

**Make Disciples! (Part 4)**  
**The Carrying out of Discipleship**  
(Jn. 4:1-4)

**Introduction:** *Discipleship is that ongoing process in our life of growing to be like Jesus as we learn to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily and follow Jesus, giving Him complete control over our lives.* A disciple of Christ is one who is like his master. Once we come to know Christ, we (not some, but all of us) are called to follow Christ even as Christ followed the will of His Father (that is to be our example).

In this sermon series, We have defined discipleship as (Let's say it together...)  
**"Discipleship is a lifelong relationship with Jesus that makes us like Jesus as we do what He tells us to do as we share our lives with others."**

If we are to make disciples in this community and world, and really have an impact for Christ, like Jesus had on His disciples, and His disciples had on us... we must go to where others are different than us. In our text. John tells of how Jesus did this... Here, Jesus would reach just one, – but that one coming to know Jesus, would then bring an entire village to Jesus!

The Lord Himself established the biblical precedent of making disciples. (Mt. 28:18-20; Ac. 14:20-21; 2 Tim. 2:2)

*We as believers are called to be faithful followers of Christ and carry the gospel message forward to the lost and make other disciples. But how?*

**1. Make Discipleship “The” Mission of our Church**

As the pastor and spiritual leader of our church, I want to move discipleship from a part of our church to the main focus of our church.

*Our goal as Christians and as a church family, is to make sure that everything we do helps us and other people become more and more like Jesus so that everyone, everywhere will experience a personal, daily, faith relationship with Jesus.*

**2. Emphasize joy in every ministry space:**

Nothing matters more in discipleship than the quality of our relationships.

Because discipleship is relational – it is about what we do together as we minister one to another and to others.

*Part of the joy of ministry ought to be in serving together and trying to help each other as we grow, spiritually mature, and serve together reaching out to others to bring them into the kingdom of Heaven.*

**3. We must develop the leadership skill of discernment -**

What does God want us to do? Working with that question is what we call discernment.

*discernment is the most significant leadership skill available to us in our churches.*

The good news is, everyone can develop this skill...

As we build a church and a community of disciples, we need discernment so we can hear God's voice, see where He working, understand and do what God wants us to understand and do.

- **What opportunities are we being exposed to?** *What does God want us to do?*
- **How can we best minister?** *What does God want us to do?*
- **How can we best reach our community?** *What does God want us to do?*

Developing discernment takes time and practice. But it begins when you and I look at any situation and ask God together, “Where are You working and what do you want us to do and then do it together?”

**4. Encourage practice over information:**

**A. What we do > What we know** At some point we have to put what we learn into action – We have to put feet to our faith!

**B. What we do > What we believe** Making disciples involves both belief and behavior.

As Jesus called His disciples to minister with Him, then, He then sent them out to minister based on what they learned.

(Lk. 9: 1-7; Ac. 2:41-47) These are our “Today” models to follow...

**5. Rely on grace :-** Discipleship requires a lot of grace...

I've come to believe that we experience grace as God's loving, empowering presence. *We must “Be ruthless with time but be gracious with people.”*

At every stage of development and each time people gather for discipleship, we need to ask God to give what we need and the grace to give it to help people become like Jesus.

**6. Pay attention to your priorities:**

That sounds simple enough – but we can become easily distracted by all the things going on around us – just think of all the things that take up your time...

As we design and live our discipleship pathway, it's easy to forget what matters most. We need to remember that discipleship cares most about people:

- (a) Being with Jesus
- (B) Becoming like Jesus
- (C) Doing what Jesus tells us to do

This is the only way people change and change the world.

*Being a disciple and making disciples is not a race – it is a marathon that lasts a lifetime. And it is to be our priority!*

**Conclusion:** Our mission and ministry is to help people come to saving faith in Jesus and then give themselves to practices that will help them become more like Jesus in this season of life.

We want to Show people how to live differently as they come into a personal believing relationship with Jesus and then learn to obey the Lord in response to His grace.

If we walk in the Spirit, and commit ourselves to be true disciples of Christ, then the world should know us by our walk.

They should see Jesus in us, through us and be drawn to Jesus because of us!

*That is how we should be carrying out discipleship!*