



Brown Community Group

Discussion Guide

Love Jesus, Live Sent - Value 6: Intentional Disciple-Making
December 19, 2021

I. Starter Thoughts and Ideas:

- What comes to your mind when you hear “Disciple Makers”? Do you feel through your actions and decisions that you would fill the shoes of those historically called Disciple Makers? Think about someone in your life that has had tremendous impact on your spiritual life? How did they make that impact? Was it intentional with direction, words and actions to impress on you the ways of God and his commandments?

II. What is Intentional Disciple-Making?

Our sixth reframed value is **Intentional Disciple-Making**: We share the gospel, teach others to obey Jesus’s commands, and design ministry approaches that lead to local and global replication (Matthew 9:36–38; Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:14–17; Colossians 1:28–29; 2 Timothy 2:1–2). Based on this church value, then, we believe that an individual disciple is *making disciples of Jesus*. Every one of us is a disciple-maker, both in evangelism and in helping believers grow in their faith. This trait is an attribute of a disciple toward which we want to equip one another.

III. Discussion of Scripture:

Context: Jesus was finally becoming a public figure, followed by large crowds due to his healing and teaching ministry. This was also right before Jesus commissioned his twelve disciples as apostles—as his official representatives and messengers with a measure of authority. Here Jesus revealed a glimpse into his heart for the future, for the lost, for disciple-making through his people.

Matthew 9:36–38 (ESV)

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

1. Compare Jesus’s heart for lost crowds to ourselves? Are they different? How and why?
2. What does Jesus reveal here about the nature of evangelism?
3. Jesus says for to pray earnestly about what?
4. How do these passages align with our 6th Value of Intentional Disciple-Making? What and who are we aligning as an individual disciple?

Context: After Jesus’s resurrection, and right before he ascended back to heaven, he gave his disciples his final instructions. Notice how many times Jesus refers to “all” here—all authority, all nations, all commands, all the days (“end of the age”). Jesus’s position is King, the command’s scope is global, our obedience is comprehensive, and Jesus’s presence is constant.

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

5. **How do we know that this command was not just for the original hearers but is for us today as well?**
6. **We see both evangelism (“baptizing”) and spiritual growth (“teaching them to observe”) in this command. How does a church keep these two items in proper perspective for their congregation and not wrongly emphasize one over the other?**
7. **What is it about Jesus that demands us to follow and obey? How does his authority and presence empower us to obey this command?**

Context: This passage is how Luke recorded the same events from Matthew 28 above. Most likely he framed this verse in view of his three “stages” of the gospel advance in Acts—Jerusalem in Acts 1–7, Judea and Samaria in Acts 8–12, and the ends of the earth in Acts 13–28.

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

8. **How does Luke’s account differ from Matthew’s account in Matthew 28? What are the similarities?**
9. **What is the significance of Luke including their hometown, their region, but also the world.**

Context: This passage is included in one of the most difficult sections of Romans, chapters 9–11, where Paul is explaining election and God’s treatment of Israel. In chapter 10 here, though, Paul reminded his original hearers but also us today that one is saved only through the gospel—through a believing confession of trust in Jesus’s life, death, resurrection, and ascension in one’s place. In this passage below, even still assuming God’s sovereignty over salvation, Paul articulates how God uses you and me in that process of disciple-making.

Romans 10:14–17 (ESV)

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has

believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- 10. What order or flow sequence is established in verses 14-15 for the unbeliever to believe?**
- 11. What specific responsibilities does Jesus lay at the believers feet in this process? What are His expectations of us?**
- 12. Where do we see blessing for us in this passage?**

Context: Paul is explaining his ministry and subsequent afflictions, that he did it all for the Colossians as a result of the stewardship of God given to him. His message was that this Christ that he preached is the Savior of both the Jews and the Gentiles. Ministry was not always easy for Paul, though.

Colossians 1:28–29 (ESV)

²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

- 13. What is the extent of Paul's goal? How is this similar or different from our current day disciple-making?**
- 14. When Paul uses the words "toil" and "struggling," what does that teach us about the nature of disciple-making?**
- 15. From where does our "power" come to go about this task of Intentional Disciple-Making?**

Context: As Paul coached the young pastor Timothy, Paul reminded him of the truth and hope of the gospel—the same message that Paul had shared with and preached alongside Timothy years earlier. In light of some other leaders turning away from the faith, Paul explained how Timothy could remain steadfast himself plus pass on that foundational gospel to others.

2 Timothy 2:1–2 (ESV)

¹ You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

- 16. What is mentioned as the true foundation in ministry? How do we remain steadfast?**
- 17. What do we typically mean when we say or point to someone as a "Timothy" in the church? What steps do we individually need to take to make that more of a reality for us today?**

IV. Responding in Prayer

- Pray that our hearts would be stirred to share the gospel more often with those near us and to go/send to those far from us.
- Pray that more of us would take up the mantle of disciple-making in helping other believers grow in their faith and obedience to Jesus.
- Pray that our church can find ways to replicate in a healthy way all that God wants to plant in other parts of OKC, our nation, and the world.