

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP & LIVING FOR ETERNITY by Lucinda Davidoff January 31, 2021

The last few weeks we have been talking about setting ourselves up for success in 2021 and we have been hearing and activating some amazing principles that God has given us to get to KNOW HIM and FIND FREEDOM.

The daily disciplines or habits we form, are seeds we plant in 2021 that will help us have a successful year. Good spirit filled habits grow into trees and gardens of righteousness.

We looked at disciplines of fasting, disciplines of prayer, the disciplines of daily reading our bibles and having a bible plan, the disciplines of tithing and the disciplines of casting vision, setting goals.

I've been talking to our ladies about taking those short term goals and breaking them into daily next steps that YOU CAN take to reach those goals and re-visiting the short term next steps every week until our goals are met.

Are you guys living those principles yet?

Today I am going to be sharing the discipline of intentional DISCIPLESHIP and living for eternity and why we ALL have a deep desire to do that.

So we want to BE DISCIPLES and we want to MAKE DISCIPLES.

Our Key verse this morning is taken from Matthew 28: 18,19 and 20 and I would like for you all to learn this scripture by heart to connect groups on Wednesday and next Sunday service we will give stickers to those that get it right.

Key scripture for this month is **Matthew 28:18-20**

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age."

Observe means to do... True disciples live and DO what Jesus did.

How? By the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

This is what is called the GREAT COMMISSION.

What does COMMISSION MEAN- It's a command and an act of passing a responsibility to someone else.

So Jesus passed that responsibility to us. We do it and we pass that responsibility to others.

Intentional discipleship happens when we intentionally get to know Jesus and Follow Him and show others how to do the same.

What are the reasons we want to be intentional in being disciples and making disciples?

1. We all groan for eternity. God has placed eternity in our hearts we all long for eternity

As born again Christians we understand eternity and that motivates us to reach others. It motivates me to do something significant. To make a difference.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, **3** if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. **4** For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. **5** Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Do you feel that assurance of your salvation? That guarantee of eternal life?

6 So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. **7** For we walk by faith, not by sight. **8** We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord

Ecclesiastes 3:11 “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

2. We desire to please Jesus know we will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ

Judgement is a powerful motivator . The judgement seat motivates us to want to please Jesus and hear those words...well done my good and faithful servant,

2 Corinthians 5:9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. **11** Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

1 Corinthians 11:31 Now if we judged ourselves properly, we would not come under judgment.

The judgment Seat of Christ motivates us to live intentionally and with purpose

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding"

To know God is to love Him....

3. The love of Christ compels us- to live for Eternity

Love is a beautiful force. But not only is it beautiful but it is the most powerful force.

When you truly receive the love of the Father you will be so deeply impacted that you will be compelled to share it.

That's why **Matthew 22:37** "Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

How do you love God? You get to know Him. How do we know Him? Through reading His word and obeying His word we experience Him.

Receive His love. God is love.

2 Corinthians 5:12 For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. **13** For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. **14** For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; **15** and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

Compels mean to force or oblige (someone) to do something.

"a sense of duty"

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* **18** Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

The love of God compels us TO BE a NEW CREATION. To love in our NEW CREATION- You don't have to try to be HOLY, you are Holy because Christ lives in you....so just walk it out in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit and yield to Him when temptation comes.

AND compels us to reconcile the World to Him

20 Now then, *we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us:* we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. **21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

John 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Impartation: *You can only impart what you have received.* Jesus had been with the Father so He could impart the Father's love.... And then the disciples had been with Jesus and those around the disciples could perceive that they had been with Jesus

Acts 4:13 Now seeing the boldness of Peter and of John, and having understood that they are unschooled and ordinary men, they were astonished. And they recognized them, that they had been with Jesus.

By having disciplines of prayer and fasting and reading the word we get to know Jesus and we can then impart him to others.

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Acts 1:8

Becoming disciples and making disciples is how we live a life for eternity.

DISCIPLESHIP IS RELATIONAL. We have all been made for relationships. We crave true connection. So discipleship is a two way relationship.

How do we practically become disciples of Jesus?

1. We ask Jesus to become our Lord and Savior, we start reading our bible plans daily and we start doing what it says.

How do we practically disciple others?

2. Invite others-

We can invite people into a conversation about God.

When we are with unsaved people and we are in conversation about

something we can share what God's word says about what you are speaking about.

In that way we are the salt and light

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

We can invite people to church

We can invite people into sharing our personal testimonies

3. **Meet people where they are at.** Don't dump ALL your knowledge on them-ask questions and engage them at their level. I remember the days when I was immature in sharing my faith and centred my conversation around being right, instead of listening to the person I am sharing with, acknowledging where they are at and sharing the love of Jesus in faith. Only share what that person is able to receive.
4. **Invite others to pray**- pray for healing, pray for provision, pray for peace-most people would welcome prayer.

Intentional discipleship happens in the connect groups or volunteer groups at church.

Anyone can start a connect group or an interest group or discipleship group- you just need to be one step ahead of your peers to disciple them – all our sermons are on the website so if you want an outline to follow, that's where you get it

1. A disciple maker has to **connect with his/ her disciples** or her disciples. We believe that men disciple men and women disciple women is the safest model especially when going into deeper heart issues. So the disciples should connect with their leader. People must want to hear your heart. **So they must relate to you.** Don't just share your victories, also share your failures, in that way you become more relatable. That is why we model grace and not perfection.
2. Practical ways of staying knowing where people are at is **asking what they think or for their feedback** about a topic you are sharing on in your connect or volunteer group. This shows you where the heart is or their bible knowledge is on that topic, and helps you teach them better. So interaction is key to discipleship. A talking head is not discipleship.

Are you discipling your kids? Have you taken them one by one and asked them the two diagnostic questions to see if they are saved and what they trust in for their salvations

It's amazing when you ask people what they think you can see what their worldview is.

3. True discipleship happens when the **word of God** is shared . When you have people in your connection distracting your group away from the Word of God, or just wanting to share their stories, the leader has to steer us back to what the Spirit of God is saying for that discipleship session.

John 8:32 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'

4. **Allowing the Holy Spirit to minister** at your connect group also allows an encounter with Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

So allow for ministry time and allow your disciples to help you minister and in this way learn to pray for others.

5. **One on one connection** is also key in intentional discipleship. By using a tool we call the 3-2-1 tool. As a leader you can make sure you are connected to your disciples by knowing how they are doing . So every week you determine to text or email 3 people in your connect group.

Call 2 people you feel may need some encouragement and then meet one on one with one of your disciples to see where they are at and where you can pour into them.

You can apply the same tool with family members or children to make sure you are intentionally connecting with them and know where their hearts are at.

6. You cannot truly disciple someone without their willingness to be transparent and **willingness to change. Encourage your disciples to have a heart to change** continuously. If they keep justifying why they are where they are at they will never take personal responsibility to change.