Let's Talk About: Discipling Others

Three weeks ago, you had a lesson on discipleship. Can you describe what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

Time for You to Lead

It was explained that a disciple is one who follows a set of teachings or a person. As Christians, we are disciples of Jesus, choosing to follow His ways and His teachings.

It was also explained that a disciple leads others to Christ. Read Matthew 28:19-20. What does Jesus tell us to do?

We are commanded to make disciples of others. This is what Jesus did. Read Mark 1:16-17. How did Jesus make disciples of Simon and Andrew?

The truth is that He simply invited them to follow Him. However, that was not the end of the story. For the next 3+ years Jesus taught his 12 disciples His ways. He showed them what it meant to be a follower of God. This is what Jesus is calling each of us to do.

How to Disciple

We are called to make believers of others. For some, that may be quite difficult. You may not be confident in leading others to Jesus. Do you feel unqualified to disciple others?

If you do, you are not alone. However, be aware that you do not need an extensive education or a long time as a believer to disciple others. In Luke 8:26-39, we are told the story of a man who had been possessed by demons. Jesus cast out the demons and this man wanted to follow Jesus. Read Luke 8:39. What did Jesus tell this man to do?

This man had just been freed from demonic possession. He did not have extensive time following and learning from Jesus. In fact, he may have known little about the teachings of Jesus. Yet, Jesus sent him home to teach his friends and family about God. Why do you think people would have listened to him when he shared the Gospel message?

Why do you think people would listen to you if you shared the Gospel message?

What you need to realize is that the people closest to you are going to see a change. They want to know how that change occurred. They are going to listen to you because they know you. They will trust your testimony. Have you seen this already occur?

What are you doing to disciple those people who have seen change in you?

Time to Get Down to It

Many will see it. Many will be curious. Now it is time to start talking about how you can disciple others. It is time for you to step out of your comfort zone and describe what God has done for you. Do you have fears about doing this?

It can be difficult, but it is not impossible. You can do this!

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Build Your Testimony

People are going to ask you what happened that brought about change. This means you need to start working on your testimony. Your testimony does not need to be a 30-minute description of how God changed your life. In fact, it should be no more than a few minutes. In your class, share about how God changed your life.

In hearing other people's testimonies, what are some elements you can include in your own testimony?

To whom could you share your testimony? How would it impact those men and women?

Learn

Your testimony is one of the most critical elements in discipling others. Your knowledge is a very close second. Why do you think your knowledge about God would be so important in discipling others?

The truth is that many are going to have questions. They are going to want to know why you believe what you believe. You will need to have answers. This can only be accomplished by spending time in the Bible.

We know you have been told this several times at Hope CDA. It has been repeated because you must know the teachings of Christianity if you are going to disciple others.

So, start with this. What kinds of questions have people already asked you about your faith? How did you answer those questions?

What kinds of questions might people have about Christianity and God? Do you think you could answer those questions?

Demonstrate

Here is another important point for you to consider. What kinds of things are you teaching your disciples?

If you are a person who gets angry, says hateful things, chases after women, and swears a lot, what do you think people are going to learn from you?

How you live your life for God is what your disciples will look like. This is why it is important for you to live in a way that honors God and represents Him well. It is also important to keep in mind that people are constantly learning from you, whether they would call you their "master" or not. You are still teaching them. What kinds of things are you teaching people through your actions?

Do you think those things are representing God well?

Who is someone who disciples you? How could you disciple others in the way that that person is discipling you?

What are challenges for you in discipling others?

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