

CONVICTIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP



A FIVE-WEEK STUDY



CALVARY BURLINGTON

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, AND SERVE THEIR WORLD

Conviction One: Why Make Disciples?

1. Talk about it: What is something that stood out to you from the message this morning?
2. Share with the group briefly about how long you've been attending Calvary, and what brought you here/kept you here?
3. When it comes to sharing your faith, what comes to mind? What are some reasons you might share Christ with others?
4. At Calvary Burlington our mission is, "Making disciples who make disciples who love God, love people and serve their world." Why is it important to be "disciples who make disciples"? Why is replication important?
5. Read Titus 2:11–14 and answer the following questions:
 - a. What is the end towards which God is moving us?
 - b. What is the role of Jesus Christ in this plan?
 - c. What is the significance of Jesus' death for God's plan?
 - d. What is our place (humanity's place) in God's plan?
 - e. What does this passage teach us about why making disciples is important?
6. Since coming to Calvary Burlington or since becoming a believer, how has your understanding of the word "disciple" changed?
7. It is much easier to say, "We make disciples **by**..." (inserting the name of a program or study), but it is more important to say, "We make disciples **because**..." (understanding and inserting the motivation behind it).

Based on the message this morning and the passage in Titus 2, brainstorm a list of *why* we make disciples:

8. In the list your created, place an asterisk beside one or two that resonate with you or that feel the most urgent to you.
9. If you're ready, finish this sentence:
I want to make disciples because...

If you're not a believer in Christ or you're not yet ready to answer this honestly, save this sheet and come back to it later in the series. Ask God to reveal to you about the meaning and importance of discipleship.

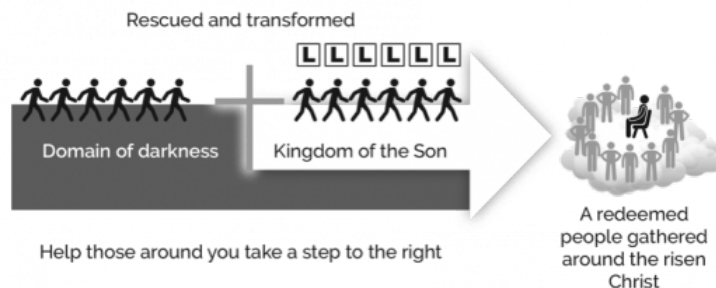
10. Based on today's study, what is one step I can take in making disciples?
11. Close in prayer. Include a time to pray for Calvary Burlington, and praying aloud the phrases you wrote in question 9.

Conviction Two: What is a Disciple?

1. Last week we talked about why we should make disciples. In what ways did our discussion impact your thinking, actions or habits this week?
2. This morning Pastor Aaron asked, “What is a disciple?” Have someone from the group read the morning passage aloud. What is something that stood out to you from the message this morning?
3. Read aloud Luke 14:25–33 carefully and in its entirety. In this passage, we start to see what discipleship is and learn more about its value.
4. Read again Luke 14:26. In this verse, Jesus is using hyperbole – strong, over the top statements intended to drive home a point. Compare Luke 14:26 with Matthew 10:37. What is Jesus teaching us about being a disciple?
5. Read Luke 14:27. How is discipleship described here? *While you might want to jump immediately to believers suffering, even unto the point of death, but how can carrying your cross relate to how we live out our faith as believers?*
6. Luke 14:28–32 tells two stories. In one, a landowner decides to build a tower. In the other, a king is set to go into battle with his enemy. What do these stories teach us about what it means to be a disciple?
7. Much of today’s study focuses on the consequences of being a disciple. While the topic is sobering, it’s not only dire news. Discipleship is also a gift! In what ways is being a disciple:
 - a. A gift (use your brainstorming from last week if you get stuck)
 - b. A demand
8. Why is it inconsistent to “learn Christ” but not subject our whole life to his will?
9. It’s not wrong to press into the redemption and forgiveness that Jesus brings and to take great delight in salvation. However, the One who redeems us also calls us into a costly discipleship. As you close in prayer, spend a few minutes in silence preparing your heart and feeling the weight of discipleship. Then divide your prayer time by first praising God for the ways that discipleship is a gift, and then transition into a time where you pray over the demands of discipleship. Lastly, pray for each person in your group by name and ask God to strengthen them as they carry out the commandment to bear the cross and follow after Jesus.

Conviction Three: How are Disciples Made?

1. Last week we talked about the definition of a disciple – what it means and what it costs us. In what ways did our discussion impact your thinking, actions or habits this week?
2. This morning Pastor Aaron asked, “How are disciples made?” Have someone from the group read the morning passage aloud. What is something that stood out to you from the message this morning?
3. Making disciples means helping people *take a step to the right*.



Moving to the right means we become Learners – men and women who are Christ-followers and who are learning and growing in their gospel journey, and helping others to do the same. Disciples are *someone undergoing transformative learning in Christ*. We’ll look more closely at this in the next few weeks.

4. Read through Ephesians 1:1–2:13 and create a list describing the manner by which we become Christians:
5. Look at Ephesians 2:1, 2:13, 4:17, 4:25. What is a common theme in these verses? List some of the phrases that stand out to you.
6. For what purpose are we asked to “remember” in 2:11-12? Why is this important as we build into the lives of those who are not yet believers?
7. Ephesians 4:1-5:21 describes the behavioural changes that occur as we move to the right.
 - Ephesians 4:1–16
 - Ephesians 4:17–24
 - Ephesians 4:25–32
 - Ephesians 5:1–21

8. Ephesians 5:22–6:9 describes the relational changes that occur as we move to the right.

Ephesians 5:22–32

Ephesians 6:1–4

Ephesians 6:5–9

Christ-followers have experienced a transformation in our thoughts, behaviours, and relationships. But it doesn't end with us *being* a disciple — we are called to *make* disciples (Matt 28:20). Making disciples and moving people to the right means we are **increasingly concerned to see that others are also growing**.

9. Think of one or two unbelievers in your life for whom you are content with their spiritual temperature. Maybe you've stopped talking to them about the Lord, ceased to pray for them, or are no longer overly concerned with their growth or salvation. Why do you think that is?
10. How could you demonstrate your love for these people? What story could you tell from your life that would point them to Christ? What could you say to them about the truth of Christ? What Scripture passage could you share with them? What might stop you from taking any action?
11. As you close in prayer today, divide your time between prayer for yourself and your own spiritual growth, and for those around you. First, use your list from Ephesians 1:1–2:13 to thank God for the gift of salvation and the means by which we are redeemed. Next, spend some time praying for the church family, that we would be increasingly concerned to see others growing. Finally, pray for one another and for those people that were mentioned in question #9. Ask God to soften our hearts and to point them to Christ.
12. In your own quiet time this week: Is there anything in the list of behaviours and relationships in questions 7 and 8 that you haven't yet surrendered to God? Does God need to do a work in your heart in any of these areas? Taking the next step in your gospel journey means identifying them and asking God to forgive you. Ask God to open your eyes to areas where you might be holding back so that you can fully surrender to the grace of God.

Conviction Four: Who Makes Disciples?

1. Last week we talked about how disciples are made and helping people *take a step to the right*. In what ways did our discussion impact your thinking, actions or habits this week?
2. This morning Pastor Aaron asked, “Who makes disciples?”. Have someone from the group read the morning passage aloud. What is something that stood out to you from the message?

There are practical ways to be involved in loving and serving God. General acts of service or help rendered for the sake of the church, demonstrating kindness through helping your neighbours and friends, or praying for those who are hurting. Even so, in our mission to move people to the right we understand that making disciples will eventually involve *speaking the Word of God* to someone.

3. Brainstorm a list of the different forms of *speaking the Word* that you have read about in the Bible and share your list with your group.

Encouragement
Teaching

4. Work together or break into smaller groups and read the following passages: 1 Thessalonians 5:11–14; Hebrews 13:7–15; 1 Peter 2:9–12; 1 Peter 4:7–11. These passages describe a form of speaking the Word and a motivation, or the reason why the word is spoken.

Form	Motivation (or the “why”)
<i>Encouragement</i>	<i>Build each other up</i>
<i>Teaching</i>	<i>So others are not led astray</i>

5. Speaking the Word means people are intentionally moving to the right as the *more experienced* guide the less experienced, and the *less experienced* use the more experienced as resources. Describe a time when someone who was more experienced used one of the forms listed in the previous question in order to move you, the less experienced, to the right. Was it in a structured setting, such as a Bible study or a one-on-one discipleship, or was it a teachable moment in response to a situation you were in the midst of? What did you learn from this? What was the impact?

6. What do you think are the main reasons people in our church are not engaged in speaking the word to others in the church, family or community?

7. Which of these reasons is a barrier for you to speak the Word of God into the life of someone who is less experienced?

8. As you close in prayer today, thank God for the people who have come along side your group members to speak the Word of God into their lives. Pray about the reasons or barriers you identified in questions 6 and 7, using Scripture such as 1 John 5:14, Jeremiah 17:7, Hebrews 4:16, Jeremiah 32:27.

Conviction Five: Where to Make Disciples?

1. Last week we talked about speaking the Word of God and its role in moving people to the right. In what ways did our discussion impact your thinking, actions or habits this week?
2. This morning we looked at the topic of where we make disciples. Have someone from the group read the morning passage aloud. What is something that stood out to you from the message?

In Conviction 3 we talked about two important components to disciples and disciple-making:

- *Taking a step to the right* – Unbelievers who are delivered from darkness into light, and believers who are growing in their faith. *Taking a step to the right* involves movement in a person's spiritual life.
- *Becoming Learners* – men and women who are learning and growing in their gospel journey and helping others to do the same.

Disciples are **people** undergoing transformative learning in Christ, and the church is a **community** for transformative learning in Christ.

3. What does a learning community look like in practice? What are the ways formally and informally you can think of that help others take a *step to the right*?

Making and growing Christ-learners is not just something that happens with new Christians, or in small groups, or in one-on-one sessions. Sunday morning gatherings are a place where we seek to help everyone present take a step to the right through the proclamation and speaking of the word of God.

4. Think through the various components that may appear in a Sunday morning service and brainstorm the ways these can be used in helping people undergo transformative learning and moving them to the right. *Note that we're not looking for a critique of how these are done, only for you to look at them with fresh eyes to see how they can be used in the discipleship process.*

- Invitational welcome from the host or leader
- Nursery and Sunday School (consider from the perspective of the parents and also the kids)
- Worship music
- Message
- Communion
- Response
- Announcements
- Benediction
- Offering
- Missions Moments
- Children's Moment
- Scripture reading
- Greetings
- Connect Time (coffee pre- and post-service)
- Prayer / Pastoral Prayer

5. Where is one place you currently serve where you could be more intentional about helping people take a step to the right? How might you start?

6. In what ways have you been challenged in your thinking of discipleship and disciple-making through this study? How has your understanding of the word “disciple” changed since we first met together?

7. Based on this series and study, what is your next step with regard to discipleship?

8. As you close your time together, thank God for those in your group who have come and who have committed to grow in their understanding of discipleship. Pray for our church to have an increased hunger for making disciples, and for the more experienced to seek out the less experienced to help them along in their spiritual growth. Pray for each person in your group by name and ask God to use them to build into someone else and to truly be disciples who make disciples.