

FOUNDATION EIGHT

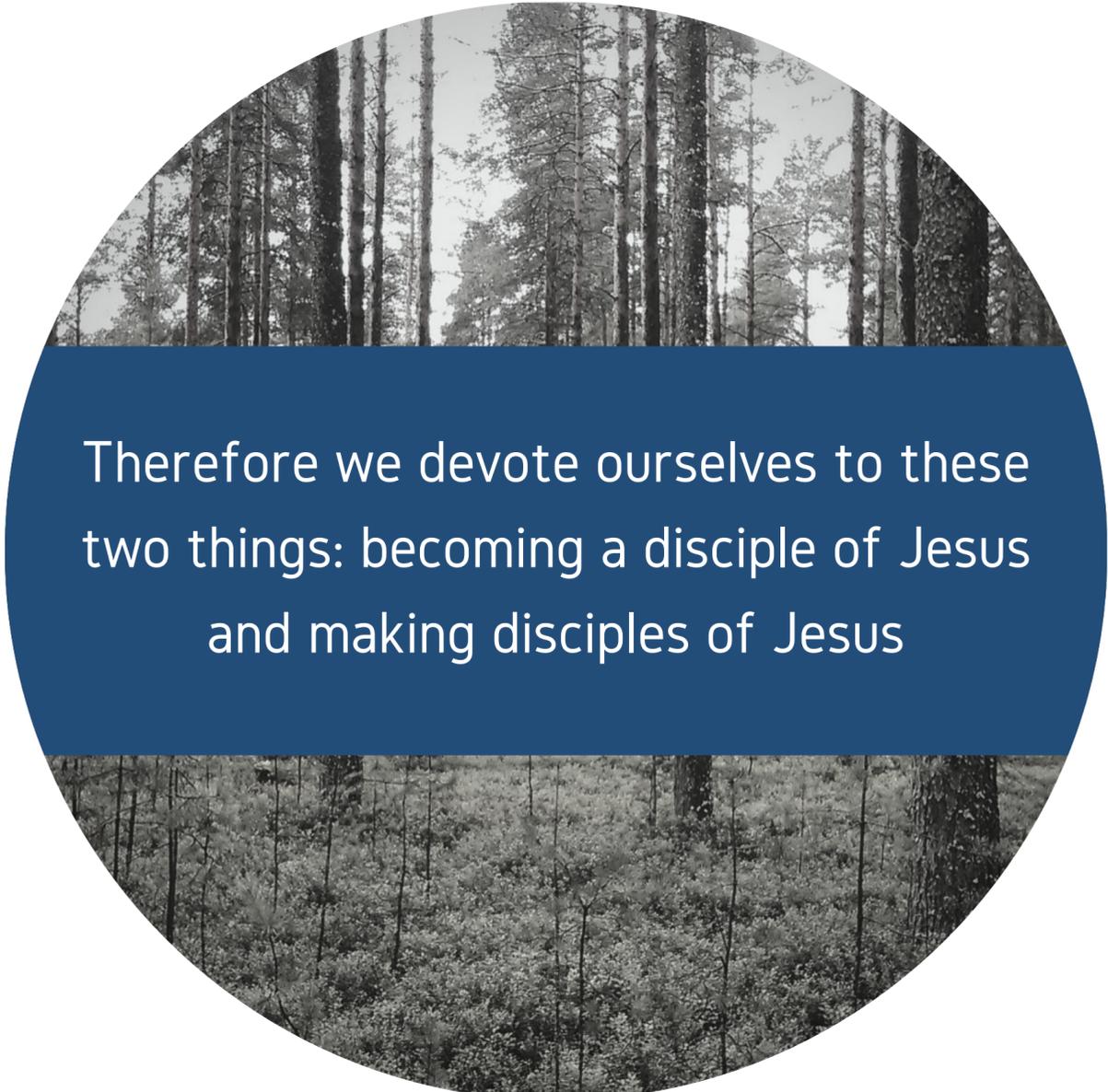
DISCIPLESHIP

NEW NATURE CHURCH

FOUNDATION EIGHT

When Jesus returned to God the Father in heaven to take His place seated at God's right hand he left his disciples with this one command "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19). Jesus disciplined the apostles and many others for three years, revealing the Father to them and showing them how to live as part of the Kingdom of Heaven and then instructed them to go and do the same. We who follow Jesus today are still given this mandate: to become a disciple of Jesus and make disciples of Jesus.

A disciple is a follower of Jesus who follows His instructions and the example of how he lived his own life. As Jesus put it in Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Therefore, we devote ourselves to these two things: becoming a disciple of Jesus and making disciples of Jesus. In doing this there are some key foundations which discipleship is based upon.

A circular graphic featuring a background image of a forest with tall, thin trees. A dark blue horizontal band is overlaid across the center of the circle, containing white text. The text reads: "Therefore we devote ourselves to these two things: becoming a disciple of Jesus and making disciples of Jesus".

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NEW NATURE DISCIPLESHIP

Following is a summary of what we believe about discipleship and how it may be expressed in New Nature Homes.

We believe that discipleship is more than just a weekly meeting to follow a study book.

We believe that discipleship is highly relational.

We believe that discipleship means doing life together outside of any organised meetings. Some examples include sharing meals, hanging out, helping each other with practical needs and supporting each other by attending group members important life events.

We believe that members of New Nature Homes become like families.

We believe that every disciple is commissioned by Jesus to go and make another disciple.

We believe that New Nature Homes will each have their own God directed missional focus that they will be acting on weekly. For example, one group might do weekly street evangelism together while another group might all run a soup kitchen as an outreach opportunity.

We believe that disciplers have a responsibility to oversee those God has entrusted to them.

We believe that New Nature Homes will grow as members make new disciples.

We believe that each member of New Nature Church needs to be connected into a New Nature Home.

We believe that New Nature Homes are not to be “split” by church leadership when they get too large, but rather allow the group to self-identify when they feel they need to multiply and form two separate groups.

WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE



VISION

To fuel personal revival through love, identity and presence.

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BIBLICAL

DISCIPLESHIP

WHAT DID JESUS SAY?

Read Mathew 28:18-20 again. Jesus said make disciples!

JESUS IS WORTH FOLLOWING

People need to have a desire to be discipled! There is nothing to be gained by discipling someone who doesn't want to be discipled. In the following bible passage we see that there was a huge level of readiness shown by Andrew and Philip. Read John 1:35-42

Jesus first two disciples, Andrew and Philip, were originally John the Baptist's disciples. They had been told by John that Jesus was the Lamb of God. They were looking for and waiting for the Messiah. They immediately followed Jesus when they saw him...quite literally! Jesus turned around to see who was following him! We need to reflect Jesus and give people something worth following. We all need to find at least one person to disciple.

SET THE EXAMPLE

1 Cor 11:1 "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." Paul gives a very simple principle, follow Christ so that others may follow your example and choose to follow Christ for themselves also.

SPEND TIME WITH PEOPLE

Discipling requires a relationship built on mutual respect and trust. You may be discipling people you don't know, therefore you need to invest time into this relationship. Being a discipler isn't a flippant commitment, it requires a sacrifice of your most valuable possession, your time! Read John 3:22. Jesus went out into the countryside with his disciples "where he spent time with them". He quite literally traveled, ate and slept with them.

EMPOWER PEOPLE TO DO THINGS FOR THEMSELVES

John 4:1-2 says Jesus had his disciples baptising people. Jesus was always quick to show his disciples what to do and then release them to do it for themselves. The fastest way to see your disciples grow and develop is to implement this principal. Set some goals of things they think are waaayyyy out there, and then empower them to take steps towards doing it for themselves!

Remember, as a discipler we are always pointing to Jesus; He is our answer, guide, strength, wisdom, peace, joy, power and hope. Jesus is the one we are following.

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DON'T PROVIDE ALL THE ANSWERS INSTEAD ASK QUESTIONS

Develop people who can think for themselves.

In John 6:1-14 again Jesus separates himself from the crowd and doing his “ministry” to sit down with the disciples and spend time with them. Then when they are faced with the problem of how to feed the 5000 Jesus asks the disciples what to do. The bible says “he asked this only to test them for he already had in his mind what he was going to do”.

ADDRESS INCORRECT THINKING PATTERNS AND LIES

Being a discipler doesn't mean sitting with someone and agreeing with everything they say. There may be times where you need to address incorrect thinking patterns and lies and re-direct them to the foundation of truth found in the word!

John 9:1-5 'When the disciples asked why a man was blind since birth “was it his sin or his parents' sin?” Jesus said, “Neither, it happened that the work of God might be displayed in his life”.

This can be one of the most challenging areas. People come with a whole range of old thinking patterns. These might be based on past experiences, lies or incorrect theology. Wherever they come from, our role is to teach people who they really are.

This means some tough conversations. Jesus was willing to be taken the wrong way many times over in order to bring the truth. Look at the way he addressed some of the thinking of the Pharisees!

DISCIPLES START TO BEAR THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THEIR LIVES

In John 15:7-8 Jesus says that people who show themselves to be followers of Him will bear much fruit.

PRAY FOR THOSE YOU DISCIPLE

In John 17:13-21 Jesus prays for his disciples. There aren't many of Jesus prayers recorded in the bible, so it must be noteworthy that when he prays for his disciples it is written down for us.

DISCIPLES BEAR The Fruit of RIGHTEOUSNESS

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THE FIRST CHURCH

Once Jesus returned to heaven and sent the promised Holy Spirit the early church continued becoming disciples and making disciples. Here we see that disciples were added to the church daily (Acts 2:47) and later they were multiplied to the church (Acts 6:7). Their lives were also highly relational, full of love and they preferred one another.

The believers in Acts:

- Acts 2:42-47 - Met daily.
- Acts 4:32-37 - Gave all they had for each other.
- Acts 12:1-19 - Prayed for each other, such as when Peter was in jail.
- Acts 8:4-8 - Preached the Gospel.
- Acts 10:34-48 - Made new disciples.

REFLECTION

The following reflection questions are intended to facilitate personal and group reflection and discussion in order to practically become more like Jesus individually and together. They are not intended to rate one person against another but to enable thoughtful reflection and discussion around how to become more like Jesus today. This is not an exhaustive list of what can be discussed, just a starting point.

1. How am I currently going in the three sub-categories of becoming a disciple of Jesus?

a. Knowing and loving Jesus

1=Just getting started 5=Thriving
1 2 3 4 5

b. Becoming like Jesus

1=Just getting started 5=Thriving
1 2 3 4 5

c. Making disciples of Jesus

1=Just getting started 5=Thriving
1 2 3 4 5

2. What is one thing from this teaching which has stood out to you?

3. What practical steps will you take to put this into practice?

4. How will you know that you have successfully put it into practice?

5. What aspects of discipleship are you longing for?

a. What can you do to attain them/make them happen?

b. What do you need God to do?

c. What do you need others to do to help you?

6. How can you help your brothers and sisters to become and grow as disciples of Christ?