

LEADER WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

Introduction

Well, good evening everybody! Fantastic to see you. And I'm really looking forward to this, as we've heard our fourth session together, where does time go? We're kind of halfway through already which is amazing. As each week I just refer back to the week before, I think most of you were here last week and we talked together about being an example. So we've done the leader and the Spirit, the leader and the Word, and the leader being an example. I hope you've got on okay this week by being an example. We looked particularly at the example in the way we speak, our conduct, our love, our faith and purity. And I don't know about you but I have found it a tremendous challenge this week, as I have thought about the great things I've been saying and we are called to live our lives as leaders who set an example, because this is the way that we do so. I just want to encourage you, when we said last week that it's not about being perfect, which is a tremendous relief for all of us, but it is about following Jesus and as we follow Jesus, we somehow find ourselves being an example to others. And this is Paul's message to Timothy is saying Timothy you are to set an example to those who you seek to disciple and lead forward. Of course leaders who are an example are automatically finding themselves having an input into the people who look to us for our example so tonight's title is leaders who make disciples.

LEADERS WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

Our calling is to make disciples; we're just going to nail that this evening so there's no doubt. But I want to push it a little bit further and say I think we're also called to make disciple making churches. It's not just a person who disciples someone else, but a whole community that is called of God to disciple a whole community. So I love the fact that we're to be making a disciple making culture. Many churches do not have this culture. And I'm going to challenge you tonight to see whether your church has this culture itself. Now of course the Bible is full of examples about making disciples right back into the Old Testament we see models for example of Moses and Joshua, we see Elijah and Elisha, I could give you lots more illustrations that this is a biblical principle and of course by the time we get to the New Testament, it's no coincidence that Jesus draws 12 people to himself, and they are called his disciples. Of course the Jewish context was of a rabbi, and a number of people that were the rabbi's disciples, so it was totally, you know, understandable that Jesus should have that model. It's a foreign model to the world in which we live in today, but in those days it was very very typical. We see it throughout the New Testament in many many different ways and one of the strengths of the Apostle Paul was the way he discipled so many people. He did it on the road, he did it in prison, he did it when he visited the church, he did it when he wrote to a church. He is always thinking about other people, and the impact that his life can have upon them, none more so than Timothy.







So we would we would use Paul and Timothy as a wonderful example of how Paul is making Timothy to be a disciple. Let remind you of the last words of Jesus before he ascended from Matthew 28, and verse 18

Matthew 28v18-20:

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 in¹⁹ 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."

The thing I always take from this passage of Scripture, you've heard it before, is that Jesus does not say go and make converts. This isn't an evangelistic crusade with everybody putting their hands in the air. I sometimes don't quite know where that all came from. But it is clearly "Go and see people born again justified by faith, and then the work begins." It's not a hand in the air. Great. We've got 25 tonight and now we'll move on to the next town. Jesus is clearly modelling something that he did for three years, himself, pouring his life into these 12 men. He's then saying to His disciples now you go and the same way you've seen me make you disciples now you go and make disciples of all nations. It's interesting, it doesn't even stop there, baptise them, teach them to observe all that I've commanded you. So there's this pattern to go and make disciples.

Now, just take this for a statistic! The word Christian comes three times in the New Testament, the word disciple becomes 25 times. Now I think that's very significant. You can be a Christian believer in Jesus but not necessarily a disciple, a follower of Jesus. So what needs to be preeminent in our lives as leaders, is to make disciples. So can I ask you a couple of questions. Who is discipling you? And who are you discipling? And that is a question to ask for the rest of your life. It's not what I think I used to 10 years ago, or even five years ago, disciple someone and right now I'm having a break I don't think there's anyone that I'm doing that for but actually it's a present reality. I've actually found preparing today quite challenging for myself, because I have had the privilege of being involved in a discipleship of many people but it's important for me to answer that question today and I've been thinking today. Who is discipling me and who am I discipling at the moment in my Christian life.

Now as last week just to reiterate this again, we're not making our disciples, but as we follow Jesus, we're setting an example to others, and by following Him, we are making disciples of Jesus. Dave Holden, isn't making a little mini Dave Holden's. I am endeavouring to point people to Jesus all the time. He is the one before whom they are His disciples, and not mine, and not yours.

As I've said already, this needs to be at the very heart, not only of my life, but also of the church that I am a part of, as well. Our disciple making culture. Sadly, this is not always the case. Before COVID became a reality, I had already begun to have quite a few conversations with pastors of churches. One of the things







that were greatly concerned about was this. I think we're gathering a crowd, but I'm not sure that we're making disciples. And that's a very honest assessment. Strangely, COVID has thrown the crowd away at the site, to some extent, and it's now providing opportunity for us to get back into making disciples.

I think if Jesus had the option, draw a crowd or make a disciple? I think you and I know which one he would have gone for so it's imperative that we have this, and that we become leaders who make disciples of Jesus. You know great pastors, don't run around pastoring everybody because of the huge limitations that that will bring. What's a great pastor? A great pastor is someone who raises up and disciples, others who will pastor, alongside him and that's the way a church should grow.

If you are a small group leader tonight, then you should be looking to make disciples who will then multiply your small group, if you're involved in youth, you should be looking for people who you can disciple. In order for your youth group to grow. Again, these are very very important questions. Basically the philosophy is this:

Who am I raising up?
Who am I giving away to?
And if you really like, am I doing myself out of a job?

Because actually the end of the day that is a tremendous thing to be able to do. So that's right across the body of Christ. Everything we're called to do you know if you're a musician and you're a worship leader, you should be looking intentionally for others, who you will disciple to be able to worship the Lord together, and to become worship leaders. I would have people would say I have an Ephesians 4 kind of ministry, an apostolic ministry, it's imperative that I raise up other people who will be apostolic in their calling in God.

One final challenge on this is our church structures are not making disciples. Should we not change them? I think that we think that everyone's being discipled because we have small groups, small groups do not disciple people in and of themselves. I personally think, if a small group is not discipling people then what are we doing? We need to draw back, we need to restructure ourselves so that everything in church lives is doing this.

It's leaders passing on and imparting to others, all the time, or as we've already said in Timothy several weeks in a row, entrusting to other people that they will entrust to others also.

Just before we get into the text of Timothy, he has a personal testimony from me. I went to Bible college, I guess, three years of theology and I knew God had called me to be a leader but when I came to the end of college. I felt a desperate need to be discipled. I did not feel like I was ready to lead a church, and you got a called me to lead, but I didn't feel ready to lead. I bumped into a guy called Terry Virgo who many of you knew I was 22 years and single and he somehow, in God saw something in me and took me into his home.







And I for many months, lived in the Virgo family and he discipled me sometimes intentionally and sometimes he didn't even know that he was doing it.

One illustration I want to give you is this the illustration of prayer. When I came to the end of my theological course, one of my problems was I didn't really know how to pray, and if you're a leader about to lead the church and you don't know how to pray, you're in trouble but I literally didn't know. I'd lost the sense of prayer I'd been affected theologically in my mind is what's the point of praying when God already knows all the answers and my prayer life was just pretty nonexistent.

The first thing Terry did for me when I got into his home he said "David every Tuesday morning, I love to pray in my office. Please come and join me at eight o'clock on Tuesday morning. And we'll pray together". I didn't have the heart to say to him, "Terry I don't know how to pray". And so I got into his office and he had a chair and a table and a map on the wall, and my chair and I sat there and he said great is wonderful we're on a venture together and he turned around and he knelt by his chair. And he started to pray! This is really embarrassing when you're in a room with one other person and they start praying, and you don't know how to pray. Then he sang a song! I thought well I can sing so I joined in with him. I even did some harmonies, to remind him that I was in the room because Terry had forgotten I was even there. He was praying and interceding and crying out to God. And then he prayed again. And I didn't do anything and I thought this is terrible. This is really embarrassing. I was good charismatic though and I knew how to say, Amen and hallelujah at the appropriate times. Then he sang another song, and then I joined in. I said "Lord, I can't go on like this!" And as clear, clear as I'm speaking to you now I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit and He said to me "Do what he does." I want you to get hold of his coattails. I want you to pray like he prays and so I prayed like him. learned how to pray and for months and months I couldn't wait for Tuesday morning to come around, as Terry didn't know this but he was discipling me in prayer.

I learned to pray by someone else who prayed more than I knew how to. And you know the end of this story is this I've had the privilege for years after of taking hold of guys, and praying like Terry prayed and now they pray like that as well. It's for me, a real lesson of how we learn sometimes things that we can't do is just by getting alongside someone who knows how to do things more than we do.

So, we need to be leaders who make disciples.

So what's my text tonight?

My text is the whole of one Timothy, and the whole of two Timothy! It's okay we're not going to read it all tonight, because one and two Timothy are like a discipleship manual. It's a how to! It's like Paul talking to Timothy, all through these two letters saying, "Timothy, you may not realise it but I'm discipling you through these epistles:







How to live the Christian life. How to refute error. How to be a man of the Word. How to be a man of the Spirit. How to be an example. How to do church

I mean some of the chapters are massively detailed. One Timothy 5 is basically how to handle widows in your church. I mean this is a how to manual of Paul pouring his life into Timothy and saying this is how you are to be a disciple. How to handle older women, how to handle young women, how to appoint elders, how to know whether someone is a Deacon. It is a tremendously detailed letter of a disciple manual.

We will look at a few verses, however, just to help us along the way.

1 Timothy 1v18-19

18 This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

I entrust to you- this is the disciple, talking to the disciple. 'This charge I entrust to you'- what charge? While the rest of chapter one before verse 18 is Paul talking to Timothy about his gospel, his values, his way of life, his doctrine his practice. He's saying "I'm discipling you Timothy. When I'm gone, I want you to carry on with these things."

1 Timothy 2v 1

2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions,

'First of all'- it's like, here we go, Timothy. First of all because a whole lot more things are coming! It's like he's going down a whole load of things he wants to disciple Timothy in.

1 Timothy 6 v 20

²⁰ O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you.

This is the discipleship manual! This isn't a few blessed thoughts, and I don't know what else to say. This is intentional discipleship of a younger man.







Then onto 2 Timothy 1 v 12-13

which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for *I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.* ¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2 v 2

² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men,[©] who will be able to teach others also.

It's almost a go-to verse! find faithful men, and in the presence of many witnesses entrust to them, who will be able to entrust this also to others and the discipleship pattern thing goes on. I'm going to run out of time but I could mention many more, you might like to read **2 Timothy 4v1-7** which are the final words that Paul is saying to Timothy and he's basically saying, I've run the race. It's over to you now, Timothy, all these things that I've discipled you in, I'm not going to be around forever but I want you to go and disciple people in the same way.

How and who to Disciple?

That's a lot of material in a very short space of time but I now want to get practical tonight, on how this works in our lives.

I'm asking two questions.

- 1. How do we disciple people?
- 2. Who should we disciple?

1. How do we disciple people?

You can read many books on discipleship, some of them are very good, and you can learn a lot, some are not so good and I wouldn't bother to read them.

I've read lots of books on discipleship, and it's good to do that but over the years, I've discovered this: the Bible speaks for itself!

You and I can go to the Bible and it shows us absolutely a wonderful way to disciple people.







I call it the three D word and the three Ds of this:

- 1. DISPLAY
- 2. DEFINE
- 3. DELEGATE

We see this pattern repeated again and again throughout Scripture.

So let's look at the example of Jesus. Jesus often would display something to His disciples and then define something for them to do, and then send them to go and do it. That's very simple but that's the biblical way of way disciples. That's how we should do it today.

Let me give you the illustration in John chapter 13, I think we've referred to this before, when Jesus washes his disciples' feet.

John 4v13-20

He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet,[a] but is completely clean. And you[b] are clean, but not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant[c] is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled,[d] 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' 19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."







So first of all, we see in John 13, the display in verse 4, Jesus laid aside his outer garments, taking a towel, tied around his waist, then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel that he was wrapped in. He is, he is modelling something for them. He's displaying something, it's foot washing, if you like but it's much, much more than that. It's a principle that's on display through Jesus's life and then he gives them the definition in verse 13.

"You call me teacher and Lord, and you are right for so I am. If then your Lord and teacher have washed your feet, you... he comes to definition... you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I've given you an example, that you should do, just as I have done to you. Truly, truly I say to you, a surfer is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him."

What's Jesus defining? He is saying there is only one style of leadership in my Kingdom and it's a style of servanthood. There is no other authority greater than serving the ones that you lead. That's a huge definition to remember. Then verse 17, comes the delegation. "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." Look at verse 20, "whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me, receives the one who sent him."

Another illustration is given in Luke 9, where Jesus is sending out his disciples.

Luke 9 v1-6

9 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. 3 And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics.[a] 4 And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. 5 And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." 6 And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

- 1. DISPLAY- Jesus has modelled for them how to cast out demons AND how to heal the sick, they been with him. It's kind of like Jesus saying, "you have seen me do it, I've displayed it to you and now over to you."
- 2. DEFINITION- the detail of the definition is extraordinary in this passage, don't take this with you take that with you, go to this house, don't go to that house. He is defining the roles of them as clearly as he can in great detail.
- 3. DELEGATION- the delegation he sent them 2 by 2, to go out. Do you know, what if you read the rest of the chapter, they didn't do very well. In fact, chapter nine is a disaster. They pretty much get







everything wrong. And the funny thing is chapter 10, says, 'So Jesus sent out 70 like them', my goodness, Jesus really believed in discipleship. He believed in discipleship not in a seminary, but in life as he displayed, as he defined for them and as they went out and delegated, he was absolutely sure that that principle would work.

We haven't got time to go into the many examples there are in Paul's life with Timothy etc., because there's so many, but I just want to point you to one, and it's Paul's relationship with Titus.

Titus 1v5

⁵ This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you.

- 1. DISPLAY- here is the display -as I directed you. "You've watched me Titus. You've seen how I've done these things. Now, these things have been on display, but not for you just to be entertained, you are now going to be increased. And all those things I displayed to you, you are now going to do."
- 2. DEFINITION What's the definition? It's very clear, Titus is in no doubt what he's been called to do. He's being called:
 - To straighten out everything, everything that needs to be put in the order.
 - And he's to appoint elders in every town

You see Titus doesn't go to Crete scratching his head thinking, I have no idea what to do. He's been told what to do.

3. DELEGATION- Verse 5- this is why I left you in Crete. I didn't abandon you. I deliberately commissioned you and left you to be there.

So folks, tonight, I want to massively encouraging that when it comes to how do we disciple people, as leaders who disciple, it is that we are on display much of what we said last week, being the example. We are defining things to people. Why is that so important? Well, if you're discipling, someone and you give them something to do, and they don't bother to do it, that's giving you a hint, as they may not be the right person to disciple. Personally, I think we are very weak on definition. We display things to people, and then we say, okay, off you go. But if you don't define for that person, what they should do, then they really are a bit at sea, they're a bit lost, they don't know quite what you do. So I've tried over the years, not only to display, but to bring definition. The next time you prophecy, prophecy I like this,







don't do this, do this, etc., etc. And then stand back and see how they get on. And then the wonderful thing about delegation, it's a wonderful moment is to then say, okay, you're ready, you can do this!

They're not going to do it hundred percent, they're still going to make mistakes, just like you and I did but the joy of discipleship is when you no longer have to be around, they can do this and it's not dependent on you. The greatest joy of parenting is not that they continue to depend on you for the rest of your life, but that you raise them so they can become mothers and fathers themselves. That's the joy of parenting that they go, and that they make disciples if you like as well.

Practical Tips

So I really want to help you with this. Can I just give you some practical tips in this whole area of leaders who make disciples.

First thing is this, it happens **naturally** and it happens **relationally**.

You cannot organise discipleship. If you could, we would get all the names of everybody in the church, and we put everybody with somebody else. It does not work like that. It has to work naturally and it must work in a relationship. You can't start speaking to people, if you haven't got a relationship with them. That would be very cold and very legalistic. It is through a relationship with people that they listen to me, and they hear what I have to say.

Sometimes over the years, I've seen models of discipleship, which are kind of organised models, and they really don't work, they collapse, which means that you and I have to get alongside people have a relationship with them and win the right to be able to disciple them.

The next thing is this, it's not a heavy thing.

Sometimes discipleship can become very intense, I don't believe that it should be. Sometimes it is a one on one relationship with people but sometimes it's a group dynamic. In other words, one person or a couple are discipling I don't know, 6,10 or 12 people and it happens that way. Certainly, that's how Jesus disciple. He discipled in a kind of group dynamic.

I have discipled one on one with people, and it's got its place but I've also often discipled a group of people together. So it happens, and it happens relationally it happens in group settings, and it happens in life.

You know, I've discipled guys up a ladder with a paintbrush, and no lot of you don't think I ever, ever do things like that. But I do. And I remember Saturdays, when I would be next to a young guy would be painting a wall together and I'm really discipling him and he's asking loads and loads of questions. It







wasn't done in a lecture theatre; it was done in a normal way of life. Very quickly, the other thing is this, it is a heart thing. It is an attitude. If you ask me tonight, who's discipling you Dave? It's hard for me to answer that question because I think I'm being discipled by a whole load of people because my heart attitude is I want to learn from people who know more than I do.

I'm in a community at the moment and we're going through mission shaped living. Everyone in our church is doing this and it's a discipleship programme in terms of how to become more effective in sharing your faith with your neighbours. You know what, I am not good at this so I'm in a group with a young couple that 30 years younger than me, who are brilliant at it. You know what, they're discipling me, because my heart attitude is I need to learn from them. I'm always watching for people who can disciple my life.

Practically we're still there. Hang on there. We're almost through a couple more minutes.

It's not cloning. Okay. Just want to throw that one out. **If you like it's apprenticeship**. You learn lots of things from me as I train you, but you always stay you.

I am not cloning you into a mini version of me. Timothy was always a man in his own right. He didn't become a mini Paul. He was a man who was clearly Timothy. So Paul's goal was never to make Timothy, a mini Paul, it was always to stay Timothy. I think this saves us from a lot of problems. I'm very nervous. I mean, there's only one Scott Marques in the world. We don't want a whole load more mini versions of Scott. He is unique! But we do want Scott to disciple a whole load of people who become more like Jesus. Amen. That's very important.

The final thing to say on this practical thing is this. Well, I've said it already really, my goal is never dependency upon me. I'm always pointing Jesus people to Jesus.

2. Who should we disciple?

Now the final thing tonight very quickly, who should we be discipling. I think 2 Timothy 2v2 already tells us you disciple people **who are faithful**.

Let me add a few more things to that:

- people who are faithful
- someone who's teachable
- someone who's always hungry to learn







I think sometimes we don't disciple people because we don't have the time to disciple them because we're always sorting out people that have got problems.

Now, don't misunderstand what I'm saying. If you're a small group leader tonight, so you've got 12 people, but two people, they've got lots of problems. If you spend all your time with just those two people you will not get to the other 10, who are all desperate to be discipled. If people have got problems, and they genuinely, genuinely don't want to have them, then you can spend time with them but don't spend time with people who've got problems, who have no intention whatsoever of ever getting rid of their problems. They just love to spend time with you, forever and a day. I'm sad sometimes when I can't get to the person, I want to disciple, because I've always been stopped by someone who has no intention of being changed.

So I want to encourage you, who is there in your life that is faithful, teachable, hungry to learn, they are the people to go for. Isn't this interesting, you don't necessarily go for the person who looks most gifted, or the person who's brilliant on their feet publicly. They may be brilliant on their feet publicly, but they may not be faithful or teachable. So the calling on our lives, is to find people who are faithful. Over the years, I watch for people who serve. I watch for people who lead like Jesus did. Always looking for people who serve. Someone can get up on a platform and prophecy but never ever is prepared to help with the chairs and to stand at the back of the room and to look after people who have problems and difficulties. To be honest with you, do stuff that no one ever sees. Those are the people. They may not be brilliant publicly, they may not be very articulate but these are the people in the end, who you and I will be able to truly disciple, because when you define something to them, and you watch what they do, they come back to you and say, "This is what I've learned" Or "Can you teach me some more about this, I really, really want to learn"

I hope you've enjoyed this as much as I have. It's very, very challenging. It's not a past word, It's a present word. Leaders who make disciples. Amen.







TUESDAY 6th OCTOBER 2020 Breakout groups discussion questions

Week 4: LEADERS WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

Feedback

Please share with the group

- What has been most challenging for you so far in Mobilize Phase 2?
- What have you enjoyed the most in the series to date?

<u>Discussion questions – week 4</u>

- Are you "thinking discipleship" whenever you are asked to lead something?
 Is it theoretical or happening in reality?
 Please share some examples?
- 2. Do you feel as if you have been / are being discipled?
- 3. Are there aspects of church life where you feel we are not really making disciples? What needs to change?
- 4. You are wondering about discipling someone what are the qualities that you are looking for in their lives that will assure you that this will go well?

<u>PRAY</u> for each other, that God would show each of us clear opportunities where we can be discipled by someone else, and where God wants us to reach out and disciple others.



