



WAIPUNA CHAPEL'S PROFILE OF A DISCIPLE

Jesus commissions us to “go 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 observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19–20). This raises a fundamental question, though — one that even takes priority over the how-to's of discipleship. ***What does it actually mean to be a “disciple” of Jesus?*** If we are going to make disciples, we need to know what that is.

The standard definition of “disciple” (noun) is someone who adheres to the teachings of another. It is a follower or a learner. It refers to someone who takes up the ways of someone else. Applied to Jesus, a disciple is someone who learns from him to live like him — someone who, because of God's awakening grace, conforms his or her words and ways to the words and ways of Jesus. Or, you might say, as others have put it in the past, disciples of Jesus are themselves “little Christs” (Acts 26:28; 2 Corinthians 1:21). The four Gospels give us the definitive portrait of Jesus in his life on earth. John's Gospel, in particular shows us three complementary perspectives on what it means to follow Jesus, each patterned after Jesus himself. Building off of John's profile, we could say:

- **A Disciple Of Jesus Is A Worshiper**

Most fundamentally, to follow Jesus means to worship him exclusively. This is at the heart of Jesus's ministry on earth. As he told the woman at the well, the Father is seeking true worshipers (John 4:23–24). If we will follow Jesus, we must worship God — through Jesus, because he is our Mediator (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5), and Jesus himself, because he is God (John 10:30; 20:28–29).

This is the fundamental perspective of a disciple because it is more important than anything else we are or do. Worshiping Jesus means gladly reflecting back to him the radiance of his worth — is the greatest act for any creature. Thus to follow Jesus, means, first and central, to worship him

- **A Disciple Of Jesus Is A Servant**

John shows another picture of the Jesus we're to worship, and this time he is kneeling before his disciples to wash their feet (John 13:5). Jesus said, *“If I do not wash you, you have no share with me”* (John 13:8). Jesus came to earth not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as the rescue for sinners (Mark 10:45). And as a servant, Jesus says to his disciples, *“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you”* (John 13:14–15).

In one sense, the posture of servant should characterize Jesus's disciples on all fronts. But in another sense, being a servant like Jesus has a particular focus on disciples serving disciples. It's a family thing. *“Let us do good to everyone,”* Paul said, *“and especially to those who are of the household of faith”* (Galatians 6:10). This “one-anothering” is where Jesus takes us in giving “a new commandment,” just after he washed the Twelve's feet: *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another”* (John 13:34; 1 John 3:23). In fact, it is this love that disciples have for one another that identifies us as disciples of Jesus to a watching world (John 13:35), and even assures us of saving faith (1 John 3:14).

To be a disciple of Jesus means to serve like him. It means to serve, primarily, by looking at your brothers and sisters and going low in acts of love, even when it's an inconvenience to yourself, even when it flip-flops the world's social order and expectations. Making disciples of Jesus means making servants who love one another.

- **A Disciple Of Jesus Is A Witness**

John gives us another helpful picture of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. This time it comes in the commission of Jesus, when he says of his disciples, to his disciples, “As the Father has sent me, even so

I am sending you” (John 20:21; John 17:18). This means that Jesus’s disciples are on a mission. It means, in the broadest sense, that they are missionaries, that they are envisioned and empowered to step into this world (not of it, but sent into it) as his witnesses (Acts 1:8).

Jesus was sent for a purpose — to reveal God and redeem sinners (John 1:14, 12) — and he set his face like flint to see it accomplished (Luke 9:51; Isaiah 50:7). We too, as his disciples, filled by his Spirit, are sent for a purpose — to tell his good news (Romans 10:14–17).

To be a disciple of Jesus means to point people to him. It means to tell the old story of Jesus and his love so that others would know him and worship him. It means, in other words, that we gladly seek more worshipers-servants-missionaries. Which is to say, a disciple of Jesus makes disciples of Jesus, as Jesus tells us to

(Matthew 28:18–20).

PRACTICES OF A DISCIPLE

1. Reads The Word Daily

The Bible is God’s revelation to mankind and reveals much about God and ourselves. Through the Bible we are invited into a vital relationship God. His Word(The Bible) is of immense value to the Christian as it teaches, rebukes, corrects and shows us how to live righteously (2 Timothy 3:16-17). A disciple is one who has a daily practice of reading, studying and applying scriptures to their lives

2. Prays Continuously

Prayer is simply talking to God as we would with anyone we love and trust. Prayer is essential to a vital relationship with God. A disciple is a man or woman of prayer. They have a vibrant prayer life where thanksgiving, needs, concerns and intercession are lifted up to God continually and time is taken to quietly listen to God voice.. (Luke 5:15-17, Philippians 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

3. Fellowships Regularly

Church is a community of fellow sinners, saved by God’s grace , called glorify God as they walk alongside and help each other. A disciple is someone who is in relationship with other believers, “*rejoices and weeps*” with others and “*spurs one another on to towards love and good works*” (Romans 12:15, 1 Corinthians 12: 12-26, Hebrews 10:24)

4. Gives Generously

Generosity is the natural expression of someone who understand how much they have been given. A disciple is someone who gives generously to the work of the local church and the mission of Jesus (2 Corinthians 8:2, Romans 12:8, 1 Timothy 6:18)

5. Witnesses Boldly

A witness is someone who tells of what they have seen, heard and experienced. A disciple is some who boldly shares what God had done in their lives with others.

(Matthew 4:19, Acts 4:20, Colossians 4:5, 1Peter 3:15)

6. Serves Faithfully

Serving God by serving others is something that grows out of our love for God and thankfulness to God for what he has done for us. Jesus modeled a life of service (Mark 10:45) A disciple is an individual who responds willing to the call and opportunity to serve others.

(1 Corinthians 15:58, Galatians 5:13, James 1:27, 1 Peter 4:10)

7. Disciples Diligently

A disciple is an individual who is willing to pour out what he has learned into the life of another, a disciple makes disciples.

(Matthew 28: 19-20, 2 Timothy 2:2, Colossians 3:16, Hebrew 5:11-13)

WAIPUNA CHAPEL DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY

While the Bible never prescribes a particular model for discipling others, Jesus invested in groups of varying sizes. The gospels record Jesus ministering in 5 group sizes: the crowd (multitudes), the committed (the 72 in Luke 10), the cell (the twelve disciples), the core (Peter, James, and John), and the close-up encounters (one-on-one). Making disciples cannot be restricted to a particular group meeting or size and often involves a combination of environments however, consistency is necessary for accountability.

Group Discipleship at Waipuna Chapel

1. Large Group Gatherings

Every week we have 4 large group gathering (3 weekend service & a Monday night young adult/high school service) These environments are designed to provide individuals at varying stages of spiritual growth with opportunities to worship God through music, giving, teaching, fellowship and service.

2. Welcome 2 Waipuna Gatherings

These environments are designed to introduce individuals at varying stages of spiritual growth to the Biblical Beliefs, History, Governance, Mission and Vision of Waipuna Chapel

3. Starting Point Groups

These 8 week group environments are designed to provide seeker, returners and new believers with opportunities to explore Biblical faith and experience Christian community.

1) Start 2) Problem 3) Trust 4) Rules 5) Jesus 6) Grace 7) Faith 8) Invitation

4. Biblical Foundation Groups

These 12 week group environments are designed to provide New Believers with a solid Biblical foundation:

1) Sin & Salvation, 2) Lordship & Obedience, 3) Repentance & Baptism, 4) Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts, 5) Spiritual Hunger & God's Word, 6) Discipleship & Leadership, 7) Spiritual Family & Church, 8) Prayer & Worship, 9) Faith & Hope, 10) Biblical Prosperity & Generosity, 11) Evangelism & Missions, 12) Resurrection & Judgment.

5. Deeper Groups

These groups environments are designed to take growing or mature disciples to a deep understanding of God's Word, Biblical Doctrine and Theology

6. Discipleship Groups

These ongoing group environments are intended to be gender specific and to provide a group of between 3-5 men or women an opportunity for Bible study, personal accountability, prayer & support

7. Life Groups

These ongoing group environments are intended to provide individuals at varying stages of spiritual maturity with opportunities for Bible study, prayer, accountability, encouragement and service.

8. Support Groups

These environments are designed to provide individuals who are struggling with specific life issues (addiction, grief, divorce ect) with Biblical guidance, support & accountability

9. One on One Groups

These groups of two are intended to have a mature believer help a new believer grow spiritually. These one on one relationship can also exist as a *Peer Co-Mentoring* where two mature believers provide prayer & accountability for one another, as well as *Mentoring* relationships where a mature, experienced believer invest their lives into that of a younger believer