

Better

MISSIONALLY



Luke 12:13-21 & Matthew 28:18-20

Many people live busy lives, but few live on mission. Jesus didn't leave His followers with a vague sense of purpose. He gave them a clear mission: "Make disciples." That mission isn't just for professional pastors or missionaries; it's for every follower of Christ. It's a mission grounded in Jesus' authority, guided by His instruction, and empowered by His presence.

As a church, we summarize this calling in our mission to: Discover, Develop, and Deploy Disciples. We want to help people discover new life in Christ, develop into fully formed followers of Jesus, and deploy their lives in service to His Kingdom. However, mission drift is a genuine concern, and many well-intentioned believers become distracted or discouraged. Today's study calls us back to the core of why we're here.

ICEBREAKER

What's something you once got excited about (a hobby, skill, or project) but slowly drifted away from over time?

READ IT

Read Luke 12:13-21 & Matthew 28:18-20

GET IT

1. In the passage from Luke, what mission was the man in Jesus' parable consumed with?

2. What is the lesson Jesus is teaching in this parable?
3. In Matthew 28, what are the key components of the mission Jesus gave His disciples?
4. On what authority does Jesus give this mission?
5. What promise does Jesus give us in carrying out this mission?

LIVE IT

In Luke 12:13–21, Jesus tells a parable about a man who experienced a good thing: “his land produced plentifully”. But instead of seeing his success as an opportunity to bless others or advance God's purposes, he hoarded his gain, tore down his barns to build bigger ones, and planned a life of comfort: “relax, eat, drink, and be merry.”

His fatal mistake wasn't theft or immorality; it was living as if his life belonged to him. This story is a sobering reminder for disciples today: even good things like success, security, or even leisure, can quietly drift us away from God's mission for us.

In a culture that prizes comfort and personal freedom, many believers are tempted to trade missional living for manageable living. But Jesus doesn't call us to build bigger barns, He calls us to build His Kingdom.

6. Jesus critiques the rich man not for being rich, but for storing up treasure for himself and not being “rich toward God.” What do you think it means to be “rich toward God”?
7. In what ways are comfort, security, or leisure potentially shaping your decisions more than Christ's mission right now?

- 8. If an objective observer were to observe your life, your time, priorities, and conversations, what would they say your life's mission is? How does that align with the mission Christ has called you to?**

John Piper famously said, "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't."¹ The reason we "go" is because there are people who do not yet know the joy of treasuring Christ.

Empowered by Jesus' authority, we go into the world to proclaim who He is and to persuade others to follow Him. When people "observe all that [Jesus] commanded," they aren't merely following rules, they're aligning their lives with the One who is worthy of their devotion and worship.

Our church embraces this mission through our commitment to "Discover, Develop, and Deploy Disciples." We want to help people discover new life in Christ, develop into spiritually mature followers, and deploy their gifts and lives for God's Kingdom, wherever He has placed them. This mission isn't just for church leaders; it belongs to all of us who follow Jesus.

- 9. Piper's quote reminds us that this mission is needed not only here but also around the world. How can your pursuit of worship fuel your desire to reach others?**

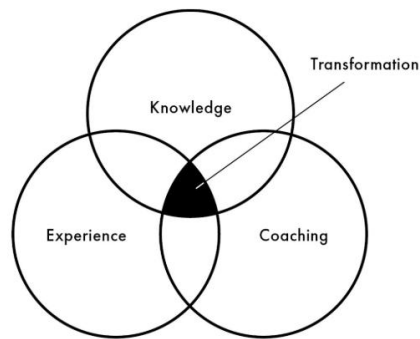
- 10. What's the difference between "observing all that Jesus commanded" and simply trying to be a good person? How can we help others see that difference?**

¹ John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010), p. 11.

- 11. What are some common barriers that keep everyday Christians from embracing this mission as their own? How can we help each other overcome them?**

When Jesus said to teach people to “observe” everything He commanded, He wasn’t just talking about content delivery. Biblical discipleship is transformational, not just informational. Mac Lake outlines three key elements necessary for spiritual transformation:

- Knowledge – Learning the truths of Scripture
- Experience – Obeying and applying what’s been learned
- Coaching – Receiving feedback and encouragement along the way



This aligns with how Jesus trained His disciples: He taught them (knowledge), sent them out (experience), and debriefed them when they returned (coaching; cf. Luke 9–10).²

- 12. Where do you see these areas of transformational discipleship involved in the mission Jesus gave His followers in Matthew 28?**

² Mac Lake, *Leading Yourself: Developing the Character and Competency to Lead Yourself* (Tampa, FL: Multiply Group, 2020), xvi–xvii.

13. Which of the three areas – knowledge, experience, or coaching – has played the most significant role in your growth as a disciple?

14. What happens when we neglect one of these? (E.g., *Knowledge + Practice but no coaching, or Practice + Coaching but no knowledge*)

Living on mission isn't just about going somewhere; it's about being someone God can work through, wherever you are. Jesus' command to "make disciples" assumes participation from all believers, not just pastors or ministry staff. That means each of us is uniquely wired for Kingdom impact.

Mac Lake emphasizes the importance of self-leadership through the discovery and deployment of our skills, passions, and spiritual gifts.

This echoes 1 Peter 4:10, where Peter urges, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." The Apostle Paul similarly describes the church as a body made up of many parts, each playing its own essential role (Romans 12:4–8; 1 Corinthians 12).

15. What are some personal skills and passions you feel God has given you and how have you seen those gifts affirmed by others in your life?

16. What are some reasons people (yourself included) might hold back from using their gifts for God's mission?

17. How well are you currently leveraging your God-given strengths and passions to live effectively on mission?

18. Take a moment to consider your strengths, passions, and desired impact and write out a specific mission statement for your own life.

*Example: "To encourage and equip (STRENGTHS) leaders (PASSION) to multiply multipliers. (DESIRED IMPACT)"*³

³ Mac Lake, Leading Yourself: Developing the Character and Competency to Lead Yourself (Tampa, FL: Multiply Group, 2020), 17.

INTRODUCING “BETTER: DISCIPLESHIP FROM THE INSIDE OUT”

Discipleship isn't just about what we know but who we are becoming. The call to follow Jesus is an invitation to a transformed life. Jesus calls us to a *better* way, one that begins in the heart and flows outward into every thought, every word, every relationship, and every decision.

When Jesus called His disciples, He reshaped their priorities, their values, and their way of life. As they walked with Him day by day, their character and conduct began to reflect His. That same transformation is His goal for us through the daily, patient work of His Spirit forming us from the inside out.

This series, *Better: Discipleship from the Inside Out*, takes that vision seriously. If we want to grow as disciples of Jesus, we must begin with the most foundational area of leadership, the leadership of our own lives. Self-leadership in the Christian life is not about willpower or self-improvement; it's about daily surrender to Christ and intentionally cultivating habits of life that align with His way.

Over the coming weeks, we will explore six areas where Jesus calls us to grow: missionally, emotionally, collaboratively, intellectually, physically, and relationally. These aren't separate compartments to check off, but connected aspects of a whole life shaped by the gospel. As we grow in one, we find the others strengthened. This is what discipleship does, it works from the inside out, touching every part of who we are.

While this series draws inspiration from Mac Lake's *Leading Yourself*, our purpose is not to teach a book but to preach the Bible. His framework provides a helpful structure, but the heart of this series is God's Word, anchored in Scripture, centered on Christ, and aimed at the transformation of His people.

Our prayer is that we will not only learn about the better way, but that we will live it. That we will see where our lives are divided and invite the Spirit to bring wholeness. That we will not settle for partial discipleship, but pursue an integrated life of faith that is shaped by Christ in every part, from the inside out.

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

Our small group series is built around many of the key ideas found in *Leading Yourself* by Mac Lake.

This practical and insightful book is a valuable companion to the discussions we'll be having together. If you're looking to grow in personal leadership, character, and spiritual maturity, we highly recommend picking up a copy to read alongside the weekly lessons.

DISCIPLING LEADERS SERIES

LEADING YOURSELF

TRAINING GUIDE

Developing the
Character and Competency
to Lead Yourself

Mac Lake

Foreword by John C. Maxwell

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