

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning June 2nd 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

Podcasts are available also here,

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

Disciple 6: Generosity



Begin this evening by reflecting on God's generosity to us. You might like to read some of these verses: 1 John 3.1, Ephesians 1.3-14, John 3.16, 2 Corinthians, 1 Timothy 1.14, 2 Corinthians 8.9, 2 Corinthians 9.8



Perhaps you might like to share stories of God's generous provision in your life? Take some time to pray and to give thanks



Read Luke 12.14-21

Jesus tells this parable to answer a man seeking to settle an inheritance dispute. He warns the man "life does not consist in an abundance of possessions" (NIV) or "Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot" (The Message).

- What do you think Jesus tells this passage to warn against?
- Is the passage criticising wealth or an attitude to wealth?
- How does this sit alongside the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount at Matthew 6.19-21?

Read 2 Corinthians 9.6-11

The word 'magnanimous' means literally 'big hearted' or 'big spirited'. To live a life of generosity is not merely about our attitude to money but to our open handedness with our time, our attention, our skills and abilities, our encouragement.

- Think back over this day. What opportunities have you had to 'sow generously'?
- The economy of the Kingdom of God is counter intuitive. It seems to suggest that we become richer by giving?
 - How is this at the heart of Christian generosity?
 - Consider Acts 20.35, an interesting verse where words of Jesus are given that are not found in the gospels.
 - How can we find security that allows us to be generous?
- According to these verses in 2 Corinthians 9, how does our generosity bring praise to God?

scarcity thinking	abundance thinking
"There will never be enough"	"There will always be more"
Competes to stay on top Hoards things from others Won't share knowledge Won't offer help to others Suspicious of others Resents competition Afraid of being replaced Believes times are tough Believes the pie is shrinking Thinks small and avoids risk Fears change	Collaborates to stay on top Generous with others Shares knowledge Freely offers help to others Trusts and builds rapport Welcomes competition Strives to grow Believes the best is yet to come Believes the pie is growing Thinks big and embraces risk Takes ownership of change

Secular psychologists, including Stephen Covey who wrote an influential book called 'The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People', use a model called a scarcity/abundance mindset. It is illustrated in the table opposite.

Is this thinking applicable to our lives as Christian disciples?

What might you add or change to it?



Where might God be calling you to sow generously at this time in your life? Pray and step out as God leads you.