

# >>> next step >>>

## discipleship

Discipleship. Maybe you know what it means because you have been in a discipleship relationship with someone while you were in junior high or high school. Maybe you've never heard this word before or experienced a discipleship relationship. Whichever one you identify with, discipleship is not just for while you're in cell group, but is equally, if not more, important in your years in college. But, what is discipleship? How does it look? Who does it with me? Why do I need to make time to pursue it?

### WHAT?

Discuss:

- What do you think discipleship is? If you had to define it, what would you say in 2-3 sentences?
- How have you heard it explained? How have you seen it done?
- What confuses you about discipleship? Excites you?

### **Discipleship is intentionally entering into a relationship to help someone look more like Jesus**

Leader Tip: Don't immediately give them the answers. Have them write down what they think these verses are telling us about discipleship. Help them draw the conclusions from scripture.

- Discipleship involves someone hearing the gospel and responding in faith in Jesus and learning how to follow Him through what He has taught (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Discipleship is a life-long process of becoming more like Jesus (Philippians 1:6; Ephesians 5:1-2)

### WHY?

Discuss:

- So, we know a little about the "what" behind discipleship, but why do we need it?
- Why would someone feel as if they did not need discipleship or did not want to be in a discipleship relationship?

Read:

- Because we are broken and need help (Psalm 51:1-3; Hebrews 4:16)
- Because we have an enemy who wants to draw us away from Jesus and from His followers, so we need others to keep pointing us towards Christ (1 Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 6:10-12; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

### WHO?

Discuss:

- Who do you look up to? Why?
- What are characteristics of leaders or people you want to follow? (i.e.- what makes them a good leader?)
- What about people you would disciple? What characteristics do you think they should have?

Read:

Paul and Timothy are a great reflection of a discipleship relationship in scripture. As you read these next verses, write down characteristics you notice about Paul as a discipler of Timothy.

Paul:

- Philippians 3:4-11 (Paul passionately loved and pursued Jesus)
- Acts 20:17-21 (Paul spent time with those he led and taught them the truth of the gospel and God's Word)
- 1 Corinthians 11:1 (Paul lived a life worthy of being imitated)

Discuss:

- What are characteristics of Paul that you noticed?
- What does Paul teach us about who we should want to disciple us and who we should be as disciple makers?
- Are there parts of your walk with Jesus you would want others to imitate? Why?
- What are the parts of your walk with Jesus you not want others to imitate? Why?

HOW?

Okay, so now what? Discipleship is not sitting at a coffee shop for a few hours during the week. Discipleship requires an investment. An investment of time, energy, honesty, faithfulness, a willingness to learn and be challenged. The deeper the investment in discipleship, the greater the reward. Jesus calls us to this investment of being disciplined and making disciples. It is hard at times, but it is so worth it.

Discuss:

- What do you think discipleship should look like? What should be a part of discipleship based on Matthew 28:28-20?
- Do you have any hesitations or fears about being disciplined? Or discipling others? If so, what are they?
- What are current obstacles that would keep you from pursuing discipleship?
- What about potential obstacles in college?  
Leader tip: This is a good time to share what were obstacles for you in college and how those obstacles impacted your discipleship relationships in college?
- Depending on where you are at, how can you take steps to either:
  - 1) pursue a discipleship relationship
  - 2) continue to grow your discipleship relationship with your mentor or with someone you disciple?

PRAY

Take time as a group to pray that the Lord's command to make disciples of all nations will continue to happen. Ask the Lord to give each person in your cell group a vision and a passion to make disciples in the context the Lord has placed you in now and in the future in college. Thank the Lord that He allows us the privilege of joining Him in His kingdom work of loving people towards Jesus.