



## Training #2 | Season of Launch

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**Today's Agenda | 9:00-Noon**

- 9:00-9:50 | The Connect Strategy
- 9:50-10:00 | Break
- 10:00-10:50 | "Discipleship" According to Jesus
- 10:50-11:00 | Break
- 11:00-Noon | How to Optimize Our Time in Missional Community

**The Missional Lifestyle Training Process | "Come, Follow Me."**

The MLTP is a re-training process in the ways of Jesus so we gain experience, skill and confidence to

- 1) Join Jesus on His mission in our daily life
- 2) Disciple our family and friends to do the same
- 3) Connect in relationships so we can multiply our missional lifestyle and training throughout our family, our congregation and out into the community

**The Season of Discovery** helped each of us discover how to join Jesus on His mission by engaging the following three assignments:

- 1) I learned how to seek, recognize and respond to what Jesus is already up to in the lives of people around me
- 2) I followed a self-identified plan for getting to know 1 or 2 people who are currently living without the grace and truth of Jesus
- 3) I participated in regular "Take-10" conversations in order to encourage and sustain my new mission lifestyle

During **the Season of Launch**, we will not leave these practices behind but build on them.

**Preparation for Launch | 2 Launch Assignments**

The goal of Launch is to end up with every member – active and inactive alike – connected in relationship for the sake of sustained participation in mission, discipleship and multiplication. To accomplish this, we will have two assignments during the Season of Launch:

- **Launch Assignment #1: I will participate in the “Connect” strategy**, which places a new priority on connecting our congregation in authentic friendships and leads to participation in Missional Communities.
- **Launch Assignment #2: I will follow a plan to disciple my family at home and/or my Christian friends in a Missional Community** in order to multiply Jesus’ missional lifestyle and training throughout my family, my congregation and out into the community.

## “The Connect Strategy”

**“Connect” has three congregational goals:**

- 1) Connect members with their neighbors for mission (“Love your neighbor.”)
- 2) Connect members living in proximity to each other for relationship (Connect-the-Dot Parties)
- 3) And then connect subsets of those members for Missional Community

**How “Connect” Works:** (What about the pandemic and Social Distancing?)

- 1) A map has been made **identifying where members live** and organizing them into zones.
- 2) Missional Community hosts will invite members in their zone to **“Connect-the-Dots Parties.”**
- 3) The purpose of the parties is to help all the members in the zone – active and inactive alike – to **form friendships with each other**. The parties will be held every four to eight weeks. The agenda is simple: share some food, share some laughs, share some stories.
- 4) Parallel to the Connect-the-Dots Parties, the Missional Community hosts invite the zone to **become a part of the weekly Missional Community gatherings**. The Missional Community continues to attend all Connect-the-Dots Parties. As friendships deepen, more people become interested in participating with the Missional Community.
- 5) **The purpose of the Missional Community is to support and disciple each other** as we seek God’s Kingdom and join Jesus on His mission in daily life.

### Launch Assignment #1

I will participate in the “Connect” strategy, which places a new priority on connecting our congregation in authentic relationships and leads to participation in Missional Communities.

**What to do:**

- 1) Find out who lives in your zone. A list will be provided.
- 2) Discuss with the people in your zone when to have your first Connect-the-Dot Party:
  - Date of Party: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Who would like to help with the Party?
  - Invitations:
  - Host the party:
  - Help with food:
  - Plan ice-breaker questions and activities:
- 4) How often should we hold the parties? Every \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.

# “Discipleship According to Jesus”

## 1) What is “Discipleship” According to Jesus?

- **Synonyms for “Disciple” = apprentice, intern, mentoree, trainee**
  - a) Matthew 9:9, “Matthew got up and **followed Jesus.**”
  - b) Luke 6:40, “...but everyone **who is fully trained will be like his teacher.**”
  - c) Matthew 7:24, “Everyone who hears these words of mine **and puts them into practice...**”
  - d) John 13:15-17, “**I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.**”
  - e) John 13:35, “By this all men will know that **you are my disciples**, if you love one another.”
  - f) Matthew 11:28-30, “**Take my yoke upon you** and learn from me... find rest for your souls.”
  - g) 1 John 2:6, “Whoever claims to live in him **must walk as Jesus did.**”
  - h) 1 Peter 2:21, “...leaving you an example, that **you should follow in his steps.**”
  - i) 1 Corinthians 11:1, “**Follow my example**, as I follow the example of Christ.”
  - j) Philippians 4:9, “Whatever you have learned from me or seen in me – **put it into practice.**”
  - k) Philippians 3:17, “...**and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.**”
  - l) 1 Corinthians 4:16-17, “Timothy will remind you **of my way of life** in Christ Jesus.”
  - m) Hebrews 13:7, “**Consider the outcome of [your leaders’] way of life and imitate their faith.**”
- **Discipleship = Jesus’ training process.**

Discipleship is not just learning the facts of the faith, but gaining experience, skill and confidence in living out the faith for the good of others.

## 2) What is Jesus Training His Followers to Be and Do?

- **Jesus is training His followers to join Him on His mission and imitate His lifestyle for the good of others.** (Joining Jesus on His mission = Imitating His lifestyle for the good of others)

### 1) Remember your true Identity, Ability and Purpose in Christ:

- a) **Identity:** This is who I am  
“I am a beloved child of the Heavenly King.” (1 John 3:1)
- b) **Ability:** This is what I’ve got  
“I have the things of the Kingdom and in abundance. I literally have a superpower from God.” (Luke 12:32, Gal. 5:22, 1 Cor 13:13)
- c) **Purpose:** This is what I do  
“I look for people who need a little of what I already have in abundance and offer it to them.” (1 John 4:11, John 13:34)

### 2) Put the 5 Mission Practices into play each day in order to join Jesus on His mission:

- a) **Seek the Kingdom**

Look for the good the Father has prepared in advance for me to do.
- b) **Hear from Jesus**

Read the gospels, so we can imitate Jesus’ lifestyle for the good of others.

c) **Talk with People**

What's their name? What's their story? What's Jesus already up to in their life?

d) **Do Good**

How can I be a way something good happens in their day?

e) **Minister through Prayer**

Pray for people daily and with people as God gives opportunity.

**3) Expect Jesus to continue working on you to increase your capacity for imitating His lifestyle for the good of others. In the gospels, we see Jesus continuing to work on His followers in 3 ways:**

a) **Trust the Father more.** (His love, purpose, timing and provision)

"You of little faith. Why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:31.

When you are a trainee of Jesus, failure isn't failure, it's training.

b) **Get over yourself faster.** (Humility)

"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me."

Matthew 16:24

c) **Have an increasing willingness to offer His love (and its fruit) to others.**

"Freely you have received, freely give," Matthew 10:8.

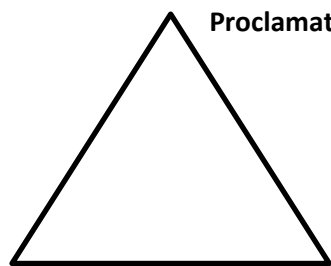
**Summary: In Christ, I am who God says I am; and, in Christ, I can do everything He gives me to do.**

- Philippians 2:13, "...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His purpose."
- Philippians 4:13, "I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength."

**I just need to get up off my pew and engage the ongoing training Jesus offers me!**

- Matthew 4:19, "Come, follow Me."

### **3) How Does Jesus Train His Followers in the Gospels?**



**Proclamation** = Hearing the teachings of Jesus

**Replication** = Training others to do the same

**Imitation** = Imitating the way Jesus lived out His teachings

**Missional Community:** Through the relationships of our Missional Community, Jesus provides us the encouragement, insight and accountability we need to continue engaging His mission and His ongoing training process for a lifetime. Missional Community is not a program, it is a key part a Jesus-follower's lifestyle. Like the disciples in the gospels, we follow Jesus into the melee of daily life for mission and training and then engage with each other (family at home and/or friends in Missional Community) to process what we have been experiencing.

#### 4) How Can You Optimize Your Time in Missional Community?

- Here are 5 Tips for purposefully framing and directing the conversation of the Missional Community toward Jesus' discipling goals:
  - 1) Remind participants of their **"True Identity, Ability and Purpose in Christ"**  
*This is who we are; this is what we have; and this is what we do.*
  - 2) Remind participants that **"In Here is for Out There"**  
*What we do in here with our family and/or Missional Community is for the sake of joining Jesus on His mission out there.*
  - 3) **"Ask Good Questions"**  
*We use the 5 Questions as a starting point for prompting reflection and conversation.*
  - 4) Remind participants that **"All That is Still This"**  
*All the many details of theology still boil down to this: We are restored in Jesus by grace and called to imitate His simple Lifestyle Practices for the good of others.*
  - 5) **"Insight into Action"**  
*We take time to plan how we can turn our insights into action-steps for the coming week.*

#### Launch Assignment #2

I will use the following plan to intentionally disciple my family at home and/or my Christian friends in Missional Community in order to multiply Jesus' missional lifestyle and training throughout my family, my congregation and out into the community.

(See next page)

## Suggested Agenda for Missional Community | 2 Hours

(Adjust the agenda for daily family use.)

- 1) People arrive online or in person and catch up with each other: [15 mins]
  - Ask, “What’s been happening? How’s Jesus been messing with you? Who’s Jesus been bringing across your path? What questions are you wrestling with?”
- 2) Open with prayer and remind the group of the following: [5 mins]
  - “The reason we are gathering is to support each other as we learn how to follow Jesus, imitate Jesus and join Him on His mission.”
  - “Remember your ‘True Identity, Ability and Purpose in Christ.’”
  - “Remember that ‘In Here is for Out There.’”
- 3) Prompt reflections, conversations and stories by using the 5 Questions: [70 mins]

**The 5 Questions** | What actually happened last week/today?

**a) How did you see God at work in your life this week/today?**

We are especially interested in what He seemed to be showing you in the lives of people around you. Who has He been bringing across your path? Who is He inviting you to pay attention to?

**b) What has God been teaching you in His Word?**

As you followed Jesus around in the Gospels this week, what did he invite you to believe or do? What happened when you put it into practice for the good of others?

**c) What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?**

A conversation with anyone God brings across your path is important. But a conversation with someone living without the grace and truth of Jesus is especially important. What did you learn about the person’s story? What might be the next step in your interactions?

**d) What good can you do around here?**

As you reflect on last week’s observations and conversations with the people around you, how can you serve, bless, or encourage someone next week? How can we help?

(The 5<sup>th</sup> question is, “How can we help you in prayer?” See below for when to use this in the agenda.)

- After each person has their opportunity to share and process, ask, “What insight did you have today and how can you put it into action this week/tomorrow?”
- As needed, use “Remember, all that is still this.”

- 4) Wrap up by processing the following important questions together: [30 mins]  
(The group can break into smaller groups to save time)

- “What part of our experience today can you replicate with your family or friends?”
- “How can we help you with prayer?” Prayer for and with each other is powerful and effective. (James 5:16)