

Covered in the Dust: Finding and Becoming a Disciple

Passage: Matthew 28:18-20 | Speaker: Steve Grothoff | Date: 260913

SUMMARY

Preaching from Matthew 28:18-20 (the Great Commission), Steve picks up last week's discipleship theme and asks the next question: you've found someone to disciple, so now what? He works through four questions. What is a disciple? In Jesus' day it was a full-time commitment, and the goal wasn't just to learn what the teacher knew but to become like him -- a Jewish proverb said to follow the rabbi so closely that you're covered in the dust of his feet. How do you find someone to disciple you, or to disciple? Pray (Matthew 6; Cornelius and Peter in Acts 10), pray for a humble heart, pray for the person who will disciple you -- then get involved at church, ask, be willing to hear no, and be specific about what you want to learn, remembering that discipleship is a two-way street. What does it look like? Some formal structure alongside real Christ-centered friendship, shaped by the people, schedule and time involved, moving through four stages: explore, establish, equip and extend. Why does it matter? Jesus commanded it, Steve shares that he spent almost twenty years close to faith without anyone alongside him and only grew once men came alongside, and the goal is disciple-makers, not just disciples -- three people disciplined every six months, each discipling three more, would reach about 60,000 people in five years. He closes with five applications: be prayerful, be in God's word, be patient, be involved, and be bold.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A disciple in Jesus' day gave up a livelihood to follow a teacher -- not just to learn what he knew, but to become like him. 'Follow the rabbi, drink in his words, and be covered with the dust of his feet.'
- Finding someone to disciple you, or to disciple, starts with prayer -- for the right person, for a humble heart, and for whoever will be discipling you -- and then getting involved, asking, and being okay with an answer of no.
- Discipleship is a two-way street: the person being disciplined brings questions, testimony and insight that strengthen the one discipling them too.
- Discipleship moves through four stages -- explore ('come and see'), establish ('follow me'), equip ('be with me'), and extend ('your turn') -- and it can be formal, informal, one-on-one,

or in a group, but it needs some structure and a real friendship behind it.

- The goal is to make disciple-makers, not just disciples -- and the five applications are to be prayerful, be in God's word, be patient, be involved, and be bold.

Introduction

Snacks, those are mine, remember?

All right, so we have talked about discipleship last week, so this week I want to talk about it again. Last week we talked about what does it mean to go out and find somebody to disciple, but this week we're going to take a step further, and okay, so you've found somebody to disciple, now what? What does that look like? So if you guys would stand with me, we've got the Great Commission we're going to read this morning, and then we'll get on in there.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:18-20

Starting in verse 18 of Matthew 28, and Jesus came and spoke to them saying, all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Father, we come to you this morning to just pour over what this means, Lord, to look at what it is that as your disciples, what that means. What are we supposed to be doing? Father, we know that obedience and being a moral person and diving deeper into knowing who you are is part of it, but Father, one of the facets of that also, as we see here, your command to us is to go and share the gospel and to grow others in that love for the gospel. So Father, as we talk about this today, just help us to take that to heart. Help us to, if we aren't doing it, Father, to help convict us of it. And Father, we just, we pray that each and every person here can hear this message and understand that, Father, as daunting of a task as sometimes that may sound like, that really and truly the reality of what it means to go and make disciples, Father, is not as difficult as we like to make it sound. So Father, we thank you for your word. We thank you for this time that we get to come together, the privilege that it is to be able to talk about your word and pray to you. And Father, we ask all of these things in your son's name. Amen.

All right. If you guys notice, we have sidestepped out of Galatians.

Overview: Stepping Out of Galatians, Four Questions

So over the next couple of weeks, so for the last nine months, you all have been telling me what you expect of me, so guess what you get for the next three weeks. If you guys accept me as your pastor, this is what I'm going to expect of you guys. This is the stuff that as members of the congregation, if I am the pastor, what I would expect from you guys. So I don't think you guys are getting off scot-free and that you guys just get to tell me how to do my job all the time. So, all right. So what we're going to talk about today is four things. Number one, what does it mean to be a disciple? Number two, how do you find somebody to disciple you or somebody for you to disciple? Number three, what does that look like? What is that process supposed to look like? And then number four, why is that important? Why is discipleship important? Why do we, why is, why is it something that you guys hear me talk about constantly? Why is it something that Jesus, that was the last thing that Jesus asked of his disciples? Why is that important?

Point 1: What Does It Mean to Be a Disciple?

So first and foremost, what does it mean to be a disciple? What does that, what does that mean? I've used that word a lot. I, I, I use that word often. We hear that word quite a bit throughout the New Testament. We don't hear it so much in the Old Testament. We hear it one time from Isaiah in the Old Testament. And he is talking about the looking forward to Jesus and he calls him a disciple.

Now in Jesus's time, the role of a, of a disciple wasn't just a part-time gig. This wasn't, this was something that you did. This was a, it was a commitment. It was something that you did full time. It was what you aspired to be. And it's what you, it was a, a season of your life that that is all you did. Uh, men would give up their entire lives. They would give up their entire careers and, and to follow their teacher, to follow somebody that they wanted to, to act like, to imitate, to, to be like. Like, the goal wasn't just to learn what the teacher knew. The goal was to become like the teacher, to imitate that teacher and to live exactly how he lived.

Uh, if you guys have ever been anywhere where it's dusty, uh, it gets dusty here, but like the Middle East is disgusting dusty. For those of you guys who have been there, um, you know, for those of you that haven't, imagine like a tan, um, it's not even dust. Imagine like baby powder and like flour mixed together. And it's, it's disgusting. It sticks to everything. It, it, if you sweat, you're caked in it. If you step down in it and it's too, if you step in stuff that's like this deep, your foot suction in it. Um, it's, it's

gross. The dust over there will take over everything. There was a Jewish proverb back in those times that said, follow the rabbi, drink in his words and be covered with the dust of his feet. Follow your rabbi so closely that you're getting covered in the dust because you're following him so close.

Jesus' disciples were no different. Jesus' disciples gave up their livelihoods. They followed Jesus. They learned from him. They spent the rest of their lives then imitating him. They took what he taught them in the three years that he taught them. They took that and they turned us into what we are today. Look at the only reason we are here. The only reason we are Christians is because 2000 years ago, these men took their job seriously. We also need to be taking that job seriously.

So how do you find somebody, somebody to disciple you or for you to disciple?

Point 2: How Do You Find Someone to Disciple, or Be Discipled By?

Because there needs to be a time where you've gotten to a point where, okay, I'm willing. I have learned enough and I feel confident enough to go and share this and raise somebody else up in the gospel and disciple somebody else. First and foremost, pray. Pray. God knows what you need before you ask. That's what Matthew 6 tells us. Pray for God to bring the right person into your life. That may be immediate. That may be six months down the road.

Cornelius, Acts 10, if you guys are familiar with the story, he prayed to get to know God more. He prayed he wanted to know God more.

God sent him Peter. Peter visited and Cornelius and his whole family became Christians. Pray, God will bring you the right person. Sometimes I have been, I've been in many different discipleship settings with many different people. And the one guy that I talked to that is still one of my very close friends, he said, I prayed for over a year for the people that God brought me. He said, I tried it. He said, I've tried it before and I've forced it and I've thought, I'm just going to grab somebody by the arm and say, I'm discipling you now. It doesn't work that way. If it's not a priority to you, then it's not going to be a priority. You're not going to be involved in wanting to do it.

Number two, pray for a humble heart.

Do you really want to be discipled? Are you ready for that? Do you realize what that takes? Are you ready to invite somebody else into your life? Are you ready to invite someone in that's going to correct you? That's going to call out the sin in your life? That's going to hold you accountable to what it is that you're progressing in? Somebody that's going to call you and say, hey, have you been reading your Bible? Hey, what have you been reading? Hey, what did you, you know, where are you at? What have you learned? Are you ready to be dedicated to somebody else to instruct you, to train you, and to teach

you the things that they know? And then, are you willing to change those parts of your life that somebody points out and says, hey, this part of your life, like we talked about with the kids up here, what are you ready to, what are you, are you ready to move these things out of your way to make room for God? Are you ready to do that? Third thing that you need to pray for is pray for the person that's going to disciple you. Pray for that future discipler in your life. Pray for that person. You might not know who it is, but pray for them.

And what we need to understand is that discipleship is a two-way street. There's a lot of,

what we need to understand is that as the person being disciplined, you're going to bring a lot to the table for that person that is discipling you.

Your discipleship with them will be just as beneficial to their faith as they are to yours. Your questions might challenge them. Your testimony may encourage them.

You may have insight into something they don't.

Your failures will stretch them, teaching them grace and patience, and your growth and success will encourage them. It's a two-way street. Don't think that you're going to just go and find somebody to disciple you and, okay, here I am. I'm going to sit here. You're going to tell me everything you know, and we're going to both go our separate ways. No, it's a two-way street. It's a commitment. It's a dedication. And it's a relationship that takes time sometimes. Some of the guys that I've disciplined with, we butted heads at times. We got to a point where it was like, no, you know, you're pushing too hard. And they're like, no, you're not taking it seriously. Like, okay. It's a relationship that you need to build, but that building of that relationship needs to be an encouragement to one another. Sometimes that isn't easy. So besides prayer, what else do you need to do? You need to be involved in church. Serve somewhere that you may not serve usually. Do something. Find new people. Talk to somebody that you haven't talked to or that you don't know very well. Talk to somebody different. As we get to know people, who do we connect with better? There are going to be certain people in our lives that we're going to connect with that it's going to be like, oh man, yep, this person and I connect on all levels. And then there's going to be some people that's like, yeah, we connect, but I don't know. I don't know if I can, I don't know if that would be beneficial for either of us to be in that position. But what we also need to understand is that each and every Christian, each and every Christian, every person that you come in contact with will be able to teach you something unique about Christ. Each and every one. It doesn't matter if you're new, old, seasoned, beginner. There is something that each and every Christian can teach you about Christ.

Ask someone. That's the third thing. Reach out and ask someone. Be willing to put yourself out there a little bit. Don't wait for that person to come to you. If you want to be disciplined, pursue someone, ask them, and then be okay with their answer. There's three parts to that. But here's the don'ts of that.

Second, don't wait for somebody else to come to you.

Don't be afraid to ask someone to help you grow in your faith. If you look at somebody and you think, I like where you're at. I would like to get there too.

Approach somebody.

Number three, don't be discouraged if someone says no. We all have life going on. We all have seasons of our life where, you know what, it's just not a good time for me right now. I would love to do it, but you're going to have to give me some time. I've got this going on right now, or I can't dedicate fully to this. Be okay with an answer of no. Don't take it as they don't like you. Just understand that some of that is, we're all different. We all have different seasons of life. Some of us just don't have the time for it all the time. But now how do you ask somebody?

How do you make that approach? I told you guys to pursue somebody and approach them. So how do you do that?

Go up to somebody and you say, hey, I want to grow deeper in my faith. I'm encouraged by yours. I see where you're at. I see where you, what you've gone through. I see where you are. I see a specific part of your faith that I want in my life. Teach me how.

And then again, like I said, you're going to have to invite them to become a part of your life. The good, the bad, the ugly, all of it. That's part of it.

And don't be scared to be specific. Don't be scared to say, hey, you know, I want to do this discipleship with you. Here is what I would like for you to teach me. I want to learn how to read my Bible better. I want to learn how to draw more out of scripture. I want to learn how to pray better. There are a ton of different things, a ton of different facets of Christianity that somebody else can gladly teach you.

Some of that might be, I wish I could evangelize the way you do. I've been with you and I've seen you go out and I've seen the way you talk to people. I've seen the conviction that you have when you go and talk to somebody. Teach me how you do that. Some of that's going to be personality, but some of that, guys, is just going to be going and doing it.

Point 3: What Does Discipleship Look Like?

All right, so you've asked somebody. Somebody says, yes, I will absolutely disciple you. So what does discipleship look like? What does that mean? What is that? How is that going to look?

There are two different ways this can look. Discipleship can be a formal structured program. There might be a book you go through. There might be a book of the Bible you go through. That's part of it. But another part of it is going to also be that informal Christ-centered friendship that you build with somebody. Building a relationship with somebody, but there needs to be structure because the only way, the word disciple is also part of the word discipline. The only way you can discipline yourself to do and to be better is through structure. It's just human nature.

But what we need to understand is discipleship will look completely different for each situation, depending on who you're involved with, who you're doing it with, if the personality is involved, the number of people involved. Discipleship doesn't have to be a one-on-one thing. Discipleship could be one person and three people that are doing it in a group.

Time, scheduling, availability with family and other scheduling things going on. I've met at 5.30 in the morning and I've met at 10 o'clock at night. It does not matter when you meet. If you guys can agree on a time to meet, meet. It's not gonna, it's gonna look different for everybody.

And what are you covering? That's gonna make a difference too. You could only meet three times or you could meet for six months or a year, two years.

But what we need to understand is there are steps. There are processes. There are things, there are stages of life, if you will, in discipleship.

I've got four of them wrote down. I meant to send them in. If anybody wants them, I will gladly give them to you.

The Four E's: Explore, Establish, Equip, Extend

There are four stages. There's explore, establish, equip, and extend. Four E's. The explore stage is childhood, to put it into a physical perspective. It's childhood. That's, as Jesus says, the come and see. That's the curiosity. That's the wanting to know and being hungry and wanting to experience something.

Then you establish. That's the young adult phase of it. That's the follow me. Like, come see what I do. Come see how I do it. Follow me. I'm going to establish some patterns in your life. I'm going to establish some disciplines in your life.

That's where you start building these spiritual disciplines of reading your Bible and praying daily and spending time with God in some way, shape, or form. That's when you build that discipline. Then three, equip. It's the adult stage. That's the be with me. That's the, I'm going to, I'm going to, we are

going to go out and do this and we're going to hit a point where we're going to be doing something and I'm going to say, okay, your turn.

Go do this. and that's, that could be if you're discipling somebody and they want to learn how to read the Bible and how to draw more out of the Bible. That's the stage where you're like, okay, next week we're going to be going through these verses. You're leading. You're going to come and tell me what you found instead of me trying to help you through that. You're not holding somebody's hand through something anymore. You're letting them lead you.

You got them by the belt loop. Like, nope, nope, not quite like that. That's where you can direct somebody. You let them lead but you still are there for guidance.

And then the extend. Reaching out. Teaching somebody else. That's the parent stage. That's, you, I have taught you what I know. I have taught you what I know. Now it's your job to go out and teach everybody else what you now know from what I taught you.

Your turn to go out and find somebody else to do these steps with.

Again, discipleship's going to look different. It may depend on where somebody else is at. It may depend on, you may have a brand new Christian and it's time to, here's exactly what we believe. Go through the gospel step by step. It may be somebody that's already a seasoned Christian but they're like, hey, I just, man, I, when we, when we are in group prayer and I hear you pray and the things of, the way that you pray, teach me how you got to that point. Teach me how you got to the point that you're at today. you may meet weekly. There are people that I, for a while, I talk to daily because they were going through things that required me to be talking with somebody daily. You don't know what somebody's dealing with sometimes until you get in. I've, man, I've picked up discipleship with people that I'm like, oh man, this is going to be, this is going to be good. This is going to be really good. I'm excited. They want to grow and then you start and you start opening up with one another and it's like, oh, you're not quite where I thought you were. We've got a lot of building to do or you've got some things that we need to work on before we even get into this.

But don't let that scare you. Read what Jesus said there. All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

And then there at the end of that, and I am with you always.

Understand and trust that if you're guiding somebody to be a disciple, that Jesus is right there with you. That it's not you going at it alone. You're not doing it by yourself.

Sometimes the first thing you need to do is you need to establish a Christ-centered friendship because that's one of the greatest forms of discipleship.

We all need somebody that we can be real with. We all need somebody who knows the struggles that we don't tell anybody else about. We all need somebody we can trust to confront us when they see us slipping. Somebody to confront us in a loving way and say, hey, I see this. It's concerning. Let's talk about it.

And we all need somebody who can help us prune the unfruitfulness from our lives. Push that car out of the way so that the other one can get through like we were talking about with the kids. Somebody who can do that with you. Somebody who can say, hey, I see that this is a problem for you. I want to help you fix that. I see that this is an issue. I want to help you get through that.

But what we need to understand and what we need to realize is that structure and framework is going to be necessary.

It may not mean meeting every week. It may not mean but there needs to be some structure. There needs, if you're going to disciple somebody it doesn't need to be a, yeah, well, we'll meet, you know, maybe this week, maybe next week, maybe we'll meet, you know, or things happen. Life happens. I get that.

We need to be flexible. We need to be ready to understand that our experience isn't going to turn out exactly the way that we thought it was going to. From either side of it, you could be discipling somebody, they could be discipling you. It's not going to go exactly how you think it's going to go. It's just not. Life happens. You both live completely separate,

completely complex lives.

It's hard to get everybody on the same page all the time.

But with that, what we need to understand is sometimes that means meeting on odd terms. Sometimes that means jumping into somebody else's life or bringing somebody else into yours. Maybe,

hey, the only time I've got right now is I'm heading to the grocery store. If you want, we can go walk around the grocery store. You can come walk with me. You can be with me if you've got to talk about something. I've had conversations with guys while I'm driving down the road that I've had to pull over and be like, this is way too much for me to talk about while I'm driving. I have to focus on what we're talking about here.

Discipleship looks different for me than it's going to for you. For me, I've got one of the guys, well, a couple of the guys that I disciple. Our time that we go disciple, that we do discipleship things is on a disc golf course or on our way to a concert, at a concert.

It's going to look different, but that needs to be part of it. You need to live life with them. You need to be involved with them in the other things of their life because the only way that somebody's going to be comfortable enough to share what's really going on with them is if you're truly a friend and truly part of their life.

So finally,

Point 4: Why Is Discipleship Important?

why is discipleship important?

We see right here in this passage because Jesus told us to. That's why it's important.

Jesus said, do it.

Are we doing it? Are we reaching out? Are we, like I said last week, do we forget what Jesus has done for us that we just don't feel like telling other people? do we not want to grow people in their faith also? Do we not want to help somebody else from a place that they're in? A place of questions? A place of unknowing? unknowing?

The reason that I'm not a better Christian is because for a lot of my life I was questioning and I was searching and I didn't have that person. I was so close numerous times in my life for a good almost 20 years. It was close and I got to a place where I was like, you know what? This is I would Jesus I'm yours I'm ready I'm going to do this and the thorns of the world got in the way that seed that grew up fast and then got choked out by the thorns of the world. The world was way too shiny the world was way too pretty because I didn't have somebody else there to grab me and say nope this is what we need to be doing. When I grew when I got serious about my relationship with Christ was when I had somebody else come alongside me. When I went to somebody else and said hey this is what I want to do show me how to do it.

I didn't have that.

So for a good portion of my life I was not the Christian that I should have been.

That's why discipleship is important to me.

That's why it's important to my wife. That's why it's something that she and I do. That's why it's something that she and I dedicate a lot of our time to.

Because we need to be somebody that we wish we had when we were growing up as a new Christian. We need to be somebody that can show us the things that we should have had somebody show us if we didn't have that person. I have had some absolutely phenomenal men disciple me in my life.

And it is all they do. That is their retired men and they said there's no such word as retirement in the Bible.

I don't work now. Guess what my life is? My life is dedicated to this. I'm just as busy. I spend 40 hours a week discipling guys because I'm not slowing down and it's important to me.

We need to understand that making disciples is a process though. We need to understand that we need to build a relationship with somebody to share the gospel with them. You can't just, I mean you can, don't get me wrong, you can just be the doomsday preacher on the side of the road talking about the world is ending, the time has come, repent and believe and stand on the side of the road to do that. I'm not saying that those people don't possibly win people over, but what are they doing about it? Then what? So they've given you a portion of the story, but they've done nothing to cultivate it.

We need to then build those spiritual disciplines into somebody. Help build those spiritual disciplines.

Read your Bible, learn how to pray, learn how to read God's word and draw something from it, not just sit down and read through the Bible in a year and don't get anything out of it. Do you read it to digest it? Do you read it to understand it?

That is what's important and that is something that you just most of the time aren't going to do on your own. It takes somebody to show you how to do it. and then over time as we teach people we need to be doing it with the sole purpose the very intentional purpose of now that I've taught you what you know it's your turn. Go do it. We need to be making disciple makers not just disciples because a true and honest disciple is going to be somebody that is dedicated to going and doing the same thing.

I've told you guys this fact if you will before if every six months you disciplined three people every six months you disciplined three people and in that six month period you taught them how to in turn go out and make disciples and they in turn each went out and got three people and in six months did the same thing just same rotation all the way through. Do you realize that in five years what you started with with those three people would be 60,000 people?

I can't do that on my own. I'm not going to reach 60,000 people on my own. That is why making disciple makers is important. In a church our size, say on average 50 people, that's almost three million people.

That's a lot of people.

But we need to have the faith and we need to understand that when we go and do this that we are doing God's work. We need to understand that what God is calling us to do is go and share what we know with other people. Are we doing that? Do we do that?

Application: Five Ways to Start

So application.

How do we do that? How do we find somebody to disciple us? How do we reach a place where if we're the person that's ready to disciple somebody, how do we reach a place where we start finding those people?

Again, be prayerful.

Be prayerful for your own faith. Be prayerful for your own walk. Be prayerful for the person that you want to disciple or the person you want to disciple you. Be prayerful for that person. Be prayerful for your church,

the community that you live in. God, if there's somebody here that you want me to raise up, God, if there's somebody here that you have to help raise me up, God, bring that person into my life.

Be in God's word. These, guys, I give you these two applications probably more times than you all care to, but they're good. They're good applications. Pray and be in God's word. That's the two big things. Because being in God's word will not only help you grow, but it will change you. It will change you.

Number three, be patient. Again, sometimes it takes time to find the right person. Don't jump into something just because somebody has given you some inkling that they might be interested.

be patient. Be prayerful in that patience.

Number four, be involved. Get involved in church. Serve.

Talk with somebody new. Get involved with new people. Be around. Get to know people that you may or may not know. Talk to somebody that you haven't talked to. We're a small church. We all, you all known each other for most of each other for a long time.

But for those of us that aren't,

we need to be reaching out to you guys and you guys need to be reaching out to the new ones too. That goes both ways.

I'm not good at it all the time and I know.

Number five,

and you guys hear this one from me all the time too, be bold. Share the gospel. Go and do it. Because the only way that you're going to find somebody, the only way that you're going to reach somebody sometimes is by just being confident in what it is you want. Sometimes just reaching out and saying, hey, I really want you to help me figure this out. I really would like for you to help me learn how to read the Bible better, learn how to pray better, teach me what you know.

Be bold, be confident, go and just ask.

So that's

Closing Challenge

what I got for you guys. We need to be doing that. We need to be making disciples because again, like I said, guys, in my short time of being a Christian, I grew as much as I did because of the men that I had pouring into me that raised me up to be who I am today.

If I had had that 20 years ago, I probably would have been doing this 20 years ago, but I didn't. I didn't have men in my life doing that. That's why these things are important to me. That's why these things are not only important to me, but that's why Jesus says, go and do this because the only way that you're going to raise somebody up to be in a position that they can do this for other people is to do it. Go and find somebody to do this with. Find somebody to help raise you. Imagine what your kid's life would be like if you weren't there to guide them and discipline them and raise them to know what they should and shouldn't be doing. Imagine, we see it in the world a lot of places, there's a lot of parents that don't raise their kids. It's chaos. We don't need that in the church either.

We need to be raising people up, catechizing people, teaching people doctrine, teaching people theology. We need to be doing these things because otherwise it's easy to get led astray. It's easy to have somebody else come in that says something that may or may not sound good and pull somebody in the wrong direction.

We have a solid, solid group of people here. I look around at who is here and I know, and I've told you guys before, you all know your Bible better than most congregations I've ever been in. we need to be sharing that with other people. We need to be sharing that with people that don't know.

And we need to be doing it very intentionally because we live in a world that would much rather tell us that we're wrong and tell us that the way we believe is closed-minded and tell us that the things that we do are antiquated and not good and we're being intolerant. Well, that's okay. We need to be doing that, but we need to be doing those things and we need to be sharing the truth with people in love.

So that's my, again,

as you guys have heard probably quite a few times now, discipleship is huge for a church because otherwise we're just this echo chamber of people that sit in here and talk about what we all believe together and that's not going to do any good because we're going to stay right here. We're not going to branch out. We're not going to go anywhere else. The only way we're going to branch out and go other places is to equip everybody to go out into the other places. So I have a program I would like to start if you guys, if you guys hire me, vote me in. I have a program I would like to start for doing discipleship that teaches people how to do that and gets people confident in going out and doing that because I think that it's super important and I think that it is something that will grow exponentially quicker than we'll probably even understand. Father, we

Closing Prayer

thank you. Father, we thank you for today. We thank you for your word. Father, we thank you for the conviction that you give us with your word.

Father, help us to each and every one be confident in our faith to be able to go out and share it. And Father, if we aren't, help us to find the people that are to raise us up, to teach us, to guide us.

Because, Father, the only way, the only way that we can reach out into a world that is hurting and searching for you is by telling them who you are. and the only way we can do that is if we know who you are and what you've done for each and every one of us and have the abilities to go out and do so. Father, I know not everybody's built to evangelize, but Father, everybody is built to disciple somebody in some way, shape, or form. So, Father, help us to help us to light that fire to go and find somebody to do that with. Because, Father, the only way, the only way that we can grow is through your will and through your calling. And, Father, you have told us very clearly here in this word that that requires us to do it for one another also.

So, Father, we love you. We thank you for your word. And we ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.