



Session 8 | “My Plan for Discipling Others”

Book Chapter 16 | Matthew 28:19-20

BIG Goal | To begin discipling our family and friends the way Jesus disciplines His followers in the gospels.

Today’s Goal | To complete our discipling plan.

Watch video session #8 and then process questions and insights with the following:

We have been following the discipling template on page 168 of the book, “Joining Jesus – Show Me How” (a copy is also included at the end of these processing materials on p.32). We are using it to craft a plan for intentionally and consistently discipling our family and friends. So far, it has helped us clarify WHO we will disciple and WHY. It has also helped us outline HOW we will disciple them, using Jesus’ process of Proclamation, Imitation and Replication. Today the template prompts us to drill down into how we will help the person we are discipling engage each of the parts of Jesus’ discipling process.

1) In the gospels, Jesus begins His discipling process by engaging followers with His words. He says, “The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life,” John 6:63.

- The discipling template suggests three ways. What are they?

- i. Have them _____ their Bible and _____ Jesus around in one of the gospels. Have them ask themselves, “As a result of what I have received from Jesus in the gospels today, what is one thing He is giving me to believe or do for the good of others?”

(Answering that question will help them pivot from Proclamation of Jesus’ words to Imitation of Jesus’ lifestyle.)

- ii. Have them _____ a Christ-centered congregation and _____ for Jesus through its preaching and teaching ministries.
- iii. Have them participate in your _____ and listen for Jesus through the stories and insights being shared.

- How will you facilitate this same kind of training with the person you are discipling?
- Fill in your template with your response.

- 2) In the gospels, Jesus then facilitates pivoting from Proclamation to Imitation by inviting the disciples to join Him on His mission and begin imitating His lifestyle practices for the good of others. “Come, follow Me.” We also see Jesus regularly taking His disciples out of the hustle and bustle of their everyday lives so they can process everything in quieter settings.

- The discipling template suggests two ways. What are they?

- i. Have them look for opportunities in their daily lives to _____ Jesus on His mission and _____ His lifestyle practices for the good of others.

(The 5 Mission Practices and the 5 Lifestyle Practices of Jesus are intended to help them remember how to do that.)

- ii. Have them participate in your _____ where they can process what they are experiencing with Jesus in everyday life.

(As the Missional Community shares and hears their stories of life on mission with Jesus, they receive insights, encouragement and accountability from each other, as well as examples they can then imitate in their own lives.)

- How will you facilitate this same kind of training with the person you are discipling?
- Fill in your template with your response.

- 3) In the gospels, Jesus’ training process isn’t complete until the people He is discipling are Replicating their discipling process with others. In fact, Jesus sends the disciples out to experience Replication soon after they begin their training because Replication accelerates their training and leads to many others also being trained.

- The discipling template suggests two ways. What are they?

- i. Near the end of your Missional Community time, have your family or friends respond to this question, “What small part of my experience today can I replicate with my family or friends in the coming week?”

(By processing this question together and then going and replicating their experience with other family or friends, you help them steadily gain experience in how to disciple others by taking small but intentional steps each week.)

- ii. Regularly give each person a turn at leading the Missional Community.

(Start this as soon as people become comfortable with the rhythms of the agenda. In time, they will be ready to start a new Missional Community of their own. Of course, not every person can or should lead a new Missional Community, but it’s a huge win for Jesus’ discipling movement when one Missional Community becomes two.)

Remember, the goal of Jesus is the multiplication of mission training to the ends of the Earth so that the nations are participating in the mission of God! And the simplest way to train people for that is by following His process of Proclamation, Imitation and Replication.)

- How will you facilitate this same kind of training with the person you are discipling?
- Fill in your template with your response.

We now have a plan that lays out WHO we will disciple, WHY we will disciple them, and HOW we will disciple them. Next time, in training session number 9, we will take a look at a suggested agenda that pulls together the plan, the process, and the practices for a Missional Community to use.

Before We Go

(Note: It may be helpful to break into groups of three for this.)

Insight to Action

What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today's video and discussion? Can you take your insight and turn it into a plan for action in the coming week?

Write down your insight and plan for action:

Take **60 seconds** to have each person share their response with the group.

Ministering through Prayer

As we prepare to head out with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **"How can I help you in prayer?"** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor.



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

“My Plan for Discipling Others”

It's time to craft your plan for intentionally and consistently discipling your family and friends. Use the template below to help you craft your plan. The template will help you answer three basic questions: Who will I disciple? Why am I discipling them? How will I disciple them?

Who?

Who will I disciple to join Jesus on his mission?

(Who is willing and ready? Who do you think Jesus is leading you to invite into a discipling relationship?)

- Name(s)

How will I invite the person(s) into a discipling relationship?

- Write out your invitation. Be sure the expectations are clearly but winsomely communicated.

Tip: Give the Gift of Clear Expectations

Many discipling plans veer off course right away because the invitation we offer lacks clarity regarding expectations. There is no secret about what the process of discipling requires. So be clear in your invitation. An example is the following:

I would like to invite you into a discipling relationship with me [or into a discipling group with me] for the next ten weeks [or whatever number of weeks it will be]. Our goal will be to learn how to seek God's kingdom and join Jesus' mission as part of our everyday lives. Are you interested?

(Sure, what does it involve?)

I'd like for you to do three things:

- 1) Every day, I would like for you to follow Jesus around in one of the gospels and take note of what he gives you to believe and do. Don't worry about what you don't understand. Just take note of what you do understand. I will do the same thing.*
- 2) I would like for you to then look for opportunities throughout the day to put Jesus' beliefs and practices into play for the good of others. I will do the same thing.*
- 3) Once a week, you and I will meet together [or meet together with our group, or meet via FaceTime, etc.] to talk through what we have experienced as we sought to follow Jesus in everyday life.*

We will do that as best we can for the next [several] weeks and see what Jesus teaches us. We can then decide if we want to continue or call it good.

When and where will we have our Missional Community gather?

(What options are sustainable for everyone? When you find the best choice, prioritize it in everyone's calendar.)

- When:
- Where:
- Number of weeks we will meet:

Why?

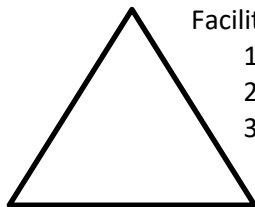
Why are we meeting? What is our discipling goal?

(Example: "Our goal is to help each other learn how to seek God's kingdom and join Jesus on his mission as part of our everyday lives.")

- Write down your discipling goal so you can remind each other of it every time you meet:

How?

How will I help the person(s) I am discipling engage Jesus' discipling process of "Proclamation, Imitation/Participation, and Replication?"



Facilitate **Proclamation** by having them listen for Jesus in...

- 1) the Gospels daily
- 2) congregational preaching & teaching weekly
- 3) the conversation of our Missional Community (M.C.) weekly

Facilitate **Replication** by having them...

- 1) ask, "What part can I do at home?"
- 2) take turns leading the M.C. as training

Facilitate **Imitation/Participation** by having them...

- 1) join Jesus daily with the 5 Mission Practices & His 5 Lifestyle Practices
- 2) gather in M.C. for reflection & conversation about how life on mission with Jesus is going

My Plan for Proclamation:

In the Gospels, Jesus begins his training process by engaging his followers with his spoken-truth. He says, "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life" (John 6:63). I will facilitate the same kind of training for the person(s) I am discipling by having them listen for Jesus in...

- 1) **The Gospels:** I will ask them to take time every day to follow Jesus around in one of the Gospels and take note of what he is giving them to believe and do. To help facilitate this, I will encourage them to ask themselves, "As a result of what I have received from Jesus in the Gospels today,

what is one thing he is giving me to believe or do for the good of others?" I will do the same thing. (Note: devotional tools can be helpful, but don't substitute tools for reading the Gospels.)

- We will each follow Jesus around in the Gospel of _____.
(Choose one: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John)

- 2) **Congregational Preaching & Teaching:** I will ask them to seek out a Christ-centered congregation every week and listen for what Jesus is giving them through its preaching and teaching ministries. I will do the same thing.
- 3) **The Conversation of Missional Community:** I will ask them to participate with me every week in the reflection and conversation of Missional Community and listen for what Jesus is giving them through the stories and insights shared.

My Plan for Imitation/Participation:

In the Gospels, Jesus continues his training process by inviting his followers to join him on his mission in everyday life and then regularly taking time to be alone with them for reflection and conversation about what they are learning while on mission with him. I will facilitate the same kind of training for the person(s) I am discipling by having them...

- 1) **Join Jesus Daily with the 5 Mission Practices & His 5 Lifestyle Practices:** As part of their daily lives, I will ask them to look for opportunities to join Jesus on his mission and imitate his lifestyle practices for the good of others. I will do the same thing.
- 2) **Gather in Missional Community Weekly:** I will ask them to gather in Missional Community for reflection and conversation about what they are learning while on mission with Jesus. I will utilize the 5 Discipling Practices (below) in order to frame and direct our time together.

A Sample Agenda for Our Missional Community:

1. People arrive and catch up with each other.
2. Find out what Jesus may already be up to by asking, "How's Jesus been messing with you this week? What questions are you asking?"
3. When ready, open with prayer and restate the Discipling Goal.
4. Remind each other of our "True Identity and Mission in Christ," and "In Here is for Out There." (Discipling Practices 1 and 2)
5. Prompt reflection and conversation with the 5 Questions. (Discipling Practice 3)
6. When helpful, remind each other "All of That is Still This." (Discipling Practice 4)
7. Leave time at the end for the following questions:

(Break into smaller groups if you need to save time.)

- ✓ "What insight did you receive today and how can you put it into action this week?"
(Discipling Practice 5)
- ✓ "What small part of our experience today can you replicate with your family or friends during the coming week? How did it go last week?"
- ✓ "How can we help you with prayer?"

The 5 Discipling Practices:

1. **Remember Our True Identity and Mission in Christ**
This is who we are; this is what we have; and this is what we do.
2. **In Here is for Out There**
What we do in here with our Missional Community is for the sake of joining Jesus on his mission out there, replicating our training with others out there, and eventually multiplying our group so that more people can be disciplined out there.
3. **Ask Good Questions**
We use the 5 Questions as a starting point for prompting reflection and conversation.
4. **All of That is Still This**
All the many details of theology still boil down to this: we are restored in Jesus and called to imitate his simple Lifestyle Practices for the good of others.
5. **Insight into Action**
We take time to plan how we can turn our insights into action steps for the coming week.

My Plan for Replication:

In the Gospels, the third part of Jesus' training process is Replication. Soon after he begins training his followers, we see Jesus sending them out to begin replicating their training with others. This is the key to multiplying his redemptive movement. I will facilitate the same kind of training by having them...

- 1) **Ask, "What part can I replicate at home?"** As noted in the Sample Agenda above, toward the end of each Missional Community gathering, I will ask, "What small part of our experience today can you replicate with your family or friends during the coming week?" By taking small but intentional steps like this, they gain experience in how to disciple others. I will routinely ask them how it is going.
 - Over time, as their experience and confidence grows, I will help them fill out their own Discipling Plan for their family or friends so they can become even more intentional and consistent in discipling them.
- 2) **Take Turns Leading the Missional Community as Training:** I will help each person gain experience in leading a Missional Community by having them take turns leading our group through the agenda. I will initiate this as soon as everyone is comfortable with the rhythms of our gatherings. Then we will rotate the leadership role each week. The goal is to prepare them to eventually multiply and lead new Missional Communities.
 - When they are ready, I will help them begin a new Missional Community.

Summary Statements for Mission and Discipling

Frequently review the summary statements below in order to consistently bring clarity to the people you are discipling.

- **What is the mission of God?**
According to God, his mission is to redeem and restore all things through Jesus.

- **What is our mission mindset?**
Jesus is pursuing his Father's mission and he invites us to join him. We don't go *for* Jesus. We go *with* Jesus. He does all the heavy lifting of redeeming and restoring human lives. We just get to help.
- **How do we join Jesus every day?**
Joining Jesus on his mission is as simple as enjoying the people around us, investing in a couple pre-Christian friends, and then seeking, recognizing, and responding to what Jesus is already up to in their lives. The 5 Mission Practices and 5 Lifestyle Practices of Jesus help facilitate this.
- **What is discipling?**
According to Jesus in the Gospels, discipling is the process of showing the people of God how to participate in the mission of God as a daily lifestyle.
- **What are we discipling people to do?**
We disciple people to imitate the simple, redemptive lifestyle practices of Jesus.
- **How do we disciple people?**
We invite people to join Jesus on his mission and help them engage his discipling process of "Proclamation, Imitation/Participation, and Replication."