

Notes from Mike Breen, *Building a Discipling Culture Third Edition*. 3dmpublishing.com, 2016

How do we make disciples?

Most are trained for a world that no longer exists. Why? Because of seismic shifts through culture - p.4

If you make disciples you always get the church. If you make church you rarely get disciples. Effective discipleship builds the church. We don't have a missional problem rather a discipleship one. p.5

Jesus method – disciple people. If you know how to make disciples – you will reach people who don't know Jesus. p.6

Making disciples requires texture not just structure. p.7

Jesus taught his disciples to do and to be like him. p.13

Challenge is given best in context of personal relationship. p.15

Discipleship is an intentional pursuit. Discipling people takes time & practice. p.17

Disciple – mathetes – means learner; orient our lives around being lifelong learners of Jesus. p.21

Learning – interplay between classroom/lecture; passing on of information, apprenticeship; immersion. Apprentice oneself to someone who has already learned the skills. Put one into an environment where they can intuitively pick up what they see and experience. p.22

Apprenticeship about investment – someone invests time, energy, skills & life into ours – teaching us what they do. p.23

Immersion is subtlest way of learning. Key-have access to culture you are hoping to shape. p.24

Our model of discipleship – classically we tell people what to do – we have taught about knowing God, not knowing God. p.28-29

Truth of Scripture is meant to be worked out in us. p.30

You want to learn to be a disciple? Find someone with the life that resembles the life of Jesus – do what they do. p.32

Jesus & disciples were a family on mission. p.35

Approval, appetite, ambition – marks of our humanity. Devil uses these to tempt us from our course. p.43

Being on mission with Jesus will always place us in a position where other people's approval of our behavior could be in doubt. p.45

Use money to invest in people's lives so we get friendship out of it. p.52

Spiritual capital is worth far more than financial capital. Invest our gold to grow our faith. Allow our money to serve God. p.53

To make disciples you need a discipleship vehicle (Huddle). People need access to your life (family on mission). Discipling language (life shapes) p.54

Huddle grp – 4-10 people you feel God has called you to specifically invest in – meet with them regularly to intentionally disciple them in a group setting. Best discipling relationships – have intentional, “organized” component to them as well as a less formal, organic component. Huddles grow when members of your huddle start their own. p.55

Organic part – give 4-10 higher access to your life than other people get – simplify life to have space for people to be invited into your life & home. p.56

Fold people into your normal comings and goings. Be more efficient & smart in use of time. Need discipleship language. p.57

Learn to be disciples by becoming life-long learners of Jesus. Q – what is God saying to me & what am I going to do about it? Learn to live in deeper relationships that are balanced between our life with God, life within the church & life with people who don't know Jesus. p.70

Learn a rhythm of rest & work – pray, read Scripture daily – take a weekly Sabbath that recreates us. Learn process Jesus used for discipling – where you are & how to begin. Learn fivefold ministries of Eph 4. Understand how God has shaped you & what this means for your personal calling a disciple. Learn to pray using Lord's prayer – as a template leads to substantial relationship with the Father. p.71

Learn to live in, participate & contribute to spiritual family you are part of. Learn to step into bold mission by identifying people of peace – help them live in spiritual breakthrough. Learn gospel and articulate it. p.72

Call to be a disciple involves daily process of laying down our lives to follow Jesus. p.75

Watch for growth moments (Kairos moments). p.77

Through repentance & belief we enter into discipleship. Through this we learn to lay down our lives and pick up our cross. Metanoia simply means a change of heart that shows up in a lifestyle or behavior change. Repentance is a process word as is believe. p.79

Change in our lives – we need to observe where we are. Reflect on our observations – ask questions – invite others into the change process. For repentance to take hold – we’ve got to share it with someone else...trustworthy friends. p.80

If you want others to be honest & vulnerable about their lives it starts with you. p.82

Believe change is possible. 3 spokes of faith – plan to lead inner change – need someone to hold us accountable. Reflection leads to conversation and discussion. Planning is built around a vision – worries of tomorrow need not dominate us. p.83

Surrender to the process of change. p.87

Who is Jesus to you? p.91

Jesus lived out his life in 3 relationships – UP – with the Father – walk humbly with God; IN – with chosen followers – love mercy; OUT with rest of the world – act justly. p.92

Walking with Jesus should be a joy not a duty. Invite Jesus to be part of your everyday life. p.99

Enjoy God, delight in His presence. p.100

Living in intimacy with Christ is simple yet hard. Live in love with one another. Created to be in relationship, to live in society with others. Today “in” relationships are breaking down at increasing rates. p.101

Look for a person of peace (out), prepared to hear the message of the kingdom and the King. p.116

We are to live a lifestyle of mission, evangelism, & service. p.118

We are not called to go alone – develop a team model for evangelism. p.119

Jesus said – look for people who want to listen to you. People you encounter in your everyday walk. p.121

We need times of rest, extended retreat; quiet resting w/the Lord. Teach others to rest. p. 136

Leadership in the emerging church is no longer about focusing on strategies, core values, mission statements, or church growth principles – it is about leaders first becoming disciples of Jesus with prayerful, missional hearts that are broken for the emerging culture. Leaders to move from managing the church & make discipling others their priority. p.140

Jesus method – offers disciples a relationship with him & a vision to follow. p.141

Leadership style – directive, clear, confident – Western independent mindset questions directive authority. To lead as Jesus – do so with firmness and confidence. Directive leaders must be broken and humble. p.142-3

Stage 2 – let go of old securities. Find security in Jesus. Kingdom of God is given not earned; perceived not taken. It's not what we can do – its' what God can do. p.144-5

Directive style is adapted to more of a coaching style. Jesus later shares his vision & grace w/his disciples. To disciples we must do the same. Talk thru the idea of grace – we can only continue on by God's grace. – p.145

Discipleship moves to state where Jesus refers to His disciples as friends; life is shared. This means spending a lot of time w/Jesus. p.149

Next stage of discipleship – go out into the world. Rely on God to do His work. Now is time for delegating authority and responsibility. Disciple now becomes the leader. p.153

For next generation – not about doing church but being the Church. p.157

Goal- help people discover & acknowledge who God has made them to be. Help people to find their base in terms of Eph. 4 APEST. p.158

Pioneers/Developers

Pioneers enjoy change, doing new things is exciting – Pioneers committed to flexibility. Pioneers find themselves bored & frustrated by discipline to sustain what has been established. Love breakthroughs, always looking for next frontier to explore & tame. p.172

Developers are committed to continuity, stability & conservation. Prefer to grow & develop rather than brand new. Great at implementation & processing – like to see things thru to the end. Steady, solid, like to know what to expect; most comfortable when things are moving smoothly according to plan. Don't like instability.

Pioneers – Apostle/Prophet/Evangelist

Settlers/Developers – Pastor/Teacher

Two don't exist well together. Both are vital and mission critical. p.173

Without pioneers we will never gain new territory for kingdom; without developers we will never keep territory that was won

Be careful this is not an exact science. Don't box people in. Character and maturity are developed by moving away from natural preferences. p.175

Go to Jesus to learn the art of prayer. Teach Lord's prayer in terms of the six elements. p.179

Part 3 – About using Huddles to disciple people. Practical instruction. Worth reading.