HOW TO MAKE DISCIPLES | Geldart | 10/13/24 | Tru Community Church

1. Welcome & Announcements

- a. Connect Cards
- b. Giving
- c. Potluck
- d. Directory Updates
- e. Xmas Bureau
- f. Oasis deadline

2. [1] Multiply Series

- a. [2] Mat 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
- b. General and personal senses
 - i. For our purposes: personal discipleship is this:
 - ii. [3] intentionally meeting together with someone else for the purpose of helping that person grow in Christian maturity and learn to do the same with others

3. We've talked about high level view of dship

- a. What is it and why did Jesus call us to do it how it's far more powerful to invest in this multiplying growth strategy over a traditional addition strategy
- b. Then last wk we moved down to treetop height.
 - i. talked about how to think about the process of dship
 - ii. and **how to find yourself in dship**. 4 chairs, where you're at and what a next step could look like.
- c. Today we're finally getting down to the ground level. Boots on the ground.
 - i. We're going to engage with some of the questions I've heard from yall that boil down to essentially: how exactly would I do this? What would it look like specifically? → HOW TO MAKE DISCIPLES

4. We're going to approach this from the negative

- a. The evil one loves nothing more than disrupting the plans of the Father.
- b. And his favorite attack is on the church, esp the unity and work of believers
- c. And as we've seen, personal dship is the most powerful and effective method of accomplishing the Work of Jesus in our world, in the church, and in our own hearts.
- d. So of course he'd want to disrupt dship!
- e. One of the most effective ways he does this is through lies and half truths that would discourage believers from following this way.

f. And since Halloween is coming up, And today's the 13th, we'll hit unlucky 13:

5. [4] 13 Common (and powerfully destructive) Discipleship Misconceptions:

- a. Ones each of us likely can resonate with. Most of them likely.
- b. Lets address these lies and misconceptions with truth.
- c. PRAY

1. [5] This is just a men thing – only men on the chairs last Sunday

- a. NOPE
- b. JC had women disciples (not among the 12, but in the broader group of his disciples)
 - i. [6] Lk 8:1-3-- After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³ Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.
 - ii. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna
 - iii. Luke makes it clear that this larger group of JC's disciples included many women
 - 1. Mary and Martha of Bethany
 - 2. Salome
- c. Early Church lists many women among Christian disciples and leaders
 - i. Priscilla
 - ii. Lydia
 - iii. Junia even listed as a female apostle in the early church!
- d. The NT encourages older women to invest in and disciple younger women
 - i. Titus 2:3-5
- e. This is a BODY OF CHRIST everyone thing.
- f. Every member a minister
- g. Every disciple a disciplemaker

2. [7] This is just for the young/in college

- a. NOPE
- b. Discipleship is not just for college students
 - i. IN a college town/area, can be the conception among some.
 - ii. And indeed campus ministry has been pivotal to the rediscovery of dship in the modern, American church

- c. Yes, they typically have more time to engage in discipleship
- d. But the call to go and make disciples is for everyone, regardless of your age, life stage, etc.

3. [8] You have to be OLDER than your disciple

- a. NOPE
- b. Paul with Timothy he was younger...
- c. Not true. Sure, human nature tends to think that people older than them are wiser and more mature. Easier for the younger to trust and submit to the older because of this.
- d. But it's completely possible (common) in the body of Christ for someone younger in age to be more mature in Christ, especially if they've been following Christ longer.
- e. And all else being equal, if you can find someone older AND more mature in Christ to disciple you, Great! But beware of constraining your options to this ONLY. God may have something else in mind for you.
- f. ITS Not about age → Maturity

4. [9] You have to be very mature in Christ and know a lot

- a. NOPE
- b. Paul and Barnabas would win ppl to Christ, plant churches, set up the most mature among them to be elders
 - i. [10] Acts 14:23 -- ²¹ They preached the gospel in that city [Derbe] and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,
 - strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.
 - "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.
 - ²³ Paul and Barnabas appointed elders^[a] for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.
 - ii. (also in Titus 1:5, Paul instructs titus to do the same)
- c. Maturity is relative
 - i. JC tells the Demoniac to go back and tell everyone what He'd done for him
 - 1. Luke 8:26-39
 - 2. Later on he brings MANY PEOPLE to jesus
- d. If you're very young in the faith and being discipling someone else, it can work!
 - i. There's always someone younger in the faith than you that you can pour into.
 - ii. Even peer-to peer discipleship can be quite successful.

iii. [11] MENTORING & PEER DISCIPLESHIP

- 1. Mentoring Dship (often what most ppl think of)
 - a. Someone more mature invests in helping someone younger than them in the faith grow

- 2. Peer Dship is when believers with similar maturities intentionally meet together to help each other grow
- 3. They commit to offering their perspective to the other, praying for them through the week, etc
 - a. Note with peer dship, still requires someone to take the lead
 - b. Sometimes they trade off weeks with one person in focus one week and the other the next.
 - c. Someone to bring the intentional direction, plan, questions, etc
 - d. Could alternate
- 4. Both can work great!
 - a. There are opportunities for BOTH These flavors of Dship at Tru
- e. You can get started right now

i. [12] Share what you know with who you know

- 1. And go from there.
- 2. Take the journey together. If you don't know something, don't fake it. Say "I don't know, but I'm gonna try to find out." This kind of authentic humble modeling can be great discipleship stuff in itself!
- 3. And as you dive deeper into discipleship, you'll inevitably begin to naturally feel the need to get better equipped!
- 4. Also a good thing!

5. [13] You have to have BEEN discipled first

- a. NOPE -- It's just not true
- b. The core of offering discipleship to someone else is your willingness to love, engage, and prayerfully offer your presence and observations to them. The rest will come
- c. Don't buy into this lie that you can't disciple others if you haven't been personally discipled in the same way!
 - i. Much of the Xian life is Jesus calling you to take steps that seem new
 - ii. Yes having been discipled helps
 - iii. But it's by no means a prerequisite (a particularly powerful Misconception, and one that effectively keeps many from stepping into this call of Christ)

6. [14] You have to meet in a church building, or a coffee shop

- a. NOPE
- b. JC discipled During the course of normal life.
 - i. Out and about
 - ii. In ppls homes
 - iii. On the road
 - iv. Making meals

- v. Taking them with him when he ministered to others (modeling
- c. Discipleship happens in real life.
 - For many, going to a coffee shop or restaurant works best because it's before work, or over a lunch break, and offers an easy meeting space with reasonable expectation of relative privacy.
 - ii. But NO, there's no formula.
 - iii. The great POWER is the form is flexible across cultures, times, and places!

7. [15] When you meet you're supposed read, confess sins, and pray

- a. NOPE
- b. FLEXIBLE framework
- c. No clear biblical teaching about exactly what that time together is supposed to look like
- d. Some clear inferences of goals
 - i. Increased maturity in Christ
 - ii. Knowledge of the scriptures
 - iii. Ability to feed self on the word
 - iv. Increasing ability to teach others
 - v. Prayer
 - vi. Engagement with the body of Christ
 - vii. Ministry heart toward others

e. [16] What I do:

- i. I disciple 1 on 1. Triads can be great too!
- ii. Usually for 1-1.5 hrs
 - 1. Often we meet out for lunch or coffee.
 - 2. Sometimes on a walk around the park.

iii. Rarely do I commit off the bat to meeting with someone in perpetuity

- 1. Start with a shorter study, allows gage of interest, and easy exit after that if needed.
- 2. I usually start taking through Gospel Centered Life.
- 3. Leader's guide meant for small groups, but works great for this
- 4. Read and discuss the chapter in GCL, read the bible verses, ask the questions, do the exercises.
- 5. I ask some questions that pop into mind.

iv. After that, I recommend reading through something in the bible together

- 1. Start with scripture EARLY in the time together
- 2. Often we shoot the breeze and catch up first, but this often means we don't give much time to bible

- 3. If you instead start with scripture, then your sharing will come, but will be more productive having been filtered and focused through the Word
- 4. Read a paragraph. Then stop and discuss what it means.
 - a. Talking about what stuck out
 - b. Observations, connections
- 5. Share about how that passage intersects with your life.
 - a. This usually transitions to personal sharing
- 6. No matter what, we talk about stuff going on in his life.
- 7. ASK QUESTIONS
- v. I try to reflect to him what I see, and what I think God might be doing.
 - 1. We Pray together
- vi. **Sometimes plan goes out the window** because they come in with something pressing that happened. That's fine.
 - 1. Respond to opportunities that come up
 - 2. May just need to ditch the study and talk about something important happening in your lives right now.
 - a. Listen and encourage
 - b. Offer wise counsel
 - c. Pray for guidance, help, etc

vii. I try to prayerfully keep my eye open for micro-movement of the Spirit in their heart

- Before most meetings I review my notes from last meeting (Evernote I forget!)
- 2. Then pray that God would help me see what He's already doing in their heart, and know how to engage well.

viii. Prepare them to disciple others, and support them through that process

- f. All this I've figured out over years of trying (lots of failures)
 - i. But there's lots of flexibility on how this can look.
 - ii. You're free to try WHATEVER you want to accomplish the goals of helping your disciple grow in maturity in Christ, deeper connection with his Body, and sacrificial love towards others
 - iii. Just don't reject some of these time tested best practices simply because you want to be different. The Goal of maturity and multiplication is what matters. Be humble enough to do what works

g. Get creative!

- i. Many moms with young kids go to each others homes. Kids play in the basement while mom and discipler talk.
- ii. Many go for walks or runs together
- iii. Work projects together (working on house, making fence together, fixing car)
- iv. Sometimes the most meaningful and spiritual thing you can do during your dship time is to go do something fun! -- movie, golf, etc

h. Let me also say again that one of the most overlooked, but most practiced forms of discipleship is parenting!

- i. THIS COUNTS!!!
- i. And there are times in your life where your margin will increase and decrease. For example, when you're in college, or retired, your margin may be larger than someone who has three young kids. That's ok. We're simply called to be faithful to steward what we have.
 - i. So for example, if you're retired or your kids are out of the house, you may be able to disciple 4 or 5 people. Maybe more!
 - ii. But if you're a mom, and have young kids, you may only be able to meet with one person. Or even just focus on your kids for a while.
 - iii. Give yourself grace to be where you're at, and be honest with yourself enough to hear from God about what he's calling you to.

8. [17] You have to wait till someone asks you to disciple them

- a. Nope.
- b. JC said Come Follow Me
 - i. [18] Mat 4:18-20 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.
- c. Of course this scenario works well. If someone asks you to disciple them, you have some added benefits like:
 - i. You know they want to do this
 - ii. You can more easily set ground rules and expectations from the get-go
 - iii. You always have the ability to remind your disciple "you're the one who wanted to do this" if/when things get difficult.
- d. **Sometimes a person will ASK you to disciple them**, especially if you're a more visible leader
- e. But usually you have to ask them
 - i. This kind of initiative is foundational to the kind of sacrificial love JC models for us

- ii. If you have no idea, ask me or another church leader for ideas
- iii. You're looking for FAT PEOPLE
 - 1. If you've got multiple options,
 - 2. [19] someone who will be FAT
 - a. Faithful, Available, and Teachable
 - 3. In a word HUNGRY and Responsive!
- iv. Otherwise put it out there and see what happens
- v. Start with considering those in your LIFE Group or existing relational network
 - 1. Relational overlap ... building more deeply into the genuine love ethos
 - 2. Ability to observe their life and interactions with others
 - 3. Able to model and give feedback on interpersonal issues and ministry
 - 4. seek out prayerfully and ask someone if they'd like to be discipled by you.
- f. I've done it both ways...
- 9. [20] We should meet with only one discipler
 - a. NOPE
 - b. May have a main person during particular seasons
 - c. But actually it's healthy to get input from more than one (remember we're making disciples ultimately of JC! Not just ourselves)
 - d. One on one tends to work best generally. But Triads can be very successful.
 - i. They can trade off focus weeks like the peer-to-peer groups
 - ii. Or can be a great context for someone's disciple to get their feet wet trying to disciple someone else. All three meet together for a while under the supervision of the seasoned discipler. Then once things get firmly established, sometimes the new discipleship pair can begin meeting on their own.
 - e. You can even ask more than one person to pour into you during seasons of your life.

 This can help a disciple recognize where/if there are any amounts of possessiveness in their heart.
 - i. Some potential downsides: somewhat confusing when one discipler is trying to move one direction, and the other in the opposite direction.
 - ii. Also need to beware of those looking for many many folks to disciple them. This can be an indication of lack of willingness to follow, and constant flitting around looking for someone to just tell them what they want to hear. Not to mention it's a major drain on typically precious leadership resources within a body.

10.[21] You should meet with someone who is like you

- a. NOPE
- b. JC VERY different from many of his disciples

- c. Paul was bold and brash timothy was weak and timid
- d. Many of us tend to think or dship relationships should be just like our friendships homogenous and affinity based.
 - i. And don't get me wrong, those can be great!
- e. But many times that's not what God has for us
 - i. We meet with people who are vastly different from us in some areas.
- f. I have discipled many who are VERY VERY different from me
 - i. We would NOT have been friends otherwise.
 - ii. But God used our differences for GOOD
- g. Sometimes someone who is very different from you can help you see things you wouldn't have seen from your same perspective. This can be insanely valuable. Not only personally, but for the kingdom.
 - i. And often times, the friendships that develop that way are the strongest!

11.[22] You have to be naturally extroverted, excited to do this

- a. Nope, JC didn't just call the extroverts, but all believers
- b. Define extrovert and introvert
- c. Some of the best disciplemakers are introverts.
- d. Introverts can make GREAT disciplers because they have the potential to be more reflective
- e. Extroverts can fail miserably at dship because they rely too heavily on their "front stage" energy-centered friendship skills and not enough on their "backstage" skills of prayerfulness, etc.
- f. All can be discipled. All can disciple.
- g. And no, you shouldn't wait to be excited to do it (chances are you never will at the start)
 - i. So much of following Christ is a discipline. A training
 - ii. The best you can manage is a want to want to
 - iii. **And its not till you get started, and push through the soreness**, that the training begins to pay off and get enjoyable

12.[23] It shouldn't be awkward or difficult

- a. JC had many difficult and awkward times with his disciples
- b. He was often frustrated with them
- c. JC put himself out there with invitations!
- d. My story with Todd \rightarrow Kyle
 - i. And anything worth much will take work. Things always start new, awkward. Awkward is the new awesome!
 - ii. Just like any real discipline

e. But it's all about being willing to anticipate it (even laugh together about it), and keep moving forward. It WILL fade.

13.[24] No one would want to meet with you / You don't have anything to offer

- a. This is almost certainly untrue
 - i. Unless you're a gigantic jerk. In which case, you should get discipled, grow, get your rough edges buffed some, then offer yourself to disciple others.
- b. Everyone has something of value to offer another. Even if it seems initially like it's just a different perspective. A willingness to offer what you see to the other. Because humans are terribly unable to see themselves rightly.
- c. The gift of "eyes on someone's life" is hard to overstate.
- d. In my experience, almost everyone longs for someone to pursue them with genuine relationship and come alongside them, to help them grow and walk through life.
- e. I can really resonate with this. Especially as a younger leader. If you're a little older and wondering if you'd have anything to offer the younger generation, or if it would even be wanted, here me now: Yes! Overwhelmingly yes.

[25] Applications:

14.[26] Identify which misconceptions are most connecting/functioning for you. 15.[27] Take a next step to meet with someone else for dship

- a. As a disciple, or a discipler (mentor, peer)
- b. Remember, Most ppl WANT to be discipled, but much more hesitant to Disciple someone else
 - i. There's a practical disconnect here. Can't work
 - ii. We need MORE ppl willing to disciple others
 - iii. Chances are, if you're thinking that's NOT you, you're probably wrong
 - iv. Take a step. Ask someone to disciple you or to meet with you for discipleship.

16.[28] And don't forget to take the time to pursue genuine friendship with one another outside the time

- a. This will take TIME
 - i. No way around it: Multiple hours per week, Over multiple years
- b. Because Dship is not a class you take, it's a relationship you invest in.
- c. Pursue relationship together outside the dship time!
 - i. Offer genuine relationship
 - ii. And be open to this going on for multiple years \rightarrow lifetime friendship

17.[29] Jump in, and get equipped as you go

- a. Don't wait till you feel ready, "equipped" to jump in to discipleship
- b. God has a way of preferring to steer moving cars.

- c. So don't wait until you feel ready because you never will
- d. However, as you jump in, be prepared to realize your great inadequacy and your great need to get better equipped
 - i. This is normal and good!
 - ii. READ: ORGANIC DISCIPLESHIP
 - iii. I'd love to chat with you about helping you take next steps
 - 1. Don't mention: PERONAL DISCIPLESHIP: PRACTICAL TIPS by DeLashmutt
 - 2. https://www.dwellcc.org/teaching/3365/multiplying-churches-home-groups-leaders-and-disciples/gary-delashmutt/2012/personal-discipleship-practical-tips

18. VISION For Tru: love to see a significant amount of new discipleship relationships forming this year. Now is a great time to start!

- a. Web of dship
- b. More people being engaged and cared for
- c. More people learning to express their gifts and minister in the body
- d. More qualified **Xian workers and mature dmakers available for the work** of building up the body
 - i. And reaching our lost neighbors for Christ
- e. More **exciteme**nt. More **stories** of God doing things.
 - Lost friends and neighbors, dechurched and disconnected believers Activated and growing
 - ii. A movement of God's spirit in our church, and out into our neighborhoods, city, area, ends of the earth.
- f. I firmly believe that this MULTIPLYING, disciplemaking thing is path He wants our church to take into this next season of growth and ministry together
 - i. YOU CAN DO THIS! no matter who you are
 - ii. And we don't have to do it alone
 - 1. We 'll do it together! As a family of imperfect people.
 - 2. Walking alongside God
 - 3. Reaching out and serving
 - 4. Through sharing the love of Jesus Christ.
 - iii. And His **Holy Spirit will empower** us as we do.
 - iv. But we have a response to make
 - 1. Individually and together
 - 2. **How tragic** if we didn't follow his great commission for us to go and make disciples who make disciples?
 - 3. And **how exciting** if we choose to take next steps, baby steps forward, scary steps of faith, and take his call to go and make disciples seriously.
 - 4. And see what he does in and through us!



matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.



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Discipleship: intentionally meeting together with someone else for the purpose of helping that person grow in Christian maturity and learn to do the same with others



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LUKE 8:1-3: After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

2) This is just for the young/in college.



3) You have to be older than your disciple.



4) You have to be very mature in Christ.



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ACTS 14:21-23: They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. ... Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

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MENTORING & PEER DISCIPLESHIP

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SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW WITH WHO YOU KNOW.

5) You have to have been discipled.



6) You have to meet in a church or coffee shop.



7) You have to read, confess sins, and pray.



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WHAT DAVE DOES:

- 1 on 1 or triads, 1-1.5 hours
- Start with the Gospel Centered Life
- Then read something from the Bible (paragraph, discuss, ask questions, pray)
- Respond to real life needs
- Develop an eye for micro-movement
- Prepare and support them to disciple others

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F.A.T. PEOPLE: Faithful, Available, Teachable

9) You should only meet with one discipler.



10) You should meet with someone like you.



11) You have to be extroverted and excited.



12) It shouldn't be awkward or difficult.



13) No one would want to meet with you.

/ You don't have anything to offer.





1. Identify which misconceptions most function for you.

- 1. This is just for men.
- 2. This is just for the **young**/in college.
- 3. You have to be **older** than your disciple.
- 4. You have to be very **mature** in Christ.
- 5. You have to have been discipled.
- 6. You have to meet in a **church or coffee shop.**
- 7. You have to read, confess sins, and pray.
- 8. You have to wait till someone asks you.
- 9. You should only meet with **one discipler.**
- 10. You should meet with someone like you.
- 11. You have to be extroverted and excited.
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- 3. Take the time to pursue genuine friendship with them.



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- 4. Jump in and get equipped as you go.



