

Message Series: Re:New

Message Title: Leaders

Speaker: Shannon Whaples

Date: January 24, 2016

ICEBREAKER:

What do you think the definition of spiritual maturity is and why?

MESSAGE OVERVIEW:

The Great Commission in the Bible demands both biblical discipleship as well as leadership development (Matthew 28:18-10). First, character counts! Discipleship is the foundation of leadership. You cannot lead those around you until you are able to lead yourself. Measures of maturity include management of: anger, anxiety, sadness, fear, insecurity, and the ability to manage your own opinions. Discipleship is about reigning in and training up. Second, center yourself in sacred encounters. Your identity is found in God alone. Third, you can't use "excellence" as an excuse for a lack of obedience. Forth, leaders listen to the right voices. Five, good brings problems too. We must stay flexible and teachable. Your spiritual leadership results and responses reveal your spiritual maturity.

DISCUSSION:

(Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion on this week's primary message points. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. And remember, as a leader, your goal is to promote increased *biblical* awareness, as well as individual *self-awareness* – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and transformation! Encourage honest processing, possibly by being the first to be vulnerable and transparent.)

Read (Matthew 28:18-20) out loud together.

- Who is a leader you respect? What kind of impact did they have on your life?
- Earlier we talked about the definition of spiritual maturity. How does the way that you live your life exemplify that spiritual maturity?
- Pastor Shannon said, "You cannot lead those around you until you are able to lead yourself." Are there currently any areas in your life where you are feeling prompted to step up in your self-leadership? (ex. Spiritual life, physical health, priority of family over work, involvement in the church)
- We were challenged to center ourselves in sacred encounters. Have you ever had a sacred encounter before? What has been your most recent encounter? And how are you putting yourself in a position to hear from God?
- "Your identity is found in God alone." Is this statement true for you, or do you tend to find your identity in other thing? What do you think it would look like for someone to find their identity in God alone?
- If your leadership results and responses reveal your spiritual maturity, then has God shown you some areas of growth that you can work on in this next week? What are those areas of growth? How do you plan on working on them?

WRAP-UP/CLOSE:

What is the one thing that God is calling you to walk in obedience to this week?