

Develop Disciples like Jesus did

# Develop Disciples Like Jesus Did

If the mission is developing disciples, then what's the process of developing disciples look like in real life? Today we discover how Jesus developed disciples and we consider this question, "Where am I in the process & what's the next step?"

## onlinenotes

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## teachingnotes

\* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible) unless otherwise noted.

***If the Church drifts off course from The Mission, the next generation will move further away from the MASTER.***

### ***The Disciple of Jesus is expected to:***

1. Submit to the authority of Jesus: most concerned with pleasing Him.
2. Memorize the words of Jesus because they are so precious to us.
3. Learn Jesus' way of ministry: serving and teaching others like He did.
4. Imitate Jesus' life & character: living in purity, truth, passion, & compassion
5. Develop Disciples to follow Jesus.

### **❓ "Where am I in the discipleship journey, and what's my next step?"**

The first disciples of Jesus *ended up* developing disciples, *but this isn't where they started*. They started at the very first phase we start at. Jesus showed patience with an edge of urgency, as He forgave, corrected, & taught them through it. He'll do the same with us.

- 🕒 **If you aren't ready to develop disciples**, that's okay for NOW, but that needs to change in the future. Sit under the leadership of others who walk with Jesus. Who is that in your life?

## *Develop Disciples like Jesus did.*

### **1. Jesus prayed persistently about who to disciple.**

**Luke 6:12-13** During those days he went out to the mountain to **pray** and **spent all night in prayer to God**. When daylight came, he summoned his disciples, and he **chose twelve of them**, whom **he also named apostles**:

- ✓ If Jesus needed to pray over who to invest in, then we should too. Start praying that God would give you wisdom in who to invest in.

### **2. Jesus invested significant time in a small number of disciples.**

Jesus knew that investing in these meant He couldn't invest in many others. Although Jesus made time for others, the majority of His ministry was with these few by His side.

- 🔦 A laser is so powerful because it is finely focused light. So too, if you are going to make a difference, you are going to have to focus most of your ministry minutes on a few folks.

### 3. Jesus pointed to the destination before the departure.

Jesus told His disciples what He was expecting from them at the very beginning. Jesus called them “apostles” meaning “sent out”,<sup>1</sup> but He also gave them the BIG PICTURE of where He was taking them.

**Matthew 4:19** “Follow me,” he told them, “and **I will make you fish for people.**”

These men were going to do the hard work of developing disciples, and Jesus told them that from the very beginning, Jesus gave them a destination to shoot for and promised to take them to it.

✓ **After prayerfully choosing the same-sex disciples you will invest in, share your expectations with them.** That might go something like this: *“I want to spend several hours in your life every week. It won’t be easy. I will hold you to a high standard. I will make myself available to you at just about any time. The ultimate goal is to see you grow to become a disciple who develops disciples, and I’m going to show you how to do it.”*

### 4. Jesus included disciples in ministry.

These guys weren’t just spectating. Thousands have gathered to hear Jesus teach but now there’s a HUGE hungry crowd. The disciples knew these people needed to go into town to get something to eat, but Jesus told them...

**Matthew 14:16-19** “They don’t need to go away,” Jesus told them. **“You give them something to eat.”** “But we only have five loaves and two fish here,” they said to him. **“Bring them here to me,”** he said. Then he commanded the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and **the disciples gave them to the crowds.**

This was ‘on-the-job training.’ What happened that day was meant to teach the apostles a valuable lesson...a lesson that would impact them for years to come. Jesus took the little they had and multiplied it to thousands, and then **the disciples gave it to the crowds.** What’s the lesson?

☀ **Kennon Vaughan** paraphrases what Jesus taught them, *“Give them what you’ve got...then come to me for more.”*

In the future, when things got tough, the apostles could remember what they learned that day.

✓ When we disciple others, we should teach them the same thing, that our source of spiritual strength is in Jesus alone. Our own abilities only go so far, but “we can do all things through Christ” (through the good days and the bad days) “through Christ who gives us strength. ” (Phil 4:13)

### 5. Jesus sent them to people & places He didn’t go.

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and **you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”

Jesus had not spoken with every person that would enter **Jerusalem**. Jesus didn’t enter every city in **Judea** nor every town in **Samaria**. His feet never touched the rest of the Roman Empire and beyond (“**end of the earth**”). That would be THEIR task.

*Good thing WE don’t have to do that!* It’s a lot easier to invite our lost friends to a big event and let a ‘professional Christian’ get them to pray a prayer. Then we just get them to show up to church...**BUT...that’s NOT The Mission!**

MY NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, and Gerhard Friedrich, eds., *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964-), 398.

## WHAT IF...

- 1. What if WE prayed persistently about who to disciple?** What if God actually answered that prayer and led YOU to disciple a few? What if God led you to be disciplined by someone who was praying for you?
- 2. What if WE invested significant time in a small number of disciples?** What if we purposed to say NO to some things in order to say YES to **The Mission**? What if someone invested in YOU...and trained you to do the same for someone else?
- 3. What if WE pointed to the destination before the departure?** What if we cast a vision worth following! What if we KNEW that the goal was to push the baby bird out of the nest to grow the family?
- 4. What if WE included disciples in ministry?** What if you began to take someone with you to minister to others? What if you got to go with someone to be the hands and feet of Jesus? What if you got some 'on-the-job training' in sharing the good news of Jesus with others!
- 5. What if WE prepared and sent our disciples to people & places we won't go to?** What if we sent missionaries to different generations & nations? What if we KNEW that, by developing disciples, we were leaving a legacy that would outlast us! What if you knew we would see more people in eternity, because of those WE have developed!



**Look over the 5 practices above every day and ask "Where am I in discipleship journey and what's my next step?"** Then contact a more mature believer and ask him/her to help you to the NEXT STEP.

1. Submit to the authority of Jesus: being most concerned with pleasing Him.
2. Memorize the words of Jesus because they are so precious to us. (take them w/ us as we go)
3. Learn Jesus' way of ministry: Serving and teaching others like He did.
4. Imitate Jesus' life & character: purity, truth, passion, & compassion
5. Develop Disciples who follow Jesus.

## heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- \* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- \* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (973-0047), Jere & Darlene Burnette (673-1888), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), Jim & Derita Pinkard (229-834-4307), or Boss & Amelia Mulkey (673-1387).

## discussionquestions

These open-ended questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your Family, Friends, or Small Group.

1. Share what most challenged or surprised you from today's teaching.
2. **Look back over the 5 expectations of the disciple of Jesus** and answer this question, "*Where am I in the discipleship journey, and what's my next step?*"
3. How are you currently helping to develop disciples? If you're not ready for that, which same-sex follower of Jesus might you ask to make some time for you to help you grow?
4. **Read Matthew 14:16-19**. Why do you think Jesus included the disciples in ministry? Can you think of any other ways that Jesus included them in ministry? Why is this important and what are some practical ways we could work alongside one another in ministry?
5. What is the difference between book knowledge and on-the-job-training? What are some situations we could include a younger believer for ministry experience and protection & direction from a more mature believer?
6. Share some ways others have helped you grow as a disciple to this point.
7. Share prayer needs & lift them up together! Make sure to pray for our political and spiritual leaders during this time.