

MATTHEW: sermon study guide

Speaker: Pastor Greg Grunau

Date: March 14 / 15, 2020

Sermon Title: Discipleship - The Heart of a Spiritual Family on Mission

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Who is a person whose skills/work you admire and who you would like to apprentice under? What would you want to learn from them? What do you think you would learn from them?
2. What way do you learn best?
 - A. Tell me!
 - B. Show me!
 - C. Give me the book/instructions!
 - D. Demonstrate for me!
 - E. Let me try it myself!

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read *Matthew 4:18-22* and *Luke 5:1-11*

3. The verses from Luke 5 expand on those from Matthew 4. Pastor Greg said, "Jesus is testing Peter to see if he will move from being a *Friend* who serves to a *Follower* who submits." How would you describe the difference between casual friend and committed follower?
4. From these verses, in what ways does Jesus *Invite* the disciples into his life and work? In what ways does he set the pattern of *Imitation*?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. As you think about the way Jesus disciplined people, and especially His way of *Invitation* and *Imitation*, what stands out the most to you? What area do you need to grow in the most? What are you hungry for more of?
6. Pastor Greg said about his spiritual family, "We realized early on that all of us were good at Bible studies but not so good at connecting with friends and neighbours who weren't followers of Jesus." How can you and your spiritual family create space to welcome those who don't know Christ? What would these gatherings look like?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

The disciples were willing to leave everything they were doing and gave themselves to Christ's work. What is God asking you to leave so you can follow and grow?

THE WORD (NIV)

Matt 4:18-22

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Luke 5:1-11

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

John 13:15

¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

MATTHEW: sermon study summary

A New Kind of Family Series Sermon 3 | Discipleship - The Heart of a Spiritual Family on Mission

Pastor Greg - Matthew 4:18-22

Today, in this third message on Jesus' spiritual family, we focus on the way Jesus disciplined His followers.

Jesus' began discipling His followers at His baptism when He met Simon (Peter) and Andrew. He invited them to stay with Him and become His friends. After His temptation, everyone returned home, and Jesus later joined these men in Capernaum, where they participated in His mission (Luke 3-4).

Jesus had a greater plan (Matthew 4:18-22, Luke 5:1-11). One morning sometime later, Jesus met Simon and Andrew after they had fished all night without success. Jesus challenged them to cast their nets into deep waters—clearly not the best time or place to fish. Their miraculous catch motivated the men to leave their fishing, follow Jesus and learn His way of life.

How did Jesus make His spiritual family so strong and effective? Three powerful words provide clues: "Come, follow Me ..." (Matthew 4:19).

The first way He disciplined was through:

1. **Invitation.** When Jesus said "Come", He invited them to "do life" with them.

How can you "do life" with others? Maybe you feel you don't have time, energy, or space. Doing life together doesn't mean having no boundaries! Jesus had boundaries and took regular breaks to be alone with His Father, or with just a few close friends. "Doing life together" means giving those in your spiritual family greater access to your life than just a weekly two-hour meeting. God will show you how to do this in a way that fits with how God has wired you!

Pastor Greg shared how God was calling him, his wife and his group to live more integrated lives. As introverts, they wondered how "doing life together" would work. They discovered several principles:

- Invite people into your home, welcoming them even if your house is a mess. Why? Because these people are not guests, they're family, and everyone works together to set up, serve, and clean up.
- Invite your spiritual family into regular activities: shopping, house projects, a walk, a movie, a run to DQ.
- Share when life hits hard. First pray, and then be vulnerable. Invite your spiritual family to pray with you.

Through these strategies, Pastor Greg discovered that his leadership role grew lighter, not heavier.

The second way Jesus disciplined people was through:

2. **Imitation.** Jesus invited the men to "Come" with a goal: to "follow" Him. Both Jesus and Paul emphasized the importance of imitating Christ and following His example (John 13:15, 1 Cor. 11:1, 2 Thess. 3:9, 1 Cor. 4:16). After Jesus' departure, the next generations of Jesus-followers passed on His way of life. Three centuries later, it is estimated that half the population was Christian!

How can you do "imitate-able" discipleship?

- When you host a spiritual family gathering, go "lightweight", with just a few people. Others will see how easy it is and will begin hosting in ways that work for them.
- Connect with friends and neighbours who may not be followers of Jesus through a monthly potluck.
- Lead a discipleship group. Greg's larger group meets twice a month, and a smaller group meets once a week for an hour. All these challenges everyone to stretch and grow and to start leading their own discipleship group.

As you think of Jesus' invitation and how you imitate Him, what stands out for you? In what area(s) do you need to grow the most? What are you hungry for more of?

May His invitation to "Come, follow Me" spark in us a desire to experience more of Jesus' way of life.