

The Master Plan of Evangelism: Reaching the World Through Personal Disciplemaking

4/6/25 | Geldart | Tru Community Church

***Main Idea:** The most effective and biblical way to reach our neighbors and the world for Christ is through personal disciplemaking.*

A. Welcome & Announcements

- a. Keep eating! – Happy bday Tru
- b. Connect Cards & Giving
- c. Egg Stuffing Service Night – Here Wed 630p. Pizza for those who rsvp to info@tru.church
- d. Still need more candy – donate today online (payment, eggs)
- e. SHAPE Class – one of the most practical ways to apply what we're learning in this teaching series: grow in your ability to understand how God's created and gifted you uniquely, and how you could serve others from that shape.
- f. StG Egg Hunt
- g. Holy Week – starts next Sunday
- h. More online @ tru.church

B. [1] Sermon Introduction: Review of the "Reaching Out with Mission" Series

Over the past several weeks, we've journeyed through this "Reaching Out with Mission" series, exploring various facets of our calling to engage in God's mission. **At the end of the sermon today we'll have an open time to hear what God's been doing** in your lives through this series. SO be thinking about what you could share that would be encouraging to us and also honor God. Let's briefly revisit each message:

1. [2] You Give Them Something to Eat

1. Jesus tells his disciples to do the work of ministry – I want to do it THROUGH YOU
2. **You Can Do It. We Can Help.**
 1. Church leaders are called to equip the rest of the church to do the works of ministry (not do it themselves).
3. **Get in the Game**
 1. Seeing Sunday gatherings like a team huddle (rather than the game itself). The Mission we're called to engage with happens the rest of the week!
4. **Neighboring**
 1. Our mission begins with the people in the places we already live, work, and interact, encouraging us to view our neighbors through a missionary lens and build relationships that could eventually bear the weight of truth.
5. **Listening and Asking Questions**
 1. Remember Emma and Brenna? This sermon highlighted the importance of active listening and asking thoughtful questions as tools for building relationships and engaging in Gospel work through our conversations.
6. **Christ's Ambassadors**
 1. James reminded us of our identity as representatives of Christ in our world, and gave us lots of tools to help us actually share the Good News of Jesus with our neighbors.
7. **Encountering the Enemy**

1. Last week we talked about how we'll encounter spiritual opposition as we reach out on mission, and how Jesus wants us to engage our enemy (on our own, we're on the defense, but together we're on the offense!)

[3] Today, we conclude this series by focusing the most powerful and effective way to reach out on mission, and **Jesus' master plan for evangelism.....: [drumroll]**

[4] Personal Disciplemaking. Personal disciplemaking was Jesus' singular and master plan to reach the world with the Gospel. Just as Jesus modeled personal disciplemaking, we are called to make disciples who will go and make more disciples, expanding the kingdom one person at a time.

PRAY

[5] I. The Model of Jesus – Disciplemaking as the Strategy (Matthew 4:19, 28:19-20)

- **Jesus' Strategy:** Jesus could have used countless methods to reach the world with his message and mission, but **He intentionally chose to focus on a small group of people**. He wasn't just concerned with teaching crowds, He instead primarily invested in individuals, doing life with them, showing and teaching them how to carry out the mission.
 - **[6] Matthew 4:19 – “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”**
 - This wasn't just a call to follow him down the road, OR COME TO A MASS TEACHING, but a call to transformation—a call to *become* disciple-makers.
 - Jesus wasn't just seeking followers for Himself; He was creating leaders who would carry His message after He ascended.
 - **[7] “His only hope was to get men imbued with His life who would do it for him. He concentrated Himself upon those who were to be the beginning of this leadership. Though He did what He could to help the multitudes, He had to devote Himself primarily to a few men, rather than the masses, in order that the masses could at last be saved. This was the genius of His strategy.”**
 - *Master Plan of Evangelism - Coleman (Kindle Locations 204-206)*
- **The Call to Multiplication:**
 - **Focusing on a few – strategic selective focus**
 - Jesus INVESTED THE bulk of his time in just a dozen guys! And within them, he focused extra on three!
 - **Then, after he died and rose again, as he was going back to heaven, his last command to his followers was The Great Commission, to go and do the same thing, to reach out the same way he'd taught them**
 - **[8] In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commands us to go and make disciples.**
 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- **Jesus' approach was strategic and personal**—*go and make disciples of all kinds of people, until all peoples on the earth have had a chance to hear and respond to the Good News.*
 - **This Great Commission is not just for a select few**; not just for leaders, it's for every believer.
 - Each disciple is to teach their disciple to obey all Jesus' commands, including the call to go and make disciples.
 - It is a multiplication strategy, not an addition strategy. T
 - he Kingdom of God grows as disciples make disciples.

[9] II. The Multiplication Effect – How Disciples Change the World (2 Timothy 2:2)

- **The Power of Multiplication:**

- Jesus invested in a few people who would go on to change the world.
- **[10]** In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul tells Timothy, *"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."*
 - **4 generations of disciples in view here:**
 - Paul, Timothy, Reliable men, those the reliable men would teach to do the same
- This chain of multiplication shows the strategy of investing in a few who will invest in others.
- **If every believer multiplies their faith by discipling a few people, the church will grow exponentially.**
- This kind of strategy starts much slower. With a few. But over time, as each disciple in turn invests in and disciples a few others, the thing grows at rate that is far more powerful and successful than any other method.
 - Jesus, the God of the Universe become a human, was indeed brilliant. Smart. He knew what he was doing. Though by human perspective, his life and ministry strategy was small and unsuccessful, over time it's born out to be right!
- **[11]** McCallum in Organic Discipleship:
 - "The period from the death of Jesus until the end of the first century was the most fruitful in the history of the church. During these few decades, Christianity spread clear across the Roman Empire and even penetrated into Africa, the Parthian Empire, and India. The best estimates put the number of Christians at the end of the first century at around one million. That's an increase of two thousand times the number of Christians before
- **[12]** Pentecost (perhaps 500). And all of this growth was facilitated by the process of discipleship. Without mass media, without advertising, without church buildings, and without seminaries, the primitive church expanded at a rate never equaled in the nineteen centuries since. If the same rate of growth had continued, everyone on earth would have been a Christian before the end of the second century."

- **A Biblical Blueprint for Evangelism:**

- Paul's instruction to Timothy is the blueprint for effective mission: discipling.
- Every believer is called to multiply, not merely add.
 - Not just invite them to church. But to Personally invest in a few others and teach them to do the same.
- This is how movements grow and how the gospel reaches the ends of the earth.
 - NOT primarily through big gatherings, programs, or mass media, or svc projects.
 - But through personal discipling that multiplies and spreads everywhere.

[13] III. Discipling Starts with Relationship – Living Life with People (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

- **The Importance of Relationship:**

- Discipling isn't a program or a class—it's a life-on-life investment.
 - At its core, discipling is genuine relationship in real life.
- Reflecting on what this looked like in Paul's own life, he says in
 - [14] 1 Thessalonians 2:8, *"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."*
- The apostle Paul lived out the Great Commission among the Thessalonians just like Jesus taught and modeled. He didn't just speak words to them, he demonstrated the life of Christ in loving relationships that actually invites in and shares the real ups and downs of life together.
- [15] "When will the church learn this lesson? Preaching to the masses, although necessary, will never suffice in the work of preparing leaders for evangelism. Nor can occasional prayer meetings and training classes for Christian workers do this job. Building men is not that easy. It requires constant personal attention, much like a father gives to His children. This is something that no organization or class can ever do. Children are not raised by proxy. The example of Jesus would teach us that it can only be done by persons staying right with those they seek to lead."
 - *Master Plan of Evangelism - Coleman (Kindle Locations 415-419)*

- **Modeling Christ in Everyday Life:**

- Discipling takes time and intentionality—it's about walking alongside people, typically over a period of years.
 - And helping them grow in maturity and character and heartset toward Jesus.
 - He wasn't primarily looking for those who looked the most promising on the outside. Put together life. Good finances. Church attendance.
 - Rather he was looking for those who were faithful, available, and teachable – even if they were also quite messy!
- Jesus modeled this relationship-centered approach to reaching out on Mission by accepting the invitation to eat with sinners, walking with disciples, and even sharing the highs and lows of His life.
- True discipling is messy, relational, and life-changing.

- Based on my own experience, I know of no method of spiritual formation that comes close to the inherent power to transform people at a heart level than personal discipling.
- Period.
- **(Share a personal story of a time when someone in your life took the time to walk with you personally in your faith journey.)**
 - **Todd – sometimes talking deeply in his office with bibles open. Sometimes walking around city park. But also going to conferences together. Road trips. Dinner and fire pits at his house with his kids, and their neighbors.**
 - I watched him minister to other people. Up close.
 - And He began giving me specific steps to take, try, in my own ministry: A LG to lead, a chance to preach, discipling someone on my own.
 - Time. Intention. Care. Hanging out. Laughing and crying together.
 - Doing life together
 - Ministering together.
 - And I became a disciple.
 - Far more than just coming to church on a Sunday morning. Or attending a bible study.
- [16] “With such haphazard follow-up of believers [without personal discipleship], it is no wonder that about half of those who make professions [of faith] and join the church eventually fall away or lose the glow of a Christian experience, and fewer still grow in sufficient knowledge and grace to be of any real service to the Kingdom. If Sunday services and membership training classes are all that a church has to develop young converts into mature disciples, then they are defeating their own purpose by contributing to a false security, and if the person follows the [17] same lazy example, it may ultimately do more harm than good. There is simply no substitute for getting with people, and it is ridiculous to imagine that anything less short of a miracle, can develop strong Christian leadership. After all, if Jesus, the Son of God, found it necessary to stay almost constantly with His few disciples for three years, and even one of them was lost, how can a church expect to do this job on an assembly line basis a few days out of the year?”
 - *Master Plan of Evangelism - Coleman (Kindle Locations 428-435)*
- **Our Role as Disciples:**
 - Again, Discipleship doesn’t happen in a church gathering, or in a classroom—it’s about reaching out relationally and modeling the way of Jesus in everyday life, in real-time, with real people, for the long haul.
 - This is how relationships grow, and how true, deep transformation happens.
 - Jesus’s master plan of evangelism.
 - Evangelism – Good Newsing (verb). Gospeling.
 - Showing, Sharing, AND BEING, the Good News of the Gospel with others.

[18] IV. Everyone is Called – The Church’s Role in Discipling (Ephesians 4:11-16)

- **The Ministry of Every Believer:**
 - [19] Ephesians 4:11-12 shows us that God has equipped the church for the work of ministry, and it's not just the job of pastors and leaders.
 - [19] *"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry"*
 - The call to discipling is for every believer. We are all ministers in God's kingdom.
- **The Church as an Equipping Center:**
 - The role of the church, and leaders in particular, is to equip believers to go out and make disciples in every context of their life.
 - Each of us are uniquely situated (strategically by God) to reach out to the people you're around **BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE**
 - Whether you feel like it or not
 - God has you right where you are, as the most strategic missionary in the whole world for those people.
 - Discipleship doesn't just happen on Sundays—it happens primarily throughout the week, in our homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods.
 - In the driveway
 - In coffee Shops
 - In restaurants
 - In bars
 - In parks
 - In the break room
 - During walks
 - Over laundry
 - In living rooms
 - Over FaceTime
 - The Mission to Reach Out happens during the week. In real life. Outside the 4 walls of the church's building. By regular Christians.
 - **The church should be a context of equipping and sending, not just gathering.**
- **The Legacy of Discipling – The Story of John Wesley and the Early Methodists:** John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was passionate about personal discipleship. His followers, known as the Methodists, were deeply committed to personal and corporate discipleship. As a result, the movement grew and transformed lives worldwide.
 - **And our church traces its heritage to this movement!**
- **A Global Vision for Discipleship:**
 - Discipling starts with the people we're already around.
 - Our NEIGHBORS
 - Sharing what we know with who we know.
 - Building genuine friendships with people around our lives.
 - But it doesn't stop there.
 - Discipling isn't limited to our immediate circle. We're called to reach the world.

- Acts 1:8 reminds us that we are to be witnesses starting in our local community, extending to the ends of the earth.
 - **[20] Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- THE MISSION IS GLOBAL, and so is the Method.
- The Master Plan of Evangelism: Personal Dmaking – has the whole world in view. Far beyond what we could anticipate.
 - And it's infinitely pliable and flexible
 - Doable in all contexts, cultures
- As we disciple the people around us, we are contributing to the spread of the gospel globally.
 - People go everywhere.
 - Connections are far flung.
 - And as this thing spreads, like a GOOD VIRUS (James!), it can quickly spread across the entire earth.
- Jesus was smart. He had the world in view. And so should we.

[21] V. What can hold us back from reaching Out as Jesus modeled and commanded us to?

- **Misunderstanding about Discipleship and Mission.**
 - **About Disciplemaking:** Some Christians may not fully understand what disciplemaking entails.
 - Understanding what it is, where you're at in the process, and what your next step is:
 - The 4 Chairs!
 - **About Mission**
 - Unbiblical view of the role of leadership in Ministry
 - They might see it as reserved for church leaders rather than a calling for all believers.
 - Church leaders are NOT the ones paid to DO THE MINISTRY work
 - But those specifically tasked to equip EVERY BELIEVER to do the work of ministry
- **Focus on Programs Over Relationships:** A reliance on structured church programs might overshadow the personal, relational aspect of disciplemaking.
- **Fear**
 - **Fear of Rejection or Criticism:** Many Christians may hesitate to share their faith due to fear of being judged, rejected, or ridiculed by others.
 - **Also, includes PAIN from previous bad experiences or pressure from leaders**
 - **Fear of Failure:** The idea of "getting it wrong" or feeling responsible for someone else's spiritual growth can be overwhelming.
- **Lack of Confidence:** Some feel inadequately equipped or unqualified, believing they lack the knowledge, skills, or spiritual maturity to disciple others effectively.
- **Busyness and Time Constraints:** The demands of work, family, and daily responsibilities often leave little time for intentional relationships and disciplemaking efforts
- **Laziness and Apathy**

- **Complacency:** Some may feel their faith is personal and see no urgency or need to engage in active discipling.
- **Comfort Zones:** Stepping out to disciple others often requires vulnerability, self-sacrifice, and leaving behind routines or comfort zones, which can be a deterrent.
- **Selfishness** – a self focus that precludes any active outreach to others that would cost us time, energy, resources.
- **Spiritual Challenges:** Doubts, a lack of intimacy with God, or personal struggles in one's faith journey can hinder someone from feeling ready to guide others.
 - Sin, disobedience, , willful choice to say no even when you understand the Biblical call

[22] VI. The Challenge – Will You Commit to the Master's Plan of reaching out through personal discipling? (Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8)

- **Jesus' Final Command to Us:**
 - Jesus told us each to go, to make disciples, and to teach them everything He has commanded, including this call to go and make disciples.
 - The call is for each of us to *go*—it's an active, intentional command.
 - And it's non optional for those following Jesus.
- To those who say yes to him and his mission to make disciples who make disciples, Jesus says, TRUST ME. Great commission ends with AND I WILL BE WITH YOU (as you do this), always, even to the end of the age. His Spirit guides, empowers, and changes us AS WE OBEY.
 - NOT BEFORE!
- If we really want to be a church that takes seriously God's word and follows Jesus where he leads us, and if we really want to be a church family that reaches out to our neighbors with the love and Gospel of Christ, then we must embrace a lifestyle of personal discipling.
 - You can do it!
 - We can help.
- If we really did follow Jesus here, just imagine what he might do in and through our church!
 - **[23] Next Steps:**
 - **Get involved in a LIFE Group** – the most natural context for these discipleship relationships to form and to get more equipped to disciple.
 - **Ask God to help you see who in your life you could step into discipling with.**
 - Faithful, Available, Teachable
 - **Take the free green book in the lobby along with the How To sheet.: The Gospel Centered Life**
 - You and a friend go through it step by step together.
 - Read and answer the questions together.
 - And see what God does.
 - **Read a good resource on this topic (maybe with a few others):**
 - The Master Plan of Evangelism
 - Organic Discipleship

- **Let me know** you'd like to get discipled and/or disciple others and we'll go from there.
- **Look for our next Disciplemaking equipping class:** We're working on a D101 seminar to help ppl get started. More on that to come.

[24] VII. Testimonies/Q&A Session: *[START BY 10:55]*

- **Disciplemaking**
 - Share personal stories of how you've been impacted by disciplemaking.
 1. This could include times when they've been mentored or discipled, or when they've discipled someone else.
 - What's something you're struggling with or unsure about on this topic?
- **Other topics from this Reaching Out with Missions series**
 - What topic in this series has been most impactful or disruptive for you? What has God been doing in your heart on that topic?
 - How has God given you opportunities to practice some of the things we've talked about in this series?
 - What's a next step God is calling you to take in response to this series?
 - (Or any questions you have from this series)

[25] VIII. Call to Action:

- Challenge the congregation to take seriously this call to reach out with Mission to our neighbors – intentionally building relationships that can bear the weight of truth
- **Prayerfully identify at least one person they will intentionally invest in and pursue** for the next six months.

IX. Prayer of Commitment:

- Close by praying for the church to be filled with a passion for reaching out to our neighbors with disciplemaking, for opportunities to step out, and for the Holy Spirit to give strength, wisdom, and courage as they step into this calling.

END BY 11:09

REACHING OUT WITH MISSION



1. You Give Them Something to Eat
2. You Can Do It. We Can Help.
3. Get in the Game
4. Neighboring
5. Listening and Asking Questions
6. Christ's Ambassadors
7. Encountering the Enemy

REACHING OUT
WITH MISSION



THE MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM



THE MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM

PERSONAL DISCIPLEMAKING



THE MODEL OF JESUS

Disciplemaking as the strategy



THE MODEL OF JESUS

MATTHEW 4:19

“Follow me, and **I will make you** fishers of men.”



THE MODEL OF JESUS

“His only hope was to get men imbued with His life who would do it for him. He concentrated Himself upon those who were to be the beginning of this leadership. Though He did what He could to help the multitudes, He had to devote Himself primarily to a few men, rather than the masses, in order that the masses could at last be saved. This was the genius of His strategy.”

Robert Coleman, The Master Plan of Evangelism



THE MODEL OF JESUS

MATTHEW 28:19-20

“Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you**. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



THE MULTIPLICATION EFFECT

How Disciples Change the World



THE MULTIPLICATION EFFECT

2 TIMOTHY 2:2

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”



THE MULTIPLICATION EFFECT

“The period from the death of Jesus until the end of the first century was **the most fruitful in the history of the church.** During these few decades, Christianity spread clear across the Roman Empire and even penetrated into Africa, the Parthian Empire, and India. The best estimates put the number of Christians at the end of the first century at around one million. That’s an increase of two thousand times the number of Christians before Pentecost (perhaps 500). **And all of this growth was facilitated by the process of discipleship.** Without mass

Dennis McCallum, Organic Discipleship



THE MULTIPLICATION EFFECT

media, without advertising, without church buildings, and without seminaries, the primitive church expanded at a rate never equaled in the nineteen centuries since. If the same rate of growth had continued, everyone on earth would have been a Christian before the end of the second century.”

Dennis McCallum, Organic Discipleship



DISCIPLESHIP STARTS W/ RELATIONSHIP

Living Life with People



DISCIPLESHIP STARTS W/ RELATIONSHIP

1 THESSALONIANS 2:8

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but **our lives as well.**”



DISCIPLESHIP STARTS W/ RELATIONSHIP

“When will the church learn this lesson? Preaching to the masses although necessary, will never suffice in the work of preparing leaders for evangelism. Nor can occasional prayer meetings and training classes for Christian workers do this job. Building men is not that easy. **It requires constant personal attention**, much like a father gives to His children. This is something that no organization or class can ever do. Children are not raised by proxy. **The example of Jesus would teach us that it can only be done by persons staying right with those they seek to lead.**”

Robert Coleman, The Master Plan of Evangelism



DISCIPLESHIP STARTS W/ RELATIONSHIP

“With such haphazard follow-up of believers [without personal discipleship], **it is no wonder that about half of those who make professions [of faith] and join the church eventually fall away or lose the glow of a Christian experience, and fewer still grow in sufficient knowledge and grace to be of any real service to the Kingdom.** If Sunday services and membership training classes are all that a church has to develop young converts into mature disciples, then they are defeating their own purpose by contributing to a false security, and if the person follows the

Robert Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*



DISCIPLESHIP STARTS W/ RELATIONSHIP

same lazy example, it may ultimately do more harm than good. **There is simply no substitute for getting with people**, and it is ridiculous to imagine that anything less short of a miracle, can develop strong Christian leadership. After all, if Jesus, the Son of God, found it necessary to stay almost constantly with His few disciples for three years, and even one of them was lost, **how can a church expect to do this job on an assembly line basis a few days out of the year?"**

Robert Coleman, The Master Plan of Evangelism



EVERYONE IS CALLED

The Church's Role in Disciplemaking



EVERYONE IS CALLED

EPHESIANS 4:11-12 ^{ESV}

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry”



EVERYONE IS CALLED

ACTS 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



WHAT CAN HOLD US BACK?

1. Misunderstanding about Discipleship and Mission
2. Focus on Programs over Relationships
3. Fear of Rejection, Criticism, or Failure
4. Lack of Confidence
5. Busyness
6. Laziness and Apathy (Complacency, Comfort, Selfishness)
7. Spiritual Challenges (Doubts, Lack of Intimacy with God, Personal Struggles, Sin)



THE CHALLENGE

Will you commit to the master's plan of reaching out through personal discipling?



THE CHALLENGE

Will you commit to the master's plan of reaching out through personal discipling?

1. Get involved in a LIFE Group
2. Ask God to help you see who you could do discipleship with
3. Go through *The Gospel Centered Life* with someone
4. Read *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman or *Organic Discipleship* by Dennis McCallum
5. Talk to Dave if you'd like to step into discipleship
6. Look for our next D101 class



TESTIMONIES AND Q&A

DISCIPLEMAKING

- Share a personal story of how you've been impacted by discipleship.
- What's something you're struggling with or unsure about on this topic?

THE WHOLE “REACHING OUT WITH MISSION” SERIES

- What's a topic in this series has been impactful or disruptive for you?
What has God been doing in your heart on that topic?
- How has God given you opportunities to practice some of the things we've talked about in this series?
- What's a next step God is calling you to take in response to this series?

**You Give Them Something to Eat | You Can Do It. We Can Help. | Get in the Game | Neighboring
Listening and Asking Questions | Christ's Ambassadors | Encountering the Enemy**



REACHING OUT WITH MISSION

