



Small Group Guide: Routine Maintenance

Series: Church Maintenance

Discipleship: Making Disciples, Not Just Converts

Overview

This week's sermon continued the Church Maintenance series on discipleship. The central challenge was this: the Western church has become skilled at evangelism — bringing people to Jesus — but has often neglected the harder, longer work of making disciples. Using the metaphor of routine car maintenance, the sermon called every believer, not just pastors, to take personal responsibility for walking alongside others in their faith journey.

Key Takeaways

- Salvation is the beginning of the journey, not the end of our responsibility.
- Discipleship is not instantaneous. It is a lifelong process built on consistent spiritual rhythms, not occasional spiritual moments.
- The Great Commission in Matthew 28 calls every believer to make disciples — not just converts.
- Spiritual maturity is not measured by how much Scripture you know. It is measured by whether you are reproducing — teaching others to follow Jesus.
- You cannot disciple someone from a distance. Real discipleship requires real relationship.
- The pastor cannot and should not be the sole discipler in a church. Biblical discipleship multiplies through every member.
- You do not need a theology degree to start. You teach what you know, and you learn as you go.

Opening Activity

Before diving into discussion, take two to three minutes and have each group member answer this question in one sentence:

What is one thing God has done in your life this week?

This mirrors the testimony time from the sermon and helps establish a culture of openness and gratitude before the group goes deeper.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. Before this sermon, how would you have defined discipleship? Has your understanding shifted at all? If so, how?
2. The sermon drew a distinction between evangelism and discipleship — evangelism happens in a moment, but discipleship happens over a lifetime. **Do you agree with that distinction? What does it mean for how we think about our responsibility to new believers?**

Going Deeper

1. The sermon used the illustration of routine car maintenance to describe spiritual health. **Which of the following do you feel is most neglected in your own life right now, and why?**
 - Scripture reading (oil change)
 - Correction and accountability (alignment)
 - Prayer (fuel)
 - The Holy Spirit (battery)
 - Accountability relationships (tire pressure)
 - Christian community (regular inspection)
2. Acts 2:42 describes the early church as continually devoting themselves to teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. The word devoted carries the meaning of persevering and attending constantly. **What does that kind of consistency look like practically in your own week?**
3. The sermon made the point that spiritual maturity is not about how much Scripture you can quote — it is about whether you are reproducing. **Does that reframe how you think about your own spiritual growth? What does it stir up in you?**

4. In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul instructs Timothy to take what he has learned and entrust it to faithful people who will then teach others. The sermon called this four generations of discipleship in one verse. **Where do you see yourself in that chain right now — are you more in a receiving season, a learning season, or a teaching season?**
5. The sermon was honest that discipleship is messy and costly. It requires time, patience, consistency, correction, encouragement, forgiveness, and availability. **Which of those costs feels most challenging to you personally, and why?**
6. One of the men who spoke at the end of the sermon said it is easy to hang out with your buddies, but eventually you have to spread your wings and disciple people you do not already know. **What fears or hesitations come up for you when you think about intentionally reaching out to someone new?**

Personal Reflection

1. **The closing challenge of the sermon was simple:** Who is your one? Who is one person in your life right now — a new believer, a coworker, a family member, a neighbor — that you could intentionally begin walking alongside in their faith? Take a moment of silence, then share with the group if you are comfortable.
2. The sermon mentioned that some people have been saved for years and have never discipled anyone, not out of selfishness but because they were never taught that it was their responsibility. **Is that true of you? If so, what is one small step you could take this week to begin changing that?**

Practical Applications

This Week

- **Pray and ask God specifically:** Who is my one? Ask him to bring a name or a face to mind, and write that name down.
- **Reach out to that person this week.** It does not need to be a formal invitation. A simple text, a phone call, or a message asking to grab coffee is enough to start.
- **If you are already in a discipleship relationship, ask yourself honestly:** Am I pouring into this person, or have I gotten comfortable just maintaining the friendship?

As a Group

- Consider adopting a simple discipleship rhythm together. This could be as straightforward as beginning each group meeting with testimonies of what God has done that week, reading a passage of Scripture together, discussing how to apply it, and praying for one another before you leave.
- Hold each other accountable. At the next group meeting, ask everyone to share whether they reached out to their one and what happened.
- If anyone in the group feels they are ready to begin discipling someone but does not know where to start, pair them with someone in the group who has more experience and let that relationship model the very thing the sermon described.

Closing Prayer

Close your time together by praying specifically over each person's one. If group members have shared a name, lift those names before God. Ask for boldness, open doors, and the wisdom to teach not just information about Jesus, but how to follow him. Pray that your group would become a place where disciples are made, not just attended.

Memory Verse for the Week

Second Timothy 2:2 — Paul's instruction to Timothy about receiving truth, entrusting it to faithful people, and sending them out to teach others.

Next week the sermon will go deeper into Jesus' model for discipleship and what it looks like to apply that model in 2026. Come ready to discuss.