

Why make disciples? (Part 1)

Getting started

1. If someone said to you “I’m okay with Christians having their own faith; I’d just prefer that they kept it to themselves”, how might you respond?

2. How would you define the word ‘disciple’?

Making disciples is core to the Christian life. To give ourselves to this, we will need some robust convictions about what God is doing in his world and where disciple-making fits in with his big plan.

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

2. Take a quick skim over Matthew 26-28. What key events are described in these chapters? Why would these events make the eleven disciples feel the weight or significance of Jesus’ commission?

3. What does Jesus say about himself in 28:18?

4. What is the connection between what Jesus says about himself and why his disciples should make more disciples? (Note Jesus’ use of the word ‘therefore’ in verse 19.)

5. The Great Commission is structured around the four-fold repetition of the word ‘all’: all authority; all nations; all that I have commanded; always (literally ‘all the days’). What weight or significance does this repetition give to Jesus’ words?

6. Think about Jesus’ ministry in the Gospels. In what ways did Jesus demonstrate the authority given to him through his actions and words?

7. What do these statements from Jesus about his authority and his purpose in coming into the world?

a. Matthew 10:40,

b. Matthew 11:27

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

8. How does the apostle Paul understand the extent of Christ’s authority? How does Christ use his authority?

Implications

9. See how many different ways you can truthfully finish this sentence: “We make disciples because...”

10. Having completed this study, is there anything you want to add to your answer to question 1?

11. Is Christ’s command to ‘make disciples’ one more thing to add into our busy lives? Or is the vision of ‘making disciples’ actually the way of integrating our lives and ministries around God’s ultimate purposes?

Give thanks and pray about the things you’ve seen in this study.

Reminder – if you want to be part of hospitality Sunday, tell your leader!