

Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning July 21st 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 10: Witness



We speak about being witnesses. Acts 1 speaks of the Holy Spirit giving us power to witness.

- What is a witness? What are they responsible for?
- What is the difference between a witness and a barrister? Or a judge?

What have you witnessed of the life of God in the last few days?

Begin by sharing stories of our life in Christ, witnessing to each other, and give thanks to God.



Read Isaiah 43.9-11.

Here is the idea of being witnesses in the Old Testament. Witnessing is set up as counter-witnessing against the other peoples.

- What are the witnesses testifying to?

Read Acts 1.8 and Luke 24.45-49

- What are the disciples called to testify to in the passages where Jesus commissions his followers?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in this?
- You might also like to look at John 20.21-22...

Read Matthew 28.18-20

- What additional ideas are here about the call to witness?
- How do you understand the word 'Go'. Some say a better translation is 'as you go...', what does this entail?
- It speaks here of being a witness to all 'ethne', all 'people groups' (see also Revelation 7.9). How can we expand our horizon to include this scope?

John Piper wrote, ***'...worship is the goal and the fuel of missions: Missions exist because worship doesn't. Missions is our way of saying: the joy of knowing Christ is not a private, or tribal, or national or ethnic privilege. It is for all. And that's why we go. Because we have tasted the joy of worshipping Jesus, and we want all the families of the earth included.'***

End your study by reflecting on these words and praying into the witness of your group



Is there an opportunity to expand the horizon of your group by allowing time to share stories of witness and to pray for situations where we have the opportunity to witness.

Discuss how you might build that into your rhythm

Might there be something that you could do as a group to be a witness to Christ?

Remember, as we go, Jesus promises to be with us always until the very end of the age, and take courage together.