



Disciple-Making Check In

Discipleship is at the heart of the Church's mission, yet assessing how well we're embodying this call can often feel intangible. This resource, designed as a practical tool for church leaders and pastoral teams, offers 6 questions and 4 thought experiments to take your disciple-making temperature and evaluate your discipleship culture. Rooted in Scripture and built on proven disciple-making principles, it provides clear definitions, reflective prompts, and actionable insights to help you clarify your mission and identify areas of growth. Whether you're refining existing efforts or starting fresh, this tool is designed to spark honest conversations and meaningful change, ensuring your church is equipped to make disciples who make more disciples.

What is our church's definition of a disciple?

At Grace ours is: "An apprentice who imitates the words, character and lifestyle of Jesus and influences others to do the same."

What is Our Church's definition of Disciple-Making?

At Grace ours is: "Consistently helping someone take their next step toward becoming like Jesus."

Biblical Foundation for Discipleship

Great Commission: And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Mt. 28:18-20

Great Commandment: Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:28-31

Great Collaboration: “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” John 17:20-21

A diagram of the mission



Some content adapted from discipleship training resources from Dan Nichols, Dave Ferguson, and Dan White Jr.

What methodology did Jesus use in Discipling Others?

Information - insight into the nature of God and the Kingdom

Interdependence - knitted together over a multi-year journey

Incarnation - hands-on in the neighborhood

Imitation - modeling what it looks like in real-time

Introspection - questions that reveal, disrupt and create reflection

What are the Elements of an effective discipling relationship?

Natural Connection - this relationship cannot be forced or manufactured.

Time and Presence - plan for consistent times to meet together and be fully present.

Ordinary Moments - do what you do & bring others with you.

Centrality of Scripture - read God's Word, discuss, and pray together

Ask Good Questions - be constantly curious and ask open ended questions that engage

Transparency - empathize and share your common struggles while pointing back to Jesus

Provide Wisdom for Life Decisions - coaching and accountability toward obeying God

Activate Discipleship Roles in Real Life - live faithfully where you live, work, learn, play

Other - _____

What Roles do we want maturing disciples to live out?

At Grace ours are:

Compassionate Storyteller: I know God's story, my place in it, and am motivated to tell the people in my life.

Savvy Follower: I discern God's voice and follow his lead at the right time in the right way.

Intentional Friend: I partner with God to build healthy relationships and restore broken ones.

Embedded Influencer: I understand how God has purposefully gifted and positioned me to multiply His work in the world.

Questions and thought Experiments:

The key command of Jesus that his church must heed no matter what model of church we're operating in, is the command to make disciples. "Are we making disciples who make more disciples?" is the question we must continue to ask and evaluate with every change we make and initiative we start at our church.

Questions:

Where are the bright spots of discipleship in our church right now? Where are we seeing evidence of these things happening?

How can we prioritize disciple-making in our existing ministries and in any new ministries we start?

What are the current barriers to seeing a disciple-making culture take hold at our church?

How clearly are we communicating the definition of a disciple and disciple-making to every level of our ministry?

Are we fostering a culture where personal discipleship is prioritized over programmatic success or attendance metrics?

How are we training leaders to consistently help others take their next steps toward becoming like Jesus?

Thought Experiments:

If Jesus conducted a comprehensive review of our ministry today, what areas would He affirm, and what areas would He challenge us to refine

If we removed all programs and events for a season, how would discipleship continue? What informal structures, relationships, or habits would sustain our mission?

Project forward five years: What will disciples of Jesus look like who were formed solely within our current ministry model? What will be the evidence that they are embodying our definition of a disciple?

If our church were to cease formal operations today, how many disciples would remain committed to multiplying their faith? Would the work continue without our organized presence?