

Small Group Guide: “EKKLESIA: Defining A Disciple”

Opening Question: If you could assemble any piece of furniture without the instructions, which one would it be and why? (Or, do you have a funny story about trying to assemble furniture, etc. that didn't go as planned?)

Opening Prayer: *Dear Lord, we thank you for gathering us here today as a community eager to grow in our understanding of what it means to be a disciple. We pray for open hearts and minds, and for guidance as we explore your Word together. May our time together be fruitful, and may we be led closer to You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

Key Takeaways:

1. The term *Ekklesia* means assembly or gathering, which refers to the body of believers, not just a church building.
2. The purpose of the Church is to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).
3. A disciple is someone who follows Christ, is transformed by Him, and participates in His mission.
4. Discipleship involves the head (understanding Christ's authority), the heart (transforming our inner values and desires), and the hands (engaging in Christ's work in the world).

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Matthew 28:18-20.** Discuss the Great Commission Jesus gave to His disciples. How can this directive shape the purpose of the church today?
2. **Read Romans 12:2.** How does renewing your mind help in the transformation into becoming more Christ-like?
3. Pastor Dan made the statement, “Knowledge without obedience leads to pride” (directing people to apply the Bible in their lives, not just know information about the Bible). How have you seen this play out in your own life or in others?
4. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20.** What does it mean for us to be Christ's ambassadors and ministers of reconciliation in our daily lives?
5. Pastor Dan mentioned that different people have different passions in ministry. How do you feel God is shaping you, and what are you passionate about?
6. **Read Matthew 4:19.** What does it mean to be a “fisher of men?” How does this apply to our lives today?
7. How do the concepts of ‘head,’ ‘heart,’ and ‘hands’ align with your current spiritual journey? Where do you feel you need more growth?
8. Consider the analogy Pastor Dan used about assembling without knowing what the finished product should look like. How does having a clear picture of discipleship change your approach to following Jesus?

Practical Applications:

1. Reflect on which area (Head, Heart, or Hands) you need to focus on most in your discipleship journey. Share with the group and commit to taking one specific action this week to grow in that area.
2. Practice sharing a 2-minute testimony of how Christ has changed your life. Remember, as the pastor said, your personal story can be more powerful than quoting Bible verses to non-believers.
3. Identify one person in your life who needs to hear about Christ's love. Commit to praying for them daily and look for opportunities to show God's love in practical ways.
4. Spend time this week meditating on Romans 12:2. Journal about how God is renewing your mind and transforming you to be more like Christ.
5. Volunteer for a ministry or community service that aligns with your passion and spiritual gifts.

Closing Prayer: *Father God, thank you for the time we've had together to learn and grow as disciples of Christ. Help us to carry what we've learned today into our daily lives. Guide us as we strive to follow You with our minds, hearts, and hands. May we continually grow closer to You and be a light to those around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.*