

## “Spiritual Reproduction”

When Jesus told His twelve men to “go and make disciples,” not one of them stood there confused, wondering what He meant by that command. They each understood that Jesus meant for them to go and reproduce exactly what He had just done with them, in someone else!

### Spiritual Reproduction is What Discipleship is All About!

Discipleship is...

- A. Not just Christian Education.
  - It’s not about implanting information for knowledge’s sake.
- B. Not just cookies and punch.
  - Fellowship is to take place in the church and in daily life.
- C. Not just scripture memorization.
 

*“If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”* - John 7:17

  - Intellectual exercise is not enough unless there is life change.

Discipleship is...

- A. The Great Commission.
 

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* - Matthew 28:20

  - It’s a command, not a suggestion, to imitate what Jesus did with the twelve.
- B. Multiplication through Reproduction.
 

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”* - 2 Tim. 2:2

  - We must “multiply” as Christians, because addition won’t keep up with the population growth.
- C. Like Parenting.
 

*“We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”* - 1 Thessalonians 2:7,8

  - Jesus lived with His men and invested His life in them.

Disciple-making involves a developmental relationship, where a mature Christian invests in (mentors) a willing “apprentice,” so that he/she not only matures as well, but also becomes a multiplying Christian.

- Question: What do you possess, spiritually, that you can pass on?
- Question: Do you know of any people who could benefit from your spiritual maturity?
- Question: Although you are not perfect, would you commit to multiplying at least one spiritual discipline or quality in another?

### Jesus' Original Blueprint...

Jesus modeled for us a lifestyle of spiritual reproduction. It was “on the job training” in real life contexts. Note Jesus’ IDEA of spiritual reproduction.

- I** - Instruction in a real-life context
- D** - Demonstration in a real-life context
- E** - Exposure in a real-life context
- A** - Assessment in a real-life context

This strategy worked right up to the 4th century. Then, we began to drop the ball. Why did the church drop the ball at this point?

1. Human Nature.
  - We tend to drift into comfort zones — the path of least resistance.
2. Clergy vs. Laity Distinction.
  - A wide gap grew between the “clergy” (pastors) and the “idiots”!
3. Institutionalism.
  - The church became a cold, sterile, impersonal place.

### We Must Return to the Original Blueprint...

As we invest in people, we must be committed to three things:

1. People
2. A Process
3. A Purpose

### Application:

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- B. Not just \_\_\_\_\_ and punch.
- Fellowship is to take place in the church and in daily life.
- C. Not just \_\_\_\_\_ memorization.
- “If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”* - John 7:17
- Intellectual exercise is not enough unless there is life change.

Discipleship is...

- A. The Great \_\_\_\_\_.
- “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* - Matthew 28:20
- It’s a command, not a suggestion, to imitate what Jesus did with the twelve.
- B. Multiplication through \_\_\_\_\_.
- “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”* - 2 Tim. 2:2
- We must “multiply” as Christians, because addition won’t keep up with the population growth.
- C. Like \_\_\_\_\_.
- “We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”* - 1 Thessalonians 2:7,8
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***Spiritual Reproduction Survey***

Parkwood Gardens' Core Values

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

- I am interested in growing spiritually so I can learn how to pass on my relationship with Christ to others.
- I am interested in attending a course in the basics of the Christian life.
- I am interested in joining a small group for growth and fellowship and to learn from other Christians.
- I am interested in joining a GROW in God's Word discipleship group to learn God's Word and grow in my faith.
- I am interested in being discipled one-on-one.
- I am interested in helping to disciple someone one-on-one.

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