

# LOOKING AHEAD



## LOOKING AHEAD / VISION 2020

Many of us are overwhelmed, anxious, busy... and, as a result, unable to make disciples of Jesus. Far too many are not experiencing the abundant life Jesus promised. Why would we want to call others to follow Jesus like us if we aren't actually experiencing the kind of rest Jesus promised to give? So, for Doxa, 2020 will be a year of learning to truly **Be with Jesus**.

A disciple is an apprentice – one committed to become like their teacher or master. As disciples or apprentices of Jesus we are committed to: **Be with Jesus; Become like Jesus; and Do what Jesus did.**

The way **Jesus made disciples was through presence** – calling them to be with him and giving himself to them.

None of us can be disciples of Jesus who make disciples of Jesus without the presence of Jesus – **Discipleship begins and continues by being with Jesus.**

## **READ THE TEXT: John 15:1-11**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

*If you're processing these questions as a missional community, take time to gauge whether these will best be answered in smaller groups or all together. Feel free to break into smaller "DNA-sized" groups if that's helpful.*

1. “Abiding” is the idea of being “at home with” something or someone. All of us are “abiding” in someone or something. If it’s not Jesus, what have you become *at home with* more than Jesus? What kind of person are you becoming as a result?

2. What might need to be cleaned out of your *home* to make room for his presence? Take some time to share what this could be for each of you.
3. When this week could you try to “practice the presence” of God for 5-10 minutes? Have you ever tried this before? Share with each other your experience of this and how you will pursue it this week.
4. As we start our quarter focused on the practices of solitude and silence next week, it will be important you have an MC and DNA group to help you engage with these practices. If you don't have these, how will you take steps to find this kind of community? *You can sign up for Doxa 301, which starts on February 9, to get connected into either an MC, a DNA group, or both.*