



SEEKING GOD- Disciple wanted: Assembly required.

August 18, 2024

Glenn Garvin

BIG IDEA – How to build the life of a disciple and to make disciples.

scripture focus - Jesus replied, “**The most important commandment** is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ **The second is equally important:** ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these. [Mark 12:29-31](#)

You find that perfect piece of furniture and just the right place to put it in your home. Or you discover that amazing toy for your child’s upcoming birthday. But when it is delivered to your home **you find that it comes in a box much smaller than you anticipated.**

This is when you find out **it has to be assembled!** Life is like that - **it’s amazing, but assembly is required.** For goodness’ sake, **someone has to have an instruction manual on how to put a good life together! I do not believe the Bible is an instruction manual, but Jesus does tell us how to build a life. It requires specific tools and a whole lot of time and patience.** How do I build a great life? You are not the first one to ask that question. Let’s find out together this Sunday.



Let recap the past few weeks talking about our life-rhythms and how to both **be** a disciple as well as **make** disciples. CJ did a great job in his message on August 4th, **seeking God** in the quiet place where **solid relationships** take **quality time spent together.**



Last week, Pastor Emily walked us through **seeking God within the church, finding and activating our spiritual gifts**, which gives us purpose and a place to use our time, talents and treasures in the Kingdom of God.



HOME



HOOD

This week we are focusing on the other two rhythms, **home and hood**.

Everyone is being discipled and making disciples everywhere we live, work and play. **We are all being discipled by someone or something.** And, in every decision we make and action that we take – **we are affecting or influencing someone.** We just don't live our lives in a vacuum or as hermits. Who or what are you following? And who is following you?

A disciple isn't really a spiritual term. It just means a follower, a student, a learner. Of course, the Bible made the word famous because **Jesus had how many disciples?**

It makes sense for us to understand **we are following someone, or some thing and someone is following us!**

Q: Who or what are you following?

Think of this message as a “how to” conversation.

How to build the life of a disciple.

How many of you have ever purchased furniture at IKEA?

Our family loves IKEA. I don't enjoy being trapped in the IKEA in person, shopping experience, but I love their products.

You can read more about IKEA in my notes, but here's some highlights.



The Swedish furniture company, Ikea, have some of the smartest minds in the world working on how to design, build, sell and instruct people on how to build their furniture.

With over 200,000 employees worldwide. Ikea is worth \$15.9 Billion. IKEA is an acronym about its founder - **Ingvar Kamprad** (the founder's name), **Elmtaryd** (the farm where the founder grew up), and **Agunnaryd** (the founder's hometown).

- **473 IKEA stores in 63 countries and 5 territories worldwide.**
- **18 in-house designers.**
- **Even though Ikea's instruction manuals come in 37 languages, there are no words to describe how to build their designs. There are only pictograms.**
- **IKEA's "Life at Home" vision comes from three day-to-day tensions (More in my notes).**
 - **Doing more vs doing less.** Should we keep busy or take it easy?
 - **Togetherness vs. privacy.**
 - **Living well vs. living within our means.**

What is the most difficult piece of furniture from Ikea to assemble?

In a survey, people said the hardest was...

The "**Pax Wardrobe!**"

I love Ikea, I love their furniture, and I love their prices! But assembling furniture together, especially as a married couple is pure mayhem!

PAX wardrobe build – it looks so easy, but it's not.

- 9 tools needed
- 115 individual pieces
- **31 page instruction manual**

Estimated build time is normally 1-3 hours, but with the PAX it just says, "several hours."

I gotta be honest with you, I am not an instruction manual reader, nor an instruction manual follower – but with Ikea the **pictograms** are perfect for me.

Do you know anyone that buys something, looks at the final picture, then just starts putting it together?

I know it rubs some of you the wrong way, but some folks just look at the picture and just start building!

Other folks study the instruction manual for hours, reading over every detail, triple checking every part and following every step perfectly.

Can I tell you this, the Bible is not an instruction manual. And Jesus did not give a step-by-step process for becoming nor making followers!

I know many of you desperately want the manual, but here's what Jesus did give us –

Jesus gave us pictograms! Not printed pictograms, but stories and situations that show us who God is, who He is and how we should become a follower, a disciple!

WHY?

Because pictograms, like stories, transcend and survive time and culture! There's a [LINK](#) to the story of the Good Samaritan in Swahili (Kiswahili) in the notes.



It starts in the HOME.

The home is the primary place where pictogram-like learning is the most effective!

We learn from our parents, or our home environment. Our home, in a family, foster care or institution, whether it was with **good parents or bad (bio, step, foster or adoptive)** - we learn from how the **adults that raised us view life and do life!** That's just the way life works.

Our home is where we first learn **EVERYTHING** we know about life.

In the Church, we like to say we were either raised in a "Christian" home or a "non-Christian" home. We grew up in Church or we did not grow up in Church.

Truth is, whether we grew up with Christian or non-Christian adults in our lives it still comes down to how our parents or our care-providers lived and more importantly how well they did at raising us! Our family taught us by the way they lived, not necessarily by what they believed.

And if those adults did a good job, it gave us a tremendous advantage in life. If those adults did their best to reflect God and raise us to know who God is, **it gave us a spiritual head start on our own spiritual formation**. If our parents or caregivers did an awful job giving us a clear picture of God, it became a difficult journey for our spiritual journey.

My adoptive mom gave me just enough of a glimpse of God, by sending me off to a church down the street, that for a while **I believed I was a Christian because I believed there is a God!**

Believing there is a God, but never yielding your heart and will to God does not make one a Christian. The devil believes in God, but will never yield his heart to Him.

As a parent, or care provider, who is actively following Jesus Christ, obeying, yielding heart and will, your primary role to the children in your care is to show them who God is not just what you believe, but how you live your life.

As a parent, we are the spiritual pictograms in children's lives!

But as an adult now, who is my spiritual pictogram?

It is committing to Jesus and looking through the gospels to see what he does, how he does it and why he does it! Then, by the power of the Holy Spirit, who Jesus promised would be your personal assistant in all spiritual truth, go and do the same!

Mark 12:29-30 Jesus replied, "The **most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'**"

Why would God boil down the entire law (Torah) to simple concepts?

Love your God &
Love your Neighbor

It's because **we need it simple**. I wish someone would create a **Love God pictogram and a Love Neighbor pictogram** as well.

Ikea took the most complicated piece of furniture they had and made pictures to **show us how to assemble their PAX wardrobe!**

For those seriously trying to love God, following the ways of Jesus, it seems difficult enough to navigate the religious maze of how that practically works.

How does one “love” God?

I would say that most would answer, I need to be more religious! Being “reverent,” “strict,” “good,” “saint-like.” **Go to church. Stop doing bad, worldly or just shady stuff!**

It is definitely **NOT** being more religious.

God intended for us to learn this from our parents, in safe home surrounded by loving family!

However, even if we did not learn it from them, we can learn it from God’s Word no matter how young or old we are.

It’s the beginning of the [Shema](#). And way back in the [Old Testament](#), parents were instructed to teach their children about God through these methods:

“Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
[Deuteronomy 6:7-9](#)

Can I be so bold to suggest that these instructions are not just for children, they are helpful for us to understand **as adults**, that **repetition in our home, in our vehicles, going to bed and rising up in the morning, wearing and posting reminders in our home** is a great way to keep God’s word before us every day!

Being a follower of Jesus is not just about teaching our families about being a disciple, it’s about **leading ourselves as well**.

The Psalmist said “Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. [Psalms 127:1a](#)

I know many of you **want** an instruction manual on how to be a disciple.

1. You have the Bible to understand who Jesus is.
2. You don’t need **a manual**, you need **Emmanuel, GOD WITH US**.

The second part to building the life **of** a disciple is to learn how to make a disciple.



The HOOD is where we live, work and play, our neighborhood.

Building the life of a disciple also means making disciples

Like I said, **in every decision we make and action that we take – we are affecting or influencing someone. Someone is always watching, always listening!**

Especially where we live, work and play.

Mark 12:31 The second is equally important: ‘**Love your neighbor as yourself.**’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

The interesting word use for the word “neighbor”.

Neighbor, πλησίον (plēsion) It means near, nearby.

The Jewish listeners heard, “Love your neighbor” in a Hebrew context. The word “rea,” meaning, “a close associate, friend or companion.” In other words, a “fellow Jew.”

But Mark’s gospel, Jesus uses the Greek word, “plēsion,” which means something slightly different. It means anyone that is near, actually close in proximity.

--DIG DEEPER NOTES ONLY--

Jesus could have used “geitón: a neighbor,” or “perioikos: dwelling around, a neighbor,” or “perichóros: neighboring.” But instead chose “plēsion.”

This may be why the story of the Good Samaritan was so interesting, because even though the religious lawyer was trying to justify himself as Matthew wrote, he still had a valid question, “are we talking about a Jewish understanding of the word to mean, “our fellow countrymen,” or the Greek understanding, “anyone near,” meaning non-Jews or even enemies?

The religious lawyer asked Jesus to clarify because he was hearing the Hebrew meaning of the word neighbor, clearly referring to a fellow Hebrew.

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor (**rea**) as yourself. I am the Lord. [Leviticus 19:18](#)

Jesus **redefined** the cultural understanding of the word **neighbor** from **close friend** to **anyone** nearby. And pushed it further to include foreigners and even enemies.

Why would God shift us out of our personal, intimate circles of friends?

Then motivate us to move towards a non-personal, uncomfortable idea of loving someone we do not know and would not normally associate with?

Ah, because this is how **God works and uses our own UN-comfortability to teach us what it's like for God who knows how we all start out!**

We didn't just see God as a stranger, but even worse, we saw him as an enemy of our own desires. Paul said while we were yet sinners (**hamartólos**), **depraved, detestable and quite unlovable** – **Christ reached across the aisle, bridging the breach to die for us! Romans 5:8**

First of all, I get it. We **don't want to be uncomfortable** or **enjoy moving out of our habits and rhythms of life!**

- Even if a voice or an angelic messenger came to us one day with **a clear heavenly assignment most of us would have rock-solid excuses why we were not capable nor available to do what God asked.**
- Second, we **underestimate our ability and availability** and convince ourselves that **someone else, ANYONE ELSE is more qualified** and has time to say **YES** to God.
- Thirdly, we have become **dependent on the professionals, those with obvious titles, talents and time** that we believe **we just do not have.**

God knows what he is doing, knows us better than we know ourselves and only has good intentions towards us.

Let me explain what I know to be true:

1. God has designed us to know him, love him and walk with him. In this design, we are not promised perfection, money, wealth or a suffering free life. God's blessings are amazing and undeniably true but unpredictable.
2. God has also designed us to be in community. We are by far happier, healthier and more effective with others involved in our lives and we in turn are involved in their lives. Love takes trust, risk and commitment.
3. God has jobs for us! Having given gifts and talents, he constantly brings opportunities to show up, use those abilities to bless others and happily participate with him in the redemption of human lives, restoring broken

souls to himself. We **GET** to do this, rarely does God **force** someone to comply.

ME

- Do you need more information? I will load you up w/ Bible content?
- Do you need more inspiration? I will fill you up with God moment stories.
- Do you need more perspiration? I will push and challenge you up.

But what I can't provide is a daily, intimate walk with Jesus - that only you can do.

No one but you can provide a daily, intimate walk with Jesus.
No one but you can learn from and lean into Jesus, obeying Him.

It starts in our heart, moves through our homes, and out to our neighbors - those close in proximity, those folks God directs to us where we live, work and play. The church, the hub is the place to gather to worship and celebrate, learn together and encourage one another.

Notes

Rhythms and movements of discipleship – Candlewood Mission and Motto

Scriptures

Mark 12:29-30 Jesus replied, “The **most important commandment is this**: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And **you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.**’

Mark 12:31 The second is equally important: ‘**Love your neighbor as yourself.**’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

Deuteronomy 6:7-9 **Repeat them again and again to your children.** Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Psalms 127:1a Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted.

Leviticus 19:18 Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor (**rea**) as yourself. I am the Lord.

Matthew 29:19-20 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

This is our physical neighborhood, our houses, apartments, condos, trailers, or duplexes. This is also our workplace, school, hobby group, sports team, places of business, where we eat or shop. Plus, this includes our global community as we travel, tour, or do mission and social work. For us, as a church, it is also our digital community, and online church, through our social media channels.

RELIGIOUS

Odd definition: Religious. Devout, pious indicate a spirit of reverence toward God. Religious is a general word, applying to whatever pertains to faith or worship: a religious ceremony. Devout indicates a fervent spirit, usually genuine and often independent of outward observances: a deeply devout though unorthodox church member. **Pious implies constant attention to, and extreme conformity with, outward observances.** It can also suggest sham or hypocrisy: a pious hypocrite.

Conformity to what?

- **Mark 12:31 (NIV):** "The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."
- **1 Peter 3:8 (NIV):** "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."
- **1 Corinthians 10:24 (NIV):** "No one should seek their own good, **but the good of others.**"
- **Galatians 6:2 (NIV):** "**Carry each other's burdens**, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."
- **Hebrews 13:1-2 (NIV):** "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. **Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers**, for by so doing, some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Mark 12:31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these.

The Greek understanding of plesios, neighbor.

[Good article on the difference between "rea" and "plesios."](#)

The Hebrew word from the book of [Leviticus 19:18 \(NABRE\)](#) translated as “neighbor,” *rea*, means “**friend,**” “**companion,**” or “**associate**” from the same root as a verb that means “**to associate with.**” This meaning of “someone we know” is what we typically think of when we see this passage.

In the Septuagint and in the *Gospel According to Luke*, however, the word has a different shade of meaning. **The Greek word πλησιος (*plesios*) means “near” or “close to.” The Greek concept of neighbor has a spacial meaning that is absent in the Hebrew.**

What we see in the setup to this parable of the Good Samaritan is an **underlying linguistic tension. The scholar of the law sees one’s neighbor as an associate.** Jesus’ use of the parable drives home the fact that the **linguistic shift in meaning also marks a theological shift, so that one’s neighbor can be anyone nearby.**

Who Is My Neighbor?

In all actuality, the New Testament never considers a *plēision* as “any other person,” one’s “fellow man,” or “any other man irrespective of nation or religion with whom we live or whom we chance to meet.” Such definitions are more indicative of Strong’s theology than it is of anything an actual study of the word bears out.

When one looks at the word *plēision*, in the New Testament, the word always evidences the meaning, “fellow member of the covenant community.” The problem is that we do not really have a word in English that fits this definition, and so translators merely look for the closest equivalency. Since the word in the LXX is used to refer both to fellow covenant members and those who are just “neighbors” in the modern sense of the word, it is assumed that the word “neighbor” is a good translation when it used.

What has happened, however, is that these two separate uses of the word in the Old Testament have become conflated. **Hence, when the law speaks about loving one’s neighbor, it is assumed that this means anyone within the physical proximity of another person. What it actually refers to in those particular contexts, however, is strictly a fellow covenant community member.** It may be that the concept even grew out of the literal neighbor idea, since the only neighbors to worshipers of YHWH in Israel were other worshipers of YHWH in Israel. Pagan worshipers were to be drive out of the land or executed according to the Law. Hence, a “friend/neighbor” in that context was a fellow covenant community member and one who lived in proximity to another.

However, any conflation is separated by the New Testament, which clearly distinguishes the *plēision* “fellow covenant community member” from

the *geitōn* and *perioikos* “ones who live in proximity or by the dwelling of another.”

The Parable of the Good Samaritan Detraditionalized

[Greek Notes - What most Bibles translate as "neighbor" in this verse is "near" (plesion) in Greek. It is an adverb (neighbor is a noun). "You will love the person near you as yourself." The KJV translates three different Greek words as neighbor: plesion, perioikos, and geiton. Only one of them means neighbor. Plesion (the Greek word here) is not it. The KJV translates plesion correctly once (as "near") in John 4:5. Everywhere else it translates it incorrectly as "neighbor". It should have translated it consistently and correctly every time.]

Naaman was neighbor to a young Jewish servant girl!

2 Kings 5:1-4

The king of Aram had great admiration for Naaman, the commander of his army, because through him the LORD had given Aram great victories. But though Naaman was a mighty warrior, he suffered from leprosy. At this time Aramean raiders had invaded the land of Israel, and **among their captives was a young girl who had been given to Naaman's wife as a maid. One day the girl said to her mistress, "I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy."** So Naaman told the king what the young girl from Israel had said.

Why would a captured slave-girl care about a Syrian Commander?

This young girl had been taught as a child, to understand that God was interested in every human being! Even those that were enemies to Israel. There might have been something honorable and just in this commander. **She saw that Naaman was needy and knew that Elisha could do something about it.**

And, why would Jeremiah (the likely author of 1 & 2 Kings) mention a Syrian enemy, hostile to Israel?

We can tell by the story that King Jehoram was not happy to have anything to do with helping this powerful man.

A man with a disability becomes a neighbor. Peter – A man, crippled since birth, asked for money. Peter had none. Acts 3:3

Acts 3:6-7 But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened.

Bible verses emphasizing the importance of HOME in spiritual formation and discipleship.

1. **Joshua 24:15:** "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." This verse highlights the commitment of a household to serve God together.
2. **Proverbs 24:3-4:** "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures." This emphasizes the importance of wisdom and understanding in building a spiritually strong home.
3. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7:** "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." This verse underscores the role of the home in teaching and nurturing faith.
4. **Psalms 127:1:** "Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain." This verse reminds us that a home must be built on the foundation of God's guidance.
5. **Acts 2:46:** "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." This verse shows the early Christians' practice of gathering in homes for fellowship and spiritual growth.

Spiritual formation in the home.

1. **Matthew 7:24-25:** "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." This verse highlights the importance of building a strong spiritual foundation at home.
2. **1 Timothy 3:4-5:** "He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)" This emphasizes the role of family management in spiritual leadership.
3. **Ephesians 6:4:** "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." This verse underscores the responsibility of parents to nurture their children's faith at home.

4. **Colossians 3:18-21:** "Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged." This passage provides guidance on maintaining a harmonious and spiritually healthy household.
5. **Acts 16:31-34:** "They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.' Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household." This passage shows the impact of faith on an entire household.
6. **Colossians 3:16-17:** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." This verse emphasizes the importance of incorporating God's word into daily life and interactions at home.
7. **Ephesians 5:22-25:** "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." This passage provides guidance on maintaining a loving and respectful relationship within the household.
8. **1 Peter 3:1-2:** "Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct." This verse highlights the influence of a godly example within the home.
9. **Titus 2:3-5:** "Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled." This passage underscores the role of mentorship and teaching within the home.
10. **2 Timothy 1:5:** "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well." This verse shows the impact of generational faith and spiritual formation within the family.

The ancient Roman world of learning.

Schools were critical and important to the Romans who used the Greek methodology of having a wise and learned teacher instructing eager curious learners. The ancient teacher was highly respected and valuable because they would teach the basics of knowledge, but also the cultural ways of society.

Jesus primarily spoke in Aramaic, but was well trained in Hebrew as well as Greek. Greek was the common business language of the world, much like English is today.

So, if Jesus spoke in Aramaic, why is the New Testament written in Greek? The gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John translated Jesus words, his stories, references and parables into Greek.

“Because although Jesus probably spoke Aramaic, the gospels were not written down by Jesus, or by others during Jesus’ lifetime. Greek was the language of scholarship during the years of the composition of the New Testament from 50 to 100 AD. So, the New Testament authors wrote in Greek. They did not, however, use really high-class or classical Greek, but a very **common and everyday type of Greek called Koine Greek**, the common dialect from 300 BC to 300 AD. There are several Greek language versions of the New Testament that approximate the original form of the New Testament books in Greek. **Around 300 BC a translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek was undertaken, and it was completed around 200 BC.** Gradually this **Greek translation of the Old Testament, called the Septuagint, came into widespread use and is the version most people use today.** The fact that the gospels were written in widely spoken **Koine Greek** is probably what helped the spread of Christian teachings beyond their initial birthplace.” – [Wendy Ayers](#)

Back to Roman learning. The Greek language is far more precise in its ability to communicate than English. The Greek word structure carries with it other important information. It not only has definition, but it also has masculine and feminine expression. Greek verbs are famous for specificity in terms of when or how the word should be interpreted. A Greek verb carries a “tense,” when it happened, will happen, if it happened and ceased, or it continues to happen. It carries with it “imperatives,” or commands, an exhortation, or an entreaty. The tenses occurring in the imperative are the present, aorist, and perfect.

When the gospel writers and those who wrote letters to the New Testament churches wrote in Koine Greek, it was done so with intentionality, precision and clarity that surpasses our English language.

Take the word we are looking at here: **mathétés**. The word as it stands simply means a learner, a disciple, a follower. But this word, like most of Greek words has a history, or what we commonly call, a “root” word. Where the word

originated from. Why is that important? Because the root word sheds enormous light on the meaning of the word.

In this example of the word **mathétés**, it is amazing to discover it comes from the Greek word, **manthanó: to learn**. But even that word comes from even a simpler word, **mathēma**. The Greek word for math!

When Jesus gave his final command to his own followers, saying “go and disciple.” He used an uncommon, but extraordinary version of the original Greek word. He said, “go and **mathéteuó**.” **Go and “be a disciple,” and “to make a disciple.”**

That's why our Bible translations try to help us understand the use of the word. Picking up on the main emphasis Jesus was obviously saying, most translations use the phrase, “Therefore go and make disciples.” Great! No problem. We get that. However, the actual word itself has massive implication as to the importance of both **being** and **doing** – a common Biblical theme. **BE A DISCIPLE** and **MAKE A DISCIPLE**.

[Great article on the word disciple.](#)

The Bible is not an instruction manual, a “how to” do life.

Imagine if you wrote a biographical book all about your life. What would you title it? Then, after writing the book, you went on a book launch tour answering questions from your readers about more details mentioned in your book. A person would be able to gather quite a bit of information or data about who you were, maybe even who you are.

Think about this though. Someone meets you for the first time. And in just a few minutes they tell you everything they have learned about you. Where you were born, how many siblings you have, where you currently live, how tall you are, how much you weigh, your blood type and even your social security number. What would you think?

That isn't a relationship; it is a STALKER!

Someone could know all the facts about you and still not really know you. In a relationship you get to know someone intimately because there are facts and data that can't be listed or quantified as you.

Someone can read the Bible from cover to cover and yet still not walk in a relationship with God.

They may know all the Biblical facts about God, but they haven't spent time with God, asking questions, praying, waiting, listening. To know God is far beyond just reading, listening and memorizing the Word of God. It is to be acquainted with all His ways of how He shows up in your life and works in others as well.

IKEA'S LIFE AT HOME

- IKEA's "[Life at Home](#)" vision from three day-to-day tensions
 - Doing more vs doing less. Should we keep busy or take it easy?
 - Many people face the doing more vs. doing less dilemma every day. Should we keep busy or take it easy? Our research suggests that the struggle between productivity and relaxation plays out in how we use our homes and what we choose to do (or not do) within them. We found that 21% of people globally feel that never-ending tasks or chores prevent them from feeling in control of life at home. The right balance between doing more and doing less is discovering what's comfortable for each of us.
 - Togetherness vs. privacy.
 - We all need our own space, and we all need to spend time with our loved ones. This year's research uncovered that 21% of people globally find a sense of belonging from shared values with others in our community. Whether we see our homes as a place to escape to or a place to connect is never black and white. Striking the delicate balance between both needs to lead fulfilling lives is vital for a better life at home, according to our research.
 - Living well vs. living within our means.
 - The struggle to live affordably and to live well is a reality for many. According to our survey, 20% of people globally say that accessing green space is important to mental wellbeing. But daily choices like choosing healthier options and more sustainable products within a budget is difficult for many. Finding solutions that bridge this gap are vital for a better life at home.
- Then IKEA posts helpful articles like "How to balance work from home," "Better sleep begins here," "Ideas for entertaining at home," and "Personal space solutions." It's all amazing, helpful information just waiting for you learn how to manage your homelife!
- IKEA also posts stories about how people live and use their products around the globe, renovating their space, working from home, and being creative in their world.

[INC wrote an article about IKEA's instructions on communication.](#)

[Liz Danzico](#), in her article about IKEA's assembly instructions writes this, "**users experience the transformative power of putting something together, they develop a stronger sense of ownership over it.**"

[Here are the top 10 most frustrating IKEA furniture to assemble.](#)

1. PAX wardrobe
2. BRIMNES storage bed
3. HEMNES day-bed frame with three drawers
4. BESTA TV bench
5. BESTA storage combination
6. EKET cabinet
7. HEMNES chest of eight drawers
8. NORDLI bed frame
9. NIKKEBY chest of four drawers
10. TRULSTORP coffee table

PAX wardrobe build

- 37 languages
- 9 tools needed
- 115 pieces
- 31 page instruction manual

Navigators [Five Traits of a Disciplemaker](#)

Leadertreks [8 Characteristics of a Disciple](#)