

The Invitation to Discipleship
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, September 24th, 2023



Sermon Title: The Invitation to Discipleship

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 4:17-24

Sermon Focus: The call to be a disciple is first and foremost an invitation to receive a new identity. It begins with our baptism and gets worked out in community with other disciples. Jesus invites us to make *him* the center of our lives and our church—to discover our true identity, meaning, and purpose. Because that’s how we experience the life of God and become all that he has created us to be. In the first message of our series, Pastor David challenges us to accept the Lord’s invitation and live like disciples.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began by reading various verses from the Gospel of Matthew (see chapters 4:18-22; 9:9-13; 10:1-14, 32-39; 16:24-27; 28:18-20). Several things stand out to us: (1) disciples experience an immediate change in priorities, life direction, jobs, etc.; (2) Jesus expects total allegiance and following him will involve denying what we want, as well as suffering; and (3) he gives us his life, a new identity, purpose, and mission: *to be a disciple who makes disciples*. What challenges you the most about these things? What encourages you the most?

2. We were created for Christ to be the Center and Source of our life. Like planets orbiting around the sun, our lives ought to orbit around the gravitational pull of Christ. And when we attempt to put other people or things at the center of our lives, we commit idolatry. Consider this gospel truth: All idolatry is reflective of the search for identity, meaning, and purpose apart from God in Christ.

Now, think about the “idols of American culture” that Pastor David listed for us. Why do you think people don’t recognize when idols are at the center of their lives? What idols do you see at work in you and around us in America? What would it look like to repent and replace those idols with Christ?

3. The “centered” church is one of “self-inclusion” by orienting your heart toward Christ with other disciples in community. So, a person can be attending church, but not really be a growing member in the Body of Christ because their primary pursuit isn’t knowing Jesus and leading others to him. Do you think this might have a great deal to do with churches not reflecting Christ more? What sort of idolatrous things can churches place at the center of their community? Share an experience you’ve had with a church that wasn’t Christ-centered. Lastly, do you feel that Grantham Church is Christ-centered? Why or why not?

4. Pastor David shared how the “spaces” graphic was so helpful for him in understanding how disciples are made in the local church, especially after experiencing church troubles and the shallowness of American Christianity. How is the “working the spaces” concept helping you in your own faith journey?

5. Do you remember when Jesus first called you to follow him? Take a minute to sit in silence and reflect on that memory for a moment. Has Christ remained the center of your life? Are you getting your identity, meaning, and purpose from Jesus alone? How are you intentionally pursuing Christ with the church? Share with your group where you are in your journey. And then pray for each other.