

Matthew Week 19 Oct 24, 2021

Intro: Stefan Duerksen, Associate Pastor

Church-Wide Prayer Request: 4. Covid 19: Protection, healing and lifting of restrictions

We have church family currently battling the sickness, others have lost loved ones, lost or are facing losing their jobs, loss of 'normal', depression & anxiety are increasing, much fear, grieving, and people feeling divided... Pray for the Lord's comfort & healing for those suffering. Pray also that the church would stay united on the being the Testimony of Jesus

Matthew Week 19 The Great Command & Commission

Last week we used the analogy of the Cruise Ship vs the Warship. We explored the difference...

- The cruise ship is run by a large staff whose purpose is to serve the passengers. Success is defined by smooth sailing and good weather. Everyone having a good time and individual enjoyment.
- On the warship everyone has a job. They may look different. But every person has a purpose and a role. There are NO passengers. Success is defined by unity and obedience. By everyone doing their job TOGETHER for the common goal set forth by the captain. From the smallest to the greatest position. The purpose of the warship is to be ready for battle, stormy seas or whatever crisis arises.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (ESV) Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

1 Corinthians 12:12-30 (ESV) For the body does not consist of one member but of many... If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

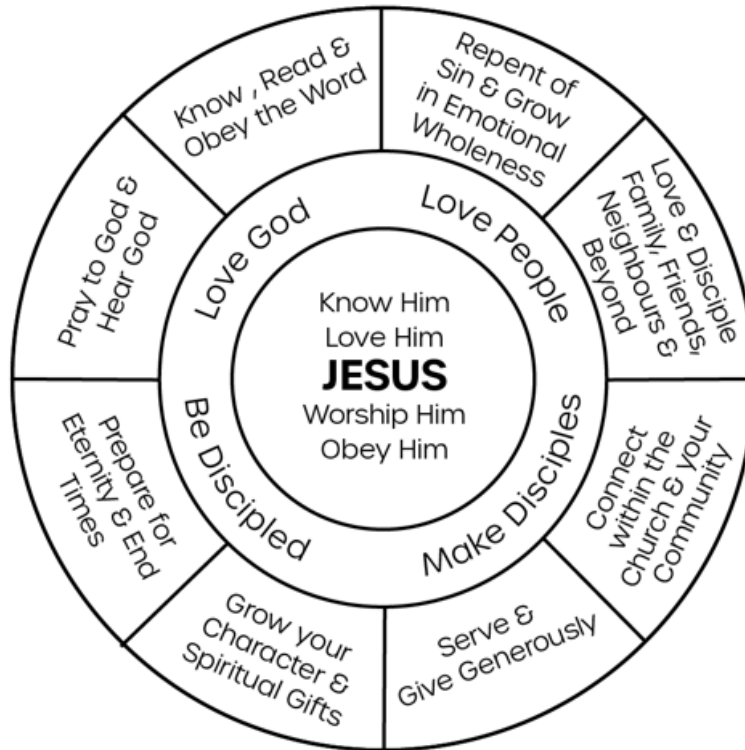
we belong to each other – I LOVE that thought! The Church is supposed to be FAMILY! And yes... it is MESSY – we know all about that!

A common question I hear is “where do we start?”

Luke 6:40 (ESV) A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

BEING disciplined and MAKING disciples is an ongoing cycle. Until we see Jesus face to face, we should be becoming more and more like him. Which includes being more outward and others focused. You cannot separate a DISCIPLE from a DISCIPLE MAKER

The Discipleship Target: (Three Circles)



FIRST CIRCLE: Jesus – Know Him, Love Him, Worship Him, Obey Him.

John 17:3 (ESV) And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

John 14:15-16 (ESV) “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

Matthew 4:10 (ESV) ... “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”

We seek to KNOW HIM, the more we KNOW HIM, the more we LOVE HIM, the more we LOVE HIM, the more we WORSHIP HIM and the result of this is simple, we OBEY Him.

1 John 5:3 (ESV) For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

This is where WE start. This is where we BRING others.

SECOND CIRCLE: Mission Statement: Love God, Love People, Be Discipled, Make Disciples

Everything we do in the Great Command and Great Commission is an extension of our LOVE FOR GOD.

The Great Command & Commission are more than “marching orders” they are a direct reflection of His PRIORITIES. The more we KNOW HIM, the more we will want to reflect these priorities in our own lives.

These are the “every day” actions that show the world whom we belong to. As we bring people to Jesus... to KNOW HIM... we then move them toward the second circle.

THIRD CIRCLE: 8 Key Fruits to Mature your Faith:

Ultimately... **LOVING GOD is the goal of every believer...** but we are called to mature as believers. We don't just remain in the condition in which we were saved.

2 Peter 1:5-10 (ESV) For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

IMPORTANT: *This list is NOT a list of things you check off or complete or DO in order to be saved – NO! rather, as stated, they are key “actions & fruits” of those whose hearts LOVE God and are MATURING in their FAITH.*

This is the Mission of our Church – what we will DO TOGETHER 😊

1. Pray to God & Hear God

- a. **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)** pray without ceasing,
- b. **Isaiah 30:21 (ESV)** And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.
- c. **James 1:5 (ESV)** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.
- d. **Matthew 26:41 (ESV)** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- e. **Prayer is vital for any type of fruit to bear within a believers life.**
- f. **STRATEGIES:** personal devotions, Abide journals, Hearing God, The Way – Abide in Christ, Prayer Summit, Month of Prayer & Fasting, Prayer Ministry, After Service Prayer, Pastors Prayer Partners.

2. Know, Read & Obey the Word

- a. **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- b. **Romans 12:2 (ESV)** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- c. **James 1:22 (ESV)** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
- d. **STRATEGIES:** personal devotions, weekend services, Hearing God, The Way – Abide in Christ, Weekly Action Steps, MORE TO COME!!

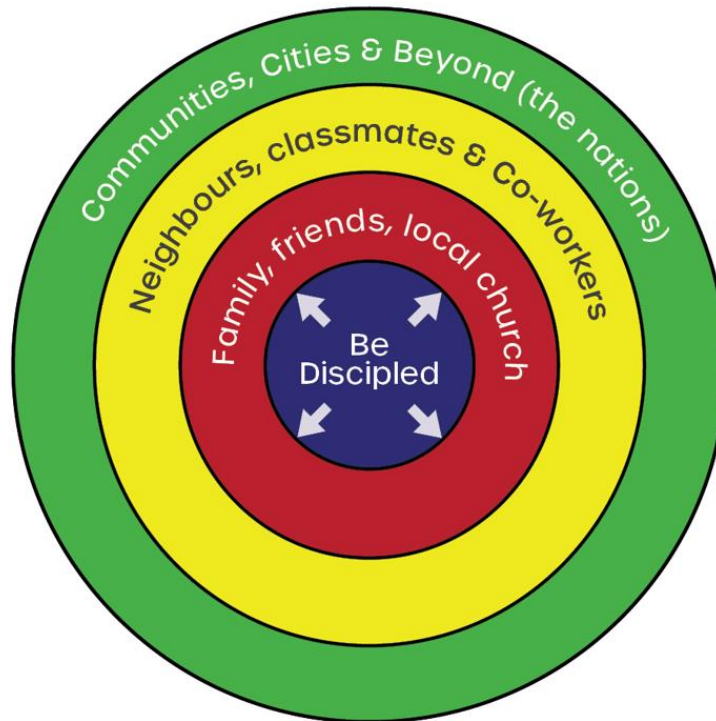
3. Repent of Sin & Grow in Emotional Wholeness

- a. **Matthew 3:8 (ESV)** Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

- b. **Hebrews 12:1 (ESV)** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- c. **“hurt people – hurt people” finding freedom from bondage and becoming emotionally whole**, healing from past hurts, growing our character, growing in self-awareness, being set free from bondage are **ALL important as we learn to LOVE PEOPLE.**
- d. **STRATEGIES: SET FREE!!, The Way – Grow Character, Four Winds, Small Groups**

4. Disciple Family, Friends, Neighbors & Beyond - this is our MISSION FIELD

- a. **Matthew 28:19 (ESV)** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...
- b. **Deuteronomy 6:7 (ESV)** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
- c. **Our MISSION FIELD starts right where we are NOW.** We don't have to move away to do the Great Commission – we simply have to be INTENTIONAL with those in our spheres!



- d. **CAVEAT:** The Lord will often call people to the outer circle and you will GO there and then create and connect within the community there and begin the process again.
- e. **STRATEGIES** small groups, family night, leaders training, serving, etc. We are working on introducing NEW strategies for helping us engage in GOING OUT...

5. Connect & Serve within the Church & Local Community

- a. **Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)** “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the

house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

- b. **Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
- c. **STRATEGIES:** small groups, serving in the church, serving in the community, connecting with people in your local groups/organizations, etc.

6. Show Hospitality & Give Generously

- a. **Acts 4:32 (ESV)** Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.
- b. **Romans 12:13 (ESV)** Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
- c. **Hebrews 13:16 (ESV)** Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
- d. **STRATEGIES:** Serve in the church & community, giving to church, giving to those in need, bringing people into your home – Look for ways to BE a blessing to others

7. Grow your Character & Spiritual Gifts

- a. **2 Peter 1:5-10 (ESV) We already read this one!** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ... Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.
- b. **Acts 1:8 (ESV)** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- c. **1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV)** Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.
- d. **STRATEGIES:** The Way – Grow Character, Empower, Set Free, Personal Prayer Ministry, Prophetic Ministry, Prayer Ministry,

8. Prepare for Eternity & End Times

- a. **Colossians 3:2 (ESV)** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
- b. **Philippians 3:13-14 – Paul says he set his goal on the prize – the upward call of Christ**
- c. **Matthew 24:42 (ESV)** Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
- d. **Strategies:** weekend services, personal devotions, small groups, COMING SOON the Way..

Where do we start with people? “teaching others to observe ALL that I have commanded” seems like an overwhelming starting point... START:

- I. **BRING** people to Jesus FIRST CIRCLE
 - a. MODEL what he is like with your life – live out your faith
 - b. SHARE what he is doing and what he has done in your life
- II. **MOVE** them towards the Great Command & Commission SECOND CIRCLE
- III. **HELP** them GROW in maturity & witness THIRD CIRCLE

- a. The more we grow in the key areas, the better we will reflect the Testimony of Jesus to those around us.
- IV. **REPEAT:** Keep bringing people to Jesus, Moving them towards the GCx2 and then discipling them to become like Jesus.

Practice: Be Discipled – Make Disciples

Question 1: BE disciplined: what is an area on the discipleship target that you feel you need to grow in? ask the Lord for a step: 1) Set Free – 2) Empower – 3) Hearing God – 4) Join a Cell group – 5) Go for Personal Prayer Ministry – 6) Join the Online Prayer Group Tue-Thurs – 7) other: _____

Question 2: MAKE Disciples: Remember we start in the middle... Being a Good WITNESS by MODELING Jesus to those around us... and then SHARING who he is, what he has done and what he is doing in our lives. (a great start is sharing something from your devotions or sharing your testimony of how you came to know Jesus)

- Who is someone in your sphere that you can share Jesus with? E.g. show hospitality, help them with something, connect with them, share what Jesus is doing in your life, etc. Does not have to be an unbeliever. Discipleship covers the full spectrum of our walk with Jesus.

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Week 19: Passage of the Week: Read each of the verses/passages from this weeks message

MAP Challenge Jesus' call to those who follow him:

M - memorize – review Matthew 22:38-39 & Matthew 28:18-20 & the B-attitudes Matthew 5:2-11

A – application – follow through on the steps from today's message.

P – pray – Pray for the lost people in our region to be open to the Gospel and for our church to grow in loving God, people, and sharing the good news with those around us.