

# Discipleship

## Welcome

If you are new, Barb and Glenn, Men's Retreat,

## Introduction

If you have your Bibles...

Today is going to be a bit different...

For the last 6 months

My hope is to bring you into many of the meetings we have been having

## John 15:9-17

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 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. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

## History of Discipleship in our Culture

The Abandonment of Discipleship among Youth Today

The problem started back in the 30s and 40s with the coining of the term teenager.

Parents were the primary disciple makers of their children

Spiritual growth was outsourced to the youth group instead of the parent

Now these youth have grown up and turned into adults

The ultimate pursuit of comfort

discipleship/accountability is uncomfortable and was abandoned

## What is Discipleship?

1. Matthew 28:18-20 - 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."
  - a. 12 Years ago, John Stott was asked about the growth of Christianity in America.
  - b. Here is how he answered, "The answer is growth without depth. None of us wants to dispute the extraordinary growth of the church. But it has been largely

numerical and statistical growth. And there has not been sufficient growth in discipleship that is comparable to the growth in numbers.”

### **The Biblical Way**

We are Called to imitate Christ's method of discipleship. He surrounded himself with 12 men, He ate with them, drank with them, traveled with them, loved them, taught them, encouraged them, called them out, and held them accountable. And ultimately, He replaced Himself with them. It was these 12 men that Jesus used to shape the early church and carry out His plan in the world after He was gone. They carried on His legacy.

### **Vision for 2021 at Celebration Church regarding Discipleship**

1. Teaching
  - a. D1, D2, D3
2. Teaching to Obey
  - a. How do we go beyond a bible study? How do we get past simple teaching and help people to not only understand the scriptures, but do them?
    - i. Relational Discipleship
  - b. Celebration Groups (Our main focus in 2021)
    - i. Church attenders that are not associated with a small group are five times less likely to still be at that church in 5 years.
    - ii. 90% of Sunday school classes and groups stop incorporating new people after two years of existence
    - iii. Because most people can only manage about 60 interpersonal relationships in their lives at any given time.
    - iv. People will come for the teaching, or the worship, but they stay because of relationships, We must be Intentional about relational discipleship.
  - c. What are celebration groups?
    - i. Weekly gatherings of discussion driven small groups, Food, Fellowship, prayer, accountability, and encouragement. that meet in homes or at the church. For the purpose of Christian Discipleship and Growth. To be disciplined and to disciple others
      1. Multigenerational
        - a. Pooled ignorance or wasted knowledge
      2. Family Driven
      3. Weekly
      4. Sermon based
      5. Same Location/Time
      6. Multiplication Oriented
        - a. Leader/CoLeader
          - i. Raise up new leaders
        - b. Small groups need to stay small
    - ii. Structure
      1. Meal

2. Opening prayer
  3. Sermon questions(what to name the communication)
  4. Prayer requests
  5. Sharing in life together
- iii. Leaders
1. Gary Coram, Drew Granzow - Monday 6:30pm
  2. Larry Walker, Mel Baker - Tuesday 10am
  3. Brandon Mathis, Rick Hale, Dave Bowman Wednesday 6pm
3. Christ
- a. Imagine a dancer. She's dancing with grace and joy and rhythm. As you look closer, you see what drives all this beautiful movement: she has her earbuds in, hearing the music she loves best in all the world, and it's transporting her. She's captivated and enthralled by it. It's almost as if she can't stop dancing.
  - b. Now imagine a second person walks into the room. She looks at the dancer and thinks, "I'd love to be able to dance like that!" But she can't hear the music. So, she tries to copy the moves. The technique. And it actually seems to be working, at least for a time. But because she hears no music, the movement is clunky, hesitant, and self-conscious. She doesn't seem to enjoy dancing the way the first dancer does. Before too long, she's exhausted, while the first dancer is still going strong.
  - c. What if much of our well-intentioned disciple training is actually forcing people to be that second dancer? Telling them to copy all the right moves...read your Bible, pray, go to church, love others, share the gospel...while doing almost nothing to help them "hear" the beautiful music that drives it.

## Conclusion

- We have seen God do amazing things in 2020, We have grown while many churches are shutting their doors.
- Charles Boswell - Most churches are running 30 - 50% capacity each week.
- We are bigger than we have ever been, but if we are going to continue to grow, we are going to need people to step up. If you call Celebration Church your home, I would strongly encourage you to ask yourself the question. How can I use my gifts to build up the body.
- Celebration Groups

## Pray