

Session 5

Make Disciples Together

At Fellowship, we make disciples together. We learn, gather, worship, and serve all with the end goal of seeing more and more people come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and follow Him obediently as their King.

You may have heard it said Jesus never wrote a book, never held an office, and never traveled more than about 200 miles from where He was born; yet He changed the world forever. He accomplished that by training 12 men through a process called discipleship. Before He ascended to heaven to sit down at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 1:3), Jesus told His followers to continue the work of making disciples (Matthew 28:19, Acts 1:8).

The job of the church today is to “pass the baton” of faith as we share the love of Christ and challenge each other to live lives of joyful obedience as disciples and disciple makers.

Pray

Pray the Spirit will give you supernatural understanding of discipleship. Pray for God to show you *specifically* how you can engage in the process of being discipled and discipling someone else.

Discuss

Have you ever had a mentor? Maybe it was in school, or work, or in a skill you wanted to develop. How did they mentor you? Have you ever mentored someone else in that same area? Share with the group.

Read

Read this passage aloud:

Matthew 28:16-20 NIV

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Interact

This passage is at the end of Matthew's gospel, after Jesus has been crucified and resurrected. Consider the scene on the mountain in Galilee. Who is there? How can some still doubt? What do you think it tells us that Jesus does not address their doubt?

Jesus talks about authority in verse 18. Who has authority in our daily lives? What does it mean that Jesus has been given "all authority in heaven and on earth"? How does knowing that Jesus has this authority change how we understand the commands that follow?

The only command in the original Greek sentence is "make disciples." How does knowing the other verbs (go, baptizing, teaching) all modify "make disciples" help you understand the passage? What does it mean to "make disciples"?

What is the scope and duration of this commission? What does it mean for us today?

Paul picked up on Jesus' command to make disciples and reinforced it with the early church. Read this instruction from the Apostle Paul to Timothy aloud:

2 Timothy 2:2 NIV

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

How many generations of discipleship do you see in this verse, beginning with Paul? How could we see a similar passing of the gospel in our own time?

Who are the people you are around on a regular basis who need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ? Who are the people in your world to whom you could pass on the spiritual truths you are learning week by week? What would it take for you to begin building those kind of spiritual friendships? Right now, pause and ask God to bring three people to mind who you can talk to about spiritual things. Write those names down, and commit to the Lord to reach out to them in the next week.

Do you need to be mentored in the faith, just as Timothy was by Paul? Talk with your Discover Fellowship leaders or other trusted Christian friends about finding someone who can invest in you so you, in turn, can invest in someone else.

Share

This is your final Discover Fellowship small group session. If anyone in the group has not had the opportunity to share the story of their life before Christ, how they met Christ, and their life since coming to know Christ, now is the time for them to share it with the group. Remember to keep the sharing of stories brief so everyone will have the opportunity to tell about what God has done for them.

Respond

Discuss what's next for the people in the group. It might be that this group can continue to meet as a community group. It could be that some need to meet with their leaders to talk through what they should do next. If the Lord leads some to join the church, they may submit their signed membership papers at this time. Consider closing your final group meeting by taking communion together and claiming the promise of scripture "that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6 NIV).