

April '23

disciple

Introduction

The triangle has been used as a symbol of what it means to be a Church, or indeed for a Church member to be more than that, but to be a disciple. 'Up' 'In' 'Out' expresses our devotion, to God, to His People and to Mission. The message of Easter leads to a call on disciples to make disciples, people who love God, love one another and love the World, going to the ends of the earth to preach and to serve. Wimber talked about 3 'C's of conversion- converted to Christ, His Church and His Cause.

In these discussion questions think about how each of the three emphases of discipleship depend on one another and help complete one another if we are wholistic disciples.



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disciple

Small Group Study Guide | 16th April

Topic: The inner journey

Bible passages: Matthew 6:24, Deuteronomy 6:5

Introduction

Devoted is a strong word. It implies sacrificial single mindedness.

Questions

- 1) What does it mean to you to be devoted to **God**, to love him with heart, soul, mind and strength? To love God practically (Strength), emotionally (heart) and mystically (soul)?
 - 3) What does it mean to have God on our mind and engage with Him with out intellect.
 - 4) What does it mean to get rid of idols, and to be single minded in following God, without being weird?
 - 5) Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6 focuses on the heart, rather than external religious practice. In this verse 4 spiritual disciplines are listed, these practices are often summarised as 'cultivating a secret history with God'. Once you have located these 4 spiritual disciplines, in what ways do you practice them?
 - 6) Does your personal secret history reflect a devotion to God? Do you have other deep priorities that shape your identity, ambition and lifestyle?
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April '23

disciple

Small Group Study Guide | 23rd April

Topic: Devoted to one another

Bible passages: Romans 12:10, Acts 2:42

Introduction

Jesus told us to Love one another as He loved us, John 13:34. The early Church was known for its devotion to one another. Love for one another is seen as a sign or witness to the Kingdom of God as well as a practical manifestation of it.

Questions

- 1) What are the listed hallmarks of a community devoted to one another detailed in the book of Acts? What about in your own experience?
 - 2) If Love is not just an emotion but rather a 'posture' or a way of life, how do we reflect God's heart for welcoming everyone in our own behaviour?
 - 3) How can we avoid defaulting to a friendly 'clique' in our community despite our best intentions?
 - 4) In our Church Community how do we handle the tension between the loving acceptance of people, and the elements of discipline and challenge that come with discipleship?
 - 5) Does love need an organisational structure or framework to be practical?
 - 6) Size does matter. How big can an ideal expression of loving community be?
 - 7) How can we keep loving and keep growing in numbers?
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April '23

disciple

Small Group Study Guide | 30th April

Topic: The outward journey

Bible passages: Jeremiah 29:7, Jonah 4:11, Acts 18:9-11

Introduction

Loving God means loving our neighbour, not just our Christian neighbour (Luke 10:25-37).

Woodlands we believe has a calling to serve our City, and a special heart for the poor (Galatians 2:10).

Questions

- 1) In the book of Acts, cities were the centre of Christian mission. Why are cities important strategically and so important to God? (c.f. Jonah 4:11)
 - 2) How does God feel about Bristol do you think? What are the biggest felt needs in our City?
 - 3) Bristol has been spoken of prophetically as a City of refuge, a City of Sanctuary. In your experience have you see this to be true? How much do Churches play a part in those things being worked out?
 - 4) How does or how should being part of Woodlands Church help you serve the City? What pathways of service volunteering are you aware of?
 - 5) As an individual what does it mean for you to 'love your neighbour as yourself'? What do you find most challenging about that command?
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