



ESCAPE FROM ENTANGLEMENT

This week we are discussing the Church entrusting and leaving a legacy of the faith for the next generation (Proverbs 22:6).

After watching Pastor Lori introduce the topic of discipleship and the pastors discussion, please pause the video and take time to discuss these questions among your group.

1) In the Bible Knowledge Commentary of the Old Testament, it is stated that "A proverb is a literary device whereby a general truth is brought to bear on a specific situation... It is generally true, however, that most children who are brought up in Christian homes, under the influence of godly parents who teach and live God's standards, follow that training."

When a child or adult does not follow that training, it does not mean that God is absent, nor does it mean that the parents are failures. It just highlights that sin reigns in our world and that prayer and care must be afforded to the person who does not walk in God's way.

- Consider a time as a child (or in adulthood) where you rejected a path set before you. This may be when a parent told you to walk on the sidewalk or to avoid a puddle, where you ignored traffic cones, or when you disobeyed a boss or supervisor. Do you remember what was going through your mind as you behaved this way? Even if in the moment you thought you were doing right, how in the aftermath have you experienced consequences? Do you even now struggle with not acknowledging the selfishness or pain that comes with following your own path?

- Now think in terms of our spiritual lives. How can it be harmful if you follow your own set of rules and your own path rather than one that God has ordained? What consequences do we witness when we spiritually follow our own path?

How is it detrimental to the watching world who is desperately seeking a way to live?

2) Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7. Have you heard the phrase "Some things are caught not taught"? It is this idea that not only do we learn through instruction, but we also learn through observation. Take the three examples that Paul uses in verses 4-6;

action (and therefore observation) must accompany these roles. It requires both being taught how to do the job and acting in the right manner.

As one author defines discipleship, he states "**Discipling is an intentional relationship in which we walk alongside other disciples in order to encourage, equip, and challenge one another in love to grow toward maturity in Christ. This includes equipping the disciple to teach others as well.**" This definition highlights both the instruction but also the observation of right Christian living.

- Take a moment and identify key words or phrases that stand out to you in the aforementioned definition. Why does it stand out to you? How might you restate that definition in your own words?

- Describe to the group someone influential in both teaching and displaying discipleship in your life. Why do you think they spent time discipling you? How have you grown as a result of your time with them? What was your biggest takeaway from that relationship? Have you told them how important they are to you? If you are able to, let them know this week.

- If you have not had someone disciple you, what are some of the challenges you face in having someone come alongside of you? Would you like someone to? Consider who that person would be and ask them to walk alongside of you.

- Who are you currently discipling? Tell the group about how that relationship is going and what you are doing, whether it is your children, grandchildren, or another adult. If you are not purposefully discipling anyone, discuss as a group how you can encourage one another to begin a discipling relationship.

- As the group concludes, there are two challenges that should be taken seriously and wholly.

1 - Pick or assign a partner to spend the next month checking on regarding their discipling relationship. Over the next month ask how the discipling relationship is going, what challenges are present, and how they are praying for the growth of the relationship; remember to provide encouragement.

2- Like Pastor Lori's grandmother, write down an encouraging gospel presentation and call for discipleship that you can leave for your family or friends. Keep it in your Bible and visit it often as an encouragement.

Now turn back to the video for a final word and challenge from Pastor Lori.