

## Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning July 7<sup>th</sup> 2025.

### Introduction:

This term, the notes follow aspects of the Disciple series that we are following on Sunday evenings. They are seeking to encourage you to consider ways in which your group can become a place of discipleship, encouraging each other in the way of Christ through a number of discipleship practices.

Jesus' simplest command was two words, 'Follow me'.

Leave what you have been doing and re-learn a new way of life as my disciple.

*The Message* translation of Matthew 11.28-30 expresses this particularly clearly,

*"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."*

To live this life we need to begin with a response to the love of God in Christ that is expressed through the cross and the resurrection, and we need to practise the presence of God through the Holy Spirit, shaping our words, our thoughts and our deeds.

John Mark Comer suggests that this does not happen without thought and discipline. Not to practise this is to find ourselves following someone or something other than Christ.

*"For those of us who desire to follow Jesus, here is the reality we must turn and face: If we're not being intentionally formed by Jesus himself, then it's highly likely we are being unintentionally formed by someone or something else."*

He suggests that the way to be formed in this life involves:

- Being with Christ
- Becoming like Christ
- Doing as Christ would do.

Additional Resources:

John Mark Comer, 'Practicing the Way'

Numerous resources can be found here, [practicingtheway.org](https://practicingtheway.org)

Podcasts are available also here,

<https://open.spotify.com/show/08pHYEWdAJgGjpWTcVK9e3?si=085378f07e9548ce>

## Disciple 9: Service



Can you recall a time when you were struck by an act of kindness that you received?

How did it make you feel?

Read Galatians 5.13-14

- There are two sides to the command to 'serve one another' -serving and being served. Which do you feel most comfortable with and why?
- Was Jesus someone who allowed himself to be served as well as to serve? Can you share examples?



Galatians says we are set free to 'serve one another humbly in love'

Service is an expression of our freedom in Christ.

Take some time to thank God for our freedom in Christ and explore what that means in prayer as the Spirit leads.



Read John 13.1-13

This episode is the symbolic act that begins the journey to the cross in John.

Jesus' foot washing is described as his loving his friends 'to the end' or as a 'full expression of his love'

- What do you think this account communicates about the love of God?
- The central act is a common task usually performed by a servant.
  - What does it say about the attitude of Christ (cf. Phils 2.3-4)
  - What does it say about the practicality of the Christian life?
- How does this account shape our understanding of the call to service as a practice of Christian faith?
- How easy is it for us to accept the way Christ serves us in salvation (John 13,8)
- What is the connection between humility and our experience of grace? What prevents us from experiencing grace?
- In John 13.12-17, Jesus refers to the act of foot washing and makes it a model for service (assuming he is not advocating the continuation of foot washing as a religious rite).
  - What does he suggest about the way that we should respond to the service he offers here?
  - Read Mark 10.42-45.
    - What connection is there between the life of service and the cross?
    - In what ways are Jesus' actions unique to him and in what ways are they a model for us to follow?
    - What is the connection between the two? Are our acts of service his acts of service?

Random acts of kindness have become a talked-about action in our walk- there is even a foundation (<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>) where you can become a RAKtivist.

In Christian language, this approximates to blessing one another.

Why not discuss a way to make this a seasonal challenge for your housegroup?