

SESSION TWO

DISCIPLESHIP

BONUS CONTENT

To re-watch the sessions simply head to generate.ucasa.org.au/resources/#videos

NOTES

What is discipleship? Growing more like Jesus

Discipleship doesn't simply start after someone has made a faith decision but can start before they give their lives to Christ. They can be discipled to faith.

It is for everyone to participate in – not just a pastor.

Sunday services are good, but not enough. You don't grow more like Christ by simply being in the same room as other Christians.

It is about helping people not just process information but giving them tools to hear from God and build their relationship with him and relationships with others. Ultimately, we want to become, and make, self-feeders who are growing in the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship can be helped by programs, but it is HIGHLY relational and intentional- it is all about those intentional faith conversations we have with others.

In becoming available and comfortable to have those intentional faith conversations we create space for the transforming, convicting, revealing work of the Holy Spirit in people's lives.

BONUS QUESTIONS FROM VIEWERS

"I only gave my life to Christ a year and a half ago and I have no problem talking to people about my faith and how great it is but I have found people in our church that have been Christians all their life have trouble talking about their faith why do you think this is?"

This is a great question. While we know that growth is not always a linear process where we can tick off each step in a particular order, we also know that we are designed to keep growing more like Christ. One of the markers we talked about is a passion to share Jesus with others. Sadly, we sometimes get stuck. The Holy Spirit will always prompt us to engage, grow or be challenged again but sometimes we don't like what that looks like- it may cost us or seem difficult.

It could also be that they have faced a few setbacks or disappointments when they tried in the past. Or they may simply not realise how important it is. Starting a conversation and sharing and passion could be the spark they need.

Is growing as a disciple hard? Is it meant to be challenging?

Jesus challenged the crowds who were following him to count the cost of being a disciple and be prepared to surrender everything to follow him and align their priorities with his.

Jesus, compelled by love, humbled himself, laid down his rights and privileges (and ultimately his life), so that humanity could be reconciled to God. Can we, as followers of Jesus, seeking to be more like him, do any less?

I feel like God is calling the church, in particular our young people, to count the cost of discipleship. For so many of us we seek comfort over calling and follow Jesus when it fits into our schedule and doesn't interfere with the plans we have for our lives. But being a disciple of Jesus and making disciples is not something we just do at certain times of the week; it is who we are. It is living the everyday rhythms of life with gospel intentionality. It informs our decision making: who we marry, what career we pursue, where we live. It informs how we spend our time and our money. Our motivation, our attitudes and our conversations should declare the realities of the King and his Kingdom.

Are we willing to count the cost? Are we so compelled by Christ's love that we are prepared to surrender everything to follow him?

Are we calling those we disciple to a comfortable Christianity or are we making disciples who are compelled by love to lay down their rights and privileges for the sake of those who don't yet know Jesus?

There are multitudes heading for a Christ-less eternity. Mission exists because love demands it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS

Jesus called us to "go into all the world and make disciples..." (Matthew 28:19). How are we doing that?

When you reflect on your own discipleship are you willing to count the cost, or do you simply want a comfortable Christianity?

Given the need for discipleship to be relational and intentional what changes could we make in our discipleship of others?

What holds you back from those genuine conversations?

Who are you relationally and intentionally discipling? Pray for them and step out in faith to have an intentional faith conversation. If no one comes to mind, ask God to show you one or two people you could come alongside.

What areas of my own life is the Holy Spirit revealing that I need to become more like Christ?

RESOURCES

Many of our Churches are leaning into Building a Discipling Culture as a way to empower every believer to disciple others. Find out more here <https://www.facebook.com/bdc.anz/>

Mike Green and the group from 3DM have developed what they call "Life Shapes". A great summary can be found <https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/doc/lifeshapes-intro-D56146.pdf>

Another helpful tool I have used in evaluating how to disciple a large group such as a congregation is to be able to assess the capacity for growing at any given time. If you look at the three zones below which have been used by teacher in assessing the teachability of students, this can be applied to a large congregation. Discipleship can be seen as encouraging people to be in the "stretch zone". Is the congregation in a comfort zone? How willing are they to be stretched? How thick or thin is the stretch zone in a congregation (this will depend on things like past trauma)? How quickly does the congregation go to the panic zone and when do we need to rest and renew our souls in the comfort zone?

