

DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES to impact the city of St. Pete for Jesus

1. What is a disciple?

A disciple is someone who follows Jesus and brings others to Jesus.

2. How do you make disciples?

Create an environment where people are known, loved, trained and sent, driven by a compelling vision of Jesus. You could start by prayerfully asking someone to begin meeting together regularly.

3. Why do we do this?

Because Jesus commanded us to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

4. Who are you investing in / discipling?

Everyone should have someone in their life they are discipling (in some form or context).

5. What specifically should you do when meeting / gathering with the person you are discipling?

CONNECT – create a culture of grace where they can be honest about their real life, pain, problems, passions, sin, dreams, etc. Lead by example in this.

TRAIN / TEACH – Identify specific ways the individual(s) needs to be taught and train them accordingly. Always read and discuss scripture together. We highly recommend the book “One to One” by David Helm, which teaches how to do a “one to one” meeting with someone.

You can ask the following questions of any Bible text:

1. What did this text mean to its original hearers / in its original context? 2. What does it mean for our lives today? 3. What is God saying or revealing through this? 4. What am I going to do about it? PRAY – Pray together, often following the method Jesus taught us (Matthew 6:9-13). Teach them to fight against their true enemy: the devil and his spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:10-20).

6. How do you know when you’ve succeeded?

When you’ve invested in someone and sent out your disciples to make disciples on their own.

FOUR WORDS to know, share and explain

IDENTITY – There’s a big difference between an identity based on grace and an identity based on performance. Ephesians 1:1-14 “in Him”; John 1:12; 1 John 3:1; Colossians 3:1-17. Our new identity is found in Christ Jesus (this is who we are). Be completely captivated with your new identity in Christ. The Gospel (what God has done to reach us) is more than a message for unbelievers – it’s key to our growth.

WORSHIP – God has called us to worship him, celebrate His grace and mercy and to walk in holy fear (reverence). What does this look like? What are the idols of our culture? Money, sex, possessions, etc? What are the idols you find yourself turning to or tempted to turn to? Approval, comfort, control, power? Lead them to the only worship that satisfies. Romans 12:1-3

COMMUNITY – The importance of the local church family. Community is central to following Jesus. Why? Identity = children of God; a “people” = 1 Peter 2:9-10. No lone rangers! 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 Encourage them as often as you can. Tell them what you’re proud of and what they’re good at. Give honest feedback even when it’s hard. Show them that conflict and hard conversations are normal and healthy when we speak the truth in love. Model vulnerability and humility and hold them accountable. Spend a lot of time with them. Most of what they learn will be “caught,” not taught. Discipleship is truth transferred through relationship. Be patient with the community God places you in and remember that The Lord is at work.

MISSION – God is a sent and sending God. The Father sent the Son. The Father and Son sent the Holy Spirit. We are now sent. John 17:18; Matthew 28:18-20 One of the very first things that will happen after someone becomes a Christian – they will want to tell their friends! We want to do all we can to help them. Success? Taking the initiative to share the gospel in the power of the HS, leaving the results up to God. Give them responsibility that makes them feel / take ownership for making an impact in our church and city. Teach them that leadership is taking initiative for the benefit of others. Train them in the need to contextualize (speak the language of their culture, explaining Biblical truth in a way that can be understood without compromising the message) - how do we demonstrate and speak the gospel to our neighbors, co-workers and friends? “Graduate” and send them out with clear direction. How can they make the greatest impact in the church and city here and now, with an eye on the future?

ADDITIONAL TRAINING TOOLS

Baptism / Membership in the local church / House Groups / Discipleship Groups / “One to One” by David Helm / “The Walk” by Stephen Smallman / “The Gospel: Key To Change” article by Tim Keller