

Discipleship: Making Disciples As You Go

Lesson 2: Breesport Basics

Connect and Grow

ABF

I. Introduction:

This morning we are moving into the second section of our discipleship journey which we've entitled "Mentoring Fundamentals". We will begin this section by examining our definition of what a Biblical disciple is and our discipleship process here at Breesport Baptist Church.

I would remind you that all that we are doing is designed to make us more effective at carrying out the Great Commission command to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

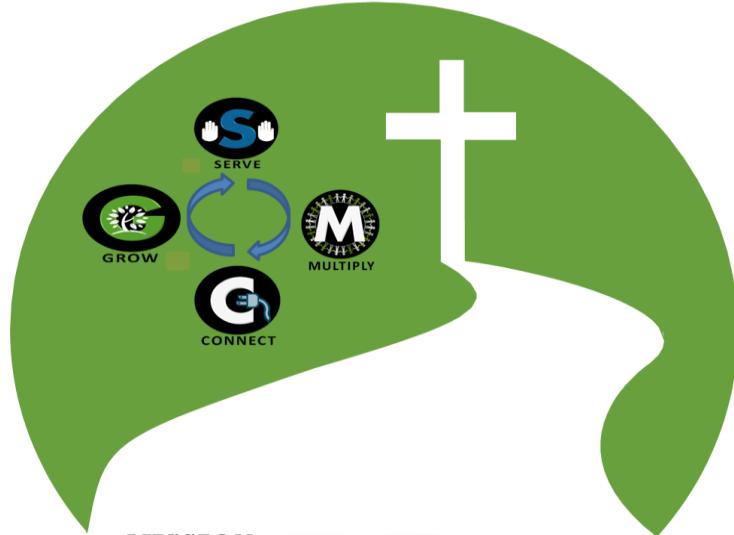
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

A Biblical definition of a Disciple of Jesus Christ:

A Disciple of Jesus Christ is one who is relationally **CONNECTED** Christ (Matthew 16:24), is **GROWING** in Christ-likeness (Luke 6:40), **SERVES** Christ (John 14:15), and is on mission with Christ (Matthew 28:18-20) to **MULTIPLY** more and better disciples of Christ.

Notice the following graphic:

Our **VISION** is to have every disciple fully engaged
in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ



Our **MISSION** is to glorify God by making
more and better disciples of Jesus Christ

II. Connect:

Definition:

Connecting people to God, His Word, and an authentic group of Christ-followers in dynamic and Biblically defined relationships.

- See 1 John 1:1-4

"Fellowship" means to **PARTICIPATE** with. It means to have things in common. Christianity is all about **RELATIONSHIP**.

Q. How would you Biblically defend the statement, "Christianity is about relationship" using the meta-narrative of the Bible?

¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:18-21)

Biblical community is essential to the disciple making process because:

- We do not **SEE** ourselves accurately.
- We cannot **OBEY** the "one another" commands in isolation.
- We do not have **EVERY** spiritual gift in and of ourselves.
- We cannot carry out the Great Commission in **ISOLATION**.
- We have too many **NEEDS**, too many **HURTS**, and too many **STRUGGLES** to go through life alone.

Q. The word "Authentic" in our definition doesn't mean "perfect". It just means authentic or real. How can being connected to an authentic group of Christ-followers be "messy"? How can it be fulfilling?

III. Grow:

Definition:

Growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through the application of Biblical truth resulting in life change.

- See 2 Peter 1:1-9

Peter had his choice of words for "Knowledge" here.

- One word [gnosis] means knowledge that is partial and incomplete. It is knowledge that is learned through **STUDY**.
- The other [epignosis] is a full and complete knowledge based on study and application. It's a knowledge rooted in a more intimate **RELATIONSHIP** with the subject.

People grow on a need to **KNOW** need to **GROW** basis where a particular circumstance require the application of Biblical truth in a faith based response to our Heavenly Father.

Q. What might some examples be of a need to know or a need to grow circumstance?

IV. Conclusion:

Life Groups are the primary disciple making environment of the church. They provide the closest relational connects and the ideal proximity to be a person of strategic influence when God brings someone to a need to know or need to grow moment. We need to have the confidence and the courage to engage in a meaningful and redemptive way within these relationships in order to fulfil our mission of making more and better disciple of Christ.

V. Homework:

Memory Verse for the week:

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)