

# #1 - Defining Discipleship

## HOW DO YOU DEFINE DISCIPLESHIP?



...more than a buzzword

## WHY DO WE NEED A DEFINITION OF DISCIPLESHIP?

This is an extremely important question. Definitions matter. How we define something affects how we pursue it. Discipleship has become a buzzword in our culture. Everyone seems to be about it but we can point to very few people succeeding. So it's important to ask...

### How do we define discipleship?

**DISCIPLESHIP IS TAKING THE NECESSARY TIME TO WIN, INVOLVE, AND TEACH SOMEONE HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS.**

### Disciple means follower.

So discipleship is creating followers. It is important to have a working definition of what discipleship is and what is incorporated into it because it was one of Jesus' last commands to us. Discipleship is Jesus' plan & Jesus' movement.

**19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." // Matthew 28:19-20**

In order to take discipleship from a buzzword to a reality we need to narrow our definition. The reason why we don't see movements of discipleship often is because we incorporate everything into it (large gatherings, small groups, one on two to three, one on one). Though all should produce growth in our discipleship, we believe it is helpful to think of discipleship as one on one (or one on two to three) mentorship, teaching, and investment. This is often where someone really learns how to follow Jesus and is held accountable. No one follows Jesus by accident.

- They have to be taught.
- They have to be shown.
- They have to be held accountable.

## TWO GOALS OF DISCIPLESHIP:

### Spiritual Growth

(Matthew 22:34-40 - Loving God - Spiritual Disciplines - Obedience)

### Spiritual Multiplication

(Matthew 28:19-20 - Help them evangelize & disciple someone else)

Discipleship is about spiritual growth and spiritual multiplication. Discipleship is made to be reproducible. That is why we need reproducible and replicable materials and methods.

## **Discipleship is part of God's plan to reach the world and bolster the church.**

We have to take this command of God seriously. Where would you be if no one taught/instructed you? We have to keep it simple. Following Jesus, though difficult, is simple. We must help students center their lives on Jesus and follow Him faithfully.

### **Discipleship**

- We have to have a working definition.
- We have to have the right goals.

I am glad you will have this toolkit to guide you as you build a culture and movement of discipleship where God has placed you. Our prayer is that this toolkit will be helpful for you, but also that you go through it alongside others. We are better together. Every piece of the toolkit will be accompanied by discussion questions. Take some time to walk through each of them.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Why are you wanting to grow in your understanding of discipleship and its importance?
2. What has been your experience with discipleship? Have you been personally discipled? How are you currently discipling others? Have you seen other churches/ministries be successful in discipleship?
3. What is your favorite coffee / coffee shop / tea or other drink? How is it made? What makes it good?
4. What are the pros and cons of a more narrow definition of discipleship?
  - a. How do you respond to Nick's definitions? What would you add or change to clarify these definitions? "DISCIPLESHIP IS TAKING THE NECESSARY TIME TO WIN, INVOLVE, AND TEACH SOMEONE HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS" and, "*Discipleship is one on one (or one on two to three) mentorship, teaching, and investment.*"
  - b. How have you seen the results of discipleship that is too broad?
5. Look back at the two goals of discipleship:
  - a. Spiritual GROWTH – the Great Commandment
  - b. Spiritual MULTIPLICATION – the Great Commission.Why are both goals important spiritually and practically?

### **Further Reflection:**

- Where is discipleship present and what about discipleship might be improved in your ministry right now? What is a step that you can take this week to define and develop discipleship in your ministry?

Want more info? Want to join a cohort? <https://forms.gle/FZ9XMeHpmXivCSAV9>

Video-  DISCIPLESHIP TOOLKIT #1 Definition Nick Parsons

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