

Dynamic Discipleship

The course objectives:

- To impart Jesus' great call and commission to discipleship.
- To establish a biblical view of what discipleship is.
- To understand how to "make a disciple."
- To empower you to live a radical and fruitful Christian life that produces fruit and results in disciples being made.

Exercise:

Complete the following sentence 3 times to express your current understanding of what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ:

1.1. A disciple is one who ...

1.2. A disciple is one who ...

1.3. A disciple is one who ...

dy·nam·ic - Adjective: Characterised by energy or effective action; Vigorously active or forceful; energetic

1

THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

1. Jesus' Great Call to "Follow and be Made":

When Jesus started his public ministry one of the first things He did was to call some fishermen:

Matt 4:19

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

This was Jesus' simple invitation to these fishermen, which caused them to embark on the most radical and exciting faith adventure ever, the effect of which still profoundly affects our world every single day.

His call included...

- An invitation: "Come"
- An instruction: "Follow Me"
- A promise of change: "I will make you"
- A purpose: "Fishers of men"

To understand discipleship we will look at each of these aspects in more detail in this subject.

2. Jesus' Great Commission to "Go and Make Disciples":

When Jesus had completed his victorious work on the cross, he declared to His disciples that now "all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." Then He gave them a great commission: Go therefore...

Matt 28:19, 20

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

His commission included instruction to:

- "Go" – Where? When? To Whom?
- "Make" – How do I "make" one? What does it take?
- "Baptise" – to be immersed in all of Jesus and His way & will.
- "Teach them to obey" – This is about the Lordship of Christ.

It also included the promise "to be with us – He empowers us by His Holy Spirit.

3. **Discipleship in the early church**

The church started on the day of Pentecost when 3000 were saved and baptised (Acts 2:41), and then “the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47). The focus though quickly moves to the language of “disciples”.

Acts 6:7

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 11:26

So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 14:21

They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch.

In Matt 16:18 Jesus said that He would “build His church”. He calls us to make disciples, with whom He builds His church, using us as 1 Peter 2:5 says “living stones.” Sadly, today these roles are often reversed, with leaders “building the church” and expecting Jesus to “make disciples.” This is not the pattern.

4. **Making His Commission Our Mission**

Jesus didn't tell His disciples to go and have meetings, build buildings, do counselling, etc - He gave them a commission to go and make disciples, because it is disciples (Christ-like people) who would together as church be the hope of the world. Everything we do should be towards this particular fruit: Being His disciples, and making disciples.

Making disciples must be our clear “bottom line” – the “main thing”. It's the “fruit” that Jesus is seeking from our personal lives, our churches, and our ministries.

Become the Master's disciple and let making disciples be your life mission, and set out on the most incredible adventure where Jesus will definitely be “with you always.”

Personal Questions:

- How high does making disciples currently rate on my list of priorities/goals/vision for my life?
- What would it look like if making disciples was the highest ministry priority in my life?



5. WHAT DISCIPLESHIP IS NOT

To be disciples and to make disciples, we need to clearly define what we mean by discipleship. Let's first look at what discipleship IS NOT, and then at what IT IS:

1. Discipleship is not primarily a mentoring program to help¹ become better church members.

2. Discipleship is not primarily an advanced study course to help Christians² the Bible better.

3. Discipleship is not primarily an³ group to help Christians stay out of sin.

4. Discipleship is not a spiritual⁴ clearinghouse where all major decisions are submitted, discerned and decided upon.

5. Discipleship is not a place where Christians⁵ to authority or surrender their responsibility before God for their own lives.

¹ Christians

² Know

³ Accountability

⁴ Counselling

⁵ Submit

2

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DISCIPLE

1. DEFINITION OF DISCIPLESHIP

The word disciple simply means to be:

- A dedicated follower.
- A learner bent on understanding and implementing what his or her master is attempting to teach them.
- One committed to replicating his or her master's way of life and mission.

Discipleship is a process or a journey, not any single event, or even a series of events or "steps." It's about learning from a master to be like the master. It's a journey to the cross, through the cross, and deeper into carrying the cross.

The discipleship journey starts with a conviction of sin and a revelation of who Jesus is, leading to repentance and a decision to turn to God in faith, and continuing to grow more and more to be like our Master Jesus.

"DISCIPLESHIP IS" - Lets look at Jesus' words in Matthew 4:19 to further understand what it means to be His disciple.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

2. DISCIPLESHIP IS: RESPONDING TO JESUS' INVITATION TO "COME"

The call to come is an invitation from the heart of God: An invitation to all of creation to be restored to our original position and purpose in God, and to come not in our own strength and works, but to come by faith in Christ.

This call started all the way back with God coming into the garden as the great Seeker coming to Adam and Eve as they had sinned and were hiding from Him, calling out: "Adam, where are you?" In Genesis 3:21 we see that God came not to kill them, but to cover their sin through an innocent substitutionary sacrifice (for more on this see the subject "Jesus in Genesis" in the Spring Term). When Jesus calls us to come, He is

calling us out of sin and its depravity and into life in all its fullness through faith in and obedience to Him as Lord of our lives.

Consider the following invitations from Jesus to those he called:

Matt 11:28-29 (NIV) *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Matt 11:28-29 (The Message) *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.*

John 6:35 *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.*

John 7:37 *On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink."*

Rev 22:17 *The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.*

The discipleship journey starts when you recognise your need for salvation, and respond to that invitation with:

- repentance, and
- total surrender.

John 14:6 *Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Mat 4:20 *At once they left their nets and followed Him.*

3. DISCIPLESHIP IS: A COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW JESUS

What does it mean to “follow Jesus”? Consider these examples of what Jesus said about following Him as Lord in obedience and complete surrender (being His disciple):

Mark 8:34-35 *Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."*

Mat 8:18-22 *When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. ¹⁹Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."*

²⁰*Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*

²¹*Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."*

²²*But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."*

Matt 10:37-39 *"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."*

To follow Jesus means to surrender your will to the Father even as Christ did in Gethsemane. Carrying your cross happens when God's will crosses yours, and you surrender to Him rather than your own will and desires:

Matt 26:41-43 *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."*

⁴²*He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."*

⁴³*When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.*

Rom 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Following Jesus calls for the kind of wholehearted devotion that we see in the early church disciples:

Acts 2:42-47 *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Application Question: If someone observed your life, what would they say you are “devoted to?”

4. DISCIPLESHIP IS: BEING “MADE” BY JESUS TO BE MORE AND MORE LIKE JESUS

God loves us as we are, and in repentance we can come as we are, but He loves us too much to leave us the way we are. He created us in His image, and the Holy Spirit will not rest until we are restored back into His image, which is revealed to us in Jesus.

2 Cor 5:17 *Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

Rom 8:28-30 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son...*



3

HOW DOES JESUS “MAKE” US?

How are we changed?
Understanding the “tools” God uses
In His process of
“forming us into the image of Christ”

Consider the Old Testament image of the potter moulding clay:

Jer 18:3-5 *So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴ But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.*

There are three ways to change:

- Conform – external change to conformity to a standard
- Reform – attempt to change from outside to inside
- Transform – change from internal to external. This is how God works to change us.

1. By the Gospel

Rom 1:16 *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*

1 Cor 6:11 (Amplified Bible) *And such some of you were [once]. But you were washed clean (purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin), and you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed), and you were justified [pronounced righteous, by trusting] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God.*

2. By the Holy Spirit

2 Cor 3:17-18 (NKJ) *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Rom 8:1-2 *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

3. By the Love of Jesus

Gal 2:20-21 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!*

4. By Conviction (not condemnation)

Conviction which leads to repentance.

Confession (to God and others) is a vital aspect of repentance.

2 Cor 7:9-11 *...yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.*

5. By Renewing our minds through His word

Rom 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Ps 1:1-3 *Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*

6. By His truth setting us free from lies and deception

John 8:31-32 *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

7. By Jesus being our example

Heb 12:1-3 [Amp] *Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]_He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself [reckon up and consider it all in comparison with your trials], so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds.*

8. He Disciplines us a sons (those who will inherit)

Heb 12:7-11 *Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! ¹⁰Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it*

9. By Tests & Trials (not temptation)

James 1:2-4 *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

10. By the Example of others - Fathers & Friends

Prov 27:17 *As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

1 Cor 4:15-16 *Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶Therefore I urge you to imitate me.*

Phil 3:17 *Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.*

Who are some key “iron people” / Fathers / Friends who help shape your life?

11. By Prayer

Prayer not only changes things we pray about, but prayer changes us.

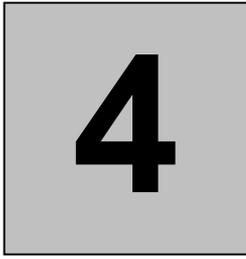
Col 4:2-3 *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.*

12. By opportunities of Service

Luke 16:10-31 *Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?*

Eph 2:10 *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do*

13. Other tools Jesus uses you can think of:



DICIPLESHIP IS: BECOMING A “FISHER OF MEN,” AND TO GO...

Discipleship is both a call to follow Christ, and to make Christ followers. Dynamic discipleship is a call to be disciples who make disciples.

1. Fishermen, Farmers, and Shepherds...and you

“Fish” here is fisherman-speak for being fruitful. Jesus used a variety of other metaphors to talk about being productive:

John 15:4-8 *Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

⁵*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

Later Jesus would actually use more shepherding language to these fishermen. Fishermen would be taxed on each fish, so some would be more important than others. But shepherds valued each sheep, and they would go after each lost sheep.

Matt 9:36-38 *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

2. Jesus came to seek and save the lost

Jesus came for “the lost”, and lived so radically that the religious rulers of the day accused him of being a “friend of sinners”.

Matt 9:9-13 *As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow Me," He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him. ¹⁰While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with Him and His disciples.*

Luke 19:10 *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*

3. Motivated by love and compassion

Our reaching out must be motivated and fuelled by LOVE for God, for fellow believers, and for the lost:

Matt 22:36-40 *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

Mark 6:34 *When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.*

John 13:34-35 *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

4. Your relationships with unbelievers

Disciples value investing and having good relationships with non-believers. Their testimony is very important. Like Jesus, they get invited...

John 2:1-3 *On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."*

Col 4:5-6 *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

5. Jesus calls us to be ministers / messengers of reconciliation:

2 Cor 5:17-21 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

1 Cor 9:21-23 *To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

Discipleship that is motivated by duty is not attractive and is not effective. Dynamic disciples are lovers. Love for God and love for the people he loves gives us a genuine desire to grow in relationship with people, and to invite them to receive the gospel message by which they can be saved.

6. When we love people without condition, we build trust, gain influence, and earn the right to be heard.

Matt 5:14-16 (The Message) *Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.*

G.K.Chesterton

“Let your religion be less theory, and more love affair”

Dwight L. Moody

If only we could make the world believe that we loved them there would be fewer empty churches, and a smaller proportion of our population who never darken a church door. Let love replace duty in our church relations, and the world will soon be evangelized.

7. Go into your world - Consider the following approach:

- **Identify** – who is “in your world”?
- **Intercede** – Pray specifically for a few people’s salvation.
- **Invest** – in your relationship with non-believers.
- **Invite** – them to relevant events, church services, and to receive Christ as you share the gospel.

List 3-5 people who are “in your world” to be reached for Christ:

SUMMARY :

Discipleship is:

- Responding to Jesus’ great invitation to “come”.
- A commitment to follow Jesus.
- To be “made” by Jesus.
- To become a fisher of men, and to GO...

John 15:15 *“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”*

5

NOW, HOW DO WE “MAKE” DISCIPLES? – THE PATTERN

Jesus did not just call us to BE disciples, but He clearly also commissioned us to MAKE disciples. The big question is: How do I make one? What’s the recipe for “making” disciples?

1. We need a pattern to “pass it on”...

To be effective at making anything we need a plan or a pattern. We can’t just do random acts of ministry and somehow hope that this will produce the fruit of disciples. Simply having great church services and events is not going to do it. Prayer alone, although that is an essential empowering part of all effective ministry, won’t do it. Jesus isn’t going to do it, because He commissioned us to do it, and He promised that He would be with us always as we go and do it, and that he would build His church with the disciples that are made!

Note how Paul reminds Timothy how he received the “genuine faith” (not some Chinese whispers version) from his previous generations, and then challenges him pass it on to the next generations:

2 Tim 1:3-5 *I thank God...⁵I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.*

2 Tim 2:2 *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*

2. It’s not enough to “possess” – we must “pass it on”:

What a tragedy that the great Joshua who led God’s people to possess the Promised Land, never raised up the next generation to continue.

Jud 2:8-10 *Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died ...¹⁰After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.*

Prov 13:22 *A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.*

The greatest heritage you can leave is disciples who will make disciples and continue to make disciples of Jesus on the earth until He returns.

3. Note for those of you who are not from EN London:

The next section will look specifically at the pattern of how we make disciples at Every Nation London. As we do, consider how this applies to your own local church so that you clearly understand the pattern you and your local church are following to make disciples. Different churches will use different ways to communicate these truths, but every church should attempt to be clear on a plan/pattern to fulfil Jesus' great commission to make disciples.

One such example of an alternative and well established pattern to make disciples is from our Every Nation Victory Churches in Manila, who use the "four E's" to communicate their values:

1. Engage our culture and community
2. Establish spiritual foundations
3. Equip every member to minister
4. Empower every disciple to make disciples

4. Our pattern to make disciples at Every Nation London

Here at Every Nation London we state that our mission is simply to do what Jesus said, which is "to make disciples of all nations," and our pattern for doing this is centred around what we call **our five core values**:

1. Reaching
2. Connecting
3. Empowering
4. Transforming
5. Reproducing

These values determine what we prioritise, plan, pay for, celebrate, and evaluate in our church life.

We believe that if we deliberately and consistently live out these values in every area of our lives and the life of the church, we will make disciples.

5. Some important notes before we look at our values:

- 5.1 These values are not a set of specific programs, nor a set of tasks to complete, but rather a set of priorities that we seek to maximise

in all of our programs/events/relationships to ensure that we all grow in Christ and become more like Him.

5.2 Effective discipleship happens when believers are active in 3 core areas (and effective disciple-making churches must ensure that these 3 areas are happening):

- **Organised Church Activities** (Congregation gathering, worshipping, effective preaching, etc)
- **Spiritual Community** (Group discipleship and doing life together)
- **Personal Spiritual Practices** (personal devotions, prayer, Bible reading/study, giving, serving, fasting, etc)

5.3 To be effective, our pattern must be:

- **Clear** – Is the pattern we use easily understood by all? Do we know what the first step for a new believer is? Do we know the purpose of our various ministry tools/programs?
- **Create movement** – in order for people to grow and mature they must move along deliberate steps of engaging with truth, people, God & purpose. These steps should be clear to all.
- **Culture** – This must become more than a slogan or part of the program. The word “culture” comes from the Latin *cultura* meaning “to cultivate.” In our context here it means the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterises an institution, organisation or group; i.e. it should become second nature to the majority of the congregation, and those who come into our church community should quickly experience these values in all that we are and do.

5.4 It is useful to consider the difference between MAKING and MATURING disciples. MAKING focuses on the initial ministry required for a new believer to have a strong foundation for their faith to grow on. Jesus told us to “teach them to obey all I have taught you.” This doesn’t mean “teaching them everything”, but rather teaching them to OBEY everything – introducing them to Master Jesus and His truth in such a way that they will follow Him on to MATURITY. It is very important that we are very deliberate and effective in the MAKING as well as the MATURING of disciples.

6

EVERY NATION LONDON: MAKING DISCIPLES BY LIVING OUT OUR FIVE CORE VALUES

Start of
video
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At Every Nation London we prioritise living out the following five values in order to fulfil our mission to make disciples:

1. **REACHING:** *To make disciples we value sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with every non-believer and leading them into a personal relationship with God.*
2. **CONNECTING:** *To make disciples we value relationally connecting people into authentic Christian community.*
3. **EMPOWERING:** *To make disciples we value purposefully building strong Biblical foundations in every believer and equipping them for ministry, leadership, and life.*
4. **TRANSFORMING:** *To make disciples we value being a socially responsible church that makes a positive difference in every area of society.*
5. **REPRODUCING:** *To make disciples we value growth and multiplication in every area of church life by consistently raising and releasing leaders into their God-given calling.*

We will now look at how each of these can be lived out to make disciples:

1. **REACHING:** *To make disciples we value sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with every non-believer and leading them into a personal relationship with God.*
 - 1.1. We have already looked at living this value under the section “becoming a fisher of men” on pages 13-16 above.
 - 1.2. This value challenges us to keep Evangelism - sharing the Good News of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ – a priority and a deep passion in all that we do. Of all our values this one typically needs the most stirring up because it is so easy for us as Christians and churches to become inward-looking so that our discipleship is reduced only to making Christians better Christians.

- 1.3. This value challenges us to consistently be witnesses of Jesus Christ, not being ashamed of the Gospel.

Rom 1:16-17 *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

- 1.4. This value calls us to an urgency and boldness in sharing the Gospel:

Eph 6:19-20 *Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

Here are some ways in which we can live the REACHING value to make disciples:

In our lives:

- **Live the gospel** - Live an attractive, Spirit-empowered life that bears witness to the gospel we preach.
- **Love people** - Like Jesus, be a friend of non-believers and show grace to all.
- **Pray for the lost** - Pray passionately and consistently for people to be saved.
- **Be unashamed** - Be confident that Jesus is the only way, and be bold and equipped to have spiritual conversations with people and share your faith.
- **Invite people** - Don't leave it others. Invite people to church services and relevant events, and personally invite people to respond to the gospel.

In church life:

- **Connect Groups** - Always keep the door open to unbelievers, inviting them in to experience authentic Christian community and discover God.
- **Sunday services** - Provide a welcoming community of grace where anybody can come to personally experience God and discover his grace and truth which leads to repentance, faith, and transformed lives.

- 2.4. This value emphasises Jesus' call for us to be like "family" as believers, recognising and treating all believers as our brothers and sisters in Christ:

Eph 2:19 *you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's family.*

Matt 12:47-50 *Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." ⁴⁸He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."*

Acts 2:46 *Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.*

- 2.5. This value reminds us of the benefit and importance of not being alone:

Eccl 4:9-12 *Two are better than one...*

- 2.6. This value challenges us to not be passive in showing love, but to be active and creative in the way we do life together:

Heb 10:24-25 (The Message) *Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.*

Here are some ways in which we can live the CONNECTING value to make disciples:

In our personal lives:

- **Love one another** - Prioritise people not programs or personal agendas and put love into action by caring for one another and serving each other.
- **Do life together** - Don't just do meetings, do life together. Make time for people, hang out socially and take time to develop meaningful friendships.
- **Include everyone** - Christian community is not exclusive. Look out for all new people, outsiders, and people on the fringes and draw them in.
- **Keep it real** - Don't pretend. Find people you trust who you can be vulnerable with and create a culture where people can be honest about their lives.
- **Resolve conflict quickly** - When conflict arises take immediate action to resolve it and preserve relationships according to the principles outlined in Matthew 18. Forgive immediately and don't gossip or grumble.

In church life:

- **Connect groups** - Friends look out for each other and help one another discover Christ and follow Him in everyday life. Make sure that your Connect Group is genuinely and intentionally being authentic Christian community.
- **Socials** - Groups or individuals host social events and parties to help their friends experience a taste of Christian community.
- **Teams** - Help at church services to welcome and connect people into church life. Being part of a serving team is a great way to do life together.

Your Personal Application:

What do you find most challenging about living out this value in London?

What one maturing adjustment do you need to make to your own life in order to more effectively live out this value to make disciples?



3. **EMPOWERING:** *To make disciples we value purposefully building strong Biblical foundations in every believer and equipping them for ministry, leadership, and life.*

- 3.1. This value emphasises the importance of every believer having strong foundations for their faith: Biblical Foundations are established as we become Christ-centred and live lives of obedience to Him:

Luke 6:47-48a *"I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock."*

- 3.2. This value emphasises the central place of Scripture in making disciples:

2 Tim 3:16-17 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

John 8:31-32 *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

- 3.3. This value recognises the Bible's mandate to church leaders that they must equip believers for ministry:

Eph 4:11-12 *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*

- 3.4. This value reminds us to take preparation and equipping for ministry seriously:

Col 1:28-29 *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

- 3.5. This value emphasises that preaching is not limited to the pulpit, and that it should be relevant to all areas of a disciple's life:

Acts 20:20 *You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.*

- 3.6. This value reminds us of the power of relational mentorship in maturing disciples:

Acts 18:24-28 *Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. ²⁵He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.*

²⁷*When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. ²⁸For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.*

Here are some ways in which we can live the EMPOWERING value to make disciples:

In our personal lives:

- **Desire to grow** - God wants to lead us on a journey of increasing maturity and influence so aspire to be more than you are now.
- **Discover your S.H.A.P.E.** - Find your God-given unique gifting and character and then learn to be great at it. Seek opportunities to develop your gifts and talents.
- **Get help** - Recognize you don't know everything and seek out Godly people who can encourage you and help you grow.
- **Help others** - Look out for new members and offer to help those around you grow in the faith or in ministry-related skills. Helping others to grow is one of the best ways to grow yourself.
- **Be baptised in the Holy Spirit** - Empowering for life and ministry come from the Holy Spirit. Learn to depend on him and cultivate a daily relationship with God through his word and prayer, and relying on Him to work.

In church life:

- **Church Life** - Worship services and connect groups equip people to live radical lives as they grow in understanding and applying God's truth, and are empowered by His Holy Spirit.
- **Core Discipleship Tools** – Our core tools that provide ways of building solid Biblical Foundations and empower believers to pass them on to others.
 - The “Why Jesus?” booklet for introducing the Gospel truths.
 - The One2One for getting a new believer off to a great start.
 - The Purple Book for laying solid Biblical foundations.
 - Victory Weekends for ministering foundations, freedom & fruitfulness.
- **Bible School** – Our part-time one-year Bible equipping course, completed in class or on the web, equips believers with a solid understanding and relevant application of life-changing truth.
- **Life-related equipping** - Seminars and courses equip people in areas such as Finances, Work-life, Relationships, Marriage, Marriage Preparation, Parenting, Music, the arts, etc.

Your Personal Application:

What do you find most challenging about living out this value in London?

What one maturing adjustment do you need to make to your own life in order to more effectively live out this value to make disciples?

4. **TRANSFORMING:** *To make disciples we value being a socially responsible church that makes a positive difference in every area of society.*

- 4.1. This value challenges us to let our faith produce good works, which builds good will, which give us credibility to share Good News:

Matt 5:16 *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

1 Peter 2:12 *“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”*

- 4.2. This value challenges us to live to change the world through prayer and action!

Matt 6:10 *“Our Father... your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

- 4.3. This value calls us to good works as the fruit of our faith, especially to the poor, oppressed, marginalised, etc:

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world

Amos 5:15 *Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts.*

- 4.4. This value gives purpose to our faithful giving of tithes and offerings so that together we can be a house that is a blessing to the nations:

Malachi 3:10-12 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. ¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.

(Note: The nations call us blessed when we are a blessing)

- 4.5. This value calls us to the transforming power of prayer.

- **Pray for the nations: Mark 11:17** "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations"
- **Pray for our leaders: 1 Tim 2:1** "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Saviour."
- **Pray for the peace of the city: Jer 29:7** Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.
- **Pray for Gods Kingdom to come**

Here are some ways in which we can live the TRANSFORMING value to make disciples:

In our personal lives:

- **Have compassion** - Don't become complacent or insulated from the needs of society. Have Jesus' heart for the world around you and live to make a difference.
- **Live to be a blessing** - Live within your means and be generous with your resources so you can bless those who are less fortunate. Give to the local church so there is money to care for the poor and to fund the transforming ministry.
- **Serve selflessly** - Find ways to serve the needs in the world around you and put your gifts and your time to use for the benefit of others in need.
- **Speak out boldly** - Stand up against injustice and ungodliness, speaking the truth boldly in love and supporting groups who work to make a difference in the world.

- **Pray faithfully** - Pray for those less fortunate than yourself and intercede for those in government and positions of authority to make wise and Godly decisions.

In church life:

- **Local Community Outreach** - Teams of youth and children's workers run a dynamic program of clubs, camps, and home visits in our church's local community.
- **Transformation Projects** - Opportunities for groups to do home makeovers for people in our local community who are in need.
- **Love Ukraine** - Our missions ministry to some of the poorest people in Europe who live in the Carpathian mountains of the Ukraine.
- **Thembalitsha's Village of Hope** - Ministering to the Third World by partnering with this South African charity which works with those affected by HIV/AIDS.
- **Prayer gatherings** – We regularly come together in various groups and in various settings to pray for our world and its needs.

Your Personal Application:

What do you find most challenging about living out this value in London?

What one maturing adjustment do you need to make to your own life in order to more effectively live out this value to make disciples?

5. REPRODUCING: *To make disciples we value growth and multiplication in every area of church life by consistently raising and releasing leaders into their God-given calling.*

5.1. This value stretches us to believe, plan and minister for GROWTH:

Acts 6:5-7 ... *They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas...⁶They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased / multiplied rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.*

- 5.2. This value challenges us to impart what we know and have to others, thereby creating a multiplying environment:

2 Tim 2:2 *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

- 5.3. This value focuses us beyond “possessing,” to “passing it on” as an inheritance to others:

Prov 13:22 *A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.*

Jud 2:8-10 *Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died ...
¹⁰After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.*

(What a tragedy that the great Joshua who led God's people to possess the Promised Land, never raised up the next generation to continue. The greatest heritage you can leave is disciples who will make disciples and continue to make disciples of Jesus on the earth until He returns).

- 5.4. This value challenges us to live beyond ourselves, reminding us that discipleship is not just about fulfilling our own ministry, but about raising and releasing new leaders to bear fruit that will last:

John 15:8 *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

John 15:16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit; fruit that will last.*

Here are some ways in which we can live the REPRODUCING value to make disciples:

In our personal lives:

- **Dream big** - Have a vision for people to be added daily to the church and the number of disciples to multiply in London, just as in the book of Acts.
- **Pass it on** - In everything you do, think about who's going to come after you. Seize every opportunity to mentor others and help them grow.
- **Spot talent** - Look for the gifts and potential in other people, encouraging them to step out boldly for God and put those gifts to work.
- **Create room for growth** - Lead into growth and expansion by delegating instead of doing everything yourself. Always think

about who else could get involved or grow through this opportunity.

- **Aim to improve** - Be ready to change anything which hinders fruitfulness. Ask for feedback and evaluate what you do so you can improve.

In church life:

- **Apprentice Leaders** - Every leader is encouraged to identify and develop an apprentice leader who will learn how to lead and multiply the group or team.
- **Leadership Groups and Events** – We have established support structures ensure all our leaders receive pastoral care, support and coaching.
- **Leadership Equipping** - Specific subjects in our Bible School curriculum equip Connect Group and other leaders with effective leadership skills.
- **Our Engage Internship** - *A nine month internship to help people discover their calling and receive preparation and training for launching into vocational ministry.*

Your Personal Application:

What do you find most challenging about living out this value in London?

What one maturing adjustment do you need to make to your own life in order to more effectively live out this value to make disciples?

CONCLUSION TO THIS DYNAMIC DISCIPLESHIP COURSE:

Jesus calls us to be His disciples, and to go and make disciples. Hear this challenge from the apostle Paul to the Colossian disciples:

Colossians 2:6-7 [The Message] *My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it!*

So let's be... and let's go...

P.S. In the next term we do a follow on course to this called: Multiplying Discipleship, which focuses on ministry equipping to make and multiply disciples through community and Connect Groups.

Appendix 1

EVERY NATION DISCIPLESHIP POLICY

Copied below is the official Every Nation policy on discipleship. If anything that you experience in an Every Nation church contradicts any of these policies, you should appeal directly to the leadership of the church to address this, quoting me if necessary!

- Pastor Wolfi
Senior Pastor: Every Nation London
Member of EN International Policy Council

Every Nation Discipleship Policy

We are convinced that every believer is called to be a disciple, and as described in Matt 4:19, a disciple is someone who follows Jesus, reaches unbelievers with the Gospel and does these activities in community with other believers. In support of this process, the boards of Every Nation organisations shall not allow practices that are controlling, coercive or intrusive, or that violate Biblical principles, the priesthood of the believer and the disciple-making principles enumerated below:

1. We believe the Bible is the ultimate authority in the life of the believer.
2. All Christians are called to preach the Gospel and make disciples. This means we are called to follow Jesus and to help others follow Jesus.
3. We are called to uphold Scripture and provide Godly counsel and leadership while reinforcing the God-given right and responsibility of every individual to follow his or her own conscience and make his or her own decisions.
4. We do not require anyone in the disciple-making process to follow any mentor's advice.
5. We believe in restoring families and – especially in the campus ministry context – we encourage every student to honour and respect his or her parents.
6. We believe in the church universal, the church local and the calling of believers to worship and affiliate with the church or ministry or their choice. Therefore, we reject exclusivity or elitism in any of our churches and ministries.
7. We believe the disciple-making process should never be exclusive. Therefore, individuals should feel free to discuss their spiritual growth, personal issues and disagreements with other pastors, mentors, friends and family.