

Fruitful Disciple-maker

Make disciples who make disciples

Overview

After his resurrection and before ascending to heaven, Jesus commanded his disciples: “Go and make disciples of all nations” (**Matt 28:18-20**). Jesus' strategy was to reproduce himself within a few people, who would do the same in a few more, who would do the same in a few more. It was through this exponential multiplication that Jesus planned to build his kingdom and through it to reach the whole world.

This calling to make disciples is not just for pastors and church leaders but for every Christian. Jesus teaches that bearing fruit is the sign of being his disciples (**Matthew 13:18-23**). Fruitfulness is the measure of faithfulness. Modeling the life of Jesus and making disciples are the fruit.

Disciple-making is *not* simply teaching people the Bible and it is *not* simply sitting together once a week to talk about Jesus. Disciple-making is leading a person to embrace a relationship with Jesus then teaching them to obey everything that Jesus has said (**Matthew 28:18-20**). These disciples then have the same call on their lives to make disciples of others.

In order to do fulfill this calling, we must labor long and hard with disciples, teaching them, sharing our lives with them, asking intentional questions, holding one another accountable, calling them to the full life available to them in Christ, taking them along with us, modeling how the work of Jesus plays out in our work, our evangelism, our homes, our private times—everything (**Acts 18:1-4, 18-28**). How we model the life of a disciple is just as important as what we teach. The life of being a disciple and disciple-maker will require our total sacrifice (**Luke 14:25-33**)

The work of spiritual transformation is entirely God's. But the work of baptizing, teaching, and leading is our responsibility (**1 Corinthians 3:16-9**). As we make disciples, we pass along and multiply the ministry of the Gospel throughout generations of disciples, like the four generations of disciples Paul writes about to Timothy (**2 Timothy 2:1-2**).

Fruitful disciple-makers live and love like Jesus by making disciples who make disciples—who together model the life of Jesus in this world.

Key Scriptures

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
- Luke 14:25-33
- Acts 18:1-4, 18-28
- 1 Cor. 3:6-9
- 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Essential Life Patterns

- Identify people to engage in relational disciple-making.
- Enter disciple-making relationships. (Pass on what is learned and practiced.)
- Embrace your role in the movement of changed lives.

Resources

Visit <https://thisisfoundry.com/disciplemaker> to see resources for this identity.