



CITY CHURCH

City Planning Participant Guide

Week 5 – “Making Disciples”

Important reminder! Disciple-making happens by God’s grace, and we are sent out under his authority. We must remember who is ultimately in charge of the disciple-making process.

I. **Being and Making Disciples: Related Pursuits**

- a. People who are disciples are inclined to make more disciples
- b. So you can’t really say, “I’m really thriving as a disciple, but I’m not making disciples. People around me aren’t really growing in Christ.”
- c. For example, Jesus was always pushing his disciples out into the community.

II. **What Does it Look Like to “Make Disciples?”**

- a. Matt: 28:18-20 – Great Commission
 - i. **What are we to do?** Make Disciples (v. 19) – this is the main command/imperative of the Great Commission passage
 1. We talked last week about what a disciple looks like. Go to the website and check out the talk/notes for last week if you need a review. In order to make disciples, we need to know what the target is. What does it mean to be a disciple? Again, we talked about this last week.
 - ii. **How are we to do this?**
 1. **By going (v. 19)**
 - a. Making disciples involves stepping out in faith and in hope. We have to go! A desire to be on mission to make disciples is great, but it won’t mean anything if we don’t step out as disciples.
 - b. Are you expanding the depth and/or breadth of your social community? Are you serving others?
 2. **By baptizing (incorporation into the body of Christ)**

- a. Disciples are part of a church community. No such thing as unchurched disciples. Christian community is a vital part of Christian growth.

3. By teaching unto obedience

- a. We help people understand how to live as disciples. What does this kind of teaching/learning involve? Check out the Learning Loop (see below -> point III).

III. The Learning Loop: Luke 10:1-24

a. When you hear the term “learn” or “teach” – what do you think of?

- i. Instruction
- ii. Cognitive Processing
- iii. Someone talks and someone listens/take notes
- iv. You demonstrate you have learned something by regurgitating information you have received

b. The loop: A helpful way to understand the disciple-making process

i. Instruct (vv. 1-12)

- 1. As Jesus sends his disciples into “every town and place where he himself was about to go” (v. 1), he gives his disciples specific instructions about what they are to do

ii. Model (see previous chapters of Luke and in the other Gospels)

- 1. Jesus asks his disciples to do what he himself is already doing

iii. Experience (v. 17)

- 1. “Even the demons are subject to us in your name” – Jesus puts his disciples in a position to act on what they’ve learned and seen modeled by Jesus

iv. Debrief (vv. 18-23)

- 1. Jesus responds to the disciples’ experience and helps them understand its significance
 - a. Main point: “yeah, that’s a significant experience, but your identity is not in your work! Your significance lies in the fact that your names are written in heaven.”

c. The reality

- i. Most churches/community groups/individuals are really good at one or two components of the loop, but weak in the other areas.

d. The challenge

- i. Uncovering areas of weakness and then thinking and acting intentionally (prayerfully and biblically) as we seek to grow in those areas.

IV. Implications

a. For City Church

- i. **Focus:** People and processes (like discipleship) NOT projects and products, “seeking” those who don’t know Christ,” fostering authentic relationships within the church
- ii. The discipleship process will differ based on the person being discipled. This requires that individual people are valued, understood, and discipled according to their spiritual strengths and weaknesses.
- iii. Making disciples is more complex than designing a formula and plugging in the numbers.
- iv. City Church seeks to plant other churches

b. For community groups

- i. **Focus:** reaching, nurturing, reproducing, and apprenticing
- ii. All groups open to everyone
- iii. Seeking spiritual growth
- iv. Reproducing groups and leaders, apprenticing leaders

c. For City Church pastors

- i. **Focus:** Vision casting, fostering leadership reproduction, modeling what it looks like to engage the Gainesville community
- ii. You are constantly going to hear about City Church’s tagline and mission, not because we don’t appreciate your intelligence, but because the tendency of a church without vision is to become an enclave that has no impact on its community.

d. For individuals

- i. **Focus:** Making disciples, engaging and serving the city, fully engaged in the “Learning Loop”
- ii. Right questions: how can I grow in Christ? How can I help others grow in Christ? How can I reach those who don’t know Christ?
- iii. Wrong question: What can I get out of this church?

V. Community Group Multiplication

a. What we’ll be doing

- i. Part of “making disciples” means creating relational space (in our lives)
- ii. Part of “making disciples” means creating physical space (a home)
- iii. In light of that, we’ll be multiplying from one to two CGs in the next few weeks

- iv. This is really exciting moment for us as a church (like having a baby – brings great joy)
- v. But it can also feel like a loss (also like having a baby, there is pain).

b. Why

- i. To be hospitable to new comers and non-Christians
- ii. To make space
- iii. Greater opportunity for life-on-life ministry
- iv. Opportunities to use gifts
- v. Opportunities to train leaders
- vi. No such thing as “full group”
- vii. We keep growing & inviting, and then get to a point of multiplying

c. How

- i. For our first multiplication, we’re prayerfully making a list of who goes to which group.
- ii. Reason for this:
 - 1. Logistics (for future growth)
 - 2. Need to plan
- iii. Note: also involves sacrifice on our (Chipper and Ryan’s) part. We both love everyone on this team and want to be in a group with everybody.



City Planning – Week 5 Discussion

“Making Disciples”

Passage: 28:18-20 (Great Commission)

[18] And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Questions:

1. Before tonight’s discussion, what were your ideas about what it means to “make a disciple?” Has your understanding of “making disciples” changed at all based on tonight’s discussion?
2. Do you personally know anyone who you believe is a biblical disciple-maker? If so, how does this person live?
3. If you already consider yourself to be a disciple-maker, what parts of the learning loop do you accomplish well with the people you disciple? What parts do you struggle with? If “disciple-making” is something you’re new to – what parts might of the learning loop might be easy/hard for you?
4. In order to make disciples, what kinds of life changes might you need to make? Why is disciple-making easy to talk about but hard to do?
5. Why is a robust understanding of God’s grace critical as we seek to make disciples?



“The Rocking Chair”

City Planning – Week 5 (Making Disciples)

Sermons:

- Check out The Gospel Coalition’s topical archive of sermons on discipleship
 - <http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/category/sermons/a/topic/Discipleship>

Video:

- “Making Disciples”
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJWkQ9UP_m8

Articles:

- “The Way to Produce a Person” – (David Brooks, New York Times)
 - http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/04/opinion/brooks-the-way-to-produce-a-person.html?_r=0
- “The Difficult Task of Disciple Making” (Matt Smethurst)
 - <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tgc/2012/03/07/the-difficult-task-of-disciple-making/>

Books:

- Building a Discipling Culture (Mike Breen) – *Kindle Only*
- The Gospel Commission (Michael Horton)

For Your Consideration:

- If someone wants to become more like Jesus, but is struggling and wants your help, how should you respond?