



more

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK THREE

MAKE DISCIPLES

CORE MISSION



GOAL FOR WEEK THREE

The goal of today's group is to consider how God calls me to play an active part in His mission for the church, which is to carry the fullness of Jesus into all corners of society. I will learn to see myself as a missionary of God's mission and commit to play my unique part.



WEEK THREE: MAKE DISCIPLES

Primary Calling = ^{BE}cI + ^{DO}cM + ^{GO}cP



GETTING STARTED

ASK: Did you know that only 30% of our earth is covered by land, leaving about 70% covered by water? Now, that 30% adds up to about 57 million square miles.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul says that the church is to be the fullness of Jesus who fills everything in every way (1:23). Create a mental image of what it looks like to leave no crack or crevice on this earth untouched. Paul says that the church is like water (or air), permeating every crack and crevice of society, leaving nothing untouched by the fullness of Jesus and the love of God.

DISCUSS: When you hear that, does it sound possible? Why or why not?



MORE OF THE STORY

READ: The "Living Water" story on page 58 of *More*

DISCUSS: As Christians we have a choice to make. Will we be "rivers of living water" (John 7:38) to flow through and fill every corner of society? Or will we be pools of stagnant water never reaching those we are called to reach? Or even worse, will we be like that dirt and debris that keeps the living water from reaching others?

THE BIG POINTS OF WEEK THREE

1. GOD HAS A MISSION FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH, WHICH IS TO CARRY THE FULLNESS OF JESUS TO EVERY CORNER OF SOCIETY.
2. I HAVE A ROLE IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH, WHICH IS BEING THE FULLNESS OF JESUS TO OTHERS.
3. I CAN SEE THAT JESUS MODELED SPECIFIC BEHAVIORS FOR ME TO USE IN MAKING DISCIPLES.
4. I WANT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF MY CORE MISSION TO MAKE DISCIPLES.

POINT
1

GOD HAS A MISSION FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH, WHICH IS TO CARRY THE FULLNESS OF JESUS TO EVERY CORNER OF SOCIETY.



READ: Ephesians 1:22-23. We are told that the church is to BE the fullness of Jesus in everything and in every way.

DISCUSS: Who is the church and what would have to happen for the church to fill every crack and cranny of society with the fullness of Jesus? Can that happen simply by filling church up on Sunday?

READ: Acts 2:42-47 Notice that the passage gives us no profound strategies of organizational alignment, no clarity of vision, no great preaching, no outreach, no marketing, no strategic planning, and no hiring of gifted staff.

What specifically did the early church family focus on and what were their results?

DISCUSS: What does this say to you about who makes up the church and what the behaviors are that help the church fulfill its mission?

POINT 2

I HAVE A ROLE IN THE MISSION FOR THE CHURCH, WHICH IS BEING THE FULLNESS OF JESUS TO OTHERS.



READ: The author of *More* describes the realities of many of today's local churches. Read his description starting in the second paragraph on page 55 and continuing to the top of page 56.

DISCUSS: What are the consequences of people doing church instead of being the church?

READ: Matthew 28:19-20.

DISCUSS: Who is Jesus commanding to GO? What are they to DO? Who are they to BE?

DISCUSS If you were to create a scorecard (or whatever term you use for measuring success) for the church, what would it look like? What would the criteria for success be? How would you measure it?

POINT 3

I CAN SEE THAT JESUS MODELED SPECIFIC BEHAVIORS FOR ME TO USE IN MAKING DISCIPLES.



BREAKOUT & DISCUSS: The author of *More* describes eight characteristics of disciple making, as identified by Dr. Robert Coleman (author of the classic book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*). These characteristics are listed on the back. You can find more about them at the bottom of page 123 continuing to page 126. Jesus Himself modeled each of these characteristics for our benefit today.

BREAK INTO GROUPS AND DISCUSS:

- What does each characteristic mean?
- Are they as relevant today as when Jesus modeled them?
- Which ones are most difficult to implement?
- What would it take to put these into practice?
- Why do so few Christians make disciples if it's the primary mission Jesus gives us?

SHARE: your results as a group. As you share and listen, think about your own life. How are these elements present or lacking?

POINT 4

I WANT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF MY CORE MISSION TO MAKE DISCIPLES.



My core mission (cM) within my primary calling is to carry the fullness of Jesus to others as I make disciples. Yet most Christians have never intentionally made disciples.

READ, RATE & DISCUSS: Individually read the characteristics of disciple making on the back of this guide. Use the scale provided to rate yourself on how you are currently implementing each.

ASK: Which one of these characteristics do you do well? Which characteristic would you like to improve on or become stronger in?



1-THING SHARE



What is one thing that you heard, said, or thought tonight that you want to keep in the forefront of your mind all this week?



TAKING MORE HOME

This week think over the four questions below and reflect on changes you need to make to more fully embrace and live out this core mission to carry the fullness of Jesus to others while making disciples.

1. As a disciple of Jesus, how should I live?
2. Are the elements Jesus modeled for making disciples present or lacking in my life?
3. What specific behaviors and practices must I live out for disciple making to become natural?
4. What one thing could I commit to this week to take a positive step forward in my disciple making practices?

Individually read the characteristics of disciple making. Use the scale provided to rate yourself on how you are currently implementing each. You might find that your rating is a one (1), which indicates that you are not really implementing the characteristic at all. Or perhaps, you are a five (5), fully implementing the characteristic. Or maybe you're somewhere in between, partially implementing the characteristic.

EIGHT ELEMENTS OF DISCIPLE MAKING

JESUS

Jesus is Lord. He must be the center of our lives and the focus of our disciple making. His fullness in us gives meaning to our lives and is attractive to those we disciple.



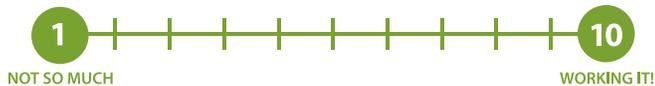
MODELING

Jesus demonstrated for His disciples the things He asked them to do. The credibility of a leader and trust in any relationship is most dependent on living what we say and teach.



INTENTIONALITY

Jesus was strategic and intentional in making disciples. He modeled an approach of coming alongside and investing Himself fully in twelve followers to forever change the world.



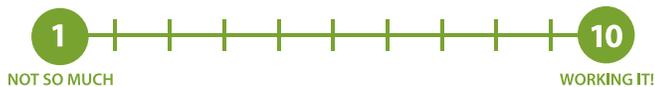
EXERCISING / PRACTICING OUR FAITH

Jesus did not simply teach and model His commands, He also sent His disciples out to practice them. He then spent time debriefing their experiences and helping them become more effective.



RELATIONSHIP

Jesus lived in close proximity with His twelve disciples. It's through relationships that our lives intertwine, trust is built, and we gain permission to speak into each other's lives.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Jesus never failed to confront or even scold His disciples when they needed it. Jesus' disciples needed to know when their behavior and thinking were not consistent with His.



TEACHING

Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you." Teaching answers, "As a disciple of Jesus, how should I live?"



REPRODUCTION

A ripple of multiplication is embedded in the DNA of Jesus' method of discipleship. The fruit of discipleship must be multiplication.



REFERENCES:

1. Pages 123 – 126 of *More*
2. *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Dr. Robert Coleman
3. *Discipleship Handbook: 7 Elements of a Discipleship Lifestyle* by Bobby Harrington and Josh Patrick (available as free eBook at discipleship.org)