

“What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?”
Family Week (July 4-11, 2020) @ Sacandaga Bible Camp

General Plan

Theme: Discipleship

Sunday AM	The Final Report Card One Goal in Discipleship
Sunday PM	Who Goes to School and When Does School Meet? Two Circles of Discipleship
Monday AM	What Are Your Subjects? Five Characteristics of Discipleship : Submission, Knowledge
Monday PM	What Are Your Subjects? Five Characteristics of Discipleship : Imitation, Service, Multiplication
Tuesday AM	Taking a Tour or Shadow Visit Four Phases of Discipleship : Come and See
Tuesday PM	The Joy and Excitement of Assemblies Three Relationship of Discipleship : Unity (Temple)
Wednesday AM	Going to School Four Phases of Discipleship : Follow Me
Wednesday PM	The Work and Friendship of Classes Three Relationship of Discipleship : Fellowship (Synagogue)
Thursday AM	Getting a Job Four Phases of Discipleship : Go, Preach
Thursday PM	The Help and Growth with Tutors Three Relationship of Discipleship : Intimacy (The Twelve)
Friday AM	Living a Life Four Phases of Discipleship : Abide in Me
Friday PM	Final Challenge Definition of a Disciple Responsibility of Discipleship Q & A

Special recognition to **Bill Hull**'s book **Jesus Christ, Disciplemaker** and from **DisciplePath** ministry from which I got many of the ideas and material (especially the principles for the four phases).

Theme: *One Goal in Discipleship*

Introduction – Personal

- Some of you might know my dad, Dr. Woodrow Kroll (23 years as Bible Teacher for Back to the Bible radio)
- Most of you don't know my mom, Linda Kroll (years teaching 5-year old Sunday School)
- I'm a father to 5 children (Makenzie married to Eddie, Makaylah married to Devin, Jordan married to Ariel, Jariah and Jedidiah) and 3 grandsons (Xavier, Xander, Xzekiel)
- I'm going to try and speak to the young people this week and hope you "older" people can follow along as well – **“What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?”**
- I'm going to share something I wish I had learned as a young person and something I wish I had done better when my children were younger – but no one ever really explained it and I never really understood how to do it

Introduction – Report Cards

- This year was an “interesting” end to the school year
- Normally, at the end of a school year you get your final report card, not just grades but also with teacher comments – a final evaluation of your work in that grade (assuming you pass)

Your Final Report Card

- Someday everyone will bow before Jesus
 - Philippians 2:9-11
 - 9** *For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,*
 - 10** *so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*
 - 11** *and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
- Whether you bow in worship or in defeat is determined by what you do with Jesus and His work on the cross
 - Philippians 2:8
 - 8** *Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*
- Someday every follower of Jesus will be evaluated by Him
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10

10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

- Every follower of Jesus will have their lives and works evaluated by Jesus

- 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

9 *For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.*

10 *According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.*

11 *For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

12 *Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,*

13 *each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.*

14 *If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.*

15 *If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

- Each is evaluated based on what they do with what they have been given

- Matthew 25:14-30

21 *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'*

23 *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'*

26 *"But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed.*

27 *'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.*

- Jesus is what pleases the Father

- Matthew 3:16-17 (Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22)

16 *After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,*

17 *and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."*

- Matthew 17:1-5 (Mark 9:2-7; Luke 9:28-35)

5 *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"*

Becoming like Jesus is what I'd like to talk about this whole week

- We call the process of becoming like Jesus – discipleship
- I want to spend the rest of the week talking about discipleship
- You can think about it as the 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 of discipleship, and 1 is “The One Goal of Discipleship is to become like Jesus”
- He should be the answer to the question: **“What do you want to be when you grow up?”**
– I want to be like Jesus
- And the first step to becoming like Jesus is to accept His salvation and life by putting your faith in Him
- John 1:12
12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,*
- Your Final Report Card will be an evaluation of how much you are like Jesus
- **There is One Goal in Discipleship – to become like Jesus**

Theme: *Two Circles of Discipleship*

Introduction – Review

- One – One Goal of Discipleship – to become like Jesus
- Our Final Report Card will evaluate how much we have become like Jesus
- Two Circles of Discipleship – Who and When

Introduction – School

- Starting school in Kindergarten or, now, Preschool - truancy officer if you didn't go or skipped (Who)
- Senior countdown to last day of school (When)
- Let's look at the Bible for these Two Circles of Discipleship (Who & When)

The Goal of Discipleship is to become like Jesus

- It is the history of the first disciples
 - Acts 4:13

13 *Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.*

 - ✓ It was evident they had been with Jesus because they were becoming like Him – His ministry, His words, His response
 - ✓ Illustration {The Book of General Ignorance, p. 33}: Albanian dogs go “ham ham.” In Catalan, dogs go “bup bup.” The Chinese dogs say “wang wang,” the Greek dogs go “gay gay,” the Slovenians “hov hov,” and the Ukrainians “haf haf.” In Iceland, it’s “voff,” in Indonesia, it’s “gong gong,” and in Italian, it’s “bau bau.”

Dogs even develop regional accents, according to researchers at the Canine Behaviour Centre in Cumbria. Scouse and Scots dogs have the most distinctive accents.

To gather their data the Centre asked for owners and their dogs to leave messages on their answering machine; experts then compared the pitch, tone, volume, and length of the sounds made by humans and dogs.

They concluded that dogs imitate their owners in order to bond with them; the closer the bond, the closer the similarity in sound.
 - Acts 11:26

26 *and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*

 - ✓ Christian – meaning “little Christ”

- ✓ Antioch – a place Jesus had never been until He came there in and through His disciples
 - ✓ This was not the apostles (or original disciples) but a group of new disciples in that area...
 - ✓ ...and it was all of them
 - ✓ **Two Circles of Discipleship – First, Every Disciple (WHO)**
- **Transition:** The first disciples did all they could to become like Jesus – carrying on His ministry, sharing His words, living His life and character
- It is the responsibility of every believer
 - Paul puts it this way – Romans 13:14
 - 14 *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*
 - ✓ Cp. Ephesians 4:22-24
 - ✓ This is a command (imperative) – not a suggestion or advice
 - Peter puts it his way – 1 Peter 1:14-16
 - 14 *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,*
 - 15 *but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;*
 - 16 *because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”*
 - ✓ Again, “be holy” is a command not a suggestion, option or advice
 - ✓ We follow the command to gain the result “like the Holy One who called you”
 - ✓ This is not limited to the “super spiritual” or the mature only but is for **Every Disciple (WHO – first circle)**
 - **Transition:** Not only is becoming like Jesus the responsibility of every believer but...
 - It is the passion of every growing believer
 - Philippians 3:8-10
 - 8 *More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,*
 - 9 *and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,*

10 *that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;*

- ✓ Do you hear Paul's passion to become like Jesus? {re-emphasize underlined portions}
- ✓ Again, this passion isn't just for apostles, original disciples, "super saints" or such but is for **Every Disciple (WHO – first circle)**
- **Transition:** Our becoming like Jesus is not only the responsibility and passion of every believer, but...
- It is the result of our glorification
 - 1 John 3:2
 - 2 *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*
 - ✓ The exciting, encouraging truth is that when we meet Jesus face-to-face, we will be glorified and finally, fully become like Him
 - ✓ This should be encouragement today and not discouragement or abandonment
 - ✓ "I'll never be" doesn't mean I'll never try – wouldn't you be better to be more like Jesus even if you were not able or did not become exactly like Jesus?
 - ✓ What we learn (and need to understand) is that becoming like Jesus is for **Every Day (WHEN – second circle)** – it's not a course, class, or seminar that lasts for a weekend, 12 weeks, a year or two
 - ✓ We strive every day to become like Jesus until our glorification when that work is completed
 - ✓ What an incredible gift every disciple has to offer Jesus – a life with as little work as necessary to be done in our glorification to become like Him!

"What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?"

- Final Report Card – an evaluation of how much you are like Jesus
- **There is ONE GOAL in Discipleship – to become like Jesus**
- "Who goes to school?" – the circle of WHO
- "When does school meet?" – the circle of WHEN
- **There are TWO CIRCLES in discipleship – it is for Every Disciple (circle of Who) and for Every Day (circle of when)**
- The 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 of discipleship:
 - ✓ One Goal in Discipleship – to become like Jesus
 - ✓ Two Circles in Discipleship – Who and When; Every Disciple, Every Day
- Are you enrolled in school?
- Are you going to school?

- Have you started to skip school?
- Do you only go for your “favorite” classes?

Theme: *Five Characteristics of a Disciple*

Introduction – Review

- One – One Goal of Discipleship – to become like Jesus
 - ✓ Our Final Report Card will evaluate how much we have become like Jesus
- Two – Two Circles of Discipleship – every disciple, every day
 - ✓ Becoming like Jesus is for every disciple and something to work on every day

Introduction – School

- Whether they are your favorite or least favorite subjects, you still have to take the set subjects the school determines are necessary for your education
- ADULTS = What are the subjects that Jesus taught His disciples?

Introduction – Discipleship

- Through a study of Scripture and the history of the New Testament times, I’ve found the basic characteristics of a disciple to be:
 - ✓ Submission to a master
 - ✓ Knowledge of the master’s words
 - ✓ Imitation of the master’s life
 - ✓ Service in the master’s ministry
 - ✓ Multiplication by finding more disciples for the master
- **That’s our FIVE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) of discipleship – Five Characteristics of a Disciple**
- These are the basic characteristics that any “disciple” in the first century would have understood were their responsibility and were the marks of a disciple’s life
- This morning we’ll look at 2 and this evening we’ll look at the other 3

Submission to a Master

- Jesus’ Great Commission – towards the end of His ministry
 - Matthew 28:18-20
 - 18 *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”*
 - 19 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*
 - 20 *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*
 - ✓ 19 – “make disciples” = the only command (imperative) in the verses
 - ✓ 19 – “therefore” = the command is based on something
 - ✓ 18 – “All authority has been given to Me” = His disciples obey His command because they are submitted to His authority

- ✓ His ministry with them ends the way it began...
- Jesus' early invitation to His disciples – towards the beginning of His ministry
 - Mark 1:16-18 {Matthew 4:18-20}
 - 16 *As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen.*
 - 17 *And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”*
 - 18 *Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.*
 - ✓ 17 – “*Follow Me*” = not come with me, not join me, not partner with me BUT follow me – submit to Me as your master
 - ✓ 17 – “*I will make you*” = not you will become, you will learn BUT I will make you – submit to My work in your life as your master
- As a disciple, I submit to Jesus as master because
 - ✓ Jesus is the Son of God and is worthy of my submission
 - ✓ He will lead me beyond my present life, and
 - ✓ He is able to make more of my life than I would think possible
 - Matthew 19:27-30
 - 27 *Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”*
 - 28 *Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*
 - 29 *And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.*
 - 30 *But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.*
 - My submission to Jesus as master leads to the transformation of my will – not my will but His will be done!
 - **Transition:** A disciple must submit to his master, a disciple must submit to Jesus. Part of that submission comes in knowledge...

Knowledge of the Master's words

- Jesus' Great Commission – towards the end of His ministry
 - Matthew 28:18-20
 - 18 *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*
 - 19 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*

20 *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*”

✓ 20 – “teaching them to observe all that I commanded” = His disciples know His word

- As a disciple, I memorize Jesus’ words because
 - ✓ They will bring about transformation in my life
 - ✓ They will firmly establish and build my life well, and
 - ✓ They will strengthen me in the storms of life
- Luke 6:46-49 (Matthew 7:24-27)
 - 46 *“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?*
 - 47 *I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice.*
 - 48 *He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.*
 - 49 *But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.*”
- My knowledge of Jesus’ words leads to the transformation of my mind.
- **Transition:** A disciple must know the words of his master, a disciple must know Jesus’ words.

“What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?”

- The 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 of discipleship:
 - ✓ One Goal in Discipleship – to become like Jesus
 - ✓ Two Circles in Discipleship – Who and When; Every Disciple, Every Day
- **There are FIVE CHARACTERISTICS of a disciple**
 - ✓ Submission to the Master
 - ✓ Knowledge of the Master’s words
- Is Jesus your Master? Are you submitted to Him?
- How well do you know His words?

Theme: *Five Characteristics of a Disciple*

Introduction – Review

- One – One Goal of Discipleship – to become like Jesus
- Two – Two Circles of Discipleship – every disciple, every day
- Five – Five Characteristics of a Disciple
- We talked about these characteristics being like subjects in school (“**What are your subjects?**”) – some might be your favorite, some might not be, but all are necessary

Introduction – Discipleship

- Through a study of Scripture and the history of the New Testament times, I’ve found the basic characteristics of a disciple to be:
 - ✓ Submission to a master
 - ✓ Knowledge of the master’s words
 - ✓ Imitation of the master’s life
 - ✓ Service in the master’s ministry
 - ✓ Multiplication by finding more disciples for the master
- **That’s our FIVE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) of discipleship – Five Characteristics of a Disciple**
- These are the basic characteristics that any “disciple” in the first century would have understood were their responsibility and were the marks of a disciple’s life
- We looked at 2 this morning and now we’ll look at the other 3

Imitation of the Master’s life

- Jesus’ Great Commission – towards the end of His ministry
 - Matthew 28:18-20
 - 18 *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*
 - 19 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*
 - 20 *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*
 - ✓ 20 – “*observe all*” = His disciples must do what He has done
 - ✓ His commands included so many things that they were to do in seeing His character become a part of their lives...
- As a disciple, I imitate Jesus life
 - ✓ By living in contact with others
 - ✓ By focusing on people not programs, and
 - ✓ By filling my life with humility and love
 - Luke 7:36-39, 47-50 (Matthew 11:16-19)

- 36 *Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.*
- 37 *When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume,*
- 38 *and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.*
- 39 *When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is-- that she is a sinner."*
- 47 *Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven-- for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."*
- 48 *Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."*
- 49 *The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"*
- 50 *Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

- My imitation of Jesus' life leads to the transformation of my character.
- **Transition:** A disciple imitates the life of His master, a disciple imitates Jesus' life.

Service in the Master's ministry

- Jesus' Great Commission – towards the end of His ministry
 - Matthew 28:18-20

18 *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

19 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*

20 *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

 - ✓ 20 – "observe all" = His disciples must do what He has commanded
 - ✓ His commands included so many things that they were to do in continuing and expanding His ministry...
- As a disciple, I serve in Jesus' ministry
 - ✓ To help meet people's needs,
 - ✓ To help meet their greatest need, and
 - ✓ To help me develop His gentleness and humility
 - Matthew 9:35-10:8, 16 {Luke 10}

35 *Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.*

36 *Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.*

37 *Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.*

38 *"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."*

✓ 35 – “healing” = meeting peoples’ needs

✓ 35 – “teaching...proclaiming” = meeting their greatest need

✓ 36 – “compassion” = gentleness

1 *Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.*

5 *These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;*

6 *but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

7 *And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*

8 *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.*

✓ 5 – “sent out” = His disciples take up and continue the ministry He started

✓ 6 – “go” = His disciples go to those in need – not waiting for them to come to them

✓ 7 – “preach” = His disciples preach the good news

✓ 8 – “Heal...raise...cleanse...cast out...freely give” = His disciples do the things He did

16 *Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.*

✓ 16 – “sheep...innocent” = gentleness and humility

○ My service in Jesus’ ministry leads to the transformation of my actions.

○ **Transition:** A disciple must learn and continue the ministry of his master, a disciple must learn and continue Jesus’ ministry.

Multiplication by finding more disciples for the Master

• Jesus’ Great Commission – towards the end of His ministry

○ Matthew 28:18-20

18 *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

19 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*

20 *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

✓ 19 – “make disciples” = His disciples are to find others to become His disciples

✓ The final words are so much like the first words...

- Matthew 4:18-20 {Mark 1:16-18}
 - 18 *Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.*
 - 19 *And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*
 - 20 *Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.*
 - ✓ 19 – “fishers of men” = His disciples are to find other men in need of a loving, kind, holy, righteous, humble, generous, saving Master and help them to become His disciples

- As a disciple, I multiply disciples for Jesus
 - ✓ By making my own disciples,
 - ✓ By having disciples identify with Jesus, and
 - ✓ By having disciples submit to Jesus
- Matthew 28:18-20
 - 18 *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*
 - 19 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*
 - 20 *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*
- My multiplication of disciples for Jesus leads to the transformation of my identity.
- **Transition:** A disciple must find new disciples for his master, a disciple must find others to be Jesus’ disciples.

“What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?”

- The 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 of discipleship:
 - ✓ One Goal in Discipleship – to become like Jesus
 - ✓ Two Circles in Discipleship – Who and When; Every Disciple, Every Day
 - ✓ Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission (will), Knowledge (mind), Imitation (character), Service (actions), and Multiplication (identity)
- Are you imitating Jesus’ life?
- Are you serving in His ministry?
- Who are you helping to become His disciple?

Theme: *Four Phases of Discipleship*

Introduction – Taking a Tour or Shadow Visit

- 3rd Grade transition from Texas public school to Virginia Christian school

Introduction – Review

- One – One Goal of Discipleship – to become like Jesus
- Two – Two Circles of Discipleship – every disciple, every day
- Five – Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission, Knowledge, Imitation, Service, Multiplication

Introduction – Discipleship

- In the remaining morning sessions, I'd like to share the phases of growth of discipleship
 - ✓ Come, and...see (John 1:39)
 - ✓ Follow Me (Mark 1:17)
 - ✓ Go, preach (Matthew 10:7)
 - ✓ Abide in Me (John 15:4)
- **That's our FOUR (1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) of discipleship – Four Phases of Discipleship**
- These are like the phases of our education system (preschool, elementary, middle/high school and college) that each student must grow in and through
- So, let's start at the first Phase – **Taking a Tour or Shadow Visit**

Come, and...see

- **Key Verses:**
 - John 1:38-39
 - 38 *And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?"*
 - 39 *He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.*
 - ✓ 38 – “What do you seek...where are You staying?” = Are they really just interested in where He is staying or are they moved by John's proclamation (“Behold, the Lamb of God!”)?
 - ✓ 39 – “Come, and you will see” = KJV's “Come and see”; Jesus' invitation to observe Him and see if it is true that He is the Lamb of God
 - ✓ Cp. 1:41 = “We have found the Messiah”
- **Major Intent:**
 - To Introduce people to Jesus – helping them
 - ✓ To see Jesus clearly and who they can become through Him

- ✓ To understand what it means to be “lost”
 - ✓ and To comprehend their need for a Savior
 - This is the **Phase of OBSERVATION** ending in SALVATION
 - **Transition:** Let’s look at this first phase in Jesus’ ministry with His disciples...
- **Jesus’ Ministry**
 - Scripture: John 1:19-4:54
 - ✓ John 1 = initial disciples
 - ✓ John 2 = Wedding in Cana and Passover in Jerusalem
 - ✓ John 3 = Nicodemus and John the Baptist
 - ✓ John 4 = Woman at the Well and Nobleman’s son
- **Key Principles:**
 1. **Choose people as your method**
 - ✓ John 1:19-51 = Jesus with 2 disciples of John then Andrew and Peter, then Philip and Nathaniel
 - ✓ Jesus starts with 2 who are willing to find out who He is
 - ✓ Jesus is about people not programs or methods.
 - ✓ Jesus doesn’t go to the crowds or the mass marketing public approach – He goes to the individual
 - ✓ **Like Jesus, choose people as your method**
 2. **Give disciples a vision for what they can become**
 - ✓ John 1:41-51 = Jesus’ response to Peter and Nathaniel
 - ✓ To Simon, Jesus says (1:42), “*You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is translated Peter)*”
 - ✓ Simon = Hebrew, “He who hears” or Greek, “flat-nosed”
 - ✓ Cephas/Peter = Greek “rock” = what Jesus sees in him
 - ✓ To Nathaniel, Jesus says (1:48), “*Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.*”...(1:50), “*You will see greater things than these.*”
 - ✓ Nathaniel = skeptic to believer, seer of small wonders to great wonders = what Jesus sees in Him
 - ✓ **Jesus gives them a vision for who they can become if they will follow him**
 3. **Make it easy for disciples to say no**
 - ✓ John 1:41-51 = Andrew comes and goes; Philip comes and goes; Peter and Nathaniel are talked to and made promises
 - ✓ John 2:1-12 = Disciples go with Him to a wedding

- ✓ John 2:13-25 = Disciples go with Him to Jerusalem for Passover
- ✓ John 3:1-21 = Jesus talks to Nicodemus
- ✓ John 3:22-36 = Jesus heads for home and heals Nobleman's son
- ✓ John 4:1-42 = Jesus talks to the woman at the well
- ✓ Besides the original "*Come and see*" there are only 3 other commands that Jesus gives ("Follow me" in 1:43; "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields" in 4:35)
- ✓ This is all about seeing Him – not doing or becoming for Him
- ✓ **Jesus makes it easy for them to say no**

4. Give disciples an initial taste for ministry

- ✓ 2:1-12 = They see that ministry is about relationships with people and Jesus does miraculous things
- ✓ 2:13-25 = They see that Jesus is zealous about the worship of God
- ✓ 3:1-21 = They see how Jesus shares the truth with a religious leader (a Jew, a man)
- ✓ 3:22-36 = They hear John the Baptist proclaim the truth of who Jesus is
- ✓ 4:1-42 = They see how Jesus shares the truth with a sinful person (a Samaritan, a woman)
- ✓ **Jesus gives them a taste of His ministry** (spending time with people, caring for people, sharing God's truth with people)

5. Motivate disciples by the indirect method of modeling

- ✓ 2:1-12 = Jesus performs the miracle
- ✓ 2:13-25 = Jesus cleanses the Temple
- ✓ 3:1-21 = Jesus talks to Nicodemus
- ✓ 4:1-42 = Jesus talks with the woman at the well
- ✓ Notice in all this, they see (or observe) – there is little teaching or training (but much that can be learned)
- ✓ **Jesus motivates them by the indirect method of modeling**

6. Give disciples time to make a solid decision

- ✓ Notice John 4:43, "*After the two days He went forth from there into Galilee.*" – He? Where are the disciples?
- ✓ Consider Mark 1 and the scene along the shore of Galilee when Jesus calls His disciples
- ✓ Have you ever wondered how they could just drop everything to follow Him when they just met Him?
- ✓ Well, they haven't just met Him – they just spent the last 3-4 months (John 1-4) with Jesus

- ✓ John 4:43-54 records the story of Jesus back in Galilee and healing the nobleman's son but there is no mention of the disciples – Jesus has released them to go back to their lives
- ✓ **Jesus is giving the time to make a solid decision**
- **This is the Phase of OBSERVATION for Jesus' original disciples**
- Jesus chooses people
 - ✓ John 1 = initial disciples
 - ✓ Shows them who they can become if they follow Him
 - ✓ Makes it easy for them to say no
 - ✓ Gives them a taste of His ministry
 - ✓ Motivates them by modeling and
 - ✓ Gives them time to make a solid decision
- **Transition:** So, how do we work in the same Phase for people today? Let's look at this first phase in your family...
- **Your Family**
 - Character of this Phase
 - ✓ This is the **Phase of OBSERVATION** leading to salvation
 - ✓ Your family should be doing everything like Jesus' ministry to introduce people to Him
 - Goal for this Phase
 - ✓ Your Goal is Salvation and Commitment to Jesus but that is the goal of this phase not the experience of this phase
 - Commitment in this Phase
 - ✓ Commitment is great by the one making the disciples but minimal from those who would become disciples
 - Ministry Involvement in this Phase
 - ✓ Almost exclusively by the one making disciples and only a very little involvement by those who would become disciples
 - Approaches in this Phase
 - ✓ Focus on the Word of God, particularly the Gospels, and helping your children see Jesus and who they can become if they follow Him
 - ✓ Let them see that you are becoming more like Jesus – become more like Jesus; acknowledge your growth, your struggles in growth, your failure in growth
 - ✓ Focus on your children and not merely the programs you think will help them to become like Jesus
 - ✓ The eternal consequences of faith and salvation can seem to “push” us to push our children to a decision to accept Jesus as their Savior, but this “push” can, and

often, will lead to false professions/conversions, an “abandoned” faith and a hardened heart towards faith and salvation

- ✓ Help them to see Jesus and who they can become if they follow Him, but make it easy for them to say “no” and give them the time they need to make a solid decision for Him
- ✓ Let them check out the school before you make them a full-time student (“**Taking a Tour or Shadow Visit**”)

“What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?”

- The 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 of discipleship:
 - ✓ One Goal in Discipleship – to become like Jesus
 - ✓ Two Circles in Discipleship – Who and When; Every Disciple, Every Day
 - ✓ Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission to the master (will), Knowledge of the master’s words (mind), Imitation of the master’s life (character), Service in the master’s ministry (actions), and Multiplication of disciples to the master (identity)
 - ✓ Four Phases of Discipleship – Come, and...see (Phase of Observation)
- Have you seen Jesus and who you can become if you become His disciple?
- Are you showing Jesus to those around you?
- Do they see Jesus in you?

Theme: *Three Relationships of Discipleship*

Introduction – The Joy and Excitement of Assemblies

- Elementary school assemblies – fundraisers (win a bike), fire safety, etc.
- Middle/High School assemblies – getting out of class, time with your friends
- College assemblies – sporting events, chapels, special speakers

Introduction – Review

- One – One Goal of Discipleship – to become like Jesus
- Two – Two Circles of Discipleship – every disciple, every day
- Five – Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission, Knowledge, Imitation, Service, Multiplication
- Four – Four Phases of Discipleship – “Come, and...see”

Introduction – Discipleship

- In the next three evening sessions, I’d like to share the relationships of discipleship
 - ✓ Large groups (assemblies) – Unity
 - ✓ Small groups (classes) – Fellowship
 - ✓ Personal (teachers or tutors) - Intimacy
- **That’s our THREE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) of discipleship – Three Relationships of Discipleship**
- So, let’s start at the first Relationship – **The Joy and Excitement of Assemblies**

School Assemblies or Church Services – Relationships of Unity

- School Assemblies – everyone is there, it doesn’t matter what grade, what classroom, what seating assignment
- Church Services – everyone is there (or could be there)
- These are relationships of unity based on agreement on a core set of beliefs or identifications but with little personal knowledge of most of the people there
- This type of relationship (unity) functions well in larger groups (70 or more people) that are open and receptive of newcomers – Heinz Field and Renegade
- This level of relationship is important because it reinforces what we share in common, provides for a shared celebration and forces us to practice other Christian virtues (love, forgiveness, etc.)
- In the Bible, this relationship was fostered by the **Temple**

The Tabernacle and Temple in the Old Testament

- History
 - Exodus 25-40 (Tabernacle was used until the Temple was built c. 960 BC)
 - 1 Kings 5-9 (Solomon builds the Temple in Jerusalem c. 960 BC)
 - Ezra (Ezra rebuilds the Temple which is completed c. 515 BC)

- Requirements
 - The place of the Lord's presence
 - 1 Kings 8:28-30

28 *Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, O LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.*
 - The place of all sacrifices
 - Leviticus 3-23 = Peace offering (3); Sin offering (4, 6); Trespass offering (5, 7); Guilt, burnt and grain offerings (6)
 - The place of combined celebration
 - Exodus 23:14-17

14 *Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me.*
✓ *"three times a year you are to celebrate... all the men"* = These celebrations were to be attended by all the men of Israel (and could be attended by the women or children as well); Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles

- ❖ God intended for His people to experience a relationship of unity through the Temple so that they could be in His presence, offer their sacrifices to Him and celebrate His goodness together

The Temple in the New Testament

- Jesus and the Disciples
 - Matthew 21, 24, 26:55

55 *At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me."*

✓ *"in the temple courts"* = Much of the teaching Jesus did in Jerusalem was from the Temple courts (see below)
 - Jesus meets in the Temple to be with those who worship God even though there are great differences among them (Pharisees, Sadducees, people of the earth, etc.)

- Early Church
 - Acts 2:46

46 *Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,*

- ✓ “*Every day...in the temple courts*” = Even after the cross, the disciples continue to meet in the temple courts as they had done during Jesus’ ministry
- Acts 5:12, 20
 - 12 *The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.*
 - 20 *"Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."*
- ✓ “*Solomon’s Colonnade*” = Eastern side of the Temple (Cp. John 10)
- The early church continues to meet in the Temple because it is the one place they can all come together
- ❖ Jesus, the disciples and the early church lived in and demonstrated (through their involvement in the Temple) a relationship of unity with one another

Principles for the Church today

- Unity is found in what we have in common
 - Ephesians 4:4-6
 - 4 *There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called—*
 - 5 *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*
 - 6 *one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*
 - ✓ “*one*” = This is what we have in common
 - Body = no division of natural or physical quality (only spiritual)
 - Spirit = God who works in the world today
 - Hope = resurrection and eternal life
 - Lord = Divinity and work of Christ
 - Faith = Transfer of trust to God’s work
 - Baptism = sign and symbol of God’s work
 - God and Father = Unity of God and Deity of Father
 - To those who will not join in common worship or celebration, there is already an obstacle or a problem in unity – something is greater for them (what divides us) than what unites us
 - Obstacles = geography, language, culture, health
 - Problem = hurts, lack of genuine repentance, lack of genuine forgiveness, sin, expectations, traditions, personal preference
- Unity is fostered by humility, gentleness, patience and love
 - Ephesians 4:2
 - 2 *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*
 - ✓ “*gentle*” = gentleness of attitude and behavior
 - ✓ Gentleness speaks of the openness of our unity where we are active in helping others to find their place among us

- ✓ “love” = sincere appreciation and high regard
- ✓ Cp. John 13:35 = not that the only people who love each other are His disciples but that His disciples will love each other
- ✓ Cp. 1 John 4-5 = Brotherly love and Godly love are intertwined
- ✓ Illustration: love as an essential part of family – willing sacrifice
- Just because we have so much in common in Christ doesn’t mean we can have unity without humility, gentleness, patience and love
- Unity is practiced and tested when we are together
 - Ephesians 4:2-3
 - 2 *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*
 - 3 *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*
 - ✓ “*bearing with one another*” = to put up with, to bear with; Middle voice, present participle – making yourself endure one another
 - ✓ There is not much to “endure” when it’s just you
 - ✓ Private Christianity is lazy Christianity – there is so little work involved in it.
 - ✓ “*Make every effort*” = Two words – participle (hasten, hurry, be zealous) and infinitive (to keep watch over, guard, preserve) = hurrying to guard the unity – meaning that it is already there but can be lost or damaged
 - ✓ We are each called to do what we can to keep the unity that we should all have because of our standing in Christ
 - Just because we have so much in common in Christ and we love each other doesn’t mean there won’t be times that our unity is tested in its practice
- ❖ We are called and designed for a relationship of unity with other believers that we must work to maintain and protect

“What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?”

- The 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 of discipleship:
 - ✓ Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity
- Do you look forward to being with other believers, and not just your friends or those you know well?
- When you gather, does celebration rise over preference?
- Do you avoid gathering because of irritating or difficult or strange people (the ones God has given to demonstrate our true unity as His disciples)?
- A disciple always has relationships of unity – because Jesus did

Theme: *Four Phases of Discipleship*

Introduction – Going to School

- I've had 7 different "first day" at a new school (Horace Mann, East Terrill Hills, LCA, CBCA, Practical, Liberty, UVa) and 25 "first day" of a new school year

Introduction – Review

- One – One Goal of Discipleship – to become like Jesus
- Two – Two Circles of Discipleship – every disciple, every day
- Three – Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity (celebration)
- Four – Four Phases of Discipleship – "Come, and...see"
- Five – Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission, Knowledge, Imitation, Service, Multiplication

Introduction – Discipleship

- In this morning session, I'd like to look at the 2nd Phase of Discipleship – "Follow Me"
- Remember, these are like the phases of our education system (preschool, elementary, middle/high school and college) that each student must grow in and through

Follow Me

- **Key Verses:**
 - Mark 1:16-20
 - 16 *As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen.*
 - 17 *And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."*
 - 18 *Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.*
 - 19 *Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets.*
 - 20 *Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.*
 - ✓ 17 – "Follow Me" = NIV's "Come, follow me" or KJV's "Come ye after me"
 - ✓ Call – leaving their station – following Him
- **Major Intent:**
 - To help disciples grow
 - ✓ In the spiritual disciplines and habits that Jesus taught
 - ✓ Resulting in steadfast faithfulness and devoted obedience to Jesus
 - This is the **Phase of FOUNDATION**

- **Transition:** Let's look at this second phase in Jesus' ministry with His disciples...
- **Jesus' Ministry**
 - Scripture: Matthew 4:18-9:34; 11:2-13:58; Mark 1:16-5:43; Luke 4:31b-8:56; John 5:1-47
 - ✓ Calling disciples (Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 4:18-25; Luke 5:1-11)
 - ✓ Synagogue and demoniac (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37)
 - ✓ Peter's mother-in-law (Mark 1:29-34; Matthew 8:14-17; Luke 4:38-41)
 - ✓ Tour of Galilee (Mark 1:35-39; Matthew 4:23-25; Luke 4:42-44)
 - ✓ Healing of leper and paralytic (Mark 1:40-2:12; Matthew 8:1-4; 9:1-8; Luke 5:12-26)
 - ✓ Calling of Matthew (Mark 2:13-22; Matthew 9:9-17; Luke 5:27-39)
 - ✓ Controversies on Sabbath – lame man, picking grain, withered hand (John 5:1-47; Mark 2:23-3:6; Matthew 12:1-14; Luke 6:1-11)
 - ✓ Return to Galilee (Mark 3:7-12; Matthew 12:15-21)
 - ✓ Sermon on the Mount, Kingdom parables, interactions on Sabbaths (Matthew 5-9, 11-13; Mark 4-5; Luke 6-8)
- **Key Principles:**
 1. **Call people who have prepared hearts**
 - ✓ Mark 1:16-20 = “...*Simon and Andrew...*” (expressed in John 1), and “...*James... and John...*” (implied in John 1)
 - ✓ How do these suddenly leave their vocations (and lives) and follow Him?
 - ✓ Some would say it was the supernatural power of Christ but it seems more likely that it was the results of His work in the first phase (“Come and see”) = 4 months previously spent with them (John 1-4)
 - ✓ “A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.”
 - ✓ Principle 6 of the previous phase – Give disciples time to make a solid decision, now comes to fruition
 - ✓ **Like Jesus, call people who have prepared hearts**
 2. **Take the responsibility on yourself to train people**
 - ✓ Mark 1:17 – “...*I will make you become...*”
 - ✓ Jesus offers an invitation not a responsibility.
 - ✓ For the disciples, they need to respond to the invitation but the responsibility is upon Jesus (the disciple)
 - ✓ Jesus does not call anyone to anything that He is not willing to grow them into
 - ✓ **Like Jesus, take the responsibility on yourself to train people**

3. **Develop commitment in disciples in stages**

- ✓ Luke 5:1-11 = An amplification of the story of calling Simon to follow
- ✓ Luke 5:3 = Jesus asks Simon for the use of his boat – to preach from it
- ✓ Luke 5:4-5 = Jesus asks Simon to go out fishing (the preacher to the fisherman – the wrong time of day to fish)
- ✓ Luke 5:6-7 = Great catch of fish
- ✓ Luke 5:8 = Simon’s declaration – “*Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!*” = Jesus comes through in an unexpected way
- ✓ Luke 5:10 = Jesus’ response – “*Do not fear...*” = Trust me even if you don’t understand what is going on
- ✓ Luke 5:10 – Jesus’ response – “*...from now on you will be catching men.*” = If you can trust me with the little things (the boat) then you can trust me with the bigger things (the fish) and the biggest things (your life)
- ✓ **Like Jesus, develop commitment in disciples in stages**

4. **Establish disciples in the basic disciplines**

- ✓ Mark 1:21-22 = Teaching in the synagogue = Discipline of the Word
- ✓ Mark 1:23-28, 32-34 = Healing the demon possessed and ill = Discipline of Ministry
- ✓ Mark 1:29-31 = Time in Simon and Andrew’s house = Discipline of Fellowship
- ✓ Mark 1:35-36 = Praying in a secluded place = Discipline of Prayer
- ✓ Mark 1:37-39 = Going into other areas to preach = Discipline of Witnessing
- ✓ These are not all the spiritual disciplines but they are some of the core spiritual disciplines – Word, Ministry, Fellowship, Prayer and Witnessing
- ✓ **Like Jesus, establish disciples in the basic disciplines**

5. **Compassion is the motivational basis for meaningful ministry**

- ✓ Mark 1:40-2:12 = Healing of leper and paralytic
- ✓ Mark 1:41 = “*Moved with compassion...*”
- ✓ Cp. Mark 6:34; Matthew 9:36; Luke 7:12-13
- ✓ Cp. 1 Corinthians 13 – “*without love*”
- ✓ Reminder – principle of first phase = Jesus chooses people as His method
- ✓ One of the basic lessons (disciplines) that Jesus models and teaches His disciples is compassion for people
- ✓ **Like Jesus, compassion must be the motivational basis for all meaningful ministry**

6. **Teach disciples how to witness in their everyday experience**

- ✓ Mark 2:13-22 = The call of Levi (Matthew) and dinner at his house
- ✓ Mark 2:15 – “...*many tax collectors and sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many of them...*” = Jesus goes into Matthew’s world and doesn’t just take Matthew out of that world
- ✓ Keep relationships, build relationships, use relationships
- ✓ Recognize sinners will sin and your being around them doesn’t mean you condone their sin (any more than it did when Jesus did)
- ✓ Recognize that sinners are victims of the enemy not the enemy
- ✓ Share the One you have decided to follow – you can always answer why you decided for follow even if you can’t answer why someone else would or should
- ✓ **Like Jesus, teach disciples how to witness in their everyday experience**

7. Give disciples a framework for their theology

- ✓ Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5-7 = attitudes and actions, disciplines
- ✓ Matthew 5:3, 5 = Humility (worship, confession)
- ✓ Matthew 5:4; 6:14-15 = Fellowship (rejoicing, mourning, forgiveness)
- ✓ Matthew 5:6; 6:19-23, 33-34 = Priority (righteousness, eternal)
- ✓ Matthew 5:7, 43-47; 7:12 = Love (hospitality)
- ✓ Matthew 5:8, 48; 7:1-6 = Holiness
- ✓ Matthew 5:9-12, 21-26 = Peace (reconciliation, perseverance)
- ✓ Matthew 5:13-16 = Witnessing
- ✓ Matthew 5:17-20; 7:24-27 = Word (study, memorization, meditation)
- ✓ Matthew 5:27-32 = Purity (marriage)
- ✓ Matthew 5:33-37; 7:21-23 = Integrity (honesty, work)
- ✓ Matthew 6:1; 7:15-20 = Ministry (leadership)
- ✓ Matthew 5:38-42; 6:2-4 = Generosity (simplicity, sacrifice)
- ✓ Matthew 6:5-13; 7:7-11 = Prayer (solitude, silence)
- ✓ Matthew 6:16-18 = Fasting
- ✓ Matthew 6:25-32; 7:13-14 = Faith (salvation and daily life)
- ✓ **Like Jesus, give laborers a framework for their theology**

○ **This is the Phase of FOUNDATION for Jesus’ original disciples**

- Jesus...
 - ✓ Calls people with prepared hearts,
 - ✓ Takes the responsibility on himself to train people,
 - ✓ Develops commitment in stages,

- ✓ Establishes disciples in basic disciplines,
 - ✓ Has compassion as the basis of His ministry,
 - ✓ Teaches disciples how to witness in their everyday experiences, and
 - ✓ Gives disciples a framework for their theology
- **Transition:** So, how do we work in the same Phase for people today? Let's look at this second phase in your family...
- **Your Family**
 - Character of this Phase
 - ✓ This is the **Phase of FOUNDATION**
 - ✓ Your family should be doing everything like Jesus' ministry to help people grow in Him
 - Goal for this Phase
 - ✓ Your Goal is consistent commitment to Jesus, living out godly character practicing spiritual disciplines, and openly accepting accountability
 - Commitment in this Phase
 - ✓ Commitment grows in this phase to where a disciple is actively, consistently practicing the spiritual disciplines
 - Ministry Involvement in this Phase
 - ✓ A disciple has some ministry involvement as a fundamental part of their life – not leading a ministry but shadowing a mentor
 - Approaches in this Phase
 - ✓ Take up the responsibility of making a disciple of your children – you have to actively be involved in their becoming like Jesus
 - ✓ Teach them the disciplines of the faith - the disciplines are not the point, the results of the disciplines are the point (exercise or practice before the big competition)
 - ✓ Practice accountability with them – ask them how and in what are they growing being prepared to help them and for them to ask you what you are growing in (5% hear, understand and implement; 15% hear and understand; 80% hear)
 - ✓ *Illustration:* 22 years for average American Christian to complete this phase
 - ✓ Provides a place for evangelism (your own or others' contacts) in your home and on your family calendar
 - ✓ Have them serve with you when you serve and give them appropriate ways to participate

“What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?”

- The 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 of discipleship:
 - ✓ One Goal in Discipleship – to become like Jesus
 - ✓ Two Circles in Discipleship – Who and When; Every Disciple, Every Day

- ✓ Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity
- ✓ Four Phases of Discipleship – Come, and...See; Follow Me
- ✓ Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission to the master (will), Knowledge of the master's words (mind), Imitation of the master's life (character), Service in the master's ministry (actions), and Multiplication of disciples to the master (identity)
- ✓ Four Phases of Discipleship – Come, and...see (Phase of Observation)
- Are you growing in the disciplines of the Christian faith?
- Are you accountable for your growth?
- Who are you helping grow? Who is helping you?
- Upcoming sessions:
 - ✓ Tomorrow morning, we'll look at the 3rd Phase of Discipleship – “Getting a Job”
 - ✓ Tonight, we'll look at the 2nd of the Three Relationships of Discipleship – “The Work and Friendship of Classes”

Theme: *Three Relationships of Discipleship*

Introduction – The Work and Friendship of Classes

- Classroom assignments each year (except those of you being homeschooled)
- 6th grade – Bryan and I in different classes
- 9th-12 grade at CBCA – the same 20 or so people for 4 years

Introduction – Review

- One – One Goal of Discipleship – to become like Jesus
- Two – Two Circles of Discipleship – every disciple, every day
- Three – Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity (celebration)
- Four – Four Phases of Discipleship – “Come, and...see”; “Follow Me”
- Five – Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission, Knowledge, Imitation, Service, Multiplication

Introduction – Discipleship

- We looked last night at the first relationship of discipleship – Unity (School assemblies / Church services)
- Tonight, let’s look at the second Relationship – **The Work and Friendliness of Classes**

School Classes or Church Groups – Relationships of Fellowship

- School Classes – a smaller defined group than the entire school or, often, than an entire grade; open to new students; generally, you get to know them better than any other students in the school
- Church Groups – even without design, they tend to be homogeneous groups and the people you know best in the scope of a larger church
- These are relationships of fellowship based on regular contact with each other, getting to know each other better, and working together on similar projects
- This type of relationship (fellowship) functions well in medium sized groups (17-70 people) that are open and receptive of newcomers
- This level of relationship is important because it provides a sense of belonging, acceptance and help in shared tasks
- In the Bible, this relationship was fostered by the **Synagogue**

The Synagogue in the New Testament

- History
 - Destruction of the Temple
 - ✓ Temple is destroyed by the Babylonians c. 587 BC; Babylonian captivity of 70 years; Ezra rebuilds the Temple which is completed c. 515 BC

- ✓ Large numbers of Jews remaining in Babylon; Expansion of Persian, Greek and Roman Empires leads to even greater dispersion of Jews across the Middle East
- ✓ Temple is destroyed by the Romans in AD 70 during the siege of Jerusalem
- Development of the Jewish synagogue
 - ✓ House of Prayer; School of Study; Meeting Place
 - ✓ Becomes the primary “center” of Judaism with there being no Temple
- Jesus and the Disciples
 - Record at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry = Matthew 4:23; Mark 1:39
 - Matthew 4:23
 - 23 *Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.*
 - Mark 1:39
 - 39 *So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.*
 - Record in the middle of Jesus’ ministry = Matthew 9:35
 - Matthew 9:35
 - 35 *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.*
 - Record at the end of Jesus’ ministry = John 18:20
 - John 18:20
 - 20 *“I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret.”*
 - Some might take the statements as hyperbole – exaggerated statements – but consider the record given in Luke 4 (at the beginning of His ministry)
 - Jesus set an example of regular involvement with a group in the study of God’s Word, prayer and social interaction/support
- Early Church
 - Synagogue
 - Acts 9:1-2, 20
 - 1 *Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest*
 - 2 *and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.*
 - ✓ “*Lord’s disciples...synagogues*” = The early disciples continued to meet in the synagogue as the place of study of God’s word, prayer and support from those who were like them

20 *At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.*

✓ “synagogues” = Paul, following his conversion, continues to meet in the synagogues

○ Paul’s Missionary Journeys

✓ Acts 13:5 = Salamis; Acts 13:14 = Pisidian Antioch; Acts 14:1 = Iconium; Acts 17:1-2 = Thessalonica; Acts 17:10 = Berea; Acts 17:17 = Athens; Acts 18:4 = Corinth; Acts 19:8 = Ephesus

○ Fellowship – Koinonia

○ Acts 2:42

42 *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

✓ “fellowship” = Koinonia – means to share, to be a partner, to co-participate

○ The early church continued in and then broke away from the physical synagogue but continued the practice of meeting together for prayer, the study of God’s Word and social interaction/support

❖ Jesus, the disciples and the early church lived and demonstrated a relationship of fellowship (through the synagogue and then through their own fellowship) with one another

Principles for the Church Today

• How will or can the church have the same fellowship today?

○ Smaller and different groups than the worship service

• Love and Sincerity

○ Romans 12:9

9 *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.*

✓ “sincere” = genuine, without hypocrisy

○ 1 Peter 1:22

22 *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.*

✓ “sincere...deeply, from the heart” = The world has enough fake love for people to be hurt – love as family not as a business and customer

○ Sincerity and “one anothers”

✓ Greet one another = Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Peter 5:14

○ Church Groups – What to do, teach and model

✓ Knowing names

✓ Following up when missing

✓ Talking to and listening to

- Love and Loyalty
 - Romans 12:10
 - 10 *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.*
 - ✓ “*devoted*” = Used only here in NT; KJV’s “kindly affectionate”; carries idea of mutual or reciprocal affection – loyalty required for mutual or reciprocal
 - Ephesians 4:32
 - 32 *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*
 - ✓ “*forgiving*” = Forgiveness will rarely happen without loyalty and loyalty will rarely happen without forgiveness
 - Loyalty and “one anothers”
 - ✓ Forgive one another = Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13
 - ✓ Bear with one another = Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13
 - ✓ Fellowship with one another = 1 John 1:7
 - ✓ Stop passing judgment on one another = Romans 14:13
 - Church Groups – What to do, teach and model
 - ✓ Stick with one another
 - ✓ Pursue genuine forgiveness (when you have been wronged) and pursue genuine repentance (when you have wronged another)

- Love and Humility
 - Romans 12:10-12
 - 10 *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.*
 - 11 *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*
 - 12 *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*
 - ✓ “*honor*” = value, respect, reverence
 - 1 Peter 5:5
 - 5 *Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*
 - ✓ “*clothe yourselves*” = put on
 - Humility and “one anothers”
 - ✓ Humility towards one another = 1 Peter 5:5
 - ✓ Accept one another = Romans 15:7
 - ✓ Agree with one another = 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - ✓ Do not slander one another = James 4:11

- ✓ Live in harmony with one another – Romans 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8
- ✓ Submit to one another – Ephesians 5:21
- Church Groups – What to do, teach and model
 - ✓ Come when you don't feel like it – ready to serve others
 - ✓ Be actively open to invite and welcome in new people to your class (every week there's an opportunity to invite people)
- Love and Generosity
 - Romans 12:13
 - 13 *Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*
 - ✓ “Share...practice hospitality” = Provision for the known and love for the stranger
 - 1 Peter 4:9
 - 9 *Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.*
 - ✓ “without grumbling” = A right attitude must accompany the right action
 - Generosity and “one anothers”
 - ✓ Show hospitality with one another = 1 Peter 4:9
 - ✓ Encourage one another = 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25
 - ✓ Instruct one another = Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16
 - ✓ Serve one another = Galatians 5:13
 - ✓ Speak or sing to one another – Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16
 - Church Groups – What to do, teach and model
 - ✓ Give of your time to one another
 - ✓ Serve others
 - ✓ Generously share your words
- ❖ We are called and designed for a relationship of fellowship with other believers – a relationship of doing and ministry to one another (sincerity, loyalty, humility, generosity)

“What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?”

- The 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 of discipleship:
 - ✓ One Goal in Discipleship – to become like Jesus
 - ✓ Two Circles in Discipleship – Who and When; Every Disciple, Every Day
 - ✓ Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission (will), Knowledge (mind), Imitation (character), Service (actions), and Multiplication (identity)
 - ✓ Four Phases of Discipleship – Come, and...see (Observation); Follow Me (Foundation)
 - ✓ Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity (Assemblies and Services), Fellowship (Classes and Groups)

- Who are you in fellowship with? If you needed help, outside of your own family, who could you call?
- Where do you get to practice your sincerity, loyalty, humility and generosity? Where are you modeling these?
- A disciple always has relationships of fellowship – because Jesus did

Theme: *Four Phases of Discipleship*

Introduction – Getting a Job

- There really is a point to school – preparing you for life and a job

Introduction – Review

- One – One Goal of Discipleship – to become like Jesus
- Two – Two Circles of Discipleship – every disciple, every day
- Three – Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity (celebration), Fellowship (care and teamwork)
- Four – Four Phases of Discipleship – “Come, and...see”; “Follow Me”
- Five – Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission, Knowledge, Imitation, Service, Multiplication

Introduction – Discipleship

- In this morning session, I’d like to look at the 3rd Phase of Discipleship – “Go, preach”
- Remember, these are like the phases of our education system (preschool, elementary, middle/high school and college) that each student must grow in and through
- So, let’s look at the third Phase – **Getting a Job**

Go, preach

- **Key Verses:**
 - Matthew 10:7-8
 - 7 *And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*
 - 8 *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.*
 - ✓ two commands = go (continued from verse 6) and preach or proclaim
 - ✓ This is the record of Jesus sending out the 12 as teams of two to carry His ministry to other towns and villages
- **Major Intent:**
 - To help deepen a disciple’s spiritual habits
 - ✓ Adding leadership to their ministry involvement
 - ✓ Resulting in more Christ-like character steadfast, and
 - ✓ Producing more fruit in their lives
 - This is the **Phase of LEADERSHIP**
 - **Transition:** Let’s look at this third phase in Jesus’ ministry with His disciples...

- **Jesus' Ministry**
 - Scripture: Matthew 9:35-11:1; 14:1-26:16; Mark 6:1-14:11; Luke 9:1-22:6; John 6:1-12:50
 - ✓ This includes the most teaching (sermons and parables) and ministry (healings and miracles)
 - ✓ Included: Feeding 5000, walking on water, casting demons into pigs, raising Lazarus
 - ✓ Starts with Jesus turning some ministry responsibility over to disciples
 - ✓ Ends with Jesus gathering disciples the night before His crucifixion

- **Key Principles:**
 - 1. Establish a laboring team to achieve spiritual multiplication**
 - ✓ Matthew 10:1, 5 = “*Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority...These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them...*”
 - ✓ This is later amplified in the sending of the 70 in Luke 10
 - ✓ This is what will become the larger group (120 people) of Acts 1
 - ✓ This become the Body of Christ – 1 Corinthians 12
 - ✓ **Like Jesus, establishing a spiritual team achieves greater spiritual multiplication**

 - 2. Set three primary goals for laborers:**
 - To possess deep convictions concerning the laboring task
 - ✓ Matthew 9:35-38 = “*...He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.*”
 - To experience supervised training under the guidance of a mentor
 - ✓ Matthew 10; Luke 10 = Twelve and seventy sent out and received back = “*The seventy returned with joy...*”
 - To learn and develop ministry skills
 - ✓ Matthew 10:7-8 = “*...preach...Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast*
 - ✓ **Like Jesus, set the goals of deep convictions, supervised training and ministry skills for laborers**

 - 3. Show laborers the true nature of proclaiming the Word**
 - ✓ Matthew 13:1-9 (10-23)
 - ✓ 3 – “*...sower went out to sow...*” = a sower sows
 - ✓ 4 – “*...some seeds fell beside the road...*” = the heart that neither receives or understands the word of God
 - ✓ 5 – “*Others fell on the rocky places...*” = the heart that receives but barely understands and so barely grows

- ✓ 7 – “*Others fell among the thorns...*” = the heart that hears and receives but allows other things to draw away its health and growth
- ✓ 8 – “*And others fell on the good soil...*” = the heart that hears, understands, grows and produces a harvest
- ✓ A sower sows but not all soils will receive the Word – yet the sower sows
- ✓ **Like Jesus, show laborers the true nature of proclaiming the Word**

4. Focus on receptive hearts

- ✓ Matthew 13:8, 23 “*yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty*”
- ✓ The principle of multiplication – coming full circle to original principle (establishing a team)
- ✓ It doesn’t mean ignore others (see previous principle) but it means finding out where God is working and put your best effort there – so as to multiply your effort
- ✓ The labor with one receptive heart yields two workers to address the least receptive hearts
- ✓ **Like Jesus, focus on receptive hearts**

○ **This is the Phase of LEADERSHIP for Jesus’ original disciples**

○ Jesus...

- ✓ Establishes a laboring team to achieve spiritual multiplication
- ✓ Sets three primary goals for laborers: (1) possess deep convictions concerning the laboring task; (2) experience supervised training under the guidance of a mentor; (3) learn and develop ministry skills
- ✓ Show laborers the true nature of proclaiming the Word
- ✓ Focus on receptive hearts

○ **Transition:** So, how do we work in the same Phase for people today? Let’s look at this third phase in your family...

● **Your Family**

○ Character of this Phase

- ✓ This is the **Phase of LEADERSHIP**
- ✓ Your family won’t usually engage your children in this phase until they are in middle or, more likely, high school
- ✓ Until they are ready for leadership, you have to be involving them in the work and modeling the leadership they will one day have

- Goal for this Phase
 - ✓ Your Goal is developing Christian disciples, demonstrating servant leadership in Christian ministry, sharing His compassion for the lost at all cost, and producing fruit that lasts.
- Commitment in this Phase
 - ✓ Commitment starts with adoption of areas of ministry and leadership, then grows to wholehearted living for Christ with a willingness to suffer for Him
- Ministry Involvement in this Phase
 - ✓ Disciples move from ministry involvement to ministry leadership, consistently driven to recruit and mentor others
- Approaches in this Phase
 - ✓ On-the-job training with return and review built-in

“What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?”

- The 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 of discipleship:
 - ✓ One Goal in Discipleship – to become like Jesus
 - ✓ Two Circles in Discipleship – Who and When; Every Disciple, Every Day
 - ✓ Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity (Assemblies and Services), Fellowship (Classes and Groups)
 - ✓ Four Phases of Discipleship – Come, and...see (Observation); Follow Me (Foundation); Go, preach (Leadership)
 - ✓ Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission (will), Knowledge (mind), Imitation (character), Service (actions), and Multiplication (identity)
- Are you preparing for the leadership God wants you to have as his disciple?
- Who are you learning leadership from?
- How has God made you (for what area of leadership)?

Introduction – The Help and Growth with Tutors

- Being Grandpa Kroll’s helper – carpentry, plumbing, potatoes, and bees
- Often for real growth you need real personal instruction and help

Introduction – Review

- One – One Goal of Discipleship – to become like Jesus
- Two – Two Circles of Discipleship – every disciple, every day
- Three – Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity (celebration), Fellowship (care and teamwork)
- Four – Four Phases of Discipleship – “Come, and...see”; “Follow Me”; “Go, preach”
- Five – Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission, Knowledge, Imitation, Service, Multiplication

Introduction – Discipleship

- We looked last night at the second relationship of discipleship – Fellowship (School classes / Church groups)
- Tonight, let’s look at the third Relationship – **The Help and Growth with Tutors**

School Tutors and Teachers or Spiritual Mentors – Relationships of Intimacy

- Tutor, Teacher, Spiritual Mentor – someone with the knowledge of the area of growth and a willingness to help another attain it
- These are relationships of intimacy focused on spiritual growth through the help, encouragement and challenge of others who are growing
- This type of relationship (intimacy) functions well in one-on-one relationships or small sized groups (7-17 people) that eventually become closed to others and is important because it provides individualized attention to specific areas of growth
- In the Bible, this relationship was fostered by the **Twelve**

The Twelve in the First Century Context

- Greek and Roman Culture
 - μαθητης – learner then adherent
 - ✓ From the verb μανθανειν – meaning “to learn”
 - ✓ Originally meant “learner” or “student”
 - ✓ With the rise of the Philosophical schools, it came to mean “adherent”
 - Wilken, “The progression to ‘adherent’ in Hellenism at the time of Christ and the early church made μαθητης a convenient term to designate the followers of Jesus, because the emphasis in the common use of the term was not upon ‘learning,’ or upon being a pupil, but upon adherence to a great master. (Discipleship in the Ancient World, p. 42)

- Jewish culture
 - Development of Jewish leaders around the first century as rabbis (revered, lord, master)
 - First Century – pre-rabbis were the sages or teachers particularly in the Pharisaic tradition
 - Matthew 23:15
 - 15 *Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.*
 - The convert would be a disciple of the rabbi
- ❖ In the Jewish culture as in the larger Greco-Roman culture, the “disciple” was more than a learner (of knowledge) but an adherent to a master and involved in an intimate relationship with the master
- ❖ Discipleship is accomplished through a relationship of intimacy
- ❖ It is possible to have a family (or church) without a relationship of intimacy but it not possible to have genuine discipleship without a relationship of intimacy

Principles for the Family today

- Intimacy develops in a relationship limited in size
 - Calling of Twelve
 - Matthew 10:1-2; Mark 3:14-16; Luke 6:13-16
 - John 6:66-71
 - 66 *From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.*
 - 67 *"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.*
 - 68 *Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*
 - 69 *We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."*
 - 70 *Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!"*
 - 71 *(He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)*
 - ✓ “*many of his disciples...the Twelve*” = While the word “disciple” is used, there is a definite distinction between the crowds and the small group of 12 that follow Him
 - ✓ “*Have not I chosen you, the Twelve*” = The distinction is that Jesus chose these (the Twelve) to follow Him
- Challenge for Us
 - ✓ Discipleship Relationship (One-on-One or Groups) – beyond classes (too large), not only Bible studies (more accountability) and not based on curriculum (like Crown)
 - ✓ “Discovery, Growth, Leadership and Life” Groups

- Intimacy develops in a relationship that is on-going
 - Jesus spends about 3 years with His disciples
 - John 1 compared to Mark 1 = John 1 is the initial invitation to “Come and See” while Mark 1 is a subsequent invitation to “Come and Follow Me” (4+ months from one to the other)
 - John 2:23
 - 23 *Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name.*
 - ✓ “Passover” = During “Come and See” phase
 - John 6:4
 - 4 *The Jewish Passover Feast was near.*
 - ✓ “Passover” = Not the same as the previous – Cp. John 4:45 and 5:1 (another feast); During the “Follow Me” phase
 - John 11:55
 - 55 *When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover.*
 - ✓ “Passover” = During the “Be with Me” phase
 - Challenge for Us
 - ✓ Time helps facilitate intimacy
 - ✓ The more time you spend with someone, the greater opportunity there is for intimacy
 - ✓ On-going requires a commitment to the Master and His work in your life

- Intimacy develops in a relationship that is in-depth
 - Jesus was involved in every aspect of the disciples’ lives
 - Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21 = New relationships
 - Matthew 8:14-34
 - 14 *When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.*
 - ✓ “into Peter’s house” = this is no casual relationship
 - 19 *Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."*
 - 20 *Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*
 - ✓ “no place to lay his head” = This is a demanding relationship
 - 21 *Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."*
 - 22 *But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."*
 - ✓ “let the dead bury their own dead” = This is a demanding relationship
 - 23 *Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.*

24 *Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.*

✓ “a furious storm cam up” = This is a close quarters relationship often called upon in difficult situations

28 *When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way.*

✓ “two demon-possessed men” = This is a relationship of challenges

34 *Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.*

✓ “pleaded with him to leave” = This is a relationship that not all will want

○ Challenge for Us

✓ While time facilitates, in-depth is what accomplishes intimacy

✓ In-depth is where accountability is found and will lead to intentionality

● Intimacy best allows for the pursuit of spiritual disciplines and character

○ Not the only but the best

○ Jesus started His training of His disciples with four basic disciplines: God’s Word, Prayer, Fellowship and Evangelism

○ Mark 1:21-38

21 *They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.*

22 *The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.*

✓ “began to teach” = Discipline of God’s Word

29 *As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.*

30 *Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her.*

31 *So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.*

✓ “home of Simon and Andrew” = Discipline of Fellowship

35 *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

✓ “prayed” = Discipline of Prayer

36 *Simon and his companions went to look for him,*

37 *and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"*

38 *Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else-- to the nearby villages-- so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."*

✓ “preach there also” = Discipline of Evangelism

- Challenge for Us
 - ✓ Growth in more than knowledge – it’s the transformation of actions (disciplines) and attitudes (character)
 - ✓ Commitment to growth

- ❖ We are called and designed for a relationship of intimacy with other disciples – a relationship of growing

“What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?”

- The 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 of discipleship:
 - ✓ One Goal in Discipleship – to become like Jesus
 - ✓ Two Circles in Discipleship – Who and When; Every Disciple, Every Day
 - ✓ Four Phases of Discipleship – Come, and...see (Phase of Observation); Follow Me (Phase of Foundation)
 - ✓ Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission to the master (will), Knowledge of the master’s words (mind), Imitation of the master’s life (character), Service in the master’s ministry (actions), and Multiplication of disciples to the master (identity)
 - ✓ Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity (Assemblies and Services), Fellowship (Classes and Groups), Intimacy (Tutors and Mentors)
- Who really knows you? Knows where you need to grow? Knows where you need help?
- Who do you have an on-going, in-depth relationship with? Parents, who will have this more than you with your kids?
- A disciple always has relationships of intimacy – because Jesus did

Theme: *Four Phases of Discipleship*

Introduction – Living a Life

- The struggles of post-High School or post-College Young Adults (wanting and now having freedom but not sure what to do with it)
- “What do you want to be when you grow up?” moves from dreams of the future to the reality of the present

Introduction – Review

- One – One Goal of Discipleship – to become like Jesus
- Two – Two Circles of Discipleship – every disciple, every day
- Three – Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity (celebration), Fellowship (care and teamwork), Intimacy (Growth)
- Four – Four Phases of Discipleship – “Come, and...see”; “Follow Me”; “Go, preach”
- Five – Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission, Knowledge, Imitation, Service, Multiplication

Introduction – Discipleship

- In this morning session, I’d like to look at the 4th Phase of Discipleship – “Abide in Me”
- Remember, these are like the phases of our education system (preschool, elementary, middle/high school and college) that each student must grow in and through
- So, let’s look at the fourth Phase – **Living a Life**

Abide in Me

- **Key Verses:**
 - John 15:4-8
 - 4 *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.*
 - 5 *I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*
 - 6 *If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.*
 - 7 *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*
 - 8 *My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.*
 - ✓ 7 – “*abide in Me*” (KJV) = NIV’s “*remain in Me*” = relationship of the branches to the vine (cp. 15:5 and 15:6)

- ✓ If we don't abide = we can do nothing, we are thrown away, we dry up, we are burned
- ✓ If we do abide = we will have done what we ask, we will glorify the Father, we will bear much fruit, we will prove to be His disciples

- **Major Intent:**

- To persevere in a lifestyle of Christ-likeness – resulting in:
 - ✓ Continual personal growth and
 - ✓ Training and equipping of new disciplemakers
- This is the **Phase of CONTINUATION**
- **Transition:** Let's look at this fourth phase in Jesus' ministry with His disciples...

- **Jesus' Ministry**

- Scripture: John 13:1-17:26
 - ✓ This is the shortest of the phases (First = 4 months; Second = 10 months; Third = 20 months; Fourth = 1 days {or about 40 if to the ascension})
 - ✓ This is the events and discourse of the Upper Room on the evening before His betrayal

- **Key Principles:**

1. **Humility is a vital key to effective leadership**

- ✓ John 13:3-5 = Jesus washes the disciples' feet
- ✓ John 13:6-11 = Peter refuses to have Jesus wash his feet
- ✓ John 13:12-17 = Jesus instructs them to follow His example
- ✓ **Jesus is raising leaders – humility is a vital key to effective leadership**

2. **The love of Christians for one another is the most powerful form of evangelism**

- ✓ John 13:31-35 = Jesus gives them the new command to love one another – what's new is not the content of the command but the comparison in the command (“as I have loved you”)
- ✓ How has Jesus loved them? He has loved Peter who (13:36-38) He knows will deny Him
- ✓ How has Jesus loved them? He has loved Judas who (13:21-30) He know will betray Him
- ✓ How has Jesus loved them? He has loved them enough to lay down His life for them (15:13)
- ✓ **Jesus is raising leaders – the love of Christians for one another is the most powerful form of evangelism**

3. **Obedience is the proof of love**

- ✓ John 14:15, 23-24 = “keep” means to guard, protect, preserve, observe, obey
- ✓ Disciples cannot love without obedience (nor can children, employees or citizens)
- ✓ 14:23 = “keep” is future – the one who loves obeys (going forward not merely in the past)
- ✓ 14:24 = “not love...not keep” are in the present – the one who does not love does not keep
- ✓ **Jesus is raising leaders – obedience is the proof of love**

4. **Make sure that you understand and apply the ministry of the Holy Spirit**

- ✓ John 14:16-17 = He indwells us
- ✓ John 14:25-26 = He teaches us
- ✓ John 15:26 = He testifies to us
- ✓ John 16:7, 8-11 = He convicts of sin, righteous and judgment
- ✓ John 16:13-14 = He guides us
- ✓ **Jesus is raising leaders – make sure you understand and apply the ministry of the Holy Spirit**
- ✓ Consider the transformation in the disciples from before to after receiving the Holy Spirit (Bill Hull, Jesus Christ, Disciplemaker, p. 224)

- **Transition:** So what do we want to see of this final phase of growth in your own ministry...

• **Your Family**

- Character of this Phase
 - ✓ This is the **Phase of CONTINUATION**
 - ✓ Your family won't usually engage your children in this phase until likely they are young adults
 - ✓ Until they have taken leadership, you have to be involving them in the work and modeling the leadership they will one day have
- Goal for this Phase
 - ✓ Disciples in this phase will display the qualities of a leader following after Christ.
- Commitment in this Phase
 - ✓ Disciples will be committed even unto suffering and death.
- Ministry Involvement in this Phase
 - ✓ Disciples will be serving, leading, training, equipping and reproducing
- Approaches in this Phase
 - ✓ Discipleship relationship

- ✓ On-the-job training of others in ministry
- ✓ Teaching/leading Bible Studies and ministries

“What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?”

- The 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 of discipleship:
 - ✓ One Goal in Discipleship – to become like Jesus
 - ✓ Two Circles in Discipleship – Who and When; Every Disciple, Every Day
 - ✓ Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity, Fellowship
 - ✓ Four Phases of Discipleship – Come, and...see; Follow Me; Go, preach; Abide in Me
 - ✓ Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission to the master (will), Knowledge of the master’s words (mind), Imitation of the master’s life (character), Service in the master’s ministry (actions), and Multiplication of disciples to the master (identity)
- Are you preparing continuing in all you have learned (will, mind, character, actions and identity)?
- Are you in the Vine? Are you living so He can produce fruit in and through you?

Theme: *Definition of a Disciple*

Introduction – Final Challenge

- Example of “*making cars*”

Introduction – Review

- One – One Goal of Discipleship – to become like Jesus
- Two – Two Circles of Discipleship – every disciple, every day
- Three – Three Relationships of Discipleship – Unity (celebration), Fellowship (care and teamwork)
- Four – Four Phases of Discipleship – “Come, and...see”; “Follow Me”; “Go, preach”; “Abide in Me”
- Five – Five Characteristics of a Disciple – Submission, Knowledge, Imitation, Service, Multiplication

Introduction – Discipleship

- Tonight, let’s put it all together – **Final Challenge**

A Definition of “disciple”

- My church, Northside Baptist Church, has expressed our mission (what we do) as: **we exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ both here and abroad**. This is our mission statement.
- But saying we exist to make disciples without defining what a disciple is or by what process they are made is like an automobile manufacturer saying they exist to make cars.
 - ✓ What do they mean by cars – gas, electric, compact, sedan, truck, etc.?
 - ✓ How do they make them – by what process are they designed, put together, delivered, sold, serviced, etc.?
- So, how do we define “disciple”? Webster’s defines a disciple as “*one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another; one of the twelve in the inner circle of Christ’s followers according to the Gospel accounts; a convinced adherent of a school or individual.*” But that definition is either too specific (only applying to one of Jesus’ original disciples) or too general (applying to followers of any teacher, school or religious system).
- The leadership of our church went through a study of the New Testament (including over 1400 statements in the Gospels and Epistles about what a disciples is or does) to come to a Biblical understanding of what is a disciple and how are they made. We have come to the following definition of a disciple:
 - ✓ *A disciple of Jesus is a person who has committed himself to increasingly becoming more like Jesus through the intentional and sequential process of growth that Jesus used with His original disciples.*

- There are several important parts to our definition:
 - ✓ *disciple of Jesus* = we are not talking about or concerned with how disciples are made of other teachers or religions
 - ✓ *committed* = discipleship involves a commitment and dedication to that commitment – not merely interested or intrigued {think **2 Circles**}
 - ✓ *become like Jesus* = that’s the goal of being a disciple (to become like the master) {think **1 Goal**}
 - ✓ *intentional process* = that Jesus taught very specific truths, disciplines, habits, character qualities and actions to and for His disciples {think **5 Characteristics**}
 - ✓ *sequential process* = that Jesus taught His disciples in a very particular way to bring about growth in their lives in stages {think **3 Relationships** and **4 Phases**}
- Banana Split Recipe = description (definition), ingredients (characteristics) and steps (phases)

The Responsibility of Discipleship

- In a church, the church leadership bears the responsibility to lead the congregation – to provide the setting and structures necessary for growth.
- In a church, the church members bear the responsibility to follow Christ – to pursue growth in Christ.
- In a family, parents bears the responsibility to lead their children – to provide the setting and structures necessary for growth.
- In a family, the children bear the responsibility to follow Christ – to pursue growth in Christ.
- In all things, we recognize that it is submission to the work of the Holy Spirit that actually brings growth.

Final Challenge

- Be disciples of Jesus (1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5)
- Don’t fall into the trap of “being a Christian” (like being a Floridian) – it is who I am but it rarely impacts my daily life
- You can do a whole lot of things (glorify God, evangelize the lost, care for the sick, memorize God’s Word, etc.) without being a disciple or making disciples, but you can’t be a true disciple of Jesus Christ and not do all those things
- Help the next generation to be better disciples of Jesus than we have been
- **Family Homework:**
 - ✓ Talk through and write your own definition of a disciple
 - ✓ Live as disciples and help each other to do the same

Q & A

- One Goal, Two Circles, Three Relationships, Four Phases, Five Characteristics