

2. How are you doing?

- Reflect on your definition. Being honest with yourself and God, ask, “How am I doing? What does my discipleship look like?”
- In a couple of sentences, identify what you want from your discipleship... what you hope for in your walk with God... how you want your current walk to be different.

God Perspective Reality Check: **Don't accept condemnation!**

Romans 8:1 (ESV) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Hear the voice of your loving, heavenly Father inviting you to go deeper with Him, instructing and correcting without shame, but with great love and encouragement.

APPLICATION/ DISCUSSION

- What action steps do you sense God is nudging you to take?

TAKEAWAYS

Ignite Ministries

Presence-Centered Discipleship

by Pastor David Treloar

Session 1: What is a Disciple?

Session objective: identify Jesus' definition and description of a disciplined person that create a target for our discipleship activities.

Matthew 28:18-20

There are four action words found in Matthew 28:18-20:

- **Go**
- **Make**
- **Baptize**
- **Teach**

“Make disciples” is the instruction; “go, baptize and teach” explain how. It is ALL about **making disciples** – “as you go, MAKE DISCIPLES by baptizing and teaching.” (*In Greek grammar “make” is a verb; go, baptize and teach are participles that identify actions to do the verb.*)

Truth: We cannot make a thing if we don't know what it is... we cannot hit a target if we don't identify it.

Take a moment to answer:

- ✓ What is your definition or description of a disciple?
- ✓ What do you think your church's idea of a disciple?

Americans usually think of discipleship as “knowledge transfer.”
For first-century Jews it was “to become like the rabbi.”

“**The Dust of the Rabbi...**” a disciple is one...

- ✓ in close proximity, in constant contact with his Rabbi.
- ✓ who becomes like the Rabbi - who thinks like, processes like, lives out faith like him, is like him in behavior, understands the underlying beliefs and character of the Rabbi.

Luke 6:40 (ESV) A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

It’s not about head knowledge but about how they are living their life like their teacher.

Discipleship wasn’t for everyone in first-century Judaism

Matthew 4:18-22

Zebedee didn’t balk when James and John left the family business to follow Jesus because...

Matthew 11:28-30

Discipleship IS for everyone according to Jesus

It is much deeper and richer than we typically comprehend. The American church has settled for making converts and missed the task of making disciples. **And that has hurt the church.**

A person learning to be a disciple will... (Ignite Family of Churches)

- ✝ **SLOW down to hear the voice of God**
 - ✓ Distractions are our default and are only overcome by unhurried time with God
 - ✓ God still speaks to His people, but we must deliberately listen
- ✝ **PROCESS what they hear with the Lord and with others**
 - ✓ God invites us into a bigger conversation
 - ✓ Ask questions - “2nd and 3rd questions” to gain God’s insight (Ignite terminology)
 - ✓ Suggest questions others might ask of God
- ✝ **RESPOND to the things they hear**
 - ✓ Obedience is the goal. Hearing God is a joyful experience, but doing what He says is a mark of a true disciple
- ✝ **TEACH others how to follow Jesus**
 - ✓ Disciples make disciples
 - ✓ Challenge to pastors and churches: develop your own description of a disciple

Pastor David Treloar’s definition of a disciple as an example:
“someone who listens and responds to God.”

More people simply listening and responding to God by itself is fulfillment of the Great Commission.

The responsibility of discipleship is the Holy Spirit’s. Our role is to help people connect with Him.

LAB:

1. Rewrite your description of a Disciple.
 - Are there changes you need to make now based on what you’ve learned?
 - Meditate on this and revisit it. In a couple of days, rewrite your definition of a disciple.