

6. Disciples – not converts

Video-tutorial Outline



A helpful definition of an approach to discipleship today:

Discipleship is about **continued conversations** with **interested people**, with the **teachings of Jesus** in mind.

Some tips:

1. Disciple interested people, not just converts

We disciple toward conversion, not only after conversion

2. Be ready to give people your time

- The parable of the sower: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
- When a person's interest in the gospel is sparked, there is a brief opportunity that must be taken
- Programmes don't disciple people – it takes people to disciple people!

3. Use a conversational approach rather than a teaching approach

4. What should we discuss?

- i. Show care first
 - ii. Then discuss the spiritual questions they are asking
 - iii. Then discuss what you have prepared
- "...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..."* (Matt 28:20). The Bible is our resource!

Areas to consider:

1. Loving God (Prayer, the Bible and the Holy Spirit)
2. Loving one another (the purpose of large groups and small groups)
3. Loving others (a ministry and a mission)

Resources that could help:

- The Bible!
- Printed Bible study resources
- Digital resources (e.g. 10daychallenge.co.nz)
- Group discussion programmes (Alpha, Christianity Explored etc.)

Conclusion:

Programmes don't disciple people – it takes people to disciple people!
Become one of those people!

6. Disciples – not converts

Thirty-minute discussion



HOOK:

- Who has been one of the most influential people in your life - other than Jesus, or your parents? What made them so influential?

BOOK:

"...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:20)

- Is teaching people what Jesus' teachings say enough? Why is this understanding important?*
- How might you teach someone to obey – as compared to only teaching what Jesus says?***

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)

- What dynamic does this add to how we might disciple others? (How would they ever get to see our example?)**
- Does this verse suggest that they were to follow Paul's example in everything he did?***

LOOK:

- What, to you, was the key point in this video?
- Why might we disciple interested people instead of just 'converts? (What is the difference?)
- Why is it so important that we are ready to give interested people our time? (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)
- Were the suggestion on how we might approach discipling someone helpful to you? (Is this something you could see yourself doing over coffee with someone?)

TOOK:

- (Possibly take a look at a resource or two that you could use, so you are at least a little-bit familiarised with it)
- If a friend this week expressed an interest in understanding the Christian faith better - having seen this video, what might you do?
- What would you discuss with them?

Prayer

- Pray that God would lead you to people who are interested to understand the Christian faith (whether seekers or new Christians).
- Pray that God would give you wisdom and perspective, to be able to see and embrace these very rare yet precious opportunities!

Footnotes

*It is about intentionally discipling obedience, which produces maturity, which brings about the possibility of multiplication (2 Timothy 2:2)

** It is unavoidably relational

*** Could it be that they were to follow his example *only in as much as he was imitating Christ?*