

Week 1

WE ARE: Disciples

The purpose of the next few weeks is to

1. Understanding foundational principles of faith in Jesus
2. Answering the question: what makes JICC distinct?

You will see two types of questions, Reflection Questions and Discussion Questions. Reflection questions are to be answered during the week before class (after you have watched the sermon video). Discussion questions are to be discussed during class with the group. If you think of questions in your reflection time be sure to write them down and bring them to class!

Our mission is to glorify God by making disciples of all peoples.

Matthew 28:18-20 "The Great Commission"

18 And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

1. **ALL AUTHORITY**

Difference between believe-ism and being a Christian is Jesus having authority over your life.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

The Gospel is not Do you believe in Jesus? it's "Does Jesus have authority over your life?" What does Jesus having authority in your life look like? How have you been transformed by giving him that authority?

2. **GO**

Part of going means discipleship in structured and spontaneous ministries. Structured program within JICC looks like small groups, round tables, ministries (love + care team), child care, etc. Spontaneous discipleship can look like prayer ministry and worship time.

3. **DISCIPLES**

What does it mean to be a disciple? Disciple means learner or apprentice.

Matthew 11:25-30

25 At that time Jesus declared, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you

rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Jesus has called us to **be** learners + called us to **make** learners from Jesus.

HOW DO WE BECOME LEARNERS (DISCIPLES)?

He has given us the same things that were available to early church:

1. Word of God
2. Spirit of God
3. People of God

Making Learners (Disciples)

What does that look like for JICC?

1. BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT.

John 3:1-8

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him. 3 Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

KEY PRINCIPLE

We baptize by immersion with water because it:

1. It follows the example of Jesus and his disciples.
2. It is an outward picture of an inward transformation.

2. TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED THEM

We are a church that emphasizes both: **WORD + SPIRIT**

Read John 14:8-21

KEY PRINCIPLE

Being Learners (Disciples)

REFLECTION QUESTION

Who am I learning from?

Jesus calls and invites us to COME to him to be learners. Re-read Matt 11:28-30

Read James 1:22-25 Hearers + Doers of the Word

Part of being a learner is being a DOER of the word and not just a HEARER.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What do you HEAR God saying to you and what does it look like for me to be a doer of the word?

How do we keep from legalism? There needs to be a heart transformation - not just a "works transformation"

The Gospel is not about making bad people good, It's about making dead people alive.

The same power that saves us as individuals is the same power at work multiplying the church.

The people of God
Filled with the Spirit of God
Being obedient to the Word of God.

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS

Consider the three areas in which we are encouraged as disciples of Jesus: word of God, Spirit of God, people of God -- what areas do you feel you most need to grow?

People of God: What does it look like for you to take steps towards the church?

Participate in a Bible Study or small group or ask for help from a more mature follower of Jesus? In what ways does your life need to be more connected to others?

Word of God: What are some practical steps to grow in your understanding of the Scriptures?

Do you need to have a better understanding of how to read and apply the Word? Or greater discipline in reading, meditating, and praying the scriptures in your life?

Spirit of God: What areas do I need to grow in my understanding of the Holy Spirit's work in me?

Do you need to have a greater understanding of spiritual gifts or a willingness to practice spiritual gifts that you might have otherwise ignored? Do you need to find another believer who is mature in this areas and learn from them?

I am with you always until the end of the age.
Jesus is with us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
We can only follow Jesus in the power of the Spirit.

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