

Exploring our Core Values

Week 4: Discipleship

By following Jesus we will grow into God's plan for us and will discover fullness of life.

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

Our vision statement says:

"We aim to be a loving and growing community which is Bible-based and Holy Spirit-led. We worship Jesus and seek to serve him in our everyday lives."

How do you think Christ Church is doing on this?

WORSHIP

Give thanks for what the Lord is doing in and through us to enable Christ Church to reflect our vision.

Ask the Lord to show us how to do better in areas where you think we could do better.

WORD

Read Romans 12:1-2

1. What does verse 2 mean?

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The Philosopher Blaise Pascal said,

“Most of man’s problems come from the inability to sit still”.

We need to spend time with God. Perhaps it is not so much about whether we are still or active but more about who we spend time with. We need to hang out with God. Jesus did have quiet times with his disciples, but they also spent a lot time on the move as active apprentices. The more time you spend with someone the more you know about them and often the more you become in tune with them.

Read Luke 9:21-27

Have you noticed how often the word ‘self’ appears in contemporary culture. Indulge yourself, express yourself, be yourself, find yourself. What we don’t hear in contemporary culture is: deny yourself.

1. What did Jesus mean when he said, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves...” (Luke 9.23a)

2. Jesus continues “... and take up their cross daily and follow me.”
What did Jesus mean?

Some other models of discipleship to explore:

Read Philippians 2:1-11

3. What does the passage say about discipleship?

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Read John 17:6-18

4. What does the passage say about discipleship?

Summary

We can pray to God, we can cry out to the Lord in a time of need – but it doesn't necessarily mean that we are following Jesus.

We can recognise God exists, but it does not necessarily mean that we are disciples of the Lord. Even evil spirits recognise who Jesus is – but they don't follow him. The demon called Legion shouted out to Jesus, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" (Mark 5.7)

We can recognise that God is worthy of praise. We can thank him for his provision or for what he has done for us, but it doesn't necessarily make us a follower of the Lord.

We need to take ourselves out of the centre and put Jesus in the centre. We need to practice a way of being that revolves around God.

Being a disciple of Jesus literally means being "a learner of Jesus" (Greek *mathētēs*) - learning stuff about Jesus in such a way that we become more like Jesus. This isn't classroom learning. This is learning by being with Jesus, having adventures with Jesus and growing your relationship with Jesus. This is learning by making Jesus the centre of your life.

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Raymond Edman from the CS Lewis Institute wrote,

“Discipleship means 'discipline!' The disciple is that one who has been taught or trained by the Master, who has come with his ignorance, superstition, and sin, to find learning, truth, and forgiveness from the Saviour. Without discipline we are not disciples, even though we profess his name and pass for a follower of the lowly Nazarene. In an undisciplined age when liberty and license have replaced law and loyalty, there is greater need than ever before that we be disciplined to be his disciples.”

WHAT NEXT?

How can we put being “a learner of Jesus” into practice this week?

Pray for each other.