

Jesus had many disciples. We see at least 72 in Luke 10:1 and 120 in Acts 1:15. Here in Mark 3 he chose 12 of them to be Apostles, key leaders in His disciple-making movement. What two things did Jesus have them do?

1.

2.

Why do you think Jesus wanted them to "*be with him?*" What kinds of things do you think He did with them?

When you spend an extended amount of time with someone, you can begin to resemble and imitate them. If you move to the south, after a year or so, you will probably start to speak with a "southern accent." If you're around someone who plays video games all the time, it's likely you'll start playing video games more often. And if your dad says, "*WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!!*," you'll probably say the same thing sometime.

When you spend time with your disciples, you're going to "rub off" on them. They're going to imitate you and become like you. It's important that you "remain" in Jesus so that you rub Jesus off on them.

What are some ways you have begun imitating Jesus over the past few weeks since you began this *40 Days of Disciple-Making Journal*?

When Jesus called the Twelve, He not only spent time with them, He also sent them out to preach. What do you think they preached about? What do you think their preaching "style" was like? Where did they learn how to preach? Remember, they were fishermen and tax-collectors, not trained preachers? They probably preached like Jesus and did exactly what He did, because they spent time with Him and imitated Him.

What are some ways you can help your disciples start to reach out (preach) to other people? How are you going to help them do it? How did Jesus help his apostles do it?

You are going to have to model this for them. Have them imitate you reaching out to the lost. Help them get to Chair 3 by reaching out to people in Chair 1 and building into people in Chair 2. Model this for them by doing it with them, and then "send them out" like Jesus did, so they can imitate you as you have imitated Christ.

Apart from Him...

Thank Jesus for showing you how to make disciples, and ask Him for strength to make others into disciples, modeling for them so they too can make disciples.

Walking as Jesus...

Ask your disciple to identify a lost friend that they can reach out to. Show them how to share the gospel, and then help them develop a plan (place & time) to share with their friend.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

REPRODUCING: MAKE DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.”

Matthew 28:19-20a

The gestation period (the time that elapses between conception and birth) of human beings is 9 months. The gestation period for a lion is 3 1/2 months; a bear, 6-8 months; a horse, 11 months; a whale, 12-18 months; an elephant, 17-24 months. The gestation period for a dog or cat? 2 months. A rabbit? One month. A chicken? 22 days. A rat? 21 days.

Each creature has their own special reproductive time-table, and it is most often different from every other animal. The reproduction time may differ from species to species, but all species reproduce. Reproduction is a normal and necessary facet of the life and continued existence of a species.

Read Genesis 1:21-22, 28, and 8:15-17.

What did God say that every living creature should do?

God didn't want every species to just exist. He wanted them to multiply, and to do that they must reproduce. Reproduction is normal and necessary.

Reproduction is also normal and necessary for disciples of Jesus. This is not just for our continued existence on the earth, but to help populate Heaven! It was never Jesus' intention for His disciples to just exist. He wants us to reproduce and multiply, to make other disciples.

Read Matthew 28:18.

These were some of Jesus final words to His disciples before He ascended to Heaven. What had been given to Jesus?

Jesus essentially told his disciples that He is the boss of all things, and everything on heaven and earth (stars, constellations, universes, trees, mountains, storms, wild and domestic animals, etc..) has to obey Him. He has all authority over all things. And now from that position of authority, He was giving them instructions.

Read Matthew 28:19.

What is the instruction Jesus is giving His disciples?

Many people believe the command from Jesus here in Matthew 28 was to "go," but that's not the case. The command was and is to

"make disciples" ("going" is part of making disciples). Jesus not only *told* his disciples to make disciples, he *showed* them how to make disciples. He showed them how to "reproduce" disciples. Our call is not just to *be* a disciple like Jesus, but also to *make* disciples like Jesus, following the example of Jesus.

To be a Chair 4 Disciple-Maker, we must not only *remain* in Jesus and *model* Jesus, we must also *reproduce* disciples who *remain* in Jesus and *model* Jesus.

Read Acts 9:1-30.

After Saul moved from Chair 1 to Chair 2 (believer), what helped him become a disciple? (see verses 18-19, 27-28)

Disciples in Damascus helped "disciple" Saul, and then the very apostles whom Jesus told to "make disciples" in Matthew 28:19 began to disciple Saul. Saul would later be renamed Paul (Acts 13:9), and he began to reproduce disciples. He led a young man named Timothy to faith in Christ.

Read 1 Timothy 1:2.

What does Paul call Timothy?

Read 2 Timothy 1:5-8a.

What do we know about Timothy? What does verse 8 say Timothy should do?

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2.

What does Paul tell Timothy to do? How many generations of disciples can you see here?

Paul instructed Timothy to reproduce, making disciples of Jesus who could make disciples of Jesus. He didn't specify a gestation period (every 21 days, 4 months, 9 months, or 2 years). Reproduce disciple-makers, wherever you are with whomever God has brought into your life.

Apart from Him...

Thank God by name for the people who have discipled you. Ask God to help you take the authority and call of Jesus to "make disciples" and "be fruitful and multiply" seriously.

Walking as Jesus...

Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

REJOICING: EXPERIENCE HIS PRESENCE

“At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and he said, “O Father, Lord of heaven and earth...” Luke 10:21

What makes you happy? Creating a masterpiece? Doing well in sports? Achieving good grades in school? Maybe its your favorite team winning, getting a raise at your job, watching an incredible movie, reading a good book in front of a warm fire, your favorite song coming on the radio, or bagging a big buck or bull elk on a hunting trip? Maybe it's receiving a great gift for Christmas, spending time with family, playing with your dog, getting together with an old friend, or eating Chick-Fil-A? Many things can make us happy.

You will not find any passage in scripture about what makes Jesus happy. You will, however, see that Jesus experienced joy. Joy is very similar to happiness. In fact, it is a state of happiness. it is *“an emotion of great delight caused by something exceptionally satisfying.”* In Luke 10, we see the one and only thing mentioned in the Gospels that was exceptionally satisfying to Jesus and brought Him joy.

Read Luke 10:1-3, 17, 21.

What made Jesus "full of joy?"

Jesus had 12 apostles (see Luke 6:12-16), and at least 72 disciples (seen here in Luke 10). In Luke 9:1-6, Jesus sent out His 12 Apostles to work in the harvest field, and here in Luke 10 He sent the 72 disciples to work in the harvest field. It's very likely that Jesus was training His 12 Apostles to be Chair 4 disciple-makers by allowing them to help train the 72 disciples to be Chair 3 workers in the harvest field. Think about it. Jesus invested more time in the 12, and then each of them invested time in 6 of the disciples (making up the 72... the math works for this).

And the Apostles had successfully helped make the 72 disciples into workers in the harvest field, that brought Jesus great *joy*. He was *full of joy*! His Apostles were making and multiplying disciples, and His disciples were reproducing by reaching lost people with the gospel.

Think about your relationships with believers and lost people. What have you been doing, and with whom, that brings Jesus joy?

Jesus not only *had* joy when his disciples (Apostles) were making disciples, but He wanted his disciples to have *his joy in them* (see John 17:13).

Read John 15:9-11.

What will bring the joy of Jesus into you and make your joy complete?

Read John 16:24.

What will make our joy complete?

Some might say that John 16:24 means my joy will be complete when God gives me what I want, and He'll give me what I want if I ask for it "in Jesus' name." Now read the context.

Read John 16:5-24.

Jesus is saying that instead of asking Him in person (because He won't be with them in person much longer... verse 16) for direction and guidance (verses 13, 15, 23), they will ask the Father, and He will give them the guidance that they ask for. Then their joy will be complete!

Seeking the Father and being led by the Holy Spirit is the source of great, complete joy for the disciple! Success, stuff and a trouble-free life might bring temporary happiness, but making disciples, reproducing disciple-makers, seeking God and being led by the Holy Spirit brings lasting, satisfying and complete joy!

Read Luke 24:46-52.

What is one more thing that brought Jesus' disciples joy?

These are some of Jesus' final words to His disciples. He told them they would receive the Holy Spirit (verse 49), and that they should

be witnesses who share the gospel (verses 47-48). Jesus then ascended to heaven (verse 51). And after that, the disciples *worshipped Jesus*, and were *full of joy*. We can be disciples who are *full of joy* when we accept His mission for us to make disciples and truly worship our great Savior, Jesus Christ!

Apart from Him...

Thank God for the joy He has given you during these 40 Days of Disciple-Making as you have prioritized the practice of making disciples.

Walking as Jesus...

Encourage a fellow believer by telling them of the joy that you're experiencing as you see them follow Jesus.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

ENDURING: FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.” 1
Corinthians 16:13

I have a friend who has a sticker on the back of his car that simply says 26.2. His wife has a sticker on her car that says 0.0. Do you know what those mean? Yes, he has run a marathon, 26.2 miles. She has run jack squat, 0.0 miles. I think her sticker is hilarious! I laughed out loud when I first saw it. I think his sticker is well-earned. It shows that he has a lot of endurance.

It takes a lot of preparation to begin a marathon. It takes a lot of endurance and perseverance to finish a marathon. Being a disciple-maker is similar to a marathon. There is a lot of preparation that goes into it, like growing in your faith, learning to work in the harvest field, leading others to Christ, helping them grow up in their faith, and training others to work in the harvest field. Being a disciple-maker, like running a marathon, requires endurance and perseverance.

A marathon runner must endure. They will get tired. Their muscles will get really sore, they'll feel pain, they might feel all alone, and their mind might lose focus and tell them it's not worth it. *“Just*

give up!" As you make disciples, you can grow weary and lose focus and want to give up.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:13.

Disciples are instructed to do four different things related to enduring. What are they?

Each of those four things are stated in order to combat something that could cause believers to quit as disciple-makers. For instance, we are told to be on our guard, because we can become unaware of Satan, our enemy, when we are busy making disciples.

What do you think the other three things that will help us endure?

We must stand firm, because we can become tired of reaching out and always giving to others.

We must have courage, because we can become afraid of rejection or failure.

We must be strong, because we can get discouraged with slow results and grow weary.

Read John 14:1.

What will help us endure?

Read Matthew 28:20b.

Where did Jesus say endurance comes from for the disciple-maker?

That's right. We endure by *trusting* Jesus. He has good plans for us and He is in control. We acknowledge that Jesus is *with us* as we make disciples! This promise in Matthew 28:20, that He is with us, is connected to Matthew 28:19, the call to make disciples. So as you make disciples, persevere and endure in Jesus' strength. He is with you! What a great promise.

Read Hebrews 12:1-3.

What is the "*race marked out for us*"? How does this say that we are able to persevere and run this race?

How do we "fix our eyes on Jesus"?

How does looking at Jesus help us persevere?

The race that Jesus has set out for you is to be a disciple who make disciples. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus to make disciples like He did and persevere like He did. To be a disciple-maker and endure as a disciple-maker, we must constantly read about, remain in, rely on, and replicate the Biblical Jesus. We must know all about Jesus.

Here the writer of Hebrews says that Jesus *endured*. We can endure because He endured. He endured by setting his sights on the joy that awaited Him. What was the source of that joy? Sitting down at the Father's right hand. Completing the will and work of the Father. Bringing the Father glory. Hearing the Father say, "Well done!".

Read Matthew 25:14-23.

What is the joy that is set before you as a multiplying disciple-maker?

Apart from Him...

Think about Jesus and how He endured the cross. Thank Him for his dedication to save you, His example that encourages you, and for being with you to strengthen you as you make disciples. Pray through 1 Corinthians 16:13.

Walking as Jesus...

Plan to read through all 4 Gospels in one month after you finish this 40 Days of Disciple-Making journey, so you can see the Biblical Jesus.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

DYING: DENY YOURSELF, TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, FOLLOW ME

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24

On May 14, 1804, Lewis and Clark and their expedition team of about 45 men left St. Louis to discover the source of the Missouri River. More than fourteen months later, on July 25, 1805, they arrived at the headwaters of the Missouri, just outside current-day Three Forks, Montana. Three rivers converge at the headwaters to form the Missouri River (hence the name of the town "Three Forks). From there, Lewis and Clark traversed one of the rivers, the Jefferson, to travel to the Pacific Ocean.

If you go to the Headwaters of the Missouri River today, there is a state park there, commemorating Lewis and Clark's discovery. In that state park you will find, among other things, a small, fenced-off gravesite where three children are buried. A marker says that they were the children of pioneers, and they died in 1870 from Black Diphtheria.

This makes me think of Jesus' original Apostles. They were, in many ways, pioneers. They were asked by Jesus to give up every-

thing, *deny* themselves and *die* to themselves. To follow Jesus and live a Chair 4 lifestyle, we have to deny ourselves and die to ourselves. We have to "*take up our cross.*"

Read Matthew 16:24-27.

What do you think it means to deny yourself and die to yourself?

What are some things you personally need to put to death in order to be a disciple-maker who follows Jesus? Think about habits, desires, relationships, conduct, use of time, etc....

What does Matthew 16:27 say is a benefit of denying and dying to yourself?

Jesus said these words in Matthew 16 about nine months before He went to Jerusalem, where He would take up His own cross. In nine months, He was going to die to Himself and deny His own desires and will in order to do the will of the Father (see Luke 22:42). Jesus died *to* Himself and He died *for* His disciples (and *for you*) to bring them to the Father (see 1 Peter 3:18).

Read 2 Corinthians 5:15.

Because Jesus died for us, what should we do?

In order to live for Jesus, we've got to die to our own desires and will, like Jesus did. How would giving in to our own desires and will hinder our ability to be a disciple-maker?

If you were teaching this material to a disciple of yours, what examples could you give of ways you have denied yourself and died to yourself?

Read John 21:17-19.

Nine months after Jesus told His disciples to deny and die to themselves, He was arrested, tried, took up His cross and was crucified. After He was arrested, the Apostle Peter denied knowing Him. After Jesus was crucified and rose to life again, He gave Peter a chance to make things right. Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him, allowing him to make up for the three times he had denied Him.

After Peter's third affirmation of love and commitment to Jesus, what did Jesus say would happen to Peter?

Peter, the pioneer disciple-maker, was actually crucified for his faith in Jesus. Just like Jesus described it, he was crucified with his hands stretched out. He was crucified by the Roman Emperor Nero in 67 or 68 AD. He actually chose to be crucified upside down, with his head to the ground, because he did not feel worthy of dying exactly like Jesus. Peter did deny and die to himself, living a disciple-making life for Jesus, and he ultimately died for Jesus.

Read Philippians 3:10-11.

The Apostle Peter had an influence on the Apostle Paul. Paul expressed this desire in his disciple-making lifestyle. What was his desire? How is this denying and dying to himself?

It is normal for us to want to avoid pain, suffering and death. Jesus would have preferred to not suffer and die, but out of love for the Father and for us, He denied Himself and died to Himself. Out of love for Jesus and the Father, to be a pioneering disciple-maker, we must deny and die to ourselves. We will lose our lives, but we will find them (Matthew 16:25) and be rewarded for our sacrifice (Matthew 16:27)!

Apart from Him...

Thank God for putting you right where you are, choosing you to be His child and calling you to be a disciple-maker. Ask Him to show you ways that He wants you to deny yourself and die to yourself. Tell Him you're willing to take up your cross, and ask Him for the strength and endurance to do it.

Walking as Jesus...

Write down three ways (habits, relationships, behaviors, desires) that Jesus wants you to deny yourself so that you can live for Him and be like Him. Share this list with either someone you are discipling or someone who is discipling you.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan...

WEEK SIX // STICKING POINTS AND NEXT STEPS



Why do people get stuck in a particular chair along the pathway of their disciple-making journey? We've all seen it in others. Maybe we've even experienced it ourselves. We get stuck. We're in a spiritual rut. What are some of those common sticking points that each of us face? What are the common barriers between each of the four chairs, and how do we break through them?

In John 6, after Jesus fed the 5000, we read of His teaching on the Bread of Life. This was where Jesus told those following Him that they must *"eat His flesh and drink His blood."* This was not an invitation to cannibalism or vampirism. He's calling them into a deep relationship with Himself. A relationship of intimacy, commitment and sacrifice. How does the crowd of followers respond?

"At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him." John
6:66

These disciples were following. They were on the disciple-making pathway. They might have been in Chair 2, but they got stuck. They couldn't, or wouldn't, move any further.

Jesus didn't want His closest companions, the Twelve, to get stuck here. He wanted them to experience breakthrough.

Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?" Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."

John 6:67-68

Another time, Jesus was approached by a rich young ruler, a lawyer, who wanted to become a follower of His. The young man was in Chair 1, but He got hung up there.

Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions." Matt. 19:21-22

The rich young ruler was stuck in Chair 1. He was relying on his own self-sufficiency and self-righteousness. He thought he could earn his way into the kingdom. He thought he was good enough. Jesus set before him what He knew would be an impossible act. *"Sell all you have. Give it all away to the poor."* Was Jesus literally establishing this as a requirement to enter the kingdom? No. He wanted to bring the young man to the end of himself so that he would put the full weight of his trust in Christ and Him alone.

Each of the Four Chairs can be positioned in one of three directions.

If we turn the chair to the left, it is pointing backwards. For the person in Chair 1, this would represent a hard heart that wants nothing to do with Jesus, the church, or Christians for that matter. For the

person in Chair 2, this would represent that person reverting back to the sinful ways of their Chair 1 lifestyle.

The second position would be to leave the chair in its normal position. For the person in Chair 1, this would represent an openness to talking about God or going to church. For the person in Chair 2, this would represent being in spiritual neutral, comfortable with where they are at.

The third position would be to turn the chair to the right, as if it is moving in a forward direction, eager to move on to the next chair. In Chair 1, this person is seeking and ready to receive Christ. In Chair 2, this person is growing as a disciple.

Whatever chair we are in, we must honestly ask ourselves, "*Am I stuck?*"

4 CHAIRS ~ 4 FRUITS ~ 4 SOILS

“The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!” Mathew 13:23

When was the last time you were stuck? A math problem. A work project. A crossword puzzle. An overheated engine. A frozen computer screen. A toxic relationship. A financial crisis.

We’ve seen the stories of 9/11 survivors trapped in the rubble of the crumbling Twin Towers, or thousands of people in impoverished Haiti buried under the crumpled, twisted concrete and steel following the earthquake that rocked Port Au Prince, or the 33 Chilean miners stuck deep beneath the surface of the earth awaiting their rescue that would come 69 agonizing days later, or Baby Jessica from Odessa, Texas trapped for three days after falling into a collapsing well.

While our experiences of being stuck are probably not as literal as any of these stories stolen from the headlines, they are no less real. There are those times we feel powerless, trapped, hopeless, or deterred. Being stuck, regardless of whether you got yourself into the

situation or someone else put you there, is incredibly frustrating and discouraging.

Have you ever been stuck, but you didn't know it? This is the dangerous place many of us find ourselves at spiritually. We're not moving, but we don't know it. We're complacent. Luke-warm. Blind. Distracted. So how do we avoid getting stuck on our disciple-making journey?

Jesus uses two different illustrations to help us understand where we might get stuck in our disciple-making journey and how we can move past those sticking points.

Read John 15:1-8.

What are the four different levels of fruitfulness that Jesus describes here?

Do you see any similarities between these four levels of fruitfulness and the discipling process as we've described it with the 4 Chair Discipling study?

No Fruit. Fruit. More Fruit. Much Fruit.

God's desire is that we bring Him glory and show ourselves to be His Son's disciples by *bearing much fruit*, but sometimes we might be stuck with bearing no fruit or little fruit. Have you ever felt stuck, like your relationship with God was going nowhere, or even worse, going in reverse?

What is one thought from Jesus' words in John 15:1-8 that could keep you from getting stuck?

Read Matthew 13:18-23.

What are the four different kinds of soil that Jesus describes here?

Do you see any similarities between these four kinds of soil and the discipling process as we've described it with the 4 Chair Discipling study?

Hard Path. Rocky Soil. Thorny Soil. Good Soil.

God's desire is that our spiritual lives be good soil that produces a strong crop, yielding one hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. His desire is that our lives multiply disciples who make disciples.

What are some common spiritual sticking points that Jesus highlights in Matthew 13:18-23?

Which of these, if any, serves as a warning for you right now?

We all get stuck. The ultimate sticking point is sin. Isn't this the agonizing truth the Apostle Paul speaks of in Romans 7:19 when he says, *"For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do- this I keep on doing."* Thankfully, by God's grace, we can be free,

“because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life sets us free from the law of sin and death.”

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father that regardless of when, how or why you get stuck, your situation is not a life sentence. Ask the Father for the grace you need to keep from getting stuck and to keep moving forward in your disciple-making journey.

Walking As Jesus...

Take a blank sheet of paper and divide it in thirds. Write 30, 60 and 100 at the top of each third. Write down what you think 30 times the fruit would look like in your life, and then do the same for 60 and 100 times the fruit. Use this page as a reminder of your vision of a fruitful life.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

STICKING POINTS FOR THE SEEKER

“The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.” Mathew 13:19

I’m not a farmer. Neither my wife nor I have a green thumb. I’ve never lived on a farm. I’ve never worked on a farm. We’ve never had a garden. What do I know about cultivating, planting or reaping? Actually, there was that time I took some kernels of corn and planted them in the dirt next to my house in California. I was only eight years old. I don’t think it was a school project. I was just curious. I dug up the dirt, planted the seeds, watered the ground, and watched as real live corn stalks grew over the next few months. Amazing! Even as an eight year old, I knew I couldn’t grow corn by placing the corn kernels on our driveway.

When Jesus told His parable about the Four Soils, He was speaking to an audience in an agrarian culture. They understood farming, herding and fishing. This was how they lived. It’s not lost on His audience that the only difference in each situation He described was the quality of the soil in which the seed was planted. Same farmer. Same seed. Different soil. Different results.

Yesterday, you read about the Four Soils.
Hard Path. Rocky Soil. Thorny Soil. Good Soil.

Read Matthew 13:18-23 again.

How do you think the Hard Soil relates as a potential sticking point for the person in Chair 1?

How do you think the Rocky Soil relates as a potential sticking point for the person in Chair 1?

How do you think the Thorny Soil relates as a potential sticking point for the person in Chair 1?

While the Rocky and Thorny Soils could certainly relate to the believer whose faith is shallow and fails to grow because they are either discouraged or distracted, we could also apply the same challenges to those who show initial interest in the gospel of Jesus Christ but eventually get hung up by pain or difficulty they are facing or by worldly pursuits of pleasure and power.

Jesus described those whose hearts were the Rocky Soil this way:

"...since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted..."

One of the common objections non-believers have to putting their faith in Christ is, *"If God is so loving, how could He allow such bad things*

to happen?" Sometimes, this is an intellectual objection, but more often, it is an emotional objection. It comes from a place of deep pain.

What are some emotional roadblocks to the faith that you have come across?

Jesus described those whose hearts were the Thorny Soil this way:

"...quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth..."

One of the common roadblocks for non-believers placing their faith in Christ is their pride. They are self-sufficient. They don't need God. They are consumed with pursuing their own personal agenda and making it on their own.

What have you observed to be some of the common pursuits that prevent people from placing their faith in Christ?

Jesus described those whose hearts were the Hard Path this way:

"...those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts."

One of the common roadblocks for non-believers placing their faith in Christ is a lack of understanding. Maybe they have heard the gospel, but they don't understand it. Maybe they have heard an incomplete gospel, and it doesn't make sense. Maybe they have heard the gospel, but they still have many questions.

What are some of the common misunderstandings or questions about the faith that you have heard from non-believers?

The greatest roadblock of all is SIN! Many spiritually lost people don't want to put their faith in Christ because they don't want to give up their sin. They are not seeking God. Their heart is hard.

For those who are seeking, but are dealing with the roadblocks of pain, pride or a lack of understanding, what can you do to help them get past their roadblocks?

Apart From Him...

Remember that you are not the Savior. Saving people is God's job, not yours. Be faithful to cultivate, plant and reap, and God will be faithful to draw spiritually lost people to Himself.

Walking As Jesus...

Who is number one on your list of spiritually lost people you want to share the good news with? Which of the soils represents their heart? Hard, Rocky, Thorny or Good? Pray and ask God for wisdom on how to best cultivate, plant and reap based on the condition of their heart.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

STICKING POINTS FOR THE BELIEVER

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more." John 15:1-2

We live in the citrus capital of the United States, Florida. About 80 million boxes of citrus are picked in Florida annually. The Sunshine State produces twice as many oranges annually as California and Texas combined. With the abundance of citrus here, it should come as no surprise that I have two citrus trees in my backyard, a grapefruit tree and a lime tree. On a good year, our grapefruit tree would produce a bountiful crop of around 300 juicy grapefruits. How fun to be able to walk out into our backyard and pick a grapefruit off the tree for breakfast, or to pick a bag of grapefruits to share with our neighbors. A couple of years ago, our grapefruit tree was infected with a fungus. It was neglected, left untreated, and now our once bountiful grapefruit tree bears no fruit. So sad!

As believers, we're meant to bear spiritual fruit. Many of us aren't though. So sad! Why do we fail to bear spiritual fruit, and what can we do about that?

Read John 15:1-2.

Do you think Jesus is addressing believers or unbelievers here?

What do you think Jesus means when He says the Father *“cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit?”*

Because Jesus identifies the branches as belonging to Him, *“every branch of mine,”* it seems apparent that Jesus is speaking of believers here. So when He says the Father cuts off branches that bear no fruit, does He mean that those who don’t bear fruit are cut off from the Father, lose their spiritual inheritance, and will spend eternity separated from God in hell?

The Greek word for “cuts off” is αἶρει (pronounced air-ei). The meaning of this word is “to raise, take up, lift.” While many Bible translations like the NLT and NIV translate this word as “cuts off,” others like the NASB, NKJV and ESV translate it “takes away.”

When you understand the work of a vinedresser though, translating this word closer to its basic meaning of “to raise, take up, lift” makes more sense. As a vinedresser walks through the vineyard, examining each vine, determining where he must prune or reposition branches for maximum fruit bearing, he might notice some branches that are laying down in the dirt. They are on the ground, out of the sunlight, unable to receive what they need to be fruitful. In this case, the vinedresser will “lift” the branch, “picking up” and “raising” it from the ground, repositioning it within the trellis, giving that branch an opportunity to produce fruit.

How does this picture of “picking up” unfruitful branches change your perspective on John 15:2?

When we are down in the dirt, stuck in the mud, caught up in the filth of our sin, God’s desire is to pick us up. In His love and care, He wants to clean us off and reposition us in a place where we can begin to grow again.

One of the main reasons why believers get stuck in Chair 2 is SIN. Like my grapefruit tree that I neglected when it became infected with a fungus, we often neglect the sin in our lives, allowing it to go unchecked and unconfessed.

What are the effects you have personally felt when you’ve allowed sin to go unchecked and unconfessed in your life?

One of the main effects of sin is that it will cause us to “fall out” of the habits that are crucial for our spiritual health. We stop reading the Bible. We stop praying. We stop going to church. We stop fellowshiping with other believers. We stop serving others. When we neglect these habits, our hearts grow cold. We grow distant from God in our relationship with Him.

Read James 4:4.

What does James equate sin with?

Read James 4:7-10.

What does James offer as the antidote for spiritual adultery?

In James 4:10, we are told that if we humble ourselves before God, confessing our sin to Him, He will “lift us up.” He will pick us up out of the dirt, clean us off, and place us back on the trellis where we can grow and produce spiritual fruit once again.

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father that when you sin, He doesn't discard you, but instead lovingly offers to pick you up and help you become fruitful in Him again.

Walking As Jesus...

Read through James 4:4-10 again. Is there any sin you need to confess to the Father? Use James 4:7-10 as your prayer to the Father for forgiveness, restoration and rejoicing.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

STICKING POINTS FOR THE WORKER

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more." John 15:1-2

How busy are you? Recent studies indicate that the United States is the most overworked country in the world. 86% of men and 67% of women in the United States work more than 40 hours a week. Americans work 137 more hours per year than Japanese workers, 260 more hours per year than British workers, and 499 more hours per year than French workers. Productivity per American worker has increased 400% since 1950. The US remains the only industrialized country in the world that has no legally mandated annual leave. Some countries, like France and Finland, mandate a full 30 days of leave annually.

Whether you live in the United States or not, our lives are consumed with work, school, study, maintaining our homes, cars and finances, commuting, , family obligations and more. How do we make time for God in our busy lives? How do we prioritize disciplin-making?

In the busyness of our everyday lives, is it even possible to move past Chair 2 and live a Chair 3 or Chair 4 lifestyle?

I mentioned yesterday that we have two citrus trees in our backyard, a grapefruit tree and a lime tree. The grapefruit tree is diseased and dying because it's covered with fungus. The lime tree, however, is thriving. Its leaves are bright green. Its branches are full. It has literally grown so big, it is as tall as our two-story house! There's just one problem. Our lime tree has no... limes! How could this be? It looks so good, so healthy, so full. It's growing thick and tall. How is it possible that a tree that looks this healthy and beautiful has no fruit?

It's simple really. All of our lime tree's energy, all of its nutrients from the soil and sunlight, have gone into producing more branches and leaves. It has nothing left to actually produce fruit. If I want my lime tree to actually produce limes, I have to intentionally prune it, cutting away excess branches so it can focus its energy on what matters most for a lime tree. Limes!

What do you think Jesus meant when He said, *"he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more?"*

Do you think by pruning that Jesus meant we need to cut back on the activity in our lives that is outside the church so we can be involved in more activity inside the church?

Maybe you have heard of Steven Covey's Big Rocks analogy. In the analogy, you take a jar, and you first place big rocks in the jar until it is full. Then, you take pebbles and fill the rest of the jar until it is full. After the pebbles, you take sand, dumping it over the big rocks and the pebbles, until the jar is full. Finally, you take a pitcher of water and pour it over the big rocks, pebbles and sand until the jar is completely full. Now, what's the point of the analogy? Many will initially say, "*You can always fit more in than you first thought!*" But alas, that is not the point at all. The point is, you could never have fit the big rocks into the jar unless you put them in first. The key in life is to figure out, "*What are my big rocks?*"

What are your "big rocks" right now?

What do you think Jesus says your "big rocks" should be?

Read Matthew 22:37-40.

What are the two "big rocks" Jesus identifies here?

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

What is the third "big rock" that Jesus identifies here?

Like my lime tree, have you allowed your life to become too full? What would it look like for you to prioritize Loving God, Loving People and Making Disciples in your life right now?

What other priorities might you have to allow to be pruned away to make room in your life for you to grow in these areas and produce even more spiritual fruit than you currently are?

The “big rocks” Jesus wants us to prioritize are not about filling our lives with more religious activities. Jesus’ “big rocks” are about prioritizing relationships. We have to make room of our relationship with God. We have to make room for our relationships with spiritually lost friends. We have to make room for investing in other believers, helping them to grow as disciples.

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father that He will give you the wisdom to know everything you need to do and the strength to do everything you need to do. He doesn’t want you to feel overwhelmed or stressed.

Walking As Jesus...

Open up your daily calendar. Does your daily, weekly and monthly schedule reflect Jesus’ disciple-making priorities? What is one change you can make to better align with His big rocks?

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

STICKING POINTS FOR THE DISCIPLE-MAKER

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

One of my greatest joys in ministry over the past ten years has been the disciple-making training center we started in Haiti with Pastor Wiljean Compere. Each year, 15-20 young men and women come to live at the training center, study the Son’s life, and be equipped to *“fe disip kap fe disip!”* (Make disciples who make disciples) God is using the training center to transform Haiti, one life at a time. Pastor Wiljean’s ministry, [Open Door Haiti](#), has planted twenty churches during that time, with all but two of them being pastored by graduates of the training program. The director of his medical center and orphanage are both graduates from this program.

One of my favorite stories from the past ten years involves a young man by the name of Joclyn. Each month, the students have an opportunity to participate in hands on disciple-making, sharing the gospel in remote villages throughout northern Haiti. At the end of that year, when I asked Joclyn for his report on what he had seen God do, he began to tell us about village after village where he had

gone to preach the gospel. By “preach the gospel,” he did not mean preaching on street corners or in churches, but rather going from hut to hut and engaging people in spiritual conversations. Seventeen people trusted Christ in this village, fifteen in that village, twenty-one in another village. His report went on and on. When he was finished, I asked how many people he had led to faith in Christ over the previous six months. His reply. “One hundred and seventeen!” Wow!!!

The fun part was what came next though. I asked Joclyn if he was following up on all of these new believers. Who was discipling them? Had he started a small group? Yes, Joclyn said, he had started a small group. “*How many people are in your small group?*” I asked. When Joclyn replied, ‘*One hundred and twenty,*’ I told him that was NOT a small group. That was a church!

Thinking of Joclyn and others I’ve invested my life in over the years, I’m reminded of the Apostle John’s words in 3 John 1:4, “*I could have no greater joy than to hear that my children are following the truth.*” No greater joy! What great joy is ours when we make disciples, and then we see them begin to make disciples who make disciples!

Read John 15:8-15.

What are some of the wonderful benefits of being a disciple-maker?

Jesus says that when we produce disciple-making fruit...

...we prove we are His true disciples!

...we bring great glory to the Father!
...we remain in His love!
...we are filled with great joy!
...we are called His friends!

Read John 15:4-8.

Jesus gives us one non-negotiable for producing disciple-making fruit. What is it?

What do you think it looks like to “*remain in Him?*”

What do you think is the opposite of “*remaining in Him?*”

The opposite of “*remaining in Him?*” is the single greatest roadblock for the disciple-maker. We can easily become so focused on and busy with the activity of ministry that we subtly begin to neglect our “*first love?*” and rely on our own wisdom and strength to accomplish our work for God. We end up working “*for God?*” rather than working “*with God.*”

Read Revelation 2:2-4.

The Apostle John is writing to the Church in Ephesus. How do you see them working “*for God?*” rather than “*with God?*”

The church in Ephesus was doing the right things. They were diligent and dutiful. They were making sacrifices and withstanding evil. In the midst of their busyness for God, though, they had neglected their relationship with God.

The key to a disciple-maker's ongoing effectiveness and fruitfulness is the depth of their roots as they cultivate a deep, abiding, sustaining love relationship with their Father.

Now that you have reached the end of this *40 Days of Disciple-Making Journal*, don't forget this one truth.

The Father desires a love relationship with you that is real and personal. He desires to work both in you and through you to reveal Himself to you. The Father loves you!

Apart From Him...

Thank the Father that He has pursued you and desires an intimate relationship with you. This relationship will be your source of joy and strength for the journey ahead.

Walking As Jesus...

Take the *4 Chair Discipling Inventory* at the end of this study. Identify which Chair you are in, and what your next steps are in your journey to be a disciple who makes disciples. Have you seen progress in that journey over the past 40 days? Share your progress and encourage others that are on this disciple-making journey with you.

My Personal Disciple-Making Plan:

4 CHAIR DISCIPLING / PERSONAL INVENTORY

Instructions: Answer each question honestly. Do not be discouraged with where you are at, but rather see this Inventory as a tool to help you discover the next step in your disciple-making journey. A point value of 1, 2 or 3 will be given to each response. A score between 0-19 indicates that you should still put primary focus on that Chair. A score of 20-21 indicates that you can put primary focus on the next Chair while remaining strong in all previous Chairs in your disciple-making journey.

CHAIR ONE / SEEKER / "COME AND SEE"

Score your replies for the Chair One category as follows: DISAGREE / 1 UNSURE / 2 AGREE / 3

- 1. I am confident that I will be with God in heaven after I die.*
- 2. I could never be good enough to earn my way to heaven.*
- 3. Religious acts like going to church or being baptized do not make me a Christian.*
- 4. There is only one way to God and that is through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.*

5. *I have put my faith in Christ's death and resurrection as the only payment for my sin.*
6. *My commitment to follow Christ is a response to God's grace and the gift of salvation I've received.*
7. *Those who don't put their faith in Christ will be separated from God for eternity in hell.*

TOTAL _____

CHAIR TWO / BELIEVER / "FOLLOW ME"

Score your replies for the Chair Two category as follows: WEAK / 1
IMPROVING / 2 STRONG / 3

8. *I am developing the character of Christ (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness... Galatians 5:22-23)*
9. *I am developing the priorities of Christ (Love God and Love People... Matthew 22:37-39)*
10. *I recognize Christ as Lord and put Him first in every area of my life (time, money, relationships).*
11. *I am dependent on God's Spirit for strength and direction in my everyday life.*
12. *I spend time with God each day by reading His Word and talking to Him through prayer.*
13. *I know my spiritual gifts and look for ways to use them in serving others.*
14. *I am concerned for those who don't know Jesus and want to share Him with them.*

TOTAL _____

CHAIR THREE / WORKER / "FISH FOR PEOPLE"

Score your replies in the Chair Three category as follows: WEAK / 1
IMPROVING / 2 STRONG / 3

15. *I pursue relationships with spiritually lost people and pray for their salvation.*
16. *I know how to communicate my salvation story (my testimony).*
17. *I know how to share the gospel message simply and clearly (in two minutes).*
18. *I look for and act upon opportunities to share the gospel message verbally with spiritually lost people.*
19. *I pursue discipling relationships with other believers and pray for their growth into Christ-likeness.*
20. *I know the basics that a new believer needs to understand to grow in their faith.*
21. *I share what God is teaching me with others to encourage them in their faith.*

TOTAL _____

CHAIR FOUR / DISCIPLE-MAKER / "BEAR MUCH FRUIT"

Score your replies in the Chair Four category as follows: WEAK / 1
IMPROVING / 2 STRONG / 3

22. *I have showed others how to share their faith and they are putting it into practice.*
23. *I am regularly meeting with at least one other believer to show them how to follow Christ.*
24. *I am committed to walking with others through the process of becoming disciples who make disciples.*

25. *I model a disciple-making lifestyle that encourages and inspires others to become disciple-makers.*

26. *I prioritize my schedule to be able to spend time with spiritually lost people and disciple believers.*

27. *I have disciplined someone I led to Christ, and they are now discipling someone they led to Christ.*

28. *I initiate new relationships for the purpose of making disciples.*

TOTAL _____

CHAIR ONE _____

CHAIR TWO _____

CHAIR THREE _____

CHAIR FOUR _____

My next step in my disciple making journey is...