

The Miracle or the Message

He Had a Plan

The Discipleship Strategy Jesus Never Hid From Us

BIG IDEA: *From Genesis to Acts, God was building a movement of people who would carry the mission of Christ into every corner of the world. That plan has never changed.*

THE OLD TESTAMENT RUNWAY

God spent centuries building the runway so that when Jesus arrived, the landing would be unmistakable.

- **The bloodline:** Abraham to Judah to Jesus (Gen. 12:3)
- **The throne:** David's eternal kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12-13)
- **The prophecies:** Virgin birth, Bethlehem, ect. Isa. 53, Psa. 22, Zech. 9:9
- **The Law:** Not the solution, the diagnosis. Jesus is the cure. (Gal. 3:24)

GOSPEL THREAD

From Gen. 3:15 to Acts 2, the entire Bible is one unbroken story of God pursuing the redemption of humanity through His Son.

WHY FISHERMEN?

- Jesus had 3 years, not 10 to 15. He needed men whose theological concrete had not fully set.
- These men were fishermen precisely because they had been passed over by a rabbi. Jesus chose the rejected.
- He did not need the most knowledge. He needed the least baggage.

PATTERN ALERT

Jesus was not building consumers. He was building carriers, people sent to multiply the mission without Him.

JESUS'S 8-STEP DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

1 Step 1: Miracles
Establishing credibility before teaching. His power opened the door to His purpose.

2 Step 2: The Message
Repentance and heart transformation, not behavioral compliance. (Matt. 5-7)

3 Step 3: Modeling
He lived the new way in front of them: the Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus, the leper. This was curriculum.

4 Step 4: Confronting the Counterfeit
Every clash with the Pharisees was a teachable moment. Jesus was the first reformer.

5 Step 5: Sending Out the Twelve Early
Before they felt ready. Ministry is not learned in a classroom, it is learned in the field. (Matt. 10)

6 Step 6: Debrief and Expand
Return, reflect, and go again. Then 72 sent out in pairs. The circle grows. (Luke 10)

7 Step 7: Redirecting Dependency
"You give them something to eat." He refused to let them watch while He worked. (Luke 9:13)

8 Step 8: Preparing for His Departure
"It is for your good that I am going away." His leaving was not abandonment. It was graduation. (John 16:7)

THE MODEL JESUS USED

"I do, you watch." "I do, you assist." "We do it together." "You do it, I assist." "You do it, I observe." "You do it. I am sending you out."

AHA MOMENT

dunamis (Acts 1:8): The Holy Spirit is not primarily a mood stabilizer. He is the explosive, world-altering power of God deposited inside ordinary people so that the mission of Christ does not stop when Christ is no longer physically present.

REFLECTION & WEEKLY STUDY

- Who are you personally discipling right now, not just teaching biblical info, but life on life?
- Which of the 8 steps does your small group community most need to apply?
- Are you building a following that is dependent upon your presence, or disciples who can function in your absence?

