**The Calling of Christ’s Disciples**

Session 1

**Question # 1** - *When you were growing up, what did you want to be?*

**Question** **# 2** - *What difference is there between desiring to do something, and taking action steps to fulfill that purpose in life?*

There is an old saying that goes, “**as long as you have a pulse, you have a purpose.**” I believe we all have a pulse, but sadly not all of us have a purpose for why we are living. In this session we will see that Jesus calls us as believers to a purpose greater than ourselves as His disciples.

**Question # 3 - What comes to mind when you hear the word discipleship?** When we take a look at the life and ministry of Jesus, we see that discipleship went hand in hand with His work. Right from the start He called individuals to follow Him so that they could become His disciples. He also trained and commissioned them to make disciples of other people.

* A disciple is one who knows Christ personally with their heart, not just their head, and follows Christ’s teaching in loving obedience.
* A disciple is one who is being conformed and transformed by Christ’s word and will through the power of the Holy Spirit.
* A disciple is one who is committed to the mission of Christ as reproducing disciples, growing beyond their conversion experience.
* A disciple is a learner, student, an apprentice. The word actually means, “one who sits under someone’s teaching or way of life.” A disciple desires to be like Jesus and fulfill the purpose of Jesus in and around their life.

A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher. Luke 6:40

**(In Groups of 3-4)** The New Testament often uses the word disciple for the 12 apostles. Read Mark 3:13-15 and list the three important signs of discipleship that made these 12 men Jesus followers.

1. **THE CALLING OF A DISCIPLE**

And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19



**The Process:**

1. **Follow me**. Implies an invitation that is given to come and see. There is a willingness on our part as a disciple of Christ to deny ourselves and to commit our lives in our words, actions, and attitude in serving Christ. This also implies following, learning, imitating and then reproducing Christ’s truth into others so they will in turn follow the words, will, and work of Christ.

(**Example: When I was a child, I would play a game called follow the leader**. Whoever was the leader, we were to do exactly what our leader did. If he put his hands up, we put our hands up. If he ran in place, we would run in place. Everyone in the game aspired to be the leader so others would follow us.)

**Question # 4 - Are you someone who follows Christ**? Give practical examples from the diagram below.

 In our Words In our Actions

 DISCIPLE

 In our Attitude

1. **I will make you.** A process of change occurs with being a disciple for Jesus. It’s a promise of what is to be. I’ve learned over the years, that **growing people grow and growing people help others grow** (Romans 12:1-2). The process of discipleship involves not just an internal transformation, but also an external demonstration of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-25). **It’s a calling to not only come but be changed.**

**Question # 5 - How has Jesus changed you?**

1. **Fishers of men.** As a disciple we are actively committed to making disciples, who will then make disciples, who will make disciples etc. This process continues until Jesus returns. **Our purpose is to fulfill His purpose**. The mission of Christ is not just coming to know Him, but actively reproducing disciples for the glory of God. (Matthew 4:18-22)

**Question # 6 –** Think about a football game for a moment or some kind of sporting event. Maybe there are 100 people watching the game but only about 10 who are actually on the field playing. Would you say your church has more people on the sidelines watching, or more people out on the field discipling others?



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