

My City. My Church.

A CHURCH THAT MAKES DISCIPLES

DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE - APRIL 07, 2019

WEEK
3

HEARTBEAT The focus of this week's study and discussion is our call to make disciples. If we love God and love people, our heart will be to connect people to the God who loves them by making disciples. We may need to be reminded again that discipleship is not the same thing as church membership. Many people have a relationship with their church, as if it is their favorite social organization, but disciples have a relationship with Jesus and live that out 24/7 for a lifetime not just for 90 minutes on Sundays.

Making disciples goes beyond leading someone to the Lord. It is not only getting someone to the point of expressing their faith in Jesus, but it is also teaching them the word of God and how to live a Christian life. It is a commitment to walk with them from the moment of spiritual birth until they can stand in their own healthy relationship with the Lord. We typically cannot do that without the help of other believers who also teach, encourage, pray for, and connect in relationships with these new believers. Making disciples is the responsibility of every believer and Jesus has commanded each of us to contribute to helping others find the Lord and grow in him. Our goal is for every believer at Mid-Cities, including those in your group, to own that responsibility and carry it, not as a burden but as an exciting privilege.

GETTING TO KNOW ME [10 MINUTES]

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH.

- Easter is coming up soon. What Easter traditions did you have in your family growing up? Do you have any now?
- When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Have you become that?

MID-CITIES DNA [10 MINUTES]

CHOOSE ONE.

- Who are you going to invite to Easter services this year? Have you prayed about it and do you already have that person or family in mind?
- When you first became a Christian, did you have someone that "discipled" or mentored you? What did that look like? If you didn't, what difference do you think it could have made in your spiritual life to have someone committed to your growth?

EXPLORATION [25 MINUTES]

CHOOSE TWO OR THREE.

- What was most significant for you in the sermon or the worship service this week?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus has commanded us to go into the world and make disciples. Sometimes we read that passage and think of missionaries going to third world countries to preach the gospel, but it also includes sharing the gospel with those we work with, those who live next door, and those in our own families. He didn't command the church leaders, but every believer to make disciples.

- How would you define or describe a disciple of Jesus Christ? How might that differ from a "church member?"
- If you were to make a disciple, what would be involved in taking an individual who was not a believer and making her into a faithful follower of Jesus who could stand on her own in the faith?
- Would you need other believers to help in the process of making that person a mature follower of Jesus?
 - ◊ How could the church help?
 - ◊ How could a group like ours, be a significant part of that process?
- The truth is that most church members are not intentional about making disciples. What do you think keeps most believers out of that process which begins with sharing the gospel with an unbeliever and then helping them grow in their understanding of spiritual things and developing Christian character and lifestyle?

APPLICATION [30 MINUTES]

CHOOSE TWO OR THREE.

- Right now, are you intentionally helping anyone discover Jesus or helping someone grow that is new in the faith?
 - ◊ How are you being a part of the disciple-making process?
 - ◊ How does being part of making disciples bless you?
- If you are not involved in any direct way in making disciples, how could you grow in that area of your life in Christ?
- What could you do this Easter that would directly contribute to making disciples? Will you actually commit to inviting someone or serving at the church (or both) for Jesus?
- Is there any way that we can do something together as a group to intentionally and consistently make disciples in the months ahead?

MINISTRY TIME [15 MINUTES]

Please, encourage the exercise of spiritual gifts during your ministry time. Choose one or two of these prayer topics or choose your own prayer format and topics. You may want to break your larger group up into smaller groups of two or three.

- Pray for greater love for the people around you...especially those who need Jesus.
- Pray specifically for someone you are wanting to invite to church this Easter.
- Pray and ask the Lord how he wants you to be part of loving people and making disciples this Easter.
- Pray for any needs of those in your group and commit to help meet those needs with action if it is appropriate.