

COME TO THE HOUSE 3

FOLLOW ME

- **What Is Hospitality?**

The biblical notion of hospitality is focused on how we will live as God's people in relationship with people who are different from us. The New Testament word for "hospitality" that is typically used literally means "love of strangers."

- Practical Observations: **Genesis 18:1-8**

- The practice often involved three things: food, lodging (or being welcomed into a family space), and protection. Hospitality's elements of food, welcome into family space, and protection are found throughout the bible, including in descriptions of creation, redemption, and new creation.



- **Sharing the Shared Life of Christ**
- **Acts 2:42 All the believers devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. NLT
- **Can you have real fellowship without real relationships?**
- **LIFE IS RELATIONSHIPS; THE REST IS JUST DETAILS.**
 - **THIS IS THE GREATEST TRUTH. EVERYTHING IN LIFE THAT TRULY MATTERS CAN BE BOILED DOWN TO RELATIONSHIPS.** (Gary Smalley – The DNA of Relationship)



1. Sharing a meal together!
2. Meals almost always involve conversation.
 - a. The more or deeper the relationship the deeper the conversation!
3. Suggestions for conversation:
 - a. How are you doing?
 - b. How is your family doing?
 - c. How is your job going?
 - d. What concerns you most right now?
 - e. What is God personally speaking to you?
4. Pray together (Join hands together or lay hands, always ask for permission)
 - a. Expect the Holy Spirit to show up as you pray together!
5. Anything we can do to help you?
6. Purpose to make more plans together!
 - a. Relationships are a 2-way street.



The Cornerstone (pattern) - Ephesians 2:19-22 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. **And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.** 21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. NLT

- **WWJD - What would Jesus do?**

Follow Me

Matthew 4:18-20 One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. 19 Jesus called out to them, "**Come, follow me,** and I will show you how to fish for people!" 20 And they left their nets at once and followed him. NLT

- Matthew 8:19-22; Matthew 9:9; Matthew 10:38-39; Matthew 16:24; Matthew 19:21-22



The Great Commission - Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." **NLT**

Clarifying the Task

A Paraphrase of Matthew 28:18-20 For Thought:

- The ability, power and strength has been given to me in heaven and in earth, Go ye therefore making disciples, instructing and immersing nations in the authority or government of God. Teach and instruct them to guard, keep and obey all things I have commanded you.



Discipleship Definition – What is it? (allaboutfollowingjesus.org)

“To be a learner” is the literal answer to the question, “What is a discipleship definition?”

- Dictionary.com defines a disciple as:
 - A person who is a pupil or adherent to the doctrines of another.
 - One who embraces and assists in spreading the teaching of another.
 - Any follower of another person.
- **Biblical Discipleship** is a fancy word meaning how you mature in Christ, how Christ is formed in you—in your thoughts, your actions, your life. Discipleship is not church attendance or Bible study. Some folks who have gone to church their entire lives have never been disciplined.
- Discipleship is a walking together in the way of Christ, learning to die, learning how to leave who you were, and learning who you now are. Learning to follow Jesus, becoming his disciple, **means walking alongside someone further in the Christian faith for a significant period.** It is personal. It is challenging. Jesus walked with his disciples for three years. (iBelieve – Article by Jenny McGill – 8-22-2018)



- **Many claim faith in Jesus. Fewer are discipled.** (iBelieve – Article by Jenny McGill – 8-22-2018)
- **The American Religious Landscape in 2020** (Public Religion Research Institute)
 - Seven in ten Americans (70%) identify as Christian. Nearly one in four Americans (23%) are religiously unaffiliated, and 5% identify with non-Christian religions.^[1]
- Has the church adopted a posture that is inconsistent with scripture?
 - “You must be born again” 1 time - John 3
 - “Follow Me”
 - During Jesus' earthly ministry, and during the days of the early church, the term that was used most frequently to designate one of Jesus' followers was "disciple" (*mathetes*), 262 times)
Bible Dictionaries - Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology - Disciple, Discipleship
 - Many people have no problem with the statement “you must be born again.”
 - People find it difficult to walk in....”Follow Me.”
 - II Tim. 3:1-17
- People have no issue when they hear someone told, “Here, spend the next four years of your life learning how to kick this ball,” but when it comes to discipleship—learning how to live like a Christian—churches offer a six week curriculum, as if that could cut it. Isn't that curious? (iBelieve – Article by Jenny McGill – 8-22-2018)



What is a Disciple? Follower

1. One who is willing to obey
2. One who is willing to walk under authority
3. Listener and Observer
4. Ask questions for clarification and understanding
5. Discipline for the purpose of instruction to produce maturity. One who is not only a pupil but an adherent, hence disciples are spoken of as imitators.
6. The yoke of the Lord brings my head down to His heart.

Keys in Discipleship:

- **We can't impart what we don't carry**
- **Discipleship involves relationship. - Relationship is not a method!**
 - How do babies learn to walk? They had someone ahead of them, giving them direction and encouragement. It took trust. It took practice. It involved laughter. There were some mistakes, successes, falls and pick-me-ups. There were distractions and interruptions. That's a lot like learning to walk in Christ.



- **Personal, not a program!**
 - Whether meeting one-on-one or in a small, intimate group, it must be consistent, comprehensive, personal, and penetrating.
- **Needs to be developmental not just informational!**
 - What do we believe and why?
 - Importance of a Biblical understanding!
 - Foundations of Faith
 - How do we live out our beliefs?
 - Devotional Life
 - Prayer Life
 - Attitudes
 - Actions
 - Sharing Life Messages
 - Development of Giftings



- **Importance of Faithfulness**

- 2 Timothy 2:1-7 Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. 2 You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

3 Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them. 5 And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules. 6 And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labor. 7 Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.

- You can only build on faithfulness not on unfaithfulness.
- Notice the three characters and the corresponding analogy.
 - Soldier – discipline
 - Athlete – obedience
 - Farmer - sowing and reaping



