

Home Group Notes
Week of October 20, 2024
“Shift?!” week #8



This is a long study with much Scripture and discussion. I hope you and your friends can dig in and have some rich conversation.

THE IDEA OF “METHOD”

Our focus this week is on Jesus’ “method” of making disciples. Does the idea of discussing Jesus’ “method” seem helpful? mechanical? impersonal? simplistic?

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

Learn what Paul and his companions did to make disciples in a city called Thessalonica. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4 – 2:14 and record your observations on the chart below.

| Verse | What Paul did | Their response |
|--------------|---|---|
| 1:4-6 | Presented the gospel with words and power Trusted the Holy Spirit with conviction Lived among them thoughtfully | They welcomed the message They became a model to believers |
| 1:7 | | They shared the Lord’s message |
| 1:8 | | They lived by faith in God |
| 1:9 | | They turned to God from idols They served God |
| 1:10 | | They were waiting for Jesus’ return They believed in Jesus’ resurrection They believed the message of salvation |
| 2:2 | Paul shared the gospel even in times of opposition | |
| 2:3 | Paul shared with pure motives (not personal gain) | |
| 2:4 | Paul sought to please God, not people | |
| 2:5 | Paul did not use flattery | |
| 2:8 | Paul cared deeply for them, shared their lives. | |
| 2:9 | Paul toiled, endured hardship, diligently worked He was not a burden to them | |
| 2:10 | Paul lived a holy, righteous, and blameless life | |
| 2:12 | Paul was like a father – encouraging, comforting, urging | |
| 2:13 | | They received the word of God They considered it as from God They became imitators of God’s church They were willing to suffer |

JESUS' METHOD OF MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

Some have summarized Jesus' method of making disciples with four key words: Share, Connect, Minister, and Disciple.

SHARE: We are called to "share" the love and message of Christ. Loving relationships is the bridge to communicate the good news (the gospel) and begin the discipleship process. Our love is the context in which the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring conviction.

Summarize what you see in each of the following Scriptures.

John 13:35

Our well-known promise and command to love one another that the world might see. We will also be known for holiness and other things, but this is central as it reveals the character of God.

Luke 19:10

This short (no pun) and famous story reveals that Jesus loves a man hated by the community but invited into a relationship with God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

A giant / amazing command to be like God who IS love and like Jesus who sacrificed Himself.

CONNECT: To make disciples, we need to help believers associate with other disciples and give themselves to God together.

What are some ways that we see new believers connecting with God's family?

Acts 4:32-35

They were devoted to learning about God/Jesus, sharing as needed, worshiping, and helping others learn about Jesus and good news. Our job is to help people connect to where this is happening.

Romans 12:9-13

Again, we see the church loving and serving God, willing to sacrifice for Him and one another, zealous for the Lord. Is this us? Would we look like this to others?

Hebrews 10:25; 13:1-2

The author is commanding us to not neglect being together. Since Covid, this has been a problem for the church in America. In Hebrew 13, we see the command to show hospitality. This word means to receive all people as guests, honoring and valuing them.

MINISTER: To make disciples, we need to equip and train people to minister (serve).

What are some ways that we engage and equip disciples to minister?

Galatians 6:2

This has been a watch word for Home Groups – an act of loving service to bear one another's burdens.

Ephesians 4:28

This is a command to use our lives, to work, so that we can serve and take care of other people.

1 Peter 4:10

One of the many commands to use our spiritual gifts to serve people, especially the church.

DISCIPLE: Once people are mature, we must release them to be a disciple makers.

What do we learn from the following verses?

John 14:12; 15:8

The Upper Room (the night before Jesus was arrested) is the most thorough and complete call /command of Jesus to make disciples. Once people are ready, we need to equip and release people to be making disciples where God has called them.

Romans 10:14-15

In some cases, we need to equip and send people. The need to hear the gospel is throughout the world. We have the ability and resources to send out many more. Let's pray for and encourage people to bring this amazing good news to the world (or worlds).

2 Timothy 2:2

Paul's famous call to be intentional to equip faithful, available, and teachable people who can in turn equip and multiply through other people.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What are ways that we can share the love of Christ with people who don't yet know Jesus (individually or as a church)? How can we pray and encourage one another to share?

I know we have had this suggestion and or conversation many times. Let's keep reminding, praying for, and encouraging each other to be intentional with people.

Does the call to make disciples seem overwhelming? Exciting? Complicated? What will help us team up to fulfill our mission to make disciples who make disciples?

Each group will be different, depending on their maturity, etc.

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

We shared four aspects of the method Jesus used to make disciples: Share, Connect, Minister, Disciple. How do you see yourself working to make disciples? Are you involved in relational settings to share with outsiders? Helping people connect with God's family? Helping others learn to minister? Making disciples who make disciples? If you would like to learn more, join a discipleship group that is equipping people.

PLEASE PRAY

- Please continue to pray for our nation and communities during these times
- Please pray for those serving our children as they partner with parents
- Please pray for our widows and widowers and those seeking to encourage them

I am praying that we can hear and follow God's call to shift into a higher gear as a disciple-making church.

Love to you,
Steve