

## **You Can Do This: Your Attitude**

The discipleship process Cross Waves uses is built around what Jesus said and what Jesus did. So here is the process that Jesus used with his disciples. **Jesus started his earthly ministry by saying, “Follow me” to the men who were to become his disciples.** Jesus’ discipleship ministry contained four elements: Jesus invited men to follow Him (Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17); Jesus allowed these men to watch Him minister publicly (John 18:19-20); while he taught them privately (Mathew 17:19; 24:3; Mark 4:10; 6:31; 9:28; Luke 10:23); and then he sent them out to minister to others (Luke 10:1-20; Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-6); Jesus ended his earthly ministry by telling these same men, who now were His disciples, to go and reproduce and make more disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

Jesus’ four-step process sounds simple enough, so why are there not more Christians making disciples? If you asked the following questions to most Christians, “Who are you discipling?” “Who are you asking to accompany you as you minister publicly?” “Who are you meeting with in private sessions to teach the Word of God?” “Who are you encouraging to go out and minister to others?” Most Christians would not be able to give you any names.

For most Christians, being a disciple-maker means inviting others to church. Inviting someone to visit your church may be a worthy endeavor, however that is not discipleship. Discipleship is a personal endeavor. Discipleship happens face to face, happens over time, happens through life events, and God has uniquely placed you in a position to be a disciple-maker. Therefore, inviting others is only the beginning of the disciple-

making process. To be a real disciple-maker, you need to be involved with the entire process of discipleship, and not just make introductions.

**I believe the main reason disciple-making is not happening at the growth rate of the early church is that we are afraid to accept the mindset of “Follow Me.”** I understand why this statement trips people up. Many people respond with statements like, “I don’t want people following me, I want them following Jesus.” We too want people to follow Jesus and not us, however you need to understand that before people see Christ, they must see Christ in us as their model. At Cross Waves Church, you will often hear this statement, “Follow me until you see Jesus.”

Our culture is becoming more and more pagan, and more like the culture that the Apostle Paul faced when he was teaching the gospel. Paul understood that new believers learn better through example than explanation. Therefore, Paul said to the church in Corinth, “So I urge you to imitate me” (1 Corinthians 4:16 NLT). He fleshed this concept out even more later in his letter to the Corinthians by explaining, “And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1 NLT). Paul accepted the responsibility of having others follow his lead in how he followed Christ. Paul told the Thessalonians that they should imitate his missionary team (2 Thessalonians 3:7) and he told the Philippians that they should pattern their lives after him (Philippians 3:17).

Some respond, “Well that’s Paul saying, follow me; he was an apostle and someone worth following.” However, Paul claimed that he was the worst of all sinners (1 Timothy 1:15), and Paul explained he had a sinful DNA flaw that you and I can relate to; even when he tried to do good, he would mess up and commit sin (Romans 7:15-21). Some of you may try to

sidestep your disciple-making responsibility by claiming that people will not listen to you because you should have more years under your belt as a follower of Christ. However, Paul warned Timothy, “Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity” (1 Timothy 4:12 NLT).

Even the Apostle Peter shared this same challenge as he told leaders to lead others by their own good example in His letter of First Peter Chapter 5 verse 4).

**With the right attitude of “Follow me until you see Jesus,” you can do this!**