

Session 10 | “Wisdom for Disciple-Makers” (and a Bonus Section at the end)

Book Chapter 17 | John 13:15-17, 1 Corinthians 11:1, 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 receive wisdom for staying healthy and to go and actually start discipling people.

Watch video session #10 and then process questions and insights with the following:

- 1) React to the following statement: “Making disciples the way Jesus does in the gospels is simple. But it can also be hard. If you watch Jesus and His disciples, you will soon see that even Jesus gets frustrated when the disciples are slow to catch on or quick to revert to old ways.”
- 2) Disciple makers can start out enthusiastically, but end up feeling burned out and wondering what went wrong. That’s why it’s important to receive some wisdom from disciple-makers who have gone before us. The wisdom won’t necessarily spare you from frustration or discouragement, but it will set you up to deal with it in a healthy, joyful way.

- What is the first word of wisdom?
- What do you think is the difference between “living on fumes and living in fullness”?

- 3) What is the second word of wisdom?

- Who can be your “Paul”?

(Who can encourage you but also challenge you to keep growing? Who has disciple-making experience they can use to help you stay on course as you disciple others? Who can bring objectivity to your journey when you feel like you’re going crazy?)

- What makes sense about the following statement?
“Having a [Paul] in your life keeps you humble, hopeful, teachable, and accountable as a disciple-maker. In other words, such a person keeps you *healthy*.”
- Would your “Paul” be willing/able to talk with you regularly if asked?

4) What is the third word of wisdom?

- How does the following verse apply to you?
“Are you tired and worn out? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Keep company with Me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)
- As Jesus-followers and disciple-makers, we are wise to learn this rhythm of work and rest. It will help keep us healthy and energized for our discipling adventures with Jesus. What is one thing you personally need to do to better embrace Jesus’ rhythm of working hard and resting well?

Leader, use the following to bless and commission the group at the conclusion of the video training:

LEADER: Dear friends, you now have what you need to start discipling your family and friends. You’ve been watching Jesus in the gospels and joining Him on His mission in real life. You have increasing clarity about what a disciple is and what a disciple does. You have a discipling plan that reflects His discipling plan. And you have a toolbox full of discipling practices that will help you steer your family and friends toward His discipling goals. But most of all, you have Jesus. So, all that’s left to do is... to start.

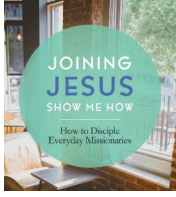
Jesus says to you, “As the Father sent me, I am sending you.” But He also says, “Let not your heart be troubled.” He is sending you, but he is also going with you and leading you. “Come, follow Me,” Jesus says. He doesn’t expect you to be an expert, but He does expect you to start.

So... go and make disciples of your family and friends, in the name of the Father whose mission it is to redeem and restore all things, in the name of the Son who is pursuing His Father’s mission and inviting you to join Him, and in the name of the Holy Spirit who is enabling you to show others how to do the same.

ALL: Amen! With God’s help, I will start discipling my family and friends to follow Jesus and join Him on His mission, too.

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.



Bonus Section | Organizing the Congregation for Discipleship

Here are some tips for how congregations can get better organized to implement Jesus' discipleship plan congregation-wide.

It all starts with having the end clearly in mind. If we want to end up with a congregation-wide system of discipleship which prioritizes personal relationships, then we need to reorganize the congregation around that. Our congregation is already perfectly organized for whatever discipling results we are currently getting. So, if we want different discipling results, we need to think about a new congregational strategy.

1) What do you think of this strategy of reorganizing our congregation around personal relationships?

2) What makes sense about reorganizing with the proximity of members' households in mind?

3) What was your reaction when you saw the map with all the households on it?

- Should we map out where our members live?

4) What do you like about the idea of creating zones so we can more realistically foster friendships among our members?

(Zones help Missional Communities know which member households they are responsible for. When considering the size and location of zones, look at the natural clustering of households on the map. Zones should have approximately 10-25 households in them.)

- If we decided to create a map with Missional Community zones, who could we invite to do the work of creating them?

5) The Finke's advocate having "Connect the Dots Parties" every four to eight weeks. The parties are hosted by the Missional Community leader and whoever wants to help.

There are two simple goals:

- a) The first goal is to give every member in the zone, no matter how active or inactive, regular opportunities to connect and grow in friendship with one another.
- b) The second goal is just as simple. As those friendships grow over time, the Missional Community leader starts inviting them to consider being a part of the weekly Missional Community.

If there is no friendship among members, discipleship won't happen either. But when there is friendship, discipleship becomes the next natural step.

- How could all this work for our congregation?

6) The Finke's advocate inviting both active and inactive members to the Connect the Dots Parties.

- Why is that?

7) Do we want to talk with Dwelling 1:14 about strategies for congregational mission, discipleship and multiplication?

- We can contact them through their website, www.dwelling114.org/contact