

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning 5/5/2025.

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 1



Before moving to the study, pause.

Encourage your group to be quiet together and simply individually come to God. Recall that you are meeting in his presence.

You may like to use these words from John 10.3-4 as a focus,

...the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

Turn your quiet reflections on Christ into prayers of praise, and share anything you feel God may be saying or reminding you about.



Before we look at the Bible, spend some time discussing what you understand by the word 'disciple'. How does it relate to 'learner', 'follower', 'apprentice'?

What is the difference between a believer and a disciple? What is involved in discipleship? Discipling others? Being disciplined?

Read Luke 5.1-11



- Look at 4.38-39. Did Simon know Jesus before he answered the call to be a disciple? What did he witness?
- In 5.2-3, Simon lends Jesus his boat as a floating pulpit and hears him teach. How did he respond to Jesus' teaching?
- In Luke 5.4-5, Jesus enters the everyday world of Simon- gets into his boat!
 - Had Jesus entered your everyday world? What does that look like?
 - Jesus commands Simon and he obeys him, even though he is not yet a disciple. What is the relationship between obedience and discipleship, obedience and relationship with Christ?
- The miraculous catch of fish prompts a strange reaction in Simon- recognises God's holiness and his own sinfulness.
 - How is this similar to Isaiah 6.5? Luke 9.29?
 - When was the last time you encountered Jesus in such a way that you found yourself on your knees?
- In Luke 5.10-11, an encounter in holiness is pursued by a commission to follow Jesus to become 'fishers' of people.
 - How does this happen in Simon's experience? Plot Simon Peter's life by sharing stories. What highs and lows happen? How does he learn? How does he grow?
 - How might this also reflect the shape of our own discipleship?
 - How does this reflect John Mark Comer's view that disciples are called to 'be with Jesus to become like Jesus in order to do as Jesus does'?
- What conclusions can you draw from all this as we approach the studies on discipleship practices this term?