

LIVING



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Week One: See You Sunday!

THE MISSIONARY TASK

Component Three: Discipleship

INTRODUCTION

"... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:20a)

You're likely very familiar with the Great Commission. Jesus' final marching orders were to go, make disciples (of all nations), and baptize. Of these three directives, the second requires the greatest amount of effort, explanation, and engagement. Discipleship is not a "one and done" event.

A disciple is a learner and follower of Jesus who is being transformed by the Holy Spirit to be conformed to the image of Christ.

This is a lifelong process.

As we seek to be disciples who make (and multiply) disciples, it's crucial to grasp the importance of doing so in biblical community. We aren't intended to do this alone or apart from God's Word. So, if you've led someone to Christ, what comes next? It's time to help them navigate the Christian life – teaching them to observe all that Jesus commanded. And there's no better place to start than the corporate worship gathering of God's people on the Lord's Day!

BIBLICAL MATERIAL

When thinking about discipleship, where do we commonly think about that taking place? We can easily fall prey to thinking that real discipleship only takes place in small groups, triads, one-on-one mentoring, or perhaps a discipleship class. You may think that worship and discipleship are two distinct compartments of the Christian life. However, corporate worship is extremely formative in the disciple-making process. Don't forget: worship is so much more than singing! Romans 12:1-2 reminds us of this truth:

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Transformation is what we're about as disciples who make disciples – at least, it should be! Remember: this is a lifelong process. And it must begin somewhere. Getting plugged into a small group is great. Developing a one-on-one mentorship is certainly helpful. Having personal times of bible study and devotion is necessary. But we mustn't neglect the gathering of God's people. Helping a new believer grow in the Lord alongside the body of Christ is paramount. Why?

There's an abundance of "one another" scriptures found in the Bible, many of which concern corporate worship: pray for one another (James 5:16), sing with one another (Eph. 5:19), admonish and teach one another (Col. 3:16). There are many more, but these are central and transformational elements of corporate worship gatherings that aid a disciples' growth in Christlikeness.

It may sound trivial to even say this, but you cannot be obedient to the "one another" commands found in scripture without being with one another. Lone ranger Christians - those apart from the body - do exist, but they shouldn't expect to thrive until they are connected to the rest of the body. Our need for one another is truly great (1 Cor. 12:12-26).

MISSIONARY TASK RELEVANCY

In his book, *The Worship Pastor*, Zac Hicks states, "Christianity through history has always seen the worship service as the principal arena of disciple-making."

So, as we navigate part three of the missionary task - discipleship - hopefully it has become apparent that worship and discipleship aren't as distinct as you may have previously thought. The Christian life isn't to be compartmentalized. Worship is a way of living more than it is an event. The same is true of discipleship.



LIFE APPLICATION

1. If you've ever been discipled, share your experiences and the impact that discipleship has had on your walk with Christ.
2. How have corporate worship gatherings been used to grow you as a disciple of Christ?
3. For some, Sunday may be the only time they spend with God and with other believers. If that's the case, what must be included in our corporate worship gatherings to foster discipleship?
4. When people leave a worship service, what's often stuck in their head more than anything else? The music! Songs stick with us. And they preach to us. That said, we must be intentional with what is preached through song lyrics. Take a moment to share songs/lyrics that have been transformative for you.
5. As defined by Warren Wiersbe, Bible teacher and theologian: "Worship is the believer's response of all that they are - mind, emotions, will, body - to what God is and says and does." How does that definition of worship relate to discipleship? (Feel free to compare it with the definition of disciple provided in the introduction.)

As you conclude, take time to do some of the "one another" commands found in scripture. Pray with one another and encourage one another in the Lord.