

Make Disciples

Lesson for Sunday, October 23, 2022

Introduction:

- One more time! Review the vision and the four-part plan to achieve it.
- Remind them that this applies both corporately (as a church) and individually (as a Christian).
- Discuss: Which parts of our vision and plan do you find challenging to live out? Why? Are there some parts that are easier than others?
- Remember that a vision gives direction. It clarifies what we do and becomes a measuring stick to see if we are making progress or not.
- Never forget: If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time. Sadly, many churches and individual Christians are wandering through life not really aiming at anything specific.
- Today we are looking at part four: Make Disciples. To fully understand our plan to make disciples, it is helpful to look at all five of the Great Commission statements and the example that Jesus modeled Himself for us to follow.

Bible Study:

1. The Method – Matthew 28:16-20
 - a. The method is clear: go, baptize (or church them), and teach to obey.
 - b. Walk your class through the process:
 - i. As you go through your daily life, you look to for opportunities to share the Gospel. Opportunities are most often realized along the lines of relationships – people you already know and spend time with.
 - ii. When people repent and believe the Gospel, they are to be baptized into the membership of a Bible-believing local church.
 - iii. It is in the context of the local church that they learn what Jesus taught and are encouraged to obey all that Jesus commanded.
 - c. Win the lost, establish the believers, and equip the few workers to reproduce the process. This is the biblical process of making disciples.
 - d. The test of whether we are disciples ourselves is: Are we making disciples? The church should be full of disciples involved in making disciples.
2. The Model – John 20:21
 - a. Notice how Jesus presents Himself as the model for us to follow as we carry out the mission. *“As the Father has sent Me, even so (in the same manner) I send you.”*
 - b. In order to live our Matthew 28, we need to go back and master the Master’s life.
 - c. In His earthly life, Jesus modeled the disciple-making process. What are some of the elements we see in Jesus’s disciple-making:
 - i. He invited people into a disciple-making relationship.
 - ii. He spent time with them.
 - iii. He taught them, encouraged them, challenged them, etc.
 - iv. He sent them out for service.
 - d. Discipleship doesn’t need our creativity; it simply needs our obedience and willingness to follow the model that Jesus provided.
3. The Magnitude – Mark 16:15
 - a. Mark gives us a worldwide vision for our mission.
 - b. We are to begin where we live – our families, our neighbors, our community – but it doesn’t end there!
 - c. The magnitude of our mission extends to the entire world.
 - d. ILL: This is the impetus behind worldwide missions. Today we have several of our own FBT families leading churches all over the world. Our vision must not be limited to Florence, SC! There is a world in need of the Gospel!
 - e. Some are called for foreign missions and some are called to be pastors and teachers, but every Christian is called to make disciples in whatever location they find themselves.

4. The Message – Luke 24:47
 - a. Luke presents our message with stunning clarity.
 - b. We are to preach the complete Gospel. Ask: What is the Gospel? After some discussion, go to 1 Corinthians 15:1-6.
 - c. We had a lesson on witnessing everywhere just last week, but it is worth talking about again for a few moments. What makes witnessing so difficult for many Christians?
 - i. Lack of skill: Many don't know how. How can you address this issue?
 - ii. Lack of awareness: We are often too busy to notice the opportunities for spiritual engagement that surround us daily. How do we become more aware?
 - iii. Lack of boldness: It is often easier to say nothing than to take the risk to speak up. What is a proper way to think about this issue?
 - iv. Anything else you can think of?
5. The Means – Acts 1:8
 - a. How do we do this? How do we accomplish such a tremendous mission with a scope of such magnitude?
 - b. Just like Jesus, we are fully dependent upon the power of the Holy Spirit to achieve this process.
 - c. As we said last week, the results of our disciple making do not rest on our shoulders alone. The Holy Spirit of God empowers us for the work, and then does the work in the lives of others.
 - d. We have one simple objective: A willingness to be used. Are you willing?

Application:

- The mission is clear – to make disciples who make disciples. Each account that we have looked at contributes a different element of the mission. Together they describe one clear goal: to make disciples the way Jesus did.
- How would you rate yourself in this area? Are you making disciples? How can you improve? What can you do this week to begin to obey this command of the Lord?