

Pursuing a Culture of Discipleship

Session 5: ESTABLISHING A DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

Small-Group Study Guide

1. Introduce the Session: Read pages 40-54

5 Minutes

Key Verse

Matthew 28:18-19 “Go and make disciples...teaching everyone to obey what I commanded.”

John 15:8 “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” **John 15:8**

- In this session we will look at the idea that the prevailing culture of a church is to both become, and help make disciples teaching them to put His word into practice in every area of their lives.
- Begin the session by opening with prayer.

2. Watch the video

20 minutes

Bible Passage

Matthew 28:18-19

Summary Points

The Matthew 28 Commission is to “go and make disciples...teaching them to obey everything I commanded.” We often relegate discipleship to programs a church does rather than all that a church is.

Culture is the shared beliefs, values, and beliefs that become the atmosphere of the church. God has called the church to have an atmosphere of discipleship. One famous quote from the business world is, “Culture eats strategy for breakfast.” The culture always hijacks any strategy we have.

People who see the church as a meeting ultimately believe their calling is to attend meetings. No, the calling is to make disciples. We are here to follow Jesus and help one another put His word into practice.

Discipleship is not just an exclusive one-on-one relationship, but actually, it is for everyone. We all help one another put His word into practice. This is the culture

When a culture of discipleship is in a church, it will feel more like a gymnasium than a theatre.

The gospel we proclaim should lead to an ongoing way of life following Jesus. The gospel isn't getting a ticket to heaven but following Jesus in the way of life.

If churches don't have a culture of discipleship, they will tend to have a culture of consumerism.

3. Discussion Questions

20 minutes

Q. What are some of the incomplete or false gospel presentations you have heard that work against discipleship?

Q. What are the differences we see if a church is modeled after a theater or gymnasium?

Q. How can you open up your life to someone who will help you put the word into practice as a disciple?

Discussion Quote: "Let us always remember that Christ calls men and women not only to trust Him as Savior, but also to follow Him as Lord. That call to discipleship must be part of our message if we are to be faithful to Him." Billy Graham

4. PIP (Put it into Practice)

15 Minutes

How can we begin to help people understand and move towards embracing a culture of discipleship?

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The next time you gather with members of your church family consider this question among yourselves “How can we better live out our calling as God’s family of disciples together on His mission?” Get specific ideas and steps to begin to live it.