

# what is a disciple?

back to basics | week two

post falls campus | september 24<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> | pat lessard

---



**Matthew 4:19:** "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

**A disciple is one who:**

- Follows Christ.
- Is changed by Christ.
- Is committed to the mission of Christ.

**Jesus said: "I will build my church." — Matthew 16:18**

- So the question becomes: What is Jesus' church supposed to look like?
- We see the first expression and foundation of that church in Acts 2:42-47

**Scripture paints four pictures of what Jesus' church building plans are:**

- The Family of God — We belong to one another.
- The Temple of God — We live for God and offer ourselves to Him.
- The Body of Christ — We each contribute and function together.
- The Bride of Christ — We love Jesus, remain devoted to Him, and invite others to do the same.

**From this environment, disciples of Jesus are made.**

**OUR MISSION is to make Biblical disciples in relational environments.**

**Acts 11:19-26 ESV — A Picture of Disciples & Discipleship**

**Vs 19** Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews.

**Vs 20** But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

**Vs 21** And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

**Vs 22** The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

**Vs 23** When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose,

**Vs 24** for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

**Vs 25** So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,

**Vs 26** and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

**Noteworthy elements that stand out to me:**

1. God Can Grow Something Through Hardship
2. Learn to See the Grace of God
3. Character Matters

4. Discipleship Happens Best in Team
5. It All Takes Time
6. They Didn't Just Make Converts — They Made Disciples
7. Growth Happened in the Church

**Disciples, you can remain faithful to the Lord by personalizing the definition of a disciple.**

- I am following Jesus...
- I am being changed by Jesus...
- I am committed to the mission of Jesus...

**OUR MISSION is to make Biblical disciples in relational environments.**

**WHAT WE ARE BECOMING is disciples of Jesus**

**WHERE WE BECOME IT is within Jesus' church**

**HOW WE LIVE IT — What does this look like for you?**

**If you haven't yet committed to following Jesus...**

- What is Jesus asking of you?
- What questions do you still have?
- What is keeping you from following Him?
- How can we help?

**If you're a newer or growing disciple...**

- Ask yourself:
  - Who am I learning from?
  - Am I allowing more mature believers to speak into my life?
  - What relational environments am I pressing into?
  - Am I actually known and allowing people to see the real me?
  - Am I being faithful?

**If you're a more mature disciple and/or disciple-maker... (hopefully still growing :-)**

- Ask yourself:
  - Who am I doing team with?
  - Who am I helping fan into flame?
  - Who gets to watch my life and see what following Jesus looks like?
  - Am I recognizing the grace of God in other people's lives, and am I helping them see it too?

