

Session 4 - Making disciples

This is for those who want to build something incredible. Eternal. World changing!

What is a disciple?

How did Jesus begin the work of ministry? Mark 1:16-20

Jesus is our model. How did he do it?

Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman - 8 principles to change the world.

Principle 1: Selection - People were his method.

- Where did he look for potential leaders?

- Jesus selected 12, who were they? What were qualifications?

- How did he ask them? Luke 5:1-11

- What are the challenges to this?

Reflect and apply:

- Write down names of who you could select from Grace Church and/or in your group.
- Follow up is key. If they say yes, what then?

Principle 2: Association - Jesus spent time with them.

“Having called his disciples, Jesus made a practice of being with them. This was the essence of his training program, letting his disciples follow him.”

- Where were the places Jesus went with the 12?

- As Jesus' end drew near, he spent increasingly more time with 12.

“He devoted himself primarily to the task of developing some leaders who in turn could give this kind of personal attention to others.”

Reflect and apply:

- How can you involve intentional relationships into your life?

- What are your challenges to this? How can you make adjustments for this value?

Principle 3: Consecration - Jesus expected obedience.

“Jesus expected the disciples to obey him. They did not have to be smart, but they had to be loyal. There could be no development of character or purpose in the disciples without it.”

- Mark 9:33-37

- Mark 9:38-41

“It soon became apparent that being a disciple of Christ involved far more than a joyful acceptance of the Messianic promise: it meant the surrender of one’s whole life to the Master in absolute submission to his sovereignty.”

- Are you ok with challenging your people to obey Jesus?

- How do we balance obedience and grace for ourselves and the people we lead?

- How do you handle leaders who make mistakes?
 - Directly, timely, honestly.
 - Matthew 18 - crucial conversation doc

“Jesus did not urge his disciples to commit to a doctrine, but a person. When he spoke of obedience, it was something that the disciples could see incarnated in human form.”

- How can you build trust with those you lead in calling them to obedience to Christ?

“Jesus patiently endured these human failings of his chosen disciples, because in spite of all their shortcomings they were willing to follow him... He knew that they could master these defects as they grew in grace and knowledge.”

- What is the line of when someone is in or out of leadership?

“The surprising thing is that Jesus did not go running after them to try to get them to stay on the membership roll. He was training leaders for the Kingdom.”

- What are the signs of someone who is not in? How do you help them transition off?

“Jesus was making people to lead his church to conquest. There could be no insubordination, Jesus knew the satanic forces of darkness against them were well organized and equipped to make ineffectual any half-hearted effort of evangelism.”

- What is the work of the church that Jesus was modeled and accomplish?

“Followers must have leaders... we will have to start with a few chosen ones and instilling into them the meaning of obedience.”

Principle 4: Impartation - He gave himself away.

“Jesus lost no opportunity to impress on his followers the deep compulsion of his own soul aflame with the love of GOD for a lost world. Supremely this is what the disciples needed to learn, not in theory, but in practice.”

- What scares you/motivates you about this “compulsion of Christ?”

“Love is like that. It is always giving itself away. When it is self-contained, it is not love.”

Read the different things Jesus gave to his disciples:

John 15:15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. What did he give them?

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. What did he give them?

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. What did he give them?

Mark 3:13 And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. 14 And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach 15 and have authority to cast out demons. What did he give them?

Mark 6:7 And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. What did he give them?

John 20:21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and

said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." What did he give them?

"In giving himself to God, Jesus gave himself to those about him."
- What was the balance Jesus walked in giving and receiving?

"Jesus was God in revelation; but the Spirit was God in operation. He would convict the world of sin and of righteousness. He would give illumination of truth that men might know the Lord. In this light, evangelism was not interpreted as a human undertaking, but as a divine project that had been going on from the beginning and would continue until God's purpose was fulfilled. It was altogether the Spirit's work. All the disciples were asked to do was to let the Spirit have complete charge of their lives."

- What is our job? What is God's job in this work of evangelism and making disciples?

Reflect and apply:

What do you need Christ to impart to you in a fresh way today? Pray and ask for it.

Principle 5: Demonstration - He showed them how to live.

"When it is all boiled down, those of us who are seeking to train people must be prepared to have them follow us... we are the exhibit. Given time, it is possible through this kind of leadership to impart our way of living to those who are constantly with us."

"Take, for example, his prayer life. They could see the strength that it gave to his life. Note that Jesus did not force the lesson on them, but rather he just kept praying until at last the disciples got so hungry that they asked him to teach them what he was doing. Seizing his opportunity when it did come, Jesus proceeded to give them a lesson their hearts were prepared to receive. Unless they grasped the meaning of prayer, and learned how to practice it with consistency, not much would ever come from their lives."

Read Luke 10; Then read Luke 11 ==> How do we learn to pray?

"He led them to recognize the need inherent in all classes of people, and the best methods of approaching them. They observed how he drew people to himself, how he won their confidence and inspired their faith; how he opened to them the way of salvation and called them to a decision. In all types of situations and among all kinds of people, rich and poor, healthy and sick, friends and foe alike, the disciples watch the master soul winner at work. It wasn't outlined on the blackboard of a stuffy classroom now written up in a "do it yourself" manual. His method was so real and practical that it just came naturally."

“If the particular approach was not clear all they had to do was ask the Master to explain it to them... It is good to tell people what we mean but it is infinitely better to show them. People are looking for a demonstration, not an explanation.”

- We have training videos, but why is it better to have YOU train connect leaders?

- Why is disciple making best done in small groups and real life?

“Indeed, knowledge unapplied to living can become a stumbling stone to further truth. No one better understood this than the Master. He was training people to do a job, and when they knew enough to get started, he saw to it that they did something about it.”

- What is the danger of learning without applying? What shifts do you need to make to apply the way of Jesus?

“We are not perfect like our Lord, and those persons to whom we open our lives will come to see our many shortcomings. But let them also see a readiness to confess our sins when we understand the error of our ways. Let them hear us apologize to those we have wronged. Our weaknesses need not impair discipleship when shining through them in a transparent sincerity to follow Christ.”

- How is it beneficial for disciples and new leaders to see your flaws?

Reflect and apply:

- What flaws will you show your people?

- What skills or ministry practices do you want to demonstrate to your disciples?

Principle 6: Delegation - He assigned them work.

“Jesus was always building his ministry for the time when his disciples would have to take over this work, and go out into the world with the redeeming gospel. This plan was progressively made clear as they followed him. The best way to ensure that this is done is to give practical work assignments and expect them to be carried out.”

- What are some good ways to delegate ministry responsibilities?

- How can you on-ramp people into assignments in your group?

“One cannot help being impressed with the realistic way that Jesus never let his followers underestimate the strength of the enemy, nor the natural resistance of self-serving people to his redeeming gospel.” Luke 10:3, Matthew 5:11, Ephesians 6:10

- How do you face adversity and help others you empower face them?

“Christian disciples are sent men and women—sent out in the same work of world evangelism to which the Lord was sent, and for which he gave his life. Evangelism is not an optional accessory to our life. It is the heartbeat.

- How can you add this value into the hearts of the people in your group?

“The best way to be sure that this is done is to give practical work assignments and expect them to be carried out.”

Take time to reflect and apply:

- How can you delegate in order to “work your way out of the job”?

Principle 7: Supervision - He coached them.

“We dare not assume that the work will be done merely because we have shown a willing worker how to do it, and then sent him or her out with a glowing expectation of results. Innumerable things could happen to frustrate and sidetrack the work, and unless these matters are dealt with realistically by competent and understanding people, the worker may easily become discouraged and defeated.”

Mark 6:30-32, John 21

- What do you observe in how Jesus checked in? Cared for them?
- How will you maintain supervision with your emerging leaders?

“His questions, illustrations, warnings, and admonitions were calculated to bring out those things that they needed to know in order to fulfill his work, which was the evangelization of the world.”

- How many questions did Jesus ask in the gospels? Why does Jesus ask so many questions? Why is question asking good questions key to supervision and coaching?

Refer to Connect Leader Apprenticeship

“We have not been called to hold the fort, but to storm the heights. It is in this light that the final step in Jesus’ strategy of evangelism can be understood.”

Reflect and apply

- Put into your schedule a rhythm of caring and coaching? When will you check in on them?

Principle 8: Reproduction - He expected them to multiply.

“Jesus intended for the disciples to produce his likeness in and through the church being gathered out of the world... Jesus had built into his disciples the structure of a church that would challenge and triumph over all the powers of death and hell. It had

started small like a grain of mustard seed, but it would grow in size and strength until it became a tree “greater than all the herbs”.

“His whole evangelistic strategy—indeed, the fulfillment of his very purpose in coming into the world, dying on the cross, and rising from the grave—depended on the faithfulness of his chosen disciples to this task. It did not matter how small the group was to start with so long as they reproduced and taught their disciples to reproduce.”
- What should we be focusing on in our work of building the church?

“The Great Commission is not merely to go to the ends of the earth preaching the gospel, nor to baptize a lot of converts into the name of the triune God, nor to teach them the precepts of Christ, but to “make disciples”—to build people like themselves who were so constrained by the commission of Christ that they not only followed his way but led others to as well. Only as disciples were made could the other activities of the commission fulfill their purpose.”

“The test of any work of evangelism is not what is seen at the moment, or in the conference report, but in the effectiveness with which the work continues in the next generation. Similarly the criteria on which a church should measure its success is not how many new names are added to the role nor how much the budget is increased, but rather how many Christians are actively winning souls and training them to win the multitudes.”

- Why is building into people through the 8 principles more difficult than teaching, baptizing, and going? Why is it more lasting?

Consider what it would mean to the future of the church if we had only one true disciple now to show for our labors. Would not this immediately double our influence? And suppose that we made another like ourself, even as the first succeeded in the same way. Would not this multiply our life four times over? Theoretically, at least, in this manner of multiplication our ministry alone would soon reach multitudes with the gospel.

- Do you think investing your life into even one person is worth it?

“The costly principles of leadership development and reproduction seem to have been submerged beneath the easier strategy of mass recruitment.”

- What do you think will build your small group, mass recruitment or building into leaders who reproduce themselves? What do you need to keep doing or what needs to change towards this end?

Reflect and apply

- It is time to take the next step of making disciples who make disciples. Go for it!