



## Making Disciples- March 15 Discussion Guide

### Face the Issue:

This past Sunday, Matt reminded us that our mission is “To Know Jesus and Grow in Him”.

That is our mission regardless of who our pastor is because that is the mission that Jesus gave us. We are to be His disciples but we are also to make disciples. Matt’s bottom line was:

### **Discipleship is not complete until the disciple becomes the disciple maker.**

Our current situation of being in a global pandemic has shown us that we live in a very different world than any of us have ever experienced. Even though the world has changed, the mission does not.

In this different, connected world we face the challenge of being seen as “relevant”. We have to communicate the gospel in a way that is meaningful to people in today’s world with all of its unique challenges.

*Do you agree with critics who say the evangelistic efforts of the church have been either irrelevant? Why or why not?*

*Can you think of other ways the evangelistic efforts of the church have been criticized?*

### Into the Word:

Many times when we share the gospel, we strive to make it simple. After all, the gospel message is simple enough that a child can understand it. God loved the world so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to atone for our sins and we can be forgiven. But this is really only part of the good news. The rest of the gospel is that God loves us so much He is unwilling to leave us where we are. He wants to transform us into the image of His Son. A true acceptance of the gospel requires a transformation of the whole person.

### **Read Romans 12:1–3.**

*What does Paul urge believers to do “in view of God’s mercy”?*

*Why does Paul emphasize that it is important for us to remember that we do this “in view of God’s mercy”? (Should we transform out of gratitude or for legalistic reasons or obligations?)*

*One of the chief criticisms of the church is that it is full of hypocrites. People that are mostly concerned with others living up to strict moral behaviors that they themselves have difficulty living up to. How do you think the “renewing of our minds” goes beyond simple adherence to certain behaviors?*

### **Read Galatians 5:13–26.**

On the one hand, the good news of the gospel is that we no longer live under the yoke of slavery to the law. We are free from the burden of the law. On the other hand, Paul warns us not to misuse this freedom by indulging our sinful nature.

*According to verse 13, how are we to use our freedom?*

*List the “vices” Paul instructs us to avoid in verses 19–21.*

*Which of these vices do you tend to struggle most with in your life?*

*How might these vices affect your witness or sharing of the gospel?*

*List the virtues that Paul describes in verses 22–23.*

*Which of these qualities do you want to grow in?*

*How do you think demonstrating these character qualities would help you to communicate the gospel in your community?*

*How is demonstrating these qualities different from trying to adhere to a certain moral standard?*

*Based on your reading of these passages, would you describe the gospel as “simple”? Why or why not?*

### **Apply The Word**

Matt gave us several steps to help us as we work to let people know Jesus and grow in Him. One of these was to love people where they are. That makes the gospel relevant to everyone. The transformative love of God is not content to leave them as they are but to transform them in love.

**Describe how well our church or your ministry in our church has emphasized the importance of growth in Christlikeness when sharing the gospel. In what ways could our church or your ministry improve in this area?**