

## Homegroup Notes for Week Beginning June 16<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 8: Community



Earlier in this series, we discussed the spiritual discipline of solitude- removing distractions to seek God. Community is the complementary practice ensuring that we do not descend into selfishness, but set the outworking of faith firmly in the context of relationship with others. See Proverbs 27.17.

- What do you understand by the word community?
- What is necessary for a community to flourish?
- Is your housegroup a community? Is Belmont a community?



Read John 17.20-23

- What is the connection between the community life of Christian faith and our understanding of who God is?
- What does a united Christian community convey to the world around?
- What does unity mean in the context of Christian community? How are we called to be 'one'?
- Is Christian community in and of itself missional?



Pray for the unity of our church and of your housegroup out of the discussion that you have had.



Read Luke 5.27-32

- What does this passage have to say about the nature of Christian community?
- Tim Chester writes about this passage saying, *'The problem here is not the party. The Pharisees knew God's Kingdom was going to be a party. Their objection is the guest list.'*
- How does this challenge us to broaden the call to community in Christian life?
- What role do you think eating together has in this?
- Tim Chester again writes, *'Being welcomed at a table for the purpose of eating food with another person had become a ceremony richly symbolic of friendship, intimacy and unity...when people were estranged, a meal invitation opened the way to reconciliation.'*
- Robert Karris writes, *'In Luke's gospel Jesus got himself killed because of the way he ate.'*
- How is eating together an expression of the gospel? Who have you invited to dinner recently?
- One final Tim Chester quotation, *'[Jesus] offers salvation: being welcomed to God's feast. And when we don't measure up, we're not condemned. Instead of condemning us, God is condemned in our place.'*
- Our hospitality- perhaps the quality that is the heart of Christian community- flows from the hospitality of Christ.

You might like to discuss the practical implications of this study for your housegroup...

You might like to conclude your meeting by sharing communion.