Iron Sharpens Iron…
Making Disciples

The word "discipleship" can sound intimidating. It's easy to feel unqualified—like you need a seminary degree, a theology certificate, or a multi-step program just to help someone grow in faith. But Jesus showed us a much simpler way through everyday relational living. True discipleship happens in ordinary moments. It's offering a quick prayer, showing mercy, granting forgiveness, sharing hope, or simply telling your story of what God has done in your life.

Who are we and why are we here?
6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:6-8

> Jesus called everyday people to follow Him, watch Him, and tell about Him.

8 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." Matthew 28:18-20

> "Make disciples" is to be the core goal of everything the church does. The sole job of every church and every believer is to make disciples – every program, every event, every teaching, everything. Everything we do must tell and show people an accurate picture of Jesus.

What is a disciple?
A disciple is a person who accepts, follows, and helps spread the teachings, ideas, or lifestyle of a teacher, leader, or school of thought. (Merriam Webster)

4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was much joy in that city. Acts 8:4-8

> There was great joy from Philips signs and teaching.

39 So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. Acts 9:39

Her community, and the widows she ministered to, wept greatly for this was a great loss.

Who is Jesus?
14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

Accurate witness to Jesus feeds bellies and fills needs while proclaiming the truth and grace. Grace without truth is hollow. Truth without grace is insufficient. Jesus brought and taught both. The result changed everything.

Salt and Light
13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16

Our job is not to build community or the Kingdom. Our job is not to feed or clothe the most. Our job is not to simply do the most. Our job is to provide an accurate witness pointing to Jesus and make disciples through EVERYTHING WE DO.

How can I do this in real life?
- Love
- Forgive
- Protect
- Provide
- Share

Is there much joy in your home and your circles from the signs people see in you about Him? Will they mourn at your bedside for faithfulness lost or fellowship alone?

<u>Food opens the appetite, while fellowship opens the heart.</u>

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – Why did God establish the church? Who is Mentor and what lasting impact are we having in our community?

Tuesday – Disciples observe, learn, and follow. What are the qualities/characteristics of Jesus that we are to model for those around us?

Wednesday – Read John 1:1-18. It tells of the story of the beginning and provides hope for eternity. How are you an eyewitness of the truth in these verses?

Thursday – Disciples model grace and truth. How are these, in isolation, dangerous and how are they transformational together?

Friday – Philip and Tabitha were faithful disciples who presented an accurate testimony about Jesus. How is this world brighter because of your testimony? How can that light be brighter?