

**Home Group Leaders Notes**  
**Week of October 27, 2024**  
**“Shift?!” week #9**



As you know, we are in a series aimed at equipping us to ‘shift into a higher gear’ of making disciples who make disciples. The focus this week is about “alignment” - alignment of our church’s programs and the alignment of our lives with Jesus’ call to make disciples in relational settings.

This was a challenging session for me. There is no one major passage of the Bible as the foundation. Rather, this week’s aim is to ask a hard question: ‘I my life focused on what Jesus modeled and commanded – to make disciples in relational settings. Jesus demonstrated that by spending almost all of His time with people and focused on the kingdom of God. You and I have a different schedule; we don’t get to spend our days and nights the way that He did. However, God has put people in our worlds with whom we can love, serve, share, and encourage to follow Jesus with His family.

**I KNOW YOU ARE BUSY . . .**

I (Steve) began to see a pattern. On several Sundays, people walked up to me and said, “I know you are busy...” After several occurrences, I realized that if I am too busy for relationships, I am too busy. Have you had times in life when you felt like your busyness and activity levels were preventing you from focusing on what really matters? What is your story of trying to keep life focused?

**LET’S LEARN FROM GOD’S WORD**

For a number of weeks, our studies have centered on Jesus’ call to make disciples who will then help others live as Jesus’ disciples. We have also seen that the way of Jesus was to make disciples in relational environments. Now, the true role of the church is to make disciples in relational environments with three key components: The Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God. We are all to be investing in and serving people, to be on mission to help others know, love, and follow Jesus.

This is week is about “alignment” - alignment of our church’s programs and the alignment of our lives with Jesus’ call to make disciples in relational settings. To do this, we must ask ourselves a few tough questions (none of which are easy to answer but important):

- ❑ Is my life aligned with Jesus’ (and Trinity’s) central purpose?
- ❑ Am I in relational environments where I can grow and help others grow as a disciple?
- ❑ Do I have places of activity that are keeping me from important relationships?

Write down what comes to your mind and heart as you read the following Scriptures:

Luke 10:38-42

This is a tricky passage. Martha was doing good things, but not the best things. This is a daily decision for all of us.

Romans 12:2

We are all asking God to transform our thinking. As He does, we change our priorities, our wants, and our schedules.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

There are things that we want or feel is important that turn out to be a waste of time and resources. This is so true for me. Many times I will do something and then realize that it was a chasing after the wind. I believe the key for me is to ask God, listen to God, and then be willing to submit to His direction. Then I experience the joy of loving God and seeing Him work. Much better than my own ambition.

Mark 1:17

When Jesus called these disciples, He was inviting them into a relationship that was going to change their ambitions, their schedules, their aim in life. We are called to the same – that of submitting all that we are and have to Him.

John 13:35

Jesus made it clear in the upper room, that our lives were going to be focused on relationships, that we were to live to serve God by loving and serving other people.

What do you notice about Paul's ministry with people? Activities? Relationships?

1 Thessalonians 2:6b-12

Paul's attitude and actions reveal that he gave himself away with people. (You could see another place of this in 1 Corinthians 9:19-27.) Paul was . . .

- Notice the "we" – Paul was teamed up with other people
- Humble,
- focused on caring for them
- Sacrificially loved them
- Sharing the gospel as God opened doors
- Sharing everything from his lives
- Willing to do whatever it took to get to spend time with them
- They were unselfish, holy, righteous, and blameless among them
- They were like a kind and gentle father
- Encouraging, comforting, urging
- Their focus was to help them follow God's invitation into His glorious kingdom

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

Some have suggested that 'for a church to be discipleship-focused, we must shift our focus from activities to relationships.' What do you think this means? What changes might this imply?

This is one of our goals at this time – to help us all shift into more of a focus on relationships instead of activities. The important thing here is to all them to discuss and encourage one another.

Since many spiritual gifts are about relationships, and these are about building up God's people (1 Corinthians 14:12), where are these to be practiced? What does this say about our schedules? Our churches scheduled activities?

The obvious answer to the first question is in relational settings (environments like small groups). Far too much of the American church has been focused on the one hour on the one day of the week. Most of Jesus' ministry was in more personal settings.

Much of our schedules are occupied with improving our own lives, our own stuff, and our own comfort or pleasure. This is very hard to change.

Church schedules, like our own, are difficult to keep focused on the relational settings.

As we continue to discuss what it means to have our lives and our church focused on ‘making disciples who make disciples,’ what ‘alignment’ of our lives have you thought about?

**I think this is a helpful conversation for us all.**

### **APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

Alignment is difficult for American people because we live such independent and self-driven lives. As you consider what it means to be focused on being and making disciples, what adjustments do you think God might want you to make to your activities and relationships?

### **PLEASE PRAY**

- Please pray our global partners, especially those in troubled places
- Please pray for Pastor Doug and the Elders as they shepherd our family
- Please pray for the Micah House and Inherit the Earth teams

### **CALENDAR NOTES**

Oct 31	Trinity at Olive Avenue Redlands Extravaganza
Nov 4	Surviving the Holidays at Trinity
Nov 8	“A Father’s Legacy” workshop for Dads*
Nov 17	Baptism class
Nov 24	Home Groups on break that week
Nov 27	Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 PM
Dec 6	Women’s Christmas Celebration
Dec 8	Service of Remembrance
Dec 8	Home Groups final week (before Christmas break)
Dec 14, 15	Kid’s Christmas musical
Dec 24	Christmas Eve services (2:00; 3:30; 5:00 PM)

\*For more information, go to [www.Afatherslegacy.org](http://www.Afatherslegacy.org)

**May the joy of the Lord fill your hearts,  
Steve**