

Discipleship: Making Disciples As You Go
Lesson 2: Breesport Basics
Connect and Grow
ABF

I. Introduction:

This morning we are moving into the second section of our discipleship journey which we've entitled "Mentoring Fundamentals". We will begin this section by examining our definition of what a Biblical disciple is and our discipleship process here at Breesport Baptist Church.

I would remind you that all that we are doing is designed to make us more effective at carrying out the Great Commission command to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

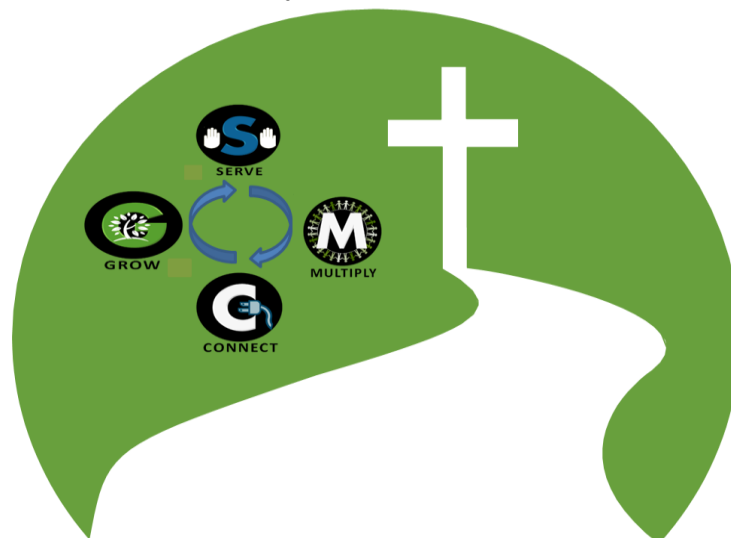
¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

A Biblical definition of a Disciple of Jesus Christ:

A Disciple of Jesus Christ is one who is relationally **CONNECTED** Christ (Matthew 16:24), is **GROWING** in Christ-likeness (Luke 6:40), **SERVES** Christ (John 14:15), and is on mission with Christ (Matthew 28:18-20) to **MULTIPLY** more and better disciples of Christ.

Notice the following graphic:

Our **VISION** is to have every disciple fully engaged in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ



Our **MISSION** is to glorify God by making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ

II. Connect:

Definition:

Connecting people to God, His Word, and an authentic group of Christ-followers in dynamic and Biblically defined relationships.

➤ See 1 John 1:1-4

"Fellowship" means to **PARTICIPATE** with. It means to have things in common. Christianity is all about **RELATIONSHIP**.

Q. How would you Biblically defend the statement, "Christianity is about relationship" using the meta-narrative of the Bible?

¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:18-21)

Biblical community is essential to the disciple making process because:

- We do not **SEE** ourselves accurately.
- We cannot **OBEY** the "one another" commands in isolation.
- We do not have **EVERY** spiritual gift in and of ourselves.
- We cannot carry out the Great Commission in **ISOLATION**.
- We have too many **NEEDS**, too many **HURTS**, and too many **STRUGGLES** to go through life alone.

Q. The word "Authentic" in our definition doesn't mean "perfect". It just means authentic or real. How can being connected to an authentic group of Christ-followers be "messy"? How can it be fulfilling?

III. Grow:

Definition:

Growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through the application of Biblical truth resulting in life change.

➤ See 2 Peter 1:1-9

Peter had his choice of words for "Knowledge" here.

- One word [gnosis] means knowledge that is partial and incomplete. It is knowledge that is learned through **STUDY**.
- The other [epignosis] is a full and complete knowledge based on study and application. It's a knowledge rooted in a more intimate **RELATIONSHIP** with the subject.

People grow on a need to **KNOW** need to **GROW** basis where a particular circumstance require the application of Biblical truth in a faith based response to our Heavenly Father.

Q. What might some examples be of a need to know or a need to grow circumstance?

IV. Conclusion:

Life Groups are the primary disciple making environment of the church. They provide the closest relational connects and the ideal proximity to be a person of strategic influence when God brings someone to a need to know or need to grow moment. We need to have the confidence and the courage to engage in a meaningful and redemptive way within these relationships in order to fulfil our mission of making more and better disciple of Christ.

V. Homework:

Memory Verse for the week:

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)
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