



Session 3 | “How does Discipling Work?”

Book Chapters 6-8 | Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 6:3, Luke 6:40

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

Today's Goal | To see what Jesus shows us in the gospels about how discipling works.

Watch video session #3 and then process questions and insights with the following:

1) Here's the rub. It's a wonderful thought that we would get to participate in the mission of God. But, to be honest, for our participation to be redemptive and restorative for others, we need to be a lot less like our natural selves and a lot more like Jesus. The math is simple.

- Same old me = same old results. (And that's not good for others.)

The good news is that Jesus comes to us to resolve the rub by changing our math.

- Same old me + **Jesus + His training** = new me blessing others

What was your reaction as you heard the Finke's explain this in the video?

2) How does Jesus change us to be more like Him for the good of others? (see Matthew 28:19-20)

- Who does the process start with?
- What is the role of baptism? (see Romans 6:3, Genesis 2:7)
- What is the role of teaching/training?

(Hint: Jesus claims us and trains us. He claims us in Baptism and trains us to live as disciples.)

3) The Finke's invited us to remember our true identity and mission by asking and answering the following questions about ourselves:

Q: Who am I in Christ?

A: I am a beloved child of the Heavenly King!

Q: What do I have in Christ?

A: I have the things of the Kingdom and in abundance!

Q: What do I do with Christ?

A: I follow Him and look for people who need a little of what I already have in abundance.

- Why is it so important to disciple our family and friends to simply remember this? And for us to remember it, too?

4) In Matthew 28, Jesus says baptism and training go together. What His baptism gives by grace, His training matures so we can take action with it for the good of others. Baptism and training are not two separate things. They are two halves of the same thing. It's how Jesus makes us into His disciples.

- In some churches, the emphasis is more on baptism and grace than training. In other churches, the emphasis is more on training than on baptism and grace. What do you think would happen if we simply did it Jesus' way?

5) The Finke's shared that churches often understand the basis of discipleship to be one of three things:

- Discipleship = Scholarship
- Discipleship = Membership
- Discipleship = Relationship

According to Jesus in the gospels which is the basis for discipleship which He emphasizes?

What does that mean for how you will craft your discipling plan?

6) In the gospels and still today, Jesus discipled His followers in the midst of everyday life. He chooses not to train His followers in a classroom with a workbook but in everyday life as they interact with real people who need the grace and truth of the Father. So, our discipling plan will be wise to recognize that reality, as well.

Having said that, we also see in the gospels that Jesus regularly removes His disciples from the hustle and bustle of everyday life so they can have some quiet time to process what they have been experiencing. Regular time for reflection and conversation is a key part of Jesus' discipling plan, too.

Sometimes they took time for reflection and conversation in a room in a house or as they traveled to the next village. Sometimes it was as they rested in a garden or hung out in a boat. But Jesus gives them regular opportunities to process what's been happening. The Finke's refer to these experiences as participating in "Missional Community."

"Missional Community" is simply a regular time with your family or friends to process how your everyday discipleship training with Jesus is going.

- What makes sense about Jesus using both everyday life and Missional Community for training His followers?

- What does that mean for how you will craft your discipling plan?

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.