

**Love God, love people and help others do the same.**

**Week 8 - What to believe and next steps to take:**

- A. **What to believe** – Disciples make disciples and nothing else is more exciting or meaningful in all of life. (Matthew 28:19-20; Hebrews 11:24-26; Matthew 16:13-18; 1 Chronicles 12:23-38)
- B. **Next Steps** – Pray for those who are in your life that do not know the Lord or do not act like they know him. Begin to make efforts toward them in conversation, building bridges to the gospel, to disciple making.
1. Scripture memory:
    - a. John 20:31 “...but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”
    - b. Matthew 6:33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”
    - c. Colossians 2:6 “Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him...”
  2. Scripture reading – Matthew 18-23
    - a. Ask this question when you read a chapter – What do I need to believe about God from reading this chapter?
    - b. If I believe this about God, what will I do or stop doing as a result of believing this?
  3. Meditation is lingering in contemplative listening, listening to what God has said in His Word, resulting in specific obedience to God and His word. Spend time meditating on the verse that captures what you need to believe and how you will obey.
  4. Pray
    - a. Pray for the people in your life that need a disciple to be a blessing to them.
    - b. Begin to pray for the person/s you will disciple in the next year.
    - c. Pray daily using your neighborhood map or top ten list for those in your life with whom you want to share the gospel.
    - d. Continue to journal a couple of prayer requests you would like to be praying this week.
  5. Some additional assignments:
    - a. Begin to think about a plan for becoming a first generation disciple maker at FBCGT.
    - b. Work on sharing your own personal story of salvation.
    - c. Work on sharing the gospel with the three circles conversation guide.
    - d. Begin to plan out a conversation to ask someone to enter into a discipling relationship.
    - e. Make the ask...

Review of material from week 8 – How Disciples Make Disciples

#### Who to ask?

- New Christian with whom you shared your faith.
- A believer who is surrendered or willing to surrender to fully following Jesus. Look for desire. 2 Timothy 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- Look for the evidence of righteous that is not attained by one's own effort. Humility and an expressed need for Christ are great indicators this is happening. Don't look for someone who is perfect, but someone within whom you see the evidence of perfecting.
- Is any known cost or possible unknown cost of being a disciple too great? What is their attitude about the call to follow Jesus, no matter what?

#### How to ask?

- I am trying to grow in my relationship with Jesus, my knowledge of God's word and my life changing to be more like Christ. I believe my growth will benefit from spending time with someone else talking about our growth together. Would you be interested in spending some time together on a regular basis focusing on growing in Christ?
- Other people have encouraged me in my relationship with Jesus Christ. Would you be interested in spending some time together encouraging each other to grow in our knowledge of Jesus and in following Jesus in every day life?
- The Bible commands followers of Jesus Christ to make disciples, to help others know how to obey the commands of Jesus Christ. I would like to spend some regular time together helping each other learn how to better obey the commands of Christ. Would you be interested in that?
- I have been helped in my relationship with Jesus by being discipled by another follower of Jesus. It really helped me. As a result I have a desire to help others be able to follow Jesus so that they can help others follow Jesus. Would you like to spend some regular time together toward that end?

#### What to do?

- Focus on the basics.
  - Never assume someone understands salvation until you are certain they understand.
  - The Word –Your primary tool is God's word. 2 Tim. 2:15
  - Humility and obedience to the Lord – John 14:21 – Work on how to obey the commands of Christ... Matthew 28:19-20.
  - Teach them about prayer and pray with them and for them. Matthew 6:5-15
  - Teach them about the Holy Spirit and how to respond to conviction. Confession and repentance. This is the greatest work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life. John 16:7-15.
  - Model and encourage sharing the gospel Romans 10:13-17.
- Some other secondary basics to keep in mind:
  - Help them work on all their relationships from the most intimate to "person X" so that they demonstrate authentic knowledge of God in all relationships.
  - Teach them other spiritual disciplines like scripture memory and meditation, solitude, fasting, giving and so on. The spiritual disciplines help put us in a great position to know God.
  - Make consistent contact with this person.

- Encourage and assist them in the involvement in the body of Christ Help them discover their spiritual gifts. Encourage and model ministry for them.
- Include them in other kinds of activities, do some other things together.
- Have fun together. Having some fun opens more doors to their hearts and lives.
- Checkpoints for Discipleship – Things you want to see happening in your discipleship relationships:
  - Increasing ability to correctly handle the Word of God because of a growing relationship with the Lord. 2 Tim. 2:15 (understanding and living it) | John 2:3-6; John 10:4; 17:26 (seen by humility and obedience. Knowledge with no relationship is evidenced by pride and disobedience.)
  - Growing devotion to prayer. Col. 4:2; 1 Pet. 4:7
  - Increasing understanding about having the mind of Christ. 1 Cor. 2:16
  - Compassion of Christ towards others, the heart of God. Matt. 9:36
  - Growing understanding the body of Christ and personal responsibility in the body. I Cor. 12:27
  - Evidence of sanctification and the assurance of salvation. John 17:17; Heb. 10:14
  - Fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-24
  - They begin actually sharing their faith with others. Matthew 28:19-20
  - Make sure they can do for another what you have done for them. Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2.
- Three more critical checkpoints for both you and the person you are discipling:
  - Strive to be a person that is not satisfied with knowledge alone, but desires the experience of a relationship with Jesus.
  - But in your experiences, you are not satisfied with emotional impact alone without willful, measurable change.
  - And in challenge of change you are not satisfied through your own rationalization of your behavior instead of the hard work of repentance.