

Discipleship – Growing in Christ Together

Big Question: How do we build a culture where every believer is being discipled and discipling others?

1. The Call to Discipleship

- **Key thought:** Discipleship happens when believers walk together with purpose, grow together in Christ, live obediently, and help others do the same.
- **1) The Great Commission requires discipleship.**
- **Matthew 28:18–20 – Discipleship is central to the Great Commission**
- “Observe” means to practice, live out, and obey — transformation, not just information.
- The early church produced disciples, not attenders.
- **Acts 11:25–26** — Barnabas and Saul invested a year grounding the believers in Antioch.
- “Christian” became synonymous with “disciple” — a lived identity, not a label.
- **2) Jesus modeled relational discipleship.**
- **Mark 3:14** – Jesus discipled through presence, relationship, and personal investment.
- **3) Discipleship requires desire and daily commitment.**
- **Luke 9:23** – Discipleship requires daily surrender and intentional obedience.
- **Ephesians 4:11–16** – Pastors and teachers equip believers toward stability and maturity.
- **Perfecting** means **equipping** — building strong believers who know the Word, love the Word, and live the Word.
- **4) Discipleship is for every believer, not an elite group.**
- You don’t need a title to disciple. You don’t have to be a theologian to encourage, pray with, or teach someone younger in the faith.
- **Takeaway:** The Great Commission isn’t complete until believers are grounded, growing, and helping others walk the same path.

2. The Pattern of Discipleship

- **Key thought:** Discipleship happens through studying the Word, obedience, community, and intentional relationships.
- **1) Disciples grow by continuing in the Word.**
- **John 8:31** — Disciples continue in the Word; Scripture is the classroom of discipleship.
- Discipleship **begins, continues, and matures** through **Scripture**.
- **2) Disciples grow through obedience.**
- **James 1:22** — Growth comes through obedience, not information.

- You're not growing just because you know more — **you grow when you obey what you know.**
- **3) Disciples grow through community and accountability.**
- **Hebrews 10:24–25** — Discipleship was never meant to be a solo journey.
- **Proverbs 27:17** — Iron sharpens iron through honest, life-on-life community.
- Iron doesn't sharpen iron without contact.
- Real growth requires **proximity, honesty, encouragement,** and **accountability.**
- **4) Disciples grow through strengthening and guidance.**
- **Acts 14:21–22** — Paul strengthened and exhorted believers to continue in the faith.
- "Confirming" steadies a believer; "exhorting" pushes them forward.
- **5) The goal of discipleship is spiritual maturity.**
- **Colossians 1:28** — The goal of discipleship is spiritual maturity.
- **Takeaway:** Discipleship grows through the Word, obedience, community, and the ongoing strengthening of the faith.

3. The Mission of Discipleship

- **Key thought:** Discipleship multiplies when disciples help form disciples who can disciple others.
- **1) Disciples are called to make disciples.**
- **John 20:21** — Jesus sends us as the Father sent Him.
- Discipleship continues as we invest in others what Christ has invested in us.
- **2) Discipleship multiplies through intentional investment.**
- **2 Timothy 2:2** — Four generations of disciples in one verse.
- Discipleship was never meant to be addition; it was meant to be multiplication.
- Addition grows by increments; multiplication grows by multiples — one becomes two, two becomes four, four becomes eight. **That's discipleship.**
- **3) Discipleship requires faithful examples.**
- **1 Corinthians 11:1** — Our example teaches as much as our words.
- **4) Discipleship prepares believers to influence others.**
- **Hebrews 5:12–14** — Believers are called to grow from milk to meat and help others grow.
- **5) The mission of discipleship is generational impact.**
- **Psalms 78:1–7** — Discipleship shapes future generations of believers.
- **Takeaway:** The pattern is simple — grow in Christ, help others grow in Christ, and watch that growth multiply.