

Dear FBC Faith Family,

May I share a question that consumes my thinking as a Christian and a pastor?

How can the people of God in the Spirit of God with the Word of God be unleashed to reflect more and more of God's greatness?

Oh, how I pray our lives at FBC would count for His glory and greatness. But that does not just happen automatically. You and I must seek God about: *how is He currently using me for His Kingdom and how might He want to use me in greater ways to reflect Jesus' greatness?* One of the ways Jesus told His followers to be and do is in Matthew 28:19: *Go and make disciples of all people groups.* You and I cannot be used of God to make disciples if we are not continuing to allow God to make us into the person He calls us to be which is:

- establish yourself upon a solid biblical foundation (Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Tim. 4:16);
- equip yourself with a faith community to participate in God's grand story (Eph. 4:11-12);
- empower yourself through the Holy Spirit and His Holy Word (2 Tim 3:16-17; Acts 1:8);
- engage in your local and global community to be a blessing (Gen 12:2-3).

We as elders at FBC encourage you to take a journey to *discover with greater clarity the significant role God has for you in participating in His Kingdom to make disciples of all people groups.* This is a journey that you cannot rush through. Now before you begin let us share a few things that reflect our heart:

- 1) *First and foremost God LOVES you more than you can even imagine!* Our Wonderful Maker is relentless. He loves us with a self-giving, self-sacrificing, and unconditional love. It is amazing beyond description and comprehension. We say this first because the journey you are about to take is in response to His love for us and the world. God love you passionately but you and I are not the center of God's ultimate passion. That is reserved for His greatness, glory and goodness to be known among all people' groups. The message of Christianity is not "*God loves me (period).*" Rather God loves me so that by His grace I am able to reflect His love to my local and global neighbors. Simply, when we experience how much God loves us, how can we keep it to ourselves?
- 2) *Pray! Pray! Pray!* In fact, we encourage you to invite others to pray for you as you embark on this journey. Pray that God's voice would be clear. Pray that it would drown out all the other competing voices, including your own. The enemy does not want us to hear from God and will do whatever he can to hinder and distort God's role that He has for us. We realize on this journey you may experience guilt. When this happens, pay attention to it and where might it be coming from? We say this because true guilt comes from God. It is called conviction. However, the type of guilt that many of us experience is not from God. It is called condemnation, which leads to hopelessness and/or mediocrity. Often times when God is convicting, the enemy and ourselves will add condemnation to confuse us. This is the spiritual battle that God allows us all to face to reveal His will, grow His kingdom and us. This is why we encourage you to pray, pray, pray and invite others to pray with and for you.
- 3) *Do I really need a personal disciple-making plan?* It can only help! Remember despite our personalities planning is encouraged in the Bible. Proverbs 21:5 says, "*the plans of the diligent lead to profit*" and Proverbs 15:22 says, "*plans fail for lack of counsel.*" Even God has plans for how Jesus' good news will be shared to the whole world and it includes His people, that's you and me. Now whether that plan is written down or in your mind depends on your temperament, but we believe for anyone who desires to live out His role then a journey awaits them and a local church, like FBC, should encourage and give some guidance in the form of prayer, counsel and asking insightful questions.
- 4) *Making disciples is becoming like Jesus and doing what Jesus would do.* The Hebrew and Greek definitions of the word 'disciple' convey the idea of a person who has dedicated themselves to learning and adopting someone else's beliefs and way of life. A disciple does not just want to know what their teacher knows but to be who they are and to do what they do. This is the heart of following Jesus as King. Jesus' mission in Matthew 28:19 to make

disciples is not just not for others but for you. In fact, we believe Jesus is personally inviting you like He did to those 11 disciples in Matthew 28. So fill in the blank with your name: _____, I am calling you to *make disciples of all people groups!* How will you respond? You setting aside the time to go through this journey to hear from Him is part of that response.

Now let us be careful not to think making disciples is merely acquiring more knowledge and friends with similar interests, serving God within our comfort level or getting plugged into the right program. Sometimes in the American Church today “*getting disciplined*” or “*following Jesus*” is communicated as get involved in things like: Sunday school, small groups, Bible studies, memorizing verses, finding a mentor, reading books, attending conferences, etc. These are good things that God will use but you and I can do all these things and more and yet *still* miss the heart of being a disciple of Jesus because making disciples is about doing what Jesus would do. It is risking our lives together, in an unbreakable relational connection, to know Jesus and make Him known here, there and everywhere. This is done as we rest in His power, purposes, and presence to transcend our own community and culture.

- 5) *Here at FBC we exist to glorify God and make disciples by touching the world with the redemptive love and message of Jesus Christ. . . everyone, everywhere, everyday!* Do you know what those words mean? We need to be on mission. You are on mission. Jesus tells us in Matthew 16:18 that a church on mission is unstoppable. There only thing that can stop the church from being on mission is the people of God themselves. A church on God’s mission must roll up their sleeves and bring His vision down from its heavenly heights to the ground level. This is no easy or comfortable task.
- 6) *God personally calls you to a unique and significant role.* After all, you are not your own. Jesus has bought you with a price (1 Cor. 6:20). The reality that Jesus’ Church faces is that out of 10,000 ethnic people groups in the world there are around 4,000 who are unreached. Today that is close to 40 percent of the world’s population. People who have never heard the name of Jesus or if they have heard the Name before no one has explained who He is and what He has done on their behalf. These unreached people groups have limited or no access to the Bible in their own heart language, have less than 2 percent Christian and either there is no church available or if there are churches then they do not yet have a biblical foundation and vision to reach their own people. How will they hear? Part of God’s significant role for you will be to involve yourself in some way. This journey will help you get more clarity on what that may look like on how to make disciples locally infused with God’s global purposes.

So what are we asking you to do? Take a journey with God. Ask God to reveal to you clarity the significant role He has for you as you participate in His mission to make disciples of all people groups. Remember to include others on this journey so that His mission does not fade into the background of our lives. Feel free to talk to one of the elders here. We are here to help you work through any question. May God show you how He has positioned, no matter your circumstances or vocation, to carry out His redemptive message of love locally and globally. May God make known to you that His invitation in His grand story is not out of necessity like His mission will fail if you do not participate but rather because God loves you more than you can even imagine He wants to invite you to something greater that is beyond what you and I could do for ourselves.

Oh what a God we serve! We thank God that He did not create us to be on the sidelines of His kingdom, but invites us to be a part of His plan. We praise God for His glorious plan to rescue every people group to worship and give Him glory. A plan that will be accomplished one day through the people of God, like you and me, as we glorify Christ through making disciples of all people groups!

We are praying for you,

Pastor Travis & the Elders

GLORIFYING CHRIST THROUGH MAKING DISCIPLES OF ALL PEOPLE GROUPS

The question we want to be seeking God on is: ***How is God currently using me right now and how does He want to use me in greater ways to glorify Christ through making disciples of all people groups?***

What a big, great, scary and overwhelming question that is. That question can make us feel that we are not gifted enough, smart enough, courageous enough, talented enough, worthy enough, or qualified enough to participate in God's grand story. Once again, these feelings are evidence of the spiritual battle we face and therefore we must allow God's gospel of grace to overcome those thoughts and feelings. As Christians, we have the power of the Holy Spirit within us (Acts 1:8). Jesus said He will always be with us on this journey (Matthew 28:20). What greater news could we have than that? Let's focus on that!

Over the next several pages you will see many questions to answer as a way to seek God through His Word and personal prayer. We have also provided Scriptures as guidance to help answer the questions. No one should stand alone in their journey to glorify Christ by making disciples of all people groups, so we encourage you to invite other Christians along with you.

As you begin we encourage you to reflect on how your answers might give clarity to the significant role in which God has called you to make disciples of all people groups. Remember as you embark on this journey you have the Word of God before you, the Spirit of God in you to go and make disciples.

GLORIFY CHRIST

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." – 2 Cor. 3:18

Note: the questions below are to help in training yourself to glorify Christ in your daily life. Growth in your relationship with God cannot occur casually, so there must be intentionality.

How is God currently using me to glorify Him through corporate worship? What does your participation look like? (i.e. larger gatherings of Christians) (Acts 2:42-27; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:24-25)

How might God want to use me in greater ways to glorify Him through corporate worship?

How is God currently using me to glorify Him through prayer? (Colossians 4:2; Matthew 6:9-13, 7:7-8)

How might God want to use me to glorify Him in greater ways through prayer?

**How is God currently using me to glorify Him through His Word?
(Philippians 2:15-16; Psalm 19:7-8, basically all of Psalm 119)**

How might God want to use me to glorify Him in greater ways through His Word?

**How is God currently using me to glorify Him with my family and friends?
(Matthew 7:3-5, 10:37; Romans 12:10-18; Ephesians 4:29, 5:21; Colossians 3:12-17)**

How might God want to use me to glorify Him in greater ways with my family and friends?

**How is God currently using me to glorify Him with the possessions He has given me?
(Matthew 6:19-24, 25:14-30; I Timothy 6:18-19)**

How might God want to use me to glorify Him in greater ways with the possessions He has given me?

How do I guard and protect my heart and mind from things, relationships, and ideas that want to move me away from experiencing Jesus as my enough, my all I need?
(Proverbs 4:23; I Thessalonians 4:7; Psalm 119:36-37; Col 3:1-3)

How am I training my eyes to see God at work in my life and the lives of others?
(Deuteronomy 4:9; Joshua 24:17; Psalm 63:2; Matthew 6:22-23)

MAKE DISCIPLES

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations (i.e. people groups), 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." – Matthew 28:18-20

Note: the questions below are designed to walk you through your perceptions, emotions, fears, and challenges, as well as how God uniquely designed you to obey Jesus' command to make disciples. We strongly encourage you to share your answers within your small group and/or a few godly Christians.

When Jesus said "make disciples," it is critical we grasp what He meant and incorporate it into our lives. We often make disciples the way we were taught or how it was modeled for us. What experiences, or lack there of, have you had with the concept of making disciples?

What do you think Jesus' disciples would have thought of when Jesus told them here is your mission now: *go and make disciples of all people groups*?

What are some passions, skills, and abilities that you currently use at work, home or with the kids, etc?

How are you using these abilities, skills, passions and gifts to help others to be more like Jesus and do what He does? Is God asking you to use these in a more effective way to make disciples?

God gives spiritual gifts to those who follow Him. What are those gifts that He has given to you? (1 Peter 4:10; Rom. 12:3-7; 1 Cor. 12:1-12, 28)

If you do not know your spiritual gifts or it has been awhile since you took a spiritual gift assessment you can do so by going to the church's website. Because self-assessments have the potential to become a reflection of who we want to be or what we are most comfortable with, you are encouraged to have a couple of people to help you during your assessment. Ask them to take the assessment thinking of you. Whatever gifts God has given to us then it should be visible so others can observe it.

How am I currently using these spiritual gifts and how might I be able to use these gifts in a more effective way to make disciples?

Jesus intentionally invested most of His time in a few people to impact the many. Bible studies, worship services, classes, books, or conferences are good but they are no substitute for one-on-one relationships. So from all the Christians and not yet Christians you know, who do you sense God is asking you to invest in?

(this is an key question because Jesus modeled holistic one-to-one or one-to-a few relationships.)

Jesus modeled relational discipleship yet this poses a challenge because it cannot be done without the power of the Holy Spirit. With each person God is asking us to invest in, the discipleship will be unique with where you and where they are at spiritually. For each person mentioned above list, what you are doing well and what growth opportunities you sense God is asking you to focus on for that person. Through this exercise you can become more effective in making disciples. Below is a list of various conversations and things that occur *(by no means is this an exhaustive list)*.

- 1) Showing comfort and compassion through their struggles/doubts
- 2) Praying for them consistently
- 3) Modeling that God's gospel encompasses all of life
- 4) Asking good and insightful questions
- 5) Being open and transparent with how God is using you and what you are learning from God
- 6) Spending time together in both planned/structured and unplanned/unstructured settings
- 7) Listening and responding to their spiritual hunger
- 8) Speaking God's Truth in love seasoned with grace on issues/sins they need to address
- 9) Walking alongside them as they establish a solid Christian worldview
- 10) Helping them train themselves to pursue Jesus wholeheartedly
- 11) Being sensitive to how God is already working in them
- 12) Directing them to areas where they need healing from past hurts and/or ungodly beliefs
- 13) Guiding them in applying God's wisdom to their decisions
- 14) Helping them to adopt God's values while discarding the ones of this world
- 15) Encouraging them to take ownership of past actions and current situations
- 16) Empowering them to serve God sacrificially and selflessly
- 17) Answering their questions
- 18) Encouraging them to walk by faith and not by sight
- 19) Helping them to honor and respect the God-ordained authorities in their lives
- 20) Highlighting the importance of being thankful and rejoicing in God in all things
- 21) Pointing out the sufficiency and greatness of Christ when challenging times occur
- 22) Helping them hear God through His Word, prayer, godly counsel, etc

<u>PERSON</u>	<u>WHAT I AM DOING WELL</u>	<u>WHAT I NEED TO GROW IN</u>

How might I see my small group and/or a few godly Christians encouraging me in the areas I wrote down on the previous page? What skills and abilities do I sense God wanting me to grow in? This is a key question because you cannot make disciples all by yourself. It takes a faith community.

Helping another be like Jesus and do what He does is highly relational. From your perspective how does living in America help you in making disciples? What are the challenges here in this culture?

What are your fears, barriers and insecurities that may be hindering you from investing in a few a higher priority that it may be in your life now? What steps could you take to overcome these fears and insecurities? Is there anything that God might be asking you to let go in order to make relational disciple-making a higher value and priority in your life?

How might my small group encourage and equip me with what I wrote down for the last two questions?

If you have children and/or grandchildren, how are you communicating Jesus' and His mission to them so they won't forget who He is and what He wants to do in the world? Do you sense any changes to what you currently are doing? (Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:6-9; Judges 2:10-12)

ALL PEOPLE GROUPS (i.e., Nations)

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.” – Psalm 67:1-2

Note: the questions below are designed to connect the two previous sections to God’s global purpose: His desire and activity to redeem humanity, all people groups, to Himself.

Jesus commanded all of His followers to make disciple of all people groups in Matthew 28:19. What do you think the connection Jesus was making between making disciples (helping another to be like Jesus and do what He does) and God’s heart for all people groups? (Exodus 9:16: Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10; Luke 2:10, 24:45-47; Romans 15:8-9, 16:25-26)

Matthew 24:13 and Mark 13:10 is clear that Jesus will not return until His gospel is demonstrated and announced. We also know that Satan does not want Jesus to return so what sort of strategies might Satan try to persuade God’s people to embrace to delay Jesus inevitable return?

How have you been tempted to excuse yourself from God’s global purposes?

As a follower of the One who is the Savior of the World (John 3:16, 4:42, 1 John 4:14) How can you integrate God’s global purposes into how you read, pray, have conversations with family, friends, neighbors and coworkers, and invest in the few God has called you to?

How can I pray more effectively for the world with Holy Spirit insight? (Isaiah 62:1-7)

Jesus' message is in and of itself cross-cultural, so how can I participate locally and/or globally in demonstrating and announcing His gospel that must cross race, social status, faith, and cultural boundaries? (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:14-15; Galatians 1:15-16; 2 Cor. 5:20)

Are my spending habits leading myself and my neighbors (locally and globally) into the life God desires for them (i.e. spiritually, physically, emotionally, & mentally)? (Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10:25-37; Psalm 41:1; Jeremiah 29:7; Proverbs 11:10, 14:31)

If so, how? If not, how can I change this? If I am in credit card debt how aggressively am I pursuing being debt free?

God is so good and He blesses us out of His generous overflow. So what blessings does God intend for me/my family to enjoy now? And what blessings is God asking me/my family to sacrifice/ downsize/ minimize for the sake of Jesus gospel being known among the poor, oppressed and unreached? (2 Cor. 8:1-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-10)

How is God leading me to learn more about, invest in, and participate in unreached people groups?

Feedback: We would love to hear from you!

What questions has this journey brought up that we as Elders can pray for or help address?

How did God use this journey to impact you? How did He bring clarity to the significant role He has for you?

What can the church leadership do to help you fulfill God's significant role for you to glorify Jesus through making disciples of all people groups?

From your perspective how can this journey be improved for others in the future?

THANK YOU for taking the time to seek God through His Word, prayer and wise counsel. It is our hope that you discovered or fine tuned your significant role in glorifying Christ through making disciples of all people groups. What's next? We encourage you to do the following:

1. Share with your community group what God has revealed to you so they can better pray for, encourage, and walk alongside you. If you are not a part of a community group, this is a vital step we strongly encourage you to take. God has indeed called you to a personal and transforming relationship with Him but that also entails a public and transforming relationship with others and our world.
2. If you are filling this out online and would like to discuss this further with Pastor Travis or one of the elders then be sure to hit the 'send button' below. We would be honored to pray for you, answer questions, and discuss how FBC can better serve you to carry out your significant role in glorifying Christ through making disciples of all people groups. Otherwise, hit print and you can have a copy of your answers in printed form.

Send

Print

Name:

Date:

Email address:

Phone #: