

BE ONE, MAKE ONE

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

Bridges Community Church

March 15, 2015

Progress Report

Before you jump into today's discipleship focus, take a few minutes to reflect on this past week. In what ways did you work at **making disciples?** Did you...

Begin with Prayer?

How so? Did you intentionally pray for your disciple-making efforts? How did prayer make a discipleship difference?

Reach out to Unbelievers?

Our neighborhoods, work places, networks of relationships, stores, and athletic interests, are filled with people who need the Lord. How did you "go" this past week? In what ways did others *hear* about and *see* Christ through your life?

More Than Good Intentions

If you've been around the church for a while, you probably already know Jesus wants you to "make disciples." So are you doing that? Are people coming to Christ and growing up in Christ through your life? John, one of Jesus' disciple-making followers, wrote, "I have no greater joy than to hear my children are walking according to the truth." Just like truth translated into action brought John joy, hearing God's Word & obeying it pleases the Lord. When we make disciples we show God we love Him by doing what He says.

STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

Did you get out of the Land of Good Intentions last week?	1
Everyone needs a Barnabas in their life	1
The I reminds us to...	2
Do you have what it takes to be a disciple-maker?	2
The D reminds us to...	3
The Discipleship Wheel can be a tremendous help	3
Let's get this party started	4

The One Person We All Need

All of us would benefit from a person like Barnabas in our lives. "Barnabas who?" you ask? Was he an Apostle? No. A famous athlete? Not that we're told? An inventor? Don't think so. Well what was he? Let's find out. Use the following verses to learn what you can about ordinary Barnabas, who was someone like you and me.

Acts 4:36,37; 9:26–27; 11:19–26; 15:36–41

Invite Others into Your Life

Barnabas discipled Paul. Imagine that. Before Paul changed the world, he needed someone to change his world. He needed an advocate. Someone who believed in him. Someone who would put his arm around him and say “let’s do life and ministry together.” That’s what Barnabas did. Barnabas saw Paul’s potential. That’s why he went looking for him. And after he found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for the next year, ordinary Barnabas impacted a man who would one day have an extraordinary impact for Christ.

Disciple-makers do that. They take the initiative to invite people with untapped potential into their lives and then they help them become what they could be for God.

Acts 11:25-26 - Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Can you point to anyone who was a Barnabas in your life? How did this person, impact you?

Could you do that?

How do you feel about inviting someone into your life for the purpose of a discipling relationship? Does that sound intimidating to you, or does it sound exciting? Would you do it? Have you done it? Do you have what it takes:

A love for the Lord? Is your love for Jesus genuine? Are you growing to love Him more?

Ongoing Dependence? The best disciple-makers know their need for the Lord. And they depend on the Lord to give them what it takes to help others.

Availability? They are busy, but not too busy to make time for helping people come to Christ and then become like Christ.

Faith? Are you willing to trust God to use you? Ordinary you? Imperfections and all?

Faithfulness? Can you be counted on? If you start something, do you complete it?

Young Timothy didn’t think he had what it took to disciple others. Paul, his mentor, thought otherwise. He told him...

1 Timothy 4:12 - Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Like Timothy, your platform for discipleship is your life in five crucial areas. What five areas does Paul pinpoint? Why these five?

Determine Their Need

Barnabas had a knack for knowing what a person needed. In what ways did that show up in the following situations?

Acts 9:26-27 – _____

Acts 11:26 – _____

Acts 15:36-41 – _____

Paul must have taken a lesson from Barnabas, when he wrote the church at Corinth and said:

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 - Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

Paul certainly wished he could have treated the Corinthian church as spiritually mature, but such was not the case. They were babes in Christ. So Paul began where they were, not where he wished they were. He cared for them as spiritual infants, rather than spiritual adults.

Paul tailor
discipleship
spiritual
ment. When

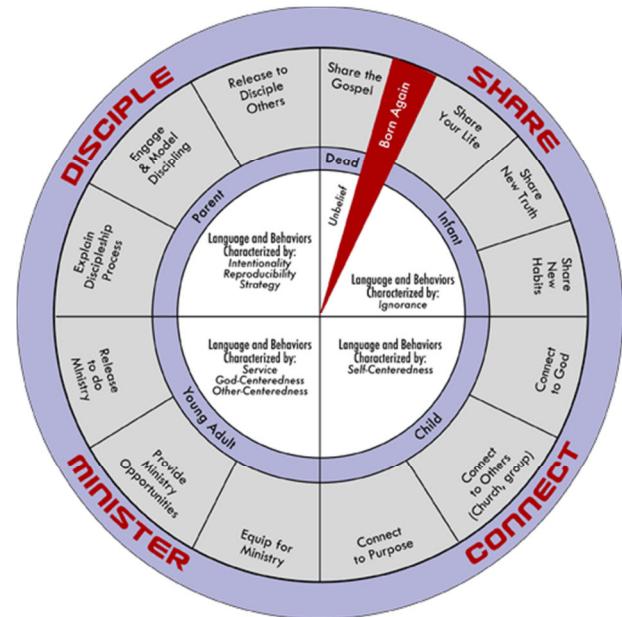
***Paul began where
they were, not
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made his
to fit their
develop-
it comes to

helping others grow up in Christ, one size does not fit all. We need to do what Barnabas and Paul did – determine where a person is in their spiritual development and disciple accordingly.

How can you best help?

Jim Putnam, in his book *Real Life Discipleship*, uses a Discipleship Wheel to pinpoint need. At a minimum he suggests five spiritual development stages:



The 5 stages of spiritual development are:

1. Spiritually Dead
2. Spiritual Infancy
3. Spiritual Childhood
4. Spiritual Young Adulthood
5. Spiritual Parenthood

Note the key indicators of each stage (unbelief, ignorance, self-centered, God & others focused, discipling). How do you identify with each of these areas in your own life? Can you see them in others? How about in the life of someone you are discipling or thinking about discipling?

Let's Get This Party Started

It's amazing what God will do through someone who is willing to be used by Him. Ordinary, imperfect, normal, everyday Joe's. Barnabas types. People like you and me.

Do you have what it takes in the ordinary category? Perfect. You are just the kind of person God is looking for and somebody else needs.

Do you know anyone who's sitting on the shelf? In need of an advocate? Someone who has tremendous untapped potential, but needs someone like you to see it and draw it out? Invite them into your life and into a journey toward the person God has gifted them to be.

Like Saul needed a Barnabas in order to become Paul, you could do the same for someone else. God will show you who that someone is if you're willing to be used and ready to follow His leading.

Would you be willing to offer your service to God like Isaiah and willingly say...

"Here am I (Lord), Send Me." (Isa 6:8)

B.R.I.D.G.E.S Disciples Making Disciples Plan

Begin with Prayer

Reach out to Unbelievers

Invoke Others into your Life

Determine Their Need

G (still to come)

E (still to come)

S (still to come)

So What Will You Do Next?

What does the Lord want you to do next? What do you sense in your spirit are your next steps? Nothing would please God more than for you to act on the Lord's leading.

The easiest thing for you to do would be nothing. At least nothing more in being the disciple-maker the Lord calls you to be. Don't let that happen. Don't let that happen to you or to the one who needs you to be a Barnabas to them.

For Further Reflection

1. Does it surprise you that God used Barnabas as a mentor to Paul? Why or why not?
2. Who has God used in your life? How like or unlike Barnabas was this person?
3. Can you think of someone with untapped potential that you could invite into a mentoring relationship? Where is this person at in their spiritual development?
4. For you to take a step toward discipling another, what do you need to do? What obstacles stand in the way (schedule, relational, emotional, spiritual, etc.)?
5. If this discipling relationship got going, what would you pray for? Why not begin praying about that possibility right now.