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**Evangelism and Teaching**

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*“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, **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*

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**Go Make Disciples Check-in:** In your small groups (no more than three), practice sharing the gospel using the “3 Circles” strategy. You will have four minutes + one bonus minute to share the gospel, allowing two more minutes for feedback from other group members. Once again, group members should use this time to offer feedback on what you did well and ways you can improve as you share the gospel with others using this strategy. A few questions for them to consider are below:

1. **Brokenness/Sin:** Did I communicate clearly ways that we observe brokenness in this world, that brokenness is a result of our sin, and the ways that we unsuccessfully try to get out of our brokenness?
2. **God’s Design:** Did I communicate clearly ways that we see evidence of God’s perfect design, and that God originally created a world that was good?
3. **Jesus:** Did I communicate clearly that God loved us and didn’t want us to stay in our brokenness, so he sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.
4. **Repent/Believe:** Did I communicate clearly that the way out of our brokenness is to repent of our sins and to believe in Jesus?
5. **Restore/Pursue:** Did I communicate clearly that as we believe in Jesus he restores our relationship with God and allows us to again pursue God’s perfect design?
6. **Invitation to Others:** Did I practice inviting my listener to repent and believe in Jesus?

Once God has saved these individuals through Christ, the work has only begun in terms of making disciples. We all called to teach them what Christ commands. As we think about this aspect of making disciples, four common misconceptions exist.

First, many of us believe that this part of the disciple-making process is for those gifted in teaching. However, Christ's command is for each one of us to be able to teach others what it means to follow Christ. David Platt writes:

*“When we think about teaching, we often conclude that not everyone is intended to be a teacher. Scripture clearly speaks of a spiritual gift of teaching and identifies specific leadership roles in the church that are tied to the teaching of God’s Word. Therefore, we assume that teaching is a task relegated to only a few. But...Jesus’ command for us to make disciples envisions a teaching role for all of us.” –David Platt*

**1. How might we help others understand that teaching others to follow Christ (“to obey all that I have commanded you”) is the role of every Christian/disciple and not just those gifted in teaching?**

A second misconception is that “teaching others to obey” only happens in classes inside a church building. To see what we mean, consider the following two questions in your small groups.

**Group Discussion:** What type of situation do you normally envision when you think of people teaching others about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus (think location, structure of time, etc.)? How does this compare with what we see in the gospels and how Jesus teaches his disciples to obey?

In short, we have created this false belief that teaching others to obey means getting them into a small group or class at church where one gifted teacher goes through several 8-12 week courses over how to read their Bible or pray or share their faith. However, Jesus simply invited his disciples to follow him, to live life with him, to be with him. He taught them how to pray by praying with them. He taught them how to study God’s Word by studying God’s Word with them. He taught them how to minister to others by going into the world and ministering to others alongside them.

**2. In light of what Jesus modeled, how does our method of “teaching others to obey” need to change here at First Baptist?**

A third misconception is that “teaching others to obey” requires an incredible depth of knowledge of God’s Word. Often we have this picture of Bible College or Seminary graduates teaching groups or classes and explaining deep theological concepts or the meaning of Greek and Hebrew words. And then we look at our depth of knowledge and think, “I can’t do that, so I will let others teach.”

However, a pastor of a large megachurch noted that each year as they brought new disciples on stage to recognize them that there were always individuals who had been discipled by one particular man. However, this man had not gone to Bible college or seminary like many of the other teachers in the church. So, the pastor asked the guy what he has doing that was so much more effective in equipping others to go make disciples. The man responded, “We read the Bible together, we talk about what it means, and then we pray together.”

That simple strategy was resulting in many disciples being made. So as you think about whether or not you are ready to “teach others to obey” know that it can be as simple as gathering with a few others to read the Bible together, talking about what it means, praying, and then I would add in serving together as you live out what you have learned.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, many of us have misconceptions as to what a “disciple” looks like. Therefore, we will find it difficult to “teach others to obey” when we do not even know what they are supposed to obey.

**Group Discussion:** How would you describe what it means to be a disciple? What is true about them? What do they do? What do they believe?

A Disciple:

- HAS trusted in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation from sin and death (Rom. 10:9)
- HAS been baptized as an act of obedience to Christ (Matt. 28:19)
- IS a member of a local church, regularly attending worship, and committed to its mission (Eph. 11-16, 1 Cor. 12:12-31, Hebrews 10:24)
- IS not perfect    BUT    IS allowing God to make them like Christ in character (Col. 3:1-17)
- IS pursuing fellowship with other believers (Acts 2:42-47)
- IS committed to the spiritual disciplines of Bible reading and prayer (Acts 2:42-47)
- IS regularly serving others to meet the needs within the body (1 Pet. 4:10)
- IS giving generously of what God has given them (2 Cor. 9:6-13)
- IS becoming a disciple-maker    OR    IS already making disciples of others (going, baptizing, teaching) (Matt. 28:19, 2 Tim. 2:2)
- WILL encounter suffering (2 Tim. 3:12)
- WILL receive his/her eternal inheritance and reward for his/her faith in Jesus (Rom. 8:29-30)

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**Go Make Disciples**

Take time this week to ask the Lord for the courage needed to “teach others to obey all that Jesus has commanded them.” In your prayers, ask the Lord to overcome our misconceptions and to replace them with Truth.

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**Praying This Week**

- Thank God for putting others in our lives who have taught us to obey Christ.
- Ask God to give us men, women, and children to teach to obey Christ.
- Ask the Spirit to give us the courage we need to teach others to obey Christ.