



## THE POWER OF MAKING DISCIPLES

### WHAT CAN I DO TO ACCELERATE THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?



WEEK 3

## Acts 16:1-40

Sunday's message was about how I can accelerate the mission of the church! **1) I can be proactive in making disciples, 2) I can come prepared to make an impact, 3) I can have the right perspective...I choose to rejoice instead of complain, I choose to be more concerned about you, than me, and I choose to release others from how they have hurt me.** Paul, Silas, and Timothy's purpose was to help the churches by strengthening the faith of the believers within the church (go deeper) and to increase the number of disciples through new birth (go wider). How have you or could you help accelerate the mission of the church by intentionally focusing on going deeper and going wider with the people God has placed in your life?

Remember when Steve unveiled the 10 year vision for Harvest last January? What a blessing to be belong to a church that has a vision from the Lord, for His people! Part of the 10 year vision was to have everyone pursue being a quality disciple of Christ. When we commit to being a consistent follower of Christ, we know lasting change is going to happen within our hearts and will impact those around us. Here is the strategy that Harvest desires for each person to commit to pursuing in their walk with Christ:

- 1) Write out your God story and be able to articulate it in five minutes.
- 2) Have a real conversation with God every single day.
- 3) Read the New Testament every year and Old Testament every three years.
- 4) Intentionally disciple someone for six to twelve months.

For the next five weeks in small group, we will be focusing on the fourth commitment--discipling someone for six to twelve months. The first step in this commitment is being devoted to "the why." Knowing why we make disciples gives us purpose and drive to see the discipleship process all the way through.

### Devoted to the Why:

Going back to the mission of Harvest Bible Chapel will help solidify why we make disciples. Our mission statement is "To glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment." Take a minute to read and meditate on the verses that correspond with the mission: Matthew 28:19-20 and Matthew 22:37-39. When we are being transformed by the Holy Spirit and living lives in view of Jesus' commandment to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and with all your mind," the second part of the commandment will be a natural by-product -- to love your neighbor as yourself. Making disciples is actually the best way that we can love others, and this is our greatest purpose in life and brings God's glory down! How can making disciples give you the lasting satisfaction and fulfillment that we are all longing for?

Why do you think Christ commissioned His disciples to do this work? If Jesus had not left earth and ascended back into heaven, the Holy Spirit would not have come and given every believer the power and authority to build His kingdom. We often fail to consider the implication of this commandment and the power it gives to us as believers! Making disciples is important because it is the Lord's chosen method to bring others further in spiritual maturity. Christ was intentional with his chosen group of men called his disciples as He spent a significant amount of time teaching them what it means to love God and others. The effect of His intentionality led to thousands of disciples all over the world today. Think about the ways our church and community would be different if we committed to going deeper in our discipleship of others.

There are many objections we can come up with for why we aren't ready to make disciples. At what point in your walk with Christ are you mature enough to disciple another believer? The why inspires us to make disciples but which of these doubts have kept you from being devoted to this mission? A). you forget you have His authority; B) you lack faith that He can use you to do His work; or C) you are fearful of looking foolish or failing in the eyes of others? Let's pray that the Holy Spirit would spur us on toward loving God more and loving others more by being disciples who make other disciples!