

Home Group Notes
Week of October 13, 2024
“Shift?!” week #7



Our focus this week is on following Jesus’ example of making disciples in relational environments. For us at Trinity Church, this could be through small groups (many options here), ministry teams, and other relational places.

Everything in this week’s focus follows a simple outline:

- 1) Jesus’ and Paul’s focus on relational environments
- 2) What are the essential elements in disciple making settings
- 3) Discussions of what we can do to strengthen our own plans and efforts

EXPLORING TOGETHER

One author has said, “How Jesus made disciples [was] through relationships” (Jim Putnam). If you have read the gospels (“Matthew, Mark, Luke, John”), what examples come to mind? **Everything Jesus did was with, among, and for people.**

How did God work through relational environments to shape you as a disciple?
For me, I was invited into a group of people who were pursuing Jesus together.

LEARN FROM GOD’S WORD

What do you notice about Jesus’ relational methods in the following Scriptures?

Mark 1:17 - **Jesus’ original call was to FOLLOW ME – a call to a relationship with Jesus and a group of people.**

Luke 8:1-3 - **Jesus’ traveled with people, men and women, who heard and saw all that He was doing. This included acts of kindness, compassion, and the preaching of the Word. He also allowed them to contribute to the word.**

Luke 10:38-42 - **Jesus went to a home with his disciples. While there, he taught, had conversations, answered controversy/complaint.**

Luke 11:1-4 - **Jesus stepped away from the public ministry with His disciples. He did this many times. While there, He allowed them to observe His prayer and fellowship with the Father. They inquired and He answered – He taught them about what they had seen Him doing.**

Luke 14:1-6 - **Jesus brought His disciples into the house of a leader of Pharisees. He allowed His disciples to see and hear Him deal with challenge.**

Luke 19:1-6 - **While traveling together, the disciples watched Jesus show compassion and courage with a known villain, and enter his home to teach and share.**

What do you notice is essential in these the relational environments?

Colossians 3:16 - The Word of Christ needs to be central. This includes knowing, understanding, and applying it. In addition, we are to admonish (warn, make important) one another using different methods that are from God (psalms) and in multiple modes.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - Again, Scripture needs to be central in our relationships and relational environments. This verses teaches us the God speaks through Scripture to equip the person of God for doing the good works of God. Scripture can do this as it is inspired by God (Gord breathed), useful to teaching (instruction in the person and work of God), reproof (pointing out error), correction (bringing people back onto the right path), and training in righteousness (step-by-step development of God's ways).

Acts 4:31 - Gathering with God's people to pray, to trust and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit is essential in relational environments aimed at discipleship. The result will be that they will pass on the word of God with boldness.

Galatians 5:14-16 - God's plan is to bring together God's people to do His work of love. It is essential that the people of God gather in love and be led by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:9-13 - God's people are essential to God's work. The central command to God's people is to love one another, to value and honor one another, and to walk through life and ministry together. We are called to focus on serving, supporting one another, and share the resources that God has entrusted to us.

What is the aim of discipleship in these relational environments?

Hebrews 6:1 - Throughout Jesus' ministry and the rest of the New Testament, we are called to "press on to maturity," to become like Jesus in character and ministry, to grow in our faith, and continue His kingdom work.

Ephesians 4:13 - As we follow Jesus together, we are to press on (make effort to increase) toward the things important to God: unity of the faith, increasing our knowledge of Jesus, and mature in our character and actions until we look and live like Christ.

John 16:13 - In all of our environments, we need to be filled with the Spirit, following His guidance and leadership.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

How can we make our homes places of relational discipleship?

If you have read and answered above, this should stimulate some very real discussion for how each of us can shape the relational environments in our homes.

According to Acts 2:42-47, what was present in their biblical relational environment?

Many have turned to these famous verses about the early church. We have much to learn and grow from these verses.

What helps this be a healthy discipleship group for you?

This is an opportunity for your group to discuss how we can improve, change, or celebrate what God has already shaped.

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

As we see above, a biblical relational environment for maturing in discipleship should be (1) centered on the Word of God, (2) trusting in the Spirit of God, and (3) spurred on by the people of God. Are you in such an environment? Are you pursuing and maturing as a disciple? If you don't have such a setting, contact Steve Springsted at sspringsted@trinityonline.org.

PLEASE PRAY

- Please pray for the ongoing wars and the plight of the kidnapped people in Middle East
- Please pray for hurricane impacted people and Christ-followers giving aid
- Please pray for men inviting men to our workshop, "A Father's Legacy" (November 8-9)

May the Spirit of God give you wisdom, courage, and insight as you discuss this very important topic about your own relational environment and focus on making disciples.

Grace to you,

Steve