

**dGroup Leader Onboarding Track Session Notes**

**Session 1: What Is Discipleship?**
**Speaker:** Pastor Mike Gowans
**Scriptures:** Matthew 28, John 10:10, 1 Corinthians 11:1

**Summary**

This teaching introduces the foundational concept of discipleship, emphasizing that it is rooted in relationship and mission. Discipleship is about following Jesus, fishing for people (evangelism), and fellowshipping with others. The speaker presents these three “F”s as the practical outworking of a disciple's life. Through transparency, love, and intentionality, believers are called to reflect Christ, bring others to Him, and live in authentic community. The ultimate goal is to live out the abundant life Jesus offers while helping others do the same.

**Session Notes**

**I. Discipleship is Relationship on Mission**

* Discipleship = relationship with purpose.
* We are saved for a mission, not just personal salvation.
* God is relational—He created us out of relationship for relationship.

**II. Following Jesus**

* Discipleship begins with following Jesus and His example.
* Jesus lived the life we couldn’t and died the death we deserved.
* We follow Jesus and also follow people who follow Him well (1 Corinthians 11:1).
	+ These leaders help guide us further in our maturity.

**III. Fishing for People**

* Discipleship includes evangelism—inviting others to follow Jesus.
* God desires all to be saved; we are His agents of rescue.
* The gospel is the greatest story: Jesus lived, died, and rose again.
* Evangelism is compared to life-saving rescue, often met with resistance, but necessary and worth the cost.

**IV. Fellowship with Believers and the Lost**

* Fellowship is more than eating together—it’s sharing life deeply (koinonia).
	+ Loving sacrificially, being present, and investing in others’ growth.
* Jesus was called a “friend of sinners”; disciples must do the same.
* Fellowship with God and others creates an abundant, attractive life.
* Disciples are real, honest, and vulnerable — authenticity draws others to Christ.

**V. Living the Abundant Life**

* We offer eternal and abundant life (John 10:10); we must live it ourselves.
* Letting Christ’s light shine through us involves growing closer to Him and being honest about our journey.
* The love of Jesus, received and reflected, is the fuel for disciple-making.

**Application Questions**

1. How are you intentionally following Jesus and who are you learning from who models Christ’s life well?
2. How can you actively “fish” for people in your current season of life?
3. In what ways are you fostering deep, Christ-centered fellowship with both believers and unbelievers?
4. Are you living an abundant, attractive life that makes others want to know Jesus?