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Week 2: Imitate – Building Core Practices

"Helping people become more and better followers of Jesus."

Definition: Discipleship is **intentionally entering** into relationships to help

people follow Jesus, **be changed** by Jesus, and **join the mission** of Jesus.

^{•28} We **proclaim him**, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may **present everyone mature in Christ**. ²⁹ I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me." - Colossians 1:28-29

We believe you grow when you **imitate** the **life** of **Jesus**.

Imitate: Be Changed by Jesus

What do we do in discipleship that fosters that change?

Not just what to believe, we must show them how to live it.

It's about **building core** practices for a life **with** Jesus.

Core Practices to Cultivate:

- **Bible** \rightarrow learning to hear God's voice.
- **Prayer** \rightarrow growing in personal connection with God.
- **Community** \rightarrow living in authentic community with others.
- Serving \rightarrow using their gifts to love and build others up.
- **Generosity** \rightarrow having open hands & heart with possessions.

These aren't just 'good Christian' things to do; they are practices that form

the heart of a disciple.

How do we cultivate those?

- **Teaching** \rightarrow helping others understand truth and apply.
- **Modeling** \rightarrow see what faith looks like in real life.
- Loving \rightarrow showing up with patience and grace.
- **Correcting** \rightarrow speaking truth and grace in love.

Teaching: Make it Make Sense

- **Biblically** → What is this truth actually saying?
- **Personally** \rightarrow How does this speak to what they're facing?
- **Practically** → What should change in my life as a result?

"[®] They read out of the book of the law of God, translating and **giving the meaning** so that the people could <u>**understand what was read**</u>." – Neh 8:8

You may need to:

- Slow Down
 - Are there any **unfamiliar** words or concepts that need explaining?
- Ask Questions
 - So, they can learn the meaning **and** learn the skill for themselves
- Restate Truth
 - In their own words, what does this mean?
- Tell Stories or Analogies
 - **Meets them** where they are. (Great opportunity to use their life)

Core Truth Exercise (additional page)

- Your role is to bring truth to life in a way that they can understand and live out.
- Transformation happens when truth moves from their head → heart
 → hands.

Modeling: Show them the way

- They learn **how** by seeing what **your faith in action.**
- Not because you're perfect but because you're present and willing to

let them in.

• Life \rightarrow Truth \rightarrow Life

"⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and **teaching them to obey everything** I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." – Matthew 28:19-10

"²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, **leaving you an example**, that you should <u>follow</u> in his steps." – 1 Peter 2:21



Loving: Showing Up for them.

- It's what **earns** trust, keeps the **door open** and **creates** the space where growth can happen.
- It's what **makes everything else**—teaching, correcting, modeling—

matter.

"Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a **model**, <u>keep your eyes on those</u> who live as we do. – Phil 3:17

"[•] But you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance, " along with the persecutions and sufferings that came to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured..." 2 Tim 3:10-11

We want them to **be changed by Jesus** through **growing** in the **knowledge**

of God and by learning to put that knowledge **into practice.**

The heart of discipleship is an other-oriented life that labors in the power of

God to **proclaim** Christ and **present** others mature in Christ.

Take Home:

- Core Truth Exercises
- Core Truth Self-Assessment