

Who makes disciples?

Getting started

1. Last week we started with the question ‘by what method did God make you a disciple of Jesus?’ Now, who did God use to do this?

2. Fred is a pastor. He laments that he has too little time to engage in witness in his community, and that running church activities takes up too much of his time. What might you say to him?

Why do disciples speak the word?

By now you are familiar with God’s method of making disciples, the four Ps: Proclamation, Prayer, People, and Perseverance.

‘Proclamation’ may sound fairly grand. But there are many forms of speaking, as we shall see...

3. Read Luke 6:43-45. What does our speech reveal about our hearts?

4. Read Psalm 51:7-15. What happens to the speech of those who are forgiven and cleansed in heart by the Holy Spirit?

5. In what ways is our speech transformed by the Holy Spirit in these passages:

1 Corinthians 12:3,

2 Corinthians 4:13-15

Ephesians 5:18-20.

6. Read the following passages. Break into a few groups and complete the table. Then come back together and briefly share your answers.

	What do you learn about the nature of speaking the word and the forms this takes?	What reasons/ motivations are given for all learners of Christ to be speaking the word to others?
Ephesians 4:11-16		
Colossians 3:12-17		
Colossians 4:2-6		
1 Thessalonians 1:4-10		
Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25		
1 Peter 4:7-11		

7. In summary, what does the Bible say about all of God’s people speaking the word to others?

Implications

8. What forms can ‘proclamation’ take?

9. Consider these two statements. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

A. “There is ample and strong evidence that speaking the word of God to others for their salvation and encouragement is an expected and necessary component of the normal Christian life. Correspondingly, a healthy church culture is one in which a wide variety of word ministries are exercised by a constantly growing proportion of the membership.”

B. “What about those who just don’t seem remotely ready or capable of speaking the word of God? Many of our church members give administrative or practical help—being on a roster, organizing or running something, helping with property or other practical tasks, and so on. All of these can contribute to the work of disciple-making without every person having to do the specific work of disciple-making for themselves.”

10. What might you add to your answer to pastor Fred in question 2?

11. How would you respond to someone who says ‘I need a visit from the minister’?

12. Last week you were asked to think of someone you know who is finding life hard in this fallen world. How did you go with helping them? Are there ways that your church family could help you help them?

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