



[study guide]

FRUIT OF NEW LIFE: Discipler

2.3.13: Colossians 1:28-29

[set up]

Let's spend some time thinking about your mentoring experiences outside the church environment: What are some skills have you learned because someone invested time in training you? How did that person train you? How did you respond? What is your relationship like now? Would you try to learn that skill in the same way again?

What is a skill that you have taught someone else? Who did you teach? How did you teach them? How did the student respond? How did you feel when you realized that the person did (or didn't) learn the skill?

Now, let's spend some time thinking about your mentoring experiences inside the church environment: Who have been some people who have mentored you spiritually? How did they mentor you? How do you think they felt about mentoring you?

[digging deeper]

In last weekend's message, several words were used to describe the discipling process: mentoring, coaching, leading, training, instructing, guiding, and teaching. What are the similarities and differences regarding these terms? Which term do you think most closely fits the New Testament pattern of discipleship?

Being a discipler is something we believe here at CVC is a "Fruit" of living new in Christ. Just as a tree is designed to reproduce itself by bearing fruit, we also are to be reproducers spiritually by making other disciples. Read the teaching passage from our worship services: Colossians 1:28-29.

A discipler is someone who points people to Jesus, not to a religion or to a morality or to a philosophy or even to a church. "Him we proclaim!" What do you think tempts believers to point to issues/personalities/organizations more than to Jesus? How can we make sure we keep pointing to Jesus Himself?

A discipler is someone who understands that the stakes are high. In other words, a discipler is someone who warns others, who is willing to share with others what they might lose if they don't follow Christ. "Warning everyone..." When we see someone failing to follow Christ, what keeps us from caring enough to confront? What insights can you gain from Acts 20:31 and Galatians 6:1-2 concerning how we are to admonish one another?

A discipler is someone who teaches others with wisdom. "Teaching everyone with all wisdom..." The teachers who teach with wisdom are humble tour guides who have a growing depth of relationship with the students. Why should disciplers be tour guides rather than travel agents? What difficulties can arise if a discipler tries to disciple without a relationship?



[study guide]

A discipler is someone who is seeking to give a gift to Jesus – to present to Him the gift of another mature follower. To be a reproducer “... that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” Sometimes, this Greek word for mature (telios) is translated “perfect.” Full perfection, of course, will happen only when Christ returns and we are fully transformed. Until then, the maturity we are to seek stands in contrast with the immaturity of infancy. For other places where the word telios is used, read Matthew 5:48, Matthew 19:21, Romans 12:2, I Corinthians 14:20, Colossians 4:12, James 1:4, and James 3:2. Spend some time as a group listing 10 or 12 characteristics of a mature follower of Christ. Why do you think it would be important to present to Jesus the gift of a mature disciple?

A discipler is someone who is willing to work hard with God’s strength at the task of discipling others. “For this I toil, struggling with all His energy...” Discipling others is hard work. Where and how do we get strength to toil as disciplers when we want to quit or cut back?

How do the following verses reinforce or add depth to our calling to be a discipler?

Matthew 28:19-20
I Corinthians 11:1

II Timothy 2:2
Proverbs 27:17

I Timothy 4:12
Proverbs 27:6

Deuteronomy 6:6-7
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

The takeaway this past weekend was: “Everyone, disciple someone.” What are the biggest obstacles for us to be the kind of disciplers taught in Colossians 1:28-29?

How hard is it for you to disciple others? What kinds of discipling opportunities come easy for you and excite you? What kinds of discipling opportunities are more difficult for you?

[living it out]

What is something God has laid on your heart during this time that would take this study time and convert it into action?

Who is someone that might be a person God wants you to disciple? What is spurring you on? What is holding you back? How can the LifeGroup pray for you regarding your role as a discipler?

Take the challenge to memorize I Timothy 4:12 to help internalize God’s instruction to be a discipler. Find an accountability partner who will also memorize the verse and you can practice on each other.

If you haven’t done so yet, please take the “Discipler” part of the “Fruit of New Life Assessment” to get a read on how you are growing in your efforts to disciple others. You can access the assessment online: <http://cvconline.org/images/uploads/DiscipleshipAssessment.pdf>

Close in prayer asking God to help you and the members of your LifeGroup become better disciplers.