

How are disciples made?

Getting started

1. By what method did God make you a disciple of Jesus?

What the great commission says

2. Read again Matthew 28:16-20. What do these verses say about how disciples are made (particularly vv. 19 and 20)?

3. What evidence in the passage indicates that Jesus commissions all Christians, not just the first eleven?

4. Read Luke 24:44-49. This passage is sometimes known as Luke's Great Commission. What does Jesus commission his disciples to do?

5. What is Jesus' promise to disciple-makers?

6. In both passages, how does Jesus show he is the 'prime mover' in making disciples?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-15.

8. Here we have two images of making disciples. In the first image (the farmer), what is the role of (a) the Christian and (b) God?

9. In the second image (the builder), what is the necessary foundation of anything Paul builds? What is the building?

Making disciples in the book of Acts

10. Read Acts 2:37-41, 6:7, 12:24, 13:49, 14:21-22 and 19:20. What impact did the word of God have throughout Acts?

11. Read Acts 4:31, 11:15, 13:52 and 16:6-7. What power was at work as the word was proclaimed?

Implications

The making of disciples is first and foremost God's work. And yet in his sovereign kindness, God invites us and commands us to be part of this work. A summary of 'how' is in these 4 Ps:

- Proclamation of the word of God
- Prayerful dependence on the Spirit of God
- People as God's fellow workers
- Persevering, step by step

12. Why should we be confident that God would use us as we speak God's word to each other?

13. Think of a fellow disciple who is finding life hard in this fallen world, and pray about what you could do to help them move toward maturity in Christ.

- How could you demonstrate your love for this person?
- What story could you tell from your life that would point them to Christ?
- What Scripture passage could you share with them (in person, by email, by card)?
- What might stop you from taking any action?

Pray for that person, either privately or in your group.