Where We Are Headed In Our Disciple-Making
Becoming a Follower of Jesus - Session 11
5 December 2012

Personal Reflection: Where You Were (3 minutes)
Describe your expectations when you committed to this training.

• What were you hoping to gain?
• What difference did you want the training to make in you, your church?

Personal Reflection: Where You Are (3 minutes)
Describe where you are today.

• What have you learned?
• How has your life changed or is changing?
• The difference this training is making in your life, in the life of the church.

Tonight's Group Facilitator: the person who sat down last in your group.

Group Exercise 1:
Share insights from your personal reflections. Group Facilitators, be prepared to share a 2 minute highlight from your group's reflections.

Introduction
As a group of Christ-followers, who are committed to disciple-making, we want to become, more thoroughly, Christ-followers. We want to read the gospels to find out what Jesus did. We want to listen to Jesus regularly as He guides and directs us. We want to make Christlike Disciple who will in turn become Disciple Makers. For us, it is not enough to teach and train on Sunday nights, in our effort to "make disciples." Jesus was not content until His disciples actually reach out to and made other disciples.

Key Memory Verse: Matthew 4:19
"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

This Coming Week's Reading: Luke 15-17

Objective
The objective of this lesson is to show Followers of Jesus that when we follow Him, we can relax. He will make us "fishers of men" naturally, He will make us "Disciple-Makers" just like the first disciples, if we simply follow.

Key Definition / Concepts
1. In the days when Jesus walked on this earth there were millions of Unbelievers. Then, as He began to preach and teach and do the works of God among the people, thousands and thousands became Believers in Him. From this huge
group of Believers ... hundreds moved in closer to our Lord and became true **Followers** of Jesus. Many left everything behind to follow close after the Lord.

2. Sometimes in Scripture the term "Follower" and "Disciple" are interchangeable or synonymous. At other points there seems to be a distinction. We are working to structure and design our Discipleship strategy (The Master's Plan) in a way that follows what seems to be the natural progression and stages of growth of the original 12 Disciples.

The four stages after we become Believers are as follows:

   Unbeliever
1. Believer in Jesus
2. Follower of Jesus
3. Disciple of Jesus
4. DiscipleMaker of Jesus

3. The purpose of this time is to help us develop this third step of "Becoming a Follower of Jesus." Followers of Jesus are Believers who have decided to become more than Believers. They have responded to Jesus' call to follow Him closely and they have typically paid a price to follow Him. Jesus is becoming the central focus and the First Love of their life.

4. Followers of Jesus are mor ethan casual or cultural Sunday morning Christians. They have moved beyond being a baby believer. They are more than just church attenders. They are committed and they are dedicated. They are faithful, obedient to Jesus and they want to become fruitful for the Lord.

5. As we trace the term "Follower" through the Gospels we see the profile of a true faithful Follower of Jesus. We discover from the pages of Scripture it is no small thing to truly be a Follower of Jesus. As we allow our Lord and the Gospel writers to define for us what a real Follower of Jesus is like, we soon realize it is not the majority of Christians in churches today that have grown beyond the baby believer stage and moved into this third level. But we believe deeply it is GOd's will that we All spiritually grow up and become Followers of Jesus.

6. What do **Followers of Jesus** do? (that distinguishes them from Believers, many who do not do these things yet ...)
   a. They are serious about their commitment to Jesus. He is definitely their First Love.
   b. They are learning to feed themselves from God's Word. No one else has to prepare, cook and pre-chew their spiritual food for them. They are learning from Jesus on their own!
   c. Their life values and priorities are changing. Their values are become more like Jesus' values and priorities.
d. They are becoming more and more like Jesus in their attitudes and actions. They want to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, purity, holiness, compassion, mercy, thoughtfulness, kindness and faith.

e. They are becoming a stronger Christian and recognize the reality of spiritual warfare.

f. They are growing in their commitment to God's Family. They see the value of not only Sunday morning worship, but the need to be actively involved in a smaller group for growth (LifeGroups and Accountability Groups).

g. They are becoming bolder in their witness for Jesus. They have begun praying the "Prayer of Three" and have a growing compassion for lost people.

h. They find themselves praying more and more. They are listening to Jesus more and more. They are learning to discern His voice in a clearer way.

i. They seek to give God His tithe (10%) and they regularly look for ways to give Jesus more of themselves as they sacrifice for His work.

j. They want God to sanctify them at new, deeper levels.

k. They do not tolerate sin in their life. When they discover it, they deal with it decisively and quickly.

m. They are growing in the areas we have covered in "Becoming A Follower of Jesus."
   • Becoming a Victorious, Faithful Follower
   • Spiritual Victory Through The Cross
   • 10 Spiritual Victory Benefits of the Cross
   • Spiritual Victory Through Memorizing Scripture
   • Spiritual Victory Through Meeting with Jesus Daily
   • Spiritual Victory Using the Weapon of God's Word
   • Understanding the Person of the Holy Spirit
   • Understanding the Work of the Holy Spirit
   • Spiritual Victory Over Temptation

What Does God's Word Teach Us About Faithful Followers of Jesus?

1. Followers of Jesus hear His voice and they obey their Lord and follow Him.

   John 10:27 NIV
   My sheep listen to my voice, I know them, and they follow Me;

   John 10:4 NIV
When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

2. Followers of Jesus obey and follow Jesus immediately.
Matthew 4:19-22; 9:9; Mark 2:14-15

3. Followers of Jesus want to become "fishers" and "catchers" of men, women, boys and girls. They want to invite other people to follow Jesus. They allow Jesus to use them as He guides them who to pray for and witness to.

Matthew 4:19
"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

Luke 5:10
"Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.

4. Jesus was and is the **MASTER DISCIPLEMAKER** of all time. He is our Model, our example and our guide in Disciple-Making. Jesus modeled this type of intentional training for His own 12 disciples and for us as He lived and worked with His 12 original men. When Jesus told the Disciples to go and make disciples in Matthew 28, Jesus didn't give them 20 chapters of instructions on how to do this. He had laid down the pattern for them for the past 3 years as He had carefully, patiently, deliberately, intentionally poured His heart and life into them. They knew what He wanted them to do - because He had just modeled it for them for 3 years! **We must not be about information delivery, but rather investing our hearts and lives in others.**

5. Just as there seem to be four stages after we become Believers, there also seems to be a simple **4-step process of disciple-making** we can see in the ministry of Jesus. Across the years, people have shared these truths using a variety of words, but here is the essence:

**To Win**

The process of leading people to Jesus to experience salvation personally. Paul describes it clearly: "Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to **win** as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to **win** the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to **win** those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to **win** the weak. **I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.**" (1 Corinthians 9:19-22)
To Gather
The process of leading the new Christian to discover God's plan for living a Spirit-filled, sanctified life. It is critical for our spiritual growth that we help people realize Jesus did not just come to die for their sins, help them repent and be baptized in water (although that is a GREAT beginning) but that He came to baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33)

To Disciple
The process of training a Christian to follow Jesus toward becoming "a fisher of men." (Matthew 4:19). Jesus hand-selected those He discipled and trained them specifically as they followed Him. Jesus was intentional and finished the work the Father gave Him to do in three years (John 17:4).

To Send
The process of "going" every Christian naturally and simply does as they reach out, share Jesus with others and become a disciple-maker.

6. The growth and multiplication of the church is not difficult to see take place. It happens naturally as the church is filled with healthy Christians who simply "follow Jesus." He will "make us fishers of men." It is NOT up to us! He will guide us. He will open people's hearts to respond to the gospel (Acts 16:14).

7. Here are the four key components of our Disciple-Making process, "The Master's Plan."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To Win</th>
<th>Daily Presence</th>
<th>&quot;Fishers of Men&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Gather</td>
<td>Confirm Salvation</td>
<td>Spirit-Filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Disciple</td>
<td>Living Spirit-Filled</td>
<td>Disciple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Send</td>
<td>Living As A Disciple</td>
<td>Disciple-Maker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. The disciple-making process being used by the largest and fastest growing Nazarene churches in the world include the following disciple-making activities:

To Win
• leading people to Christ in a variety of ways
• LifeGroups - that are open and evangelistic

To Gather
• a powerful Encounter week-end

To Disciple
• a 9-12 months of weekly classes and training focused on becoming a Christ-like disciple
To Send

• one-on-one mentoring/discipling (long-term)
• Lead Groups - slowly and carefully developing disciple-makers, just like Jesus did
• each leader challenged to develop their own group of 12, just like Jesus did

9. We pay SO much attention to disciple-making in our churches because we want to follow Jesus and do what He did. In the first verse of last week's reading, (Luke 12-14) we read,

Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples ..." (Luke 12:1). We want to keep His priority, our priority. While winning the crowds to Jesus is VERY important, MORE important to Jesus was the development of disciple-makers He would send. That's why the same day as His resurrection, here are some of His first words to His disciples," ... Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (And with that he breathed on them and said, "receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:21-22)

Exercise 2: Personal Assessment (30 seconds)
Place yourself in the states of growth of a believer - are you a:
• Believer in Jesus?
• Follower of Jesus?
• Disciple of Jesus?
• Disciple-Maker?

Exercise 3: Group Discussion

Part One: On a piece of paper with the 4 stages listed, have each person in your group identify what stage they believe that they are in.

Part Two: Have each person explain why they see themselves in that stage and what they think it will take to proceed to the next stage.

Part Three: As a group, summarize what has been shared about the steps it will take to proceed to the next stage. In this part, the group needs to identify how they need to help each person take the next step.

Prayer In Groups