

Did anybody do their homework?

Your homework... should you choose to accept it... is to pray for a heart that is willing to GO... a “here I am Lord, send me” prayer... then let God fill in the blanks. Come ready to share what God is saying. **What did God say?**

Let’s pray.....

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (tribe, race, group) baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe (obey) all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

As you go...make disciples... as you go throughout your day... your routine... go live the life of a disciple.

But... To **“go and make disciples of all nations”** seems like an overwhelming task. For this reason, it may seem easier just to do nothing... How can we go to every nation?

Jesus never expected for His disciples to travel to every nation in the world of their day and make disciples. He wanted His disciples to go and invest in the lives of others until those people become disciples; and then those people would go and step into the lives of others... until they became disciples... and so on.

We are **Ambassadors... a ministry with a message...** that message is **reconciliation**. That tribe or group or people may be across the street, the next neighborhood, city or simply the next person we meet.

We teach what we know, we reproduce what we are... So, when you and I reach and teach one, that person is then prepared to reach and teach one. This is making disciple making... helping people become disciples

Here are two of the practical (that I can think of) steps to making disciples – living a life on mission.

1. Seek to know the Gospel better

We need to know the story, the message of reconciliation... the Gospel! A disciple understands who they are in Christ... how the Gospel changed who they were. So we must understand the Gospel message... here is how Paul described it:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

*“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, (2) and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (3) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”*

Paul says... My friends, I want you to remember the message that I preached and that you believed and trusted. You will be saved by this message, if you hold firmly to it. But if you don't, your faith was all for nothing. I told you the most important part of the message exactly as it was told to me. **Christ died for our sins, He was buried, and three days later he was raised to life.**

That's the Gospel! **The Gospel is basically telling people who Jesus is** and what He's done to make it possible to be forgiven of our sins. It has to be first!

We don't need to be a biblical scholar to disciple others, but you do need to have a solid knowledge of the foundational truths of the Gospel message. This is where our story becomes huge... how we needed Jesus and what Salvation and reconciliation is doing in our lives.

Your life needs theme music... (Explain my theme music)

The Psalms talk about our theme music

Psalm 40:3

“He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD.”

Redemption gives us a new song to sing! The Gospel sings a song through us!

We worship because we KNOW firsthand what it's like to be reconciled to God! The Holy Spirit downloads the theme music of heaven into human hearts, the vessels designed to carry the song of Salvation. God chooses our voice, the sound our life makes, to play His theme music through... that, amazes me.

I want my theme music, the song of the Gospel to be a catchy, can't get it out of your head tune that draws others to the Messiah.

2. Love People

What if discipleship, making disciples, evangelism, and outreach were really about love?

Not a program... not a class on evangelism, not a book study...but learning to love like Jesus. Because... People notice when someone loves someone else. Love sticks out!

John 13:34

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (35) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. (2) And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

1 John 3:16

"We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

Is Jesus serious about loving people? Of course He is! However, the fact that Jesus commands us to love one another means that we can do it. Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, produced in us when we walk in dependence on the Spirit's power (Gal. 5:16, 22)... disciples walk in ever growing levels of love.

Has anyone here ever wanted to go into show business? Well disciples of Jesus already are.

Titus 2:7-8

"Show (to reach forth, offer) yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,(8) and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us."

Show = reach forth, offer (outreach, a living sacrifice)

Model = a stamp, a scar, an image (we assume the identity, the image of Christ)

What this says to me is... Every part of your story matters... even your scars, your marks... we are examples of what the Gospel has done in our lives... how the love of Christ has changed us. Loving people (both believers and non believers) involves listening to their theme music... to their story. It's being prepare to bless them, no matter how messy their story is... no matter how much their theme music hurts our ears.

As we go... make disciples... Ask the spirit to reveal people that we could bless intentionally through time, talent or treasure. Ask God... how can I love, who can I love and we allow Him to lead us forward into all the world.