

A DISCIPLING CHURCH

Matthew 28:18–20 | November 1, 2026 | Pastor Jenna Luoto

SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Jenna starts with two questions. If you consider yourself a follower of Jesus, raise your hand. If you consider yourself a disciple maker, raise your hand. The first one is easy. The second makes the room go quiet, because we have pulled those two things apart, treating following Jesus as a private journey and disciple making as an advanced stage for people who feel qualified. That is not how it worked. To be someone's disciple meant learning to become like them so that you could pass it on. If you are a follower of Jesus then you are a disciple of Jesus, and if you are a disciple of Jesus then you must be making other disciples. Unlike the rest of this series, this week's attribute is not something we observe in the early church. It is a direct command: go and make disciples. So the real question is why we are not doing it. Pastor Jenna names four reasons. We do not know what we are supposed to do, when discipleship is really learn from Jesus, become like Jesus, and help others do the same. We do not think it is our responsibility, though Ephesians 4 says leaders exist to equip the people rather than do it for them. We avoid it because discipling someone means getting serious about our own walk, and there is no version of comfortable discipleship. Most of all, we have lost sight of the privilege. Jesus gave this command so that our joy would overflow.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Would you call yourself a disciple maker? Answer honestly rather than correctly. If you hesitated on Sunday morning, what was the hesitation actually about?
2. We tend to treat following Jesus as a private journey and disciple making as a later stage for people who feel qualified. Where did you pick that up, and what has it cost you?
3. Pastor Jenna defined discipleship in three moves: learn from Jesus, become like Jesus, help others do the same. Which of the three is strongest in your life right now, and which one is missing?
4. Ephesians 4 says leaders exist to equip the people, not to do the discipling for them. Be honest: have you been handing people off to the church instead of walking with them yourself?
5. Pastor Jenna said some of us avoid discipling others because it would hold us accountable to our own walk. Is there any truth in that for you? What would change if someone were actually watching?
6. **This week's challenge:** Pastor Jenna asked us to sit with one question: who is one person God has already placed in your life whom you could intentionally help take a next step in following Jesus? Start not with what am I supposed to do, but with what has Jesus done in my life that I would love for someone else to experience. Name that person to this group, then invite them into something ordinary this week. Come and see.

Picking Up From Last Week:

Last Sunday ended at the communion table, where Pastor Dave reminded us that open hands receive God's grace and God's grace opens our hands to give. If your group named one way your hands could open, start by sharing how that went. Then notice that today's question has the same shape: what you have received is exactly what you have to pass on.