

Discipleship Survey

INTRODUCTION:

As a church we are seeking to live out our lives as followers of Jesus (what the bible calls disciples). This means that the vision we have for our church and for our lives is to: Be with Jesus, Learn from Jesus, Become like Jesus.

Firstly Jesus calls disciples to “be with him” (Mark 3:14), everything else flows from this place. If we want to discover the transforming, and life giving, power of Jesus in our lives we must first draw near to Him.

Secondly Jesus, as a Rabbi (biblical word for teacher), teaches us a new way to live. But this isn't simply like being in a classroom where Jesus tells you things. No, the Jesus way of teaching in the bible was to encourage the disciples to go and do the things they saw him doing as they were with him, so that they learned through experience. In Luke 8:26-56 Jesus casts out demons, then he heals the sick. Then in Luke 9:1-6 Jesus send out the disciples to cast out demons and heal the sick. In Matthew 14:22-32 Jesus walks on water, then Peter has a go.

Thirdly the goal of a disciple is to become like their rabbi, much like the goal of an apprentice is to become like the person they are working for, for example an apprenticeship in car mechanics. Becoming like Jesus is not simply something we can try harder at. Jesus was perfectly patient; I often find that the more I try to be patient the more frustrated I can get with the situation. Becoming like Jesus is a work of the Holy Spirit, who transforms us from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18). The more we are with Jesus, and the more we learn from him by stepping into the things he did, the more room with give the Holy Spirit to be at work in our lives transforming our hearts and minds to be like Jesus.

This document is here to help you, from time to time, to take stock and to see how you are doing in your own discipleship to Jesus. It's a chance to be honest with yourself, and honest before God, and allow the Holy Spirit to highlight areas in your life that He might want to be at work in so that you can partner with Him in creating space for that to happen, and so grow as a disciple.

There are three sections to the survey, each section begins on a new page below.

Why not consider sharing the outcome of this with your mentor or a close friend who can pray through it with you.

SECTION ONE: BEING WITH JESUS

The people of God in the bible had daily, weekly, monthly and yearly patterns and practices that helped them to spend time with God. This is something we can benefit from to help us be with Jesus in all the moments and areas of our lives.

1. How are you being with Jesus daily?

Things to consider here would be, but aren't limited to, praying and reading the bible.

2. How are you being with Jesus weekly?

Jesus wasn't simply alone with people, the disciples walked with him as a group. Things to consider here might be weekly worship gatherings, home groups or prayer partners.

3. How are you being with Jesus monthly?

Things to consider here might be spiritual practices like fasting, tithing, forgiving.

This is a chance to meet with Jesus in some of the bigger, or deeper areas of our lives. For example if you know that finance is something you wrestle with why not consider giving a monthly tithe, and rather than setting it up as a standing order so you forget about it why not make it an intentional monthly practise where you physically give your offering and pray as you do.

Or, if you are wrestling with the weight of things people have done to upset you why not monthly set a date where you practice forgiveness. Maybe make a list of those people and then be with Jesus in that by praying for them before tearing up the list as an act of offering that over to Him.

Or, if you are wrestling with addictive behaviour or habits, why not monthly set a date where you will fast – the act of being with Jesus by relying on His presence and word to feed you over and above physical food. Many have found that the act of fasting helps with inviting Jesus into the areas of your life that you feel you do not have control over.

So, how are you being with Jesus monthly?

4. How are you being with Jesus yearly?

There are things in our life that we do not often think about daily, weekly or monthly. Big grand narrative things. I have a friend who yearly on the 1st January turns off her phone and goes for a long walk alone where she gives thanks to God for, and reflects on, the last year, and she quietly waits on God and listens for the year ahead. This is the practise of solitude, shutting out the noise and just simply being with Him.

SECTION TWO: LEARNING FROM JESUS

As we said above learning from Jesus isn't about reading the bible, that's being with Him in His word. Learning from Him is taking what you have seen from being with Him and having a go so that you learn "on the job" so to speak.

1. What things that Jesus did, or said, have you stepped into, or had a go at recently?

2. What have you learned about those things? What happens when you do them? What impact do they have on you and on others?

3. What have you learned about Jesus while doing those things?

4. What have you learned about yourself?

Did you discover something good about yourself? Did you discover an area of weakness in yourself?

SECTION THREE: BECOMING LIKE JESUS

As we said above this is a work of the Holy Spirit. So, let's think about the evidence and presence of the Spirit in your life.

1. Fruit of the Spirit

On a scale of 1-5 how would you rate yourself with each of the fruit of the Spirit?

(1: lacking / 2: low sense / 3: In some areas of life / 4: in most areas / 5: at most times in many things)

Love:

Joy:

Peace:

Patience:

Kindness:

Goodness:

Faithfulness:

Gentleness:

Self-control:

Think about the areas that scored lower above. Why was that? It could be that these things feel harder because the Spirit is putting His finger on this.

Remember that the bible talks about the fruit (singular) of the spirit, and not the fruits (plural) of the spirit. This is the fruit of one tree, not different fruits.

If you are struggling with one of these, remember that fruit produces more fruit. Where something feels weaker in your life maybe press into the ones that feel stronger so that they produce more fruit – the ones that seem weaker.

Maybe identify an area, or situation, where you know there is a weaker part of the fruit. How can you press into the stronger areas of the fruit so that the weaker will be produced? For example if you are struggling to be patient with someone, but you scored high on kindness, how can you demonstrate kindness to that person so that the Spirit can produce patience in you for them?

2. What gifts of the spirit do you see in your life?

3. What gifts would you like to see?

Sometimes the gifts God gives us are linked to the fruit that's grown in us. While still praying for the spiritual gifts also pray that the Spirit produces more of the fruit that will support you to use that gift well.