

DISCUSSION AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

JOINING JESUS—SHOW ME HOW: HOW TO DISCIPLE EVERYDAY MISSIONARIES

“The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.”

—Someone who has discipled people before

This Discussion and Implementation Guide is designed to help you process and implement insights gained from reading *Joining Jesus—Show Me How*. The book has two parts. The first part takes you back to the gospels so that you can watch Jesus and clarify in your mind how he discipled his followers. The second part helps you leverage this clarity in order to craft a simple plan that you can use to disciple your kids, willing friends and neighbors or fellow church members.

As you begin working through the guide, take note of the following:

1. If you are unfamiliar with the mindset, practices and support advocated in Greg Finke’s first book, *Joining Jesus on His Mission*, take time to review the executive summary provided at the end of the introduction.
2. For Session 1 (below), if you are reading this book as a congregational leadership team, start with question #10 and then continue with question #1 and following after that.

SESSION 1: WHAT IS DISCIPLING ACCORDING TO JESUS? (CHAPTERS 1-2)

The goal of this book is to help you regain the clarity and simplicity of how Jesus discipled people in the gospels so that you can disciple your children, friends, neighbors or fellow church members to join Jesus on his mission too.

1. Consider your family and close friends. Each of them needs ongoing discipling (training) to be a follower of Jesus in everyday life. Does the idea of you discipling them make you nervous? Where do you think the nervousness comes from?
2. Did you have a “blinding flash of the obvious” while reading chapter one? What was one insight that you especially appreciated?
3. What are you looking forward to as we work through this book together?
4. Chapter two begins by clarifying what the word *discipling* means. What insights did you gain?
5. Why is it important to keep our understanding of mission and discipling clear and simple?
6. What is *discipling* according to Jesus in the gospels? The author suggests one way of summarizing the answer. How is that summary helpful to you?
7. What are the four things we learn about Jesus’ discipling process from Matthew 4:19? Did any of the four surprise you?
8. C. S. Lewis once observed that being a great theologian can easily be mistaken for being a good Christian. What do you think he meant by that? What is the caution he is offering to

us as we move forward?

9. What is one insight from today's discussion you can put into action in the coming week?

10. For Congregational Leadership Teams:

Take a moment to reread the "Note for Church Professionals and Congregational Leaders" in the book's introduction. Then discuss the following before going to question #1 above:

- a. What discipleship dreams do you have for your congregation?
- b. What do you like/not like about this statement: "You can't develop an effective system for discipling a whole congregation until you have experience effectively discipling an individual person."
- c. "Disciples are not mass produced. They are handmade." Why is this statement accurate? What challenges/opportunities does it offer your congregation?
- d. What are some of the keys to seeing a mission and discipling movement emerge from your congregation? Where does such a movement start?

SESSION 2: WHAT IS THE MISSION OF GOD ACCORDING TO GOD? (CHAPTERS 3-5)

1. Why is it so important to be clear about what the mission of God is?
2. According to God, what is his mission (and, therefore, our mission)?
3. The author walks us through the reasons why God made us

and saved us. What are three points that stand out for you and why?

4. What is our small part of God's great big mission? How does this insight help you?
5. What if all the people in church worshipping Jesus this Sunday went home and loved their neighbor? What difference might we see?
6. Can you name a friend or family member who is living without the grace and truth of Jesus?
7. What is his/her story—how did they grow up; what were their circumstances; what happened to them?
8. Chapter five suggests that we are under-discipled (undertrained) for personal participation in the mission of God. Why do you agree or disagree?
9. If we are currently under-discipled when it comes to important priorities like joining Jesus on his mission and discipling others to do the same, how can we get more fully trained by Jesus?
10. Did you learn anything new about your baptism while reading this section? If so, what?
11. Why is it so important for us to get off the bench and actually join Jesus on his mission if we want to receive a higher level of training?
12. What is one insight from today's discussion that you can put into action in the coming week?

SESSION 3: HOW DOES DISCIPLING WORK? (CHAPTERS 6-8)

1. What is “the rub”?
2. According to Jesus, what does “becoming like him” look like?
3. How does Jesus change us through discipling?
4. How did you react when you read “what baptism gives, training now matures”?
5. What did you like about the Pizza Ranch story?
6. How would you describe what discipling looks like?
7. What made sense as you read the section about Matt and Casper?

The author suggests that “discipling plans” generally fall into one of the following categories: scholarship, membership or relationship. After which plan do you want to model yours? (In chapter sixteen you will have the opportunity to craft your own discipling plan.)

8. What qualifies us to disciple others?
9. What did you like about this section? What challenged you?
10. What is one insight from today’s discussion you can put into action in the coming week?

SESSION 4: WHAT IS A DISCIPLE AND WHAT DOES A DISCIPLE DO? (CHAPTERS 9-10)

1. The question is asked, “If we’re supposed to make disciples, what is one?” Where is the best place to go for our answer?
2. The author suggests the following summary definition for what a disciple is according to Jesus:

A disciple follows Jesus:

- in order to become *like* Jesus (through baptism *into* Jesus and training *by* Jesus);
- so that he/she can participate *with* Jesus on his mission as a daily lifestyle;
- and show others how to do the same.

What is helpful about this? As you read the gospels, do you think anything needs to be added to this summary?

3. The author unpacks “what a disciple is” in light of what Jesus shows us in the gospels. Were there any “blinding flashes of the obvious” for you? What challenged your previous assumptions?
4. Not all the people who were following Jesus around in the gospels were disciples of Jesus. What made someone a disciple?
5. The question is asked, “How in the world can we be like Jesus?” What is your answer?
6. Toward the end of chapter nine, it reads, “Turns out, discipling people to be followers of Jesus is less about mastering libraries of theology than it is about mastering a few simple practices for the good of others.” Is this statement freeing for you or disturbing? Why?
7. In the beginning of chapter ten, what did you appreciate about the words of Dallas Willard?
8. The Bible gives us three main places where we can watch Jesus and imitate him. What are they?
9. In the gospels Jesus trains his followers by having them come

with him, watch him and imitate him for the good of others. What is Jesus doing that he wants us to imitate? We might presume such a list would be endless. In reality, his list is quite focused and simple. How does the author suggest we summarize the lifestyle practices of Jesus? List them below:

This is Jesus' simple, redemptive lifestyle that he wants us to imitate. How would you explain these lifestyle practices to others?

10. What is your true identity, and when was it restored?
11. Why is remembering your true identity so important for your daily life?
12. What is one insight from today's discussion you can put into action in the coming week?

SESSION 5: WHAT IS JESUS' DISCIPLING PROCESS? (CHAPTER 11)

1. What is the difference between hearing about something conceptually and experiencing it?
2. What made sense to you about the author's experience with Jon and Rob in the Golden Hill neighborhood?
3. What three words does the author use to summarize

and organize Jesus' discipling process?

How would you explain each part of the process?

Why is each part necessary to the discipling result?

4. What is a simple way to pivot from Proclamation to Imitation/ Participation?
5. What is a simple way to pivot to Replication?
6. What are the key phrases that sum up this chapter for you?
7. What is one insight from today's discussion you can put into action in the coming week?

SESSION 6: WHAT IS JESUS' DISCIPLING CLASSROOM AND CURRICULUM? (CHAPTERS 12-13)

1. What two discipling "classrooms" do we see Jesus using in the gospels?
2. Why is it important to pay attention in the "classroom of daily life"?
3. The author calls the "classroom of time together" *Missional Community*. Why did Jesus use this kind of classroom?
What are some ways we can engage Missional Community?
Which seems like a good fit for you?
4. What benefits do questions like the 5 Questions provide to a Missional Community?
5. What is the primary difference between a Missional Community and any other small group or Bible study?
6. What is the specific curriculum that Jesus uses to train his followers?

7. Where are the places that the Bible gives us for watching and imitating Jesus?

8. What are the strengths of using written materials?

However, if we want to use Jesus' *full* curriculum in order to disciple our family or friends, what else do they need in addition to written materials?

9. What part of Jesus' discipling curriculum takes the most effort and investment?

10. As you look at the suggestions for building a close relationship with the people you are discipling, which ones stand out for you? Which challenge you?

What changes will you need to consider in order to make room in your life for this kind of relationship with family or friends?

11. The author points out that many will struggle with the idea of someone "imitating" their life. What encouragement and reminder does he offer?

12. What is one insight from today's discussion you can put into action in the coming week?

SESSION 7: WHAT IS YOUR DISCIPLING PLAN? (CHAPTERS 14-17)

Having gained clarity about the way Jesus disciplines his followers in the gospels, you can now imitate him as you craft your own discipling plan.

1. Getting started: The author offers several best practices in chapter fourteen for starting well. Each is important. Which one stood out for you and why?

2. Optimizing your time in Missional Community: The best opportunity you will have for discipling family or friends is during your Missional Community time. Because this time is limited, it is important to optimize it by using the 5 Discipling Practices described in chapter fifteen. Each is important. Which one stood out for you and why?
3. Crafting your plan: chapter sixteen presents a template for crafting a plan for discipling your family or friends. If you haven't done so already, take time to fill in the template now. Then review your discipling plans with the others in your group. What questions do you still have? What are you excited about?
4. Staying healthy: chapter seventeen presents three personal practices for the wise disciple-maker. Each is important. To which one will you need to pay particular attention in the months ahead?

As you close, read together the final Benediction.