



**fellowship**  
Love God. Love People. Develop Disciples.

Lesson 4

**DEVELOP DISCIPLES.**

**WHY we do WHAT we do...and YOU**

September 27, 2015

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If WE were the 1st disciples of Jesus and He gave us the mission to develop disciples, would that legacy have lasted 2000 years? Today we rediscover what God expects when He tells us to **DEVELOP DISCIPLES**, & consider some practical ways to make it happen.

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• **INTRO: Acts 2:42-47** The 1st century disciples of Jesus committed not just to **SHOW UP but to SELL OUT!**

They were committed to: Love God. Love People. Develop Disciples.

• **LOVE GOD** is to **Know Who God IS & Do What God SAYS.**

• **LOVE PEOPLE** is to choose to **Demonstrate Care Before it's Deserved**, from our home, to church, to community, and even to our enemies.

• Today we take a quick peek at what it means to **DEVELOP DISCIPLES.**

About this time 2 years ago, we finished a series called **The Mission** where we discovered that the mission Jesus gave the disciples was to develop disciples of all nations - that involved (**Matt. 28:19-20**)

• **GOING** Becoming a disciple of Jesus starts when someone tells you about Jesus. These are people who care more about your eternity than their popularity.

• **BAPTIZING** Baptism is an act of obedience on YOUR part. Being dunked in water doesn't wash away sin. Turning from your sin...dying to your sin and being made alive in Jesus is what makes you right with God. This is what BAPTISM represents.

• **TEACHING** is the way that you are going to come to know Jesus better. The disciple of Jesus, are to be taught to observe & obey what Jesus has said and that is found in the Scriptures.

**The Mission is Developing Disciples.** A disciple is an **imitator of the teacher**. The apostles of Jesus got the undiluted picture of what it means to LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, & DEVELOP DISCIPLES from Jesus Himself! Today we will take a snapshot of what it means to DEVELOP DISCIPLES, but you can go back and **listen to that entire 8-week teaching** called '**THE MISSION**' from our website or from our Church App.

\* Download '**My Church App**' from your APP STORE. Open the app and insert **32340** and choose **Fellowship**.

**BIG TRUTH: Developing Disciples is as simple as SHOW & TELL.**

In **1 Thessalonians** the apostle Paul encourages a faithful church whom he dearly loves to keep the faith. He reminds them why he came to them in the first place.

### **1 Thessalonians 2:3-6** (NET)

<sup>3</sup> For the appeal we make does not come from error or impurity or with deceit, <sup>4</sup> but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we declare it, not to please people but God, who examines our hearts. <sup>5</sup> For we never appeared with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is our witness—<sup>6</sup> nor to seek glory from people, either from you or from others,

Paul brought God's message with pure motives.

- Paul, like Jesus, used persuasive tactics, adapting his approach for maximum impact to his audience. Like Jesus, Paul found common ground with his audience. He used illustrations that the people could grasp with the ultimate goal of honoring God and challenging people to honor Him as well.
- But the goal was NEVER for self promotion or to **please people**, but to please **God** who knows our motives.
- Paul's attitude toward the people wasn't one of a master to servants, but a servant to the servants!

### **1 Thessalonians 2:7-9** (NET)

<sup>7</sup> although we could have imposed our weight as apostles of Christ; instead we became little children among you. Like a nursing mother caring for her own children, <sup>8</sup> with such affection for you we were happy to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. <sup>9</sup> For you recall, brothers and sisters, our toil and drudgery: By working night and day so as not to impose a burden on any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

Paul and the other apostles had the 'right' to ask the people to provide for them, as Paul writes in 1 Cor. 9. A snapshot from verse 14 (check out the whole chapter on your own):

### **1 Corinthians 9:14** (NET)

<sup>14</sup> In the same way the Lord commanded those who proclaim the gospel to receive their living by the gospel.

Instead, Paul waived his right and worked in the community in some sort of business - likely as a tentmaker by day and teaching them in the evenings.

Paul and his gospel co-workers cared for these folks like a mother cares for young children - protecting and providing for them. Verse 8 is **the heartbeat of developing disciples**. Let's look back at it.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 (NET)

<sup>7</sup> ...Like a nursing mother caring for her own children, <sup>8</sup> with such affection for you we were **happy to share with you** not only **the gospel of God** but also **our own lives**, because you had become dear to us.

### Developing Disciples is as simple as SHOW & TELL.

They took time to share **the gospel of God**, that is, they took time to TELL them Who God was and what He said. They were obeying what Jesus said - developing disciples and teaching them to obey all He had commanded (Matt. 28:19-20).

But they did more than just TELL them what to do. Paul and his fellow believers **SHOWED them what to do**. Developing disciples of Jesus means doing life with people and that's what Paul & Timothy did as they MODELED what it meant to follow Jesus.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 (NET)

<sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and so is God, as to how holy and righteous and blameless our conduct was toward you who believe. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we treated each one of you as a father treats his own children, <sup>12</sup> exhorting and encouraging you and insisting that you **live in a way worthy of God** who calls you to his own kingdom and his glory.

What did these people see in Paul and Timothy & the others?

**Pure actions & intentions** - their conduct was *holy, righteous, blameless*.

**Compassionate Care** - like a good father to his children. They treated the Thessalonians with tenderness. They **exhorted** them - that is - urged strongly, appealed to<sup>3</sup>, & **encouraged** them, and **insisting** that the **live a way worthy of God**.

In other words, the apostles could say, "*You know how we lived among you? Live like that!*"

### QUESTION

**WHO** are you expecting to take on the task to **DEVELOP DISCIPLES**?

**WHY** do we Do **WHAT** We Do...and **YOU**?

We want to equip **YOU**, urge **YOU**, encourage **YOU**, and insist that **YOU** live a life worthy of God. That **YOU** begin to **LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, & DEVELOP DISCIPLES**.

### PROBING QUESTION

If others were to follow your current example would they be **MATURING** disciples or would they be **MAKE-BELIEVE** disciples?

<sup>3</sup> William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 765. \*Typically called 'BDAG'

## Developing Disciples is as simple as SHOW & TELL.

This must start in your home.

Here's why: When husbands, wives, children, & grandparents are loving God in their HOMES...that spills into our CHURCHES.

Healthy Churches are the result of HEALTHY HOMES where families that LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, & DEVELOP DISCIPLES.

When HOMES get healthy, CHURCHES get healthy. When CHURCHES get healthy, those churches desire to make an eternal impact in their COMMUNITY.

That's **WHY We Do WHAT We Do...and YOU**. We want to PARTNER with parents and peers to help you DEVELOP DISCIPLES starting in your own home. Secondly, we want you to ask the Lord where He would have PARTNER with us to help others LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, & DEVELOP DISCIPLES.

### Children

- **We NEED more adults who are willing to SHOW & TELL children about Jesus.**  
Would you be prayerful about plugging in on Sunday mornings or Wed. nights to serve and then touch base with Shannon Curtis (children's coordinator) or Jackie?
- **PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS:** Will you ASK your children what they are learning? Will you make consistent time to TALK about Jesus in your home? Use the PARENT CUE for Kidz Church on Sundays. Help them memorize Scripture for AWANA on Wednesdays. Talk about what the verse means and how it applies in YOUR life.

### Students

- **We NEED more adults who are willing to SHOW & TELL teenagers about Jesus.**  
Would you be prayerful about plugging in on Sunday mornings or Wed. nights to serve and then touch base with TJ Green (student pastor) or myself? Small Group leaders care for students and facilitate same-sex small group questions for 15 minutes (6:45-8pm).
- **PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS:** Will you ASK your MS, HS, College students what they are learning? Will you make consistent time to TALK about Jesus in your home?

### Adults

- Plug into or help lead a **Growth Group Bible Study on Sunday mornings**.
- **Small Groups** Lead a group? Need a group? (Use the app to tell us if you need one). New Group begins on Oct. 7 - Wed nights in the Worship Center.



**Read 1 Chapter of 1 Thessalonians everyday this work week.  
Discuss it with your family or friends & pray together.**

[use app]

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These open-ended questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your Family, Friends, or Small Group.

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1. **Read 1 Thes. 2:3-12.** (After reading it all, focus on vv. 7-8) What's the importance of SHOW & TELL if we want to develop disciples? Can you give an example of someone (don't mention names) who did one OR the other and caused confusion?
2. If YOU were asked to help develop a new follower of Jesus, what would be your response? Explain your answer.
3. What are some practical ways you have seen another be developed as a disciple? Have you had someone make time to help train you how to become a disciple who develops disciples? Explain your answer. If your answer is no, does/should this concern us and what should we do about it?
4. Do you know anyone who needs a more mature believer to help disciple him/her? Who do you think we could approach about that?
5. What questions, answers, concerns, or encouragements do today's study stir up for you? What are you going to DO with what you heard today?

\* Share your prayer needs and **PRAY to the FATHER together!**