



Small Group Guide: Church Maintenance - Discipleship

Series: Church Maintenance | Topic: The Discipleship Model of Jesus

Overview

This week's message examined Jesus' model of discipleship drawn from the Great Commission in Matthew 28. The sermon challenged every believer to move beyond a consumer mindset and embrace the personal responsibility of making disciples, using the four-part model Jesus demonstrated: Come, Follow, Do, and Go.

Key Takeaways

- Discipleship is the responsibility of every believer, not just pastors, missionaries, or evangelists.
- Jesus' model of discipleship was relational before it was instructional. It began with an invitation into relationship.
- A disciple is a lifelong learner of Jesus who is always growing and always reproducing.
- You do not have to have everything figured out before you begin discipling someone. The disciples had their own struggles, doubts, and failures, and Jesus still sent them out.
- Digital tools can support discipleship but cannot replace the depth of in-person, relational community.
- A healthy disciple is not simply someone who knows Scripture or attends church faithfully. A healthy disciple is one who produces other disciples.

- **What God has done in you is not meant to stop with you. The gospel came to you, but it was never supposed to end with you.**

Jesus' Four-Part Discipleship Model

Use these as a reference point throughout your discussion:

1. **Come** - Jesus invited people into relationship with him, not just into information about him.
2. **Follow** - He showed them how to live by modeling it in front of them daily.
3. **Do** - He gave them opportunities to put into practice what they had learned, even knowing they would fail.
4. **Go** - He commissioned them to take the process and repeat it in someone else's life.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. **When you first came to faith, was there someone who intentionally invested in you and walked with you? What did that look like, and how did it shape you?**
2. **Before hearing this message, how would you have defined discipleship? Has that definition shifted at all?**

Come - Relationship

1. **The sermon emphasized that discipleship begins with relationship, not curriculum. What is the difference between inviting someone into information and inviting someone into your life? Why does that distinction matter?**
2. **Jesus spent time with his disciples every day. They ate together, traveled together, and did life together. What would that kind of relational discipleship look like in your everyday routine?**
3. **The sermon pointed out that digital tools can facilitate discipleship but should not replace it. Where do you see a consumer mentality showing up in how people approach church and spiritual community today? Have you noticed it in yourself?**

Follow - Modeling

1. The pastor shared that Jesus did not tell his disciples to do as he said and ignore what he did. He lived it out in front of them. **Who in your life has modeled their faith in a way that shaped how you follow Jesus?**
2. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1 that others should imitate him as he imitates Christ. **How does that challenge or encourage you when you think about your own walk with Jesus?**
3. The sermon raised a heart-check question: which version of Christ are you imitating? **What does an honest answer to that question look like for you personally?**

Do - Participation

1. The pastor described how he allows others to step into the pulpit and lead ministries because that is how people grow. **Have you ever been given an opportunity to step out in faith and serve or lead, even before you felt fully ready? What happened?**
2. The sermon said you are guaranteed to fail if you never step out. **How do you personally handle failure or mistakes in ministry? Does fear of failure hold you back from participating?**
3. When the disciples failed and came back to Jesus with questions, he taught them rather than condemned them. **How does that shape the kind of environment we should be creating for people we are discipling?**

Go - Multiplication

1. The sermon described the shift from asking "who is feeding me" to asking "who am I feeding." **Where are you in that shift right now? What would it look like to move further toward pouring into someone else?**
2. The pastor said a healthy disciple is one who reproduces other disciples. **By that measure, how would you honestly evaluate your own discipleship health?**
3. Someone understood the assignment and told you about Jesus. Now it is your turn. **What is one thing standing between you and taking that step toward discipling someone?**

Practical Applications

- **Pray specifically this week.** Ask God to show you who your one person is. Be still and listen. Write down whoever comes to mind.
- **Make a relational move.** Reach out to that person this week. Invite them to coffee, a meal, or simply a conversation. Discipleship starts with showing up.
- **Audit your week.** Look at your schedule and identify where you could realistically build time with someone for prayer, Scripture reading, or honest conversation about life and faith.
- **Be honest about your mask.** The sermon challenged the tendency to hide our struggles because we fear judgment. In your discipleship relationships, practice being honest about where you are, not just where you want people to think you are.
- **Take one step toward participation.** If you have been sitting on the sidelines of ministry because you do not feel ready, identify one area where you can say yes this month and take that step.
- **Pass it on.** If you are already discipling someone, begin asking yourself when and how you will encourage them to find their own one person to invest in.

Closing Reflection

The sermon closed with this thought: generation after generation carried the gospel forward until eventually somebody told you about Jesus. Somebody preached, somebody prayed, somebody taught, somebody invited, somebody invested, somebody went.

Take a moment as a group to reflect silently on that chain of faithfulness that led to each of you being in the room today. Then close your time together by praying for the courage and intentionality to keep that chain going.

Memory Verse for the Week

Matthew 28:19-20 - Jesus commands his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything he commanded, with the promise that he will be with them always.