

Day 16 – The Great Commission

Welcome to week 4 of our devotional series, Experience Jesus, where we are helping you follow Jesus and teaching you principles to help others do the same. This week, we're going to complete our disciple-making circle.

First, to follow Jesus means to **LOOK to JESUS**. This involves learning what it means to be a disciple, understand the Gospel, and be a part of a local church. Second, to follow Jesus means to **LIVE like JESUS**. Jesus in such a way that He gave us an example to follow. Third, to follow Jesus means to **LOVE like JESUS**. How we treat one another will be a direct expression of our belief and love for God. This week, we're going to wrap up our study by sharing how to **LEAD like JESUS**.



The Great Commission

Leading like Jesus starts with the Great Commission. You may have noticed that this passage has been repeated several times throughout our study, and this has been done on purpose. The mission of God is at the very core of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Today we're going to examine this mission a little deeper.

Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

I want you to notice a few things about the mission of God. First, this passage comes after the resurrection. Without the resurrection of Jesus, nothing is possible. However, when the disciples realized that Jesus had conquered death, the phrase "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" carries a lot more weight to it. Second, notice that even when interacting with a resurrected Jesus, some people doubted. We must know that if people doubted Jesus, not everyone is going to listen to us. That's okay. And that should not stop us from our mission. Third, Jesus ends with mission statement with encouragement that He is going to be with us every step of the way. He did not give us purpose without promising the power to complete it.

And now that we've taken brief look at the surround statements of the Great Commission, I want to study the action words themselves.

Day 17 | Empowered to Make Disciples

If we want to lead like Jesus, we must learn to empower others. Jesus modeled an empowering leadership style. He was never content for His disciples to simply follow Him as spectators but instead, He empowered them to do what He was doing. He even said that they would do even greater things than He (John 14:12).

Luke 9:1-2
And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

John 20:21
21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

Acts 1:8
8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Power comes from God
Empowering people can seem scary. What if they are not ready? What if they make mistakes? The reality is that they probably are not ready, and they most likely will make mistakes. Then why must we do it? Why must we take the risk of empowering others to lead like Jesus? We must take the risk because what other option do we have? We must take the risk because Jesus took the risk on His disciples, and somebody once took a risk on you! Mistakes in ministry are not optional. They are a required learning tool. As leaders it's important that we create environments where believers are encouraged to take risks and make mistakes in an effort to ultimately make disciples.

The same power that conquered the grave now lives in us and is available to all who believe in Him. Trust God to grow believers into mature followers of Him and create opportunities for others to lead.

2 Timothy 1:7
7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Start Small. Start a Discipleship Group.

Jesus made disciples in small groups. He built relationships and invested in them through community. It was not enough for disciples to relate to Jesus, they had to relate to one another. Use the structure of D.N.A. mentioned earlier in this study to create a basic structure when you gather. Start your meeting with time spent discovering **Divine truth**. If you are not studying the Bible together, it's going to be difficult to learn how to live like Jesus. Second, **nurture love** in your relationships by growing in your understanding of one another. Ask questions. Seek answers. Be vulnerable. Be honest. Relationships are not built in a day, but they are built daily, through open communication and connection. Finally, spend time prayer, **affirming God's mission for your lives**, asking God to help you apply what you are learning.

Are you looking for material to go through as a discipleship group?

1. Start by going through this devotional series, Experience Jesus.
2. Watch the videos either together or separately.
3. Come together to discuss and apply what you watched.
4. Dig deeper into questions they have or into areas they want to learn.
5. Encourage one another in prayer.

All disciple-making groups start somewhere. Why not start here? Why not start now? Reach out to 1-2 people and start your own group to begin making disciples today.

Day 18 – What is Leadership?

Trying to define leadership can sometimes feel like holding onto gelatin. You know that you have got something in your hand, but you're not exactly sure what you are holding onto. In our lesson today, we want to share a practical definition of leadership to help you better make and multiply disciples.

Definition of Leadership

The following is useful definition of leadership followed by a brief explanation of what it means.

Leadership - the process of influencing people to work together for a common purpose.

First, leadership is a process because leadership shows the need for movement. One can only lead if he or she is going somewhere and others are following. Also, leadership is a process because it is ongoing and not a one-time action. Second, leadership is influence because it is not confined by position or status. It involves daily decision making that shows attitude reflected through actions. Third, leadership involves working together because certain aspects in life cannot be done alone. Leadership is a team sport, and leaders are in the people business, meaning teams work best when people work together. Finally, leadership centers around a common purpose because people rally around a shared vision.

2 Values of Leadership

What you value determines what you do, and what you do demonstrates what you value. Therefore, as we begin understand what it means to develop leaders, it's important to understand the two key values of leadership.

1. Servanthood

Servant leadership shows humility and puts the needs of others first. Servant leaders use their power to lift others up.

“We live in a time where holders of power are suspect and actions that stem from authority are questioned. Legitimized power has become an ethical imperative.”

Robert Greenleaf

“Multiplying disciples by teaching them to walk on an increasing path of obedience. We develop and multiply leaders by teaching them to walk on an increasing path of servanthood.”

Larry Osborne

“My hope is that someday people won't talk about servant leadership because that will be the only type of leadership that exists.”

Patrick Lencioni

Mark 10:43-45

43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

2. Transformation

Transformational leadership is not about getting people to behave differently, but about helping people become who God has called them to be. Transformational leaders are relational, intentional, and missional.

Matthew 4:19

19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

2 Corinthians 3:18

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Biblical Examples of Leadership

There are many examples of leadership development in the Bible. For our purposes, here is an abbreviated list for further discussion:

- Jesus to the Disciples (Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)
- Disciples to Church Leaders(Acts 6/7; Ephesians 4:12)
- Moses to Joshua (Numbers 27)
- Elijah to Elisha (1 Kings 19)
- Paul to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:2)

Day 19 – What is our Leadership Process? (Part 1)

The early movement of the church grew when leaders were multiplied. Multiplication stronger than simple addition. Consider the following math:

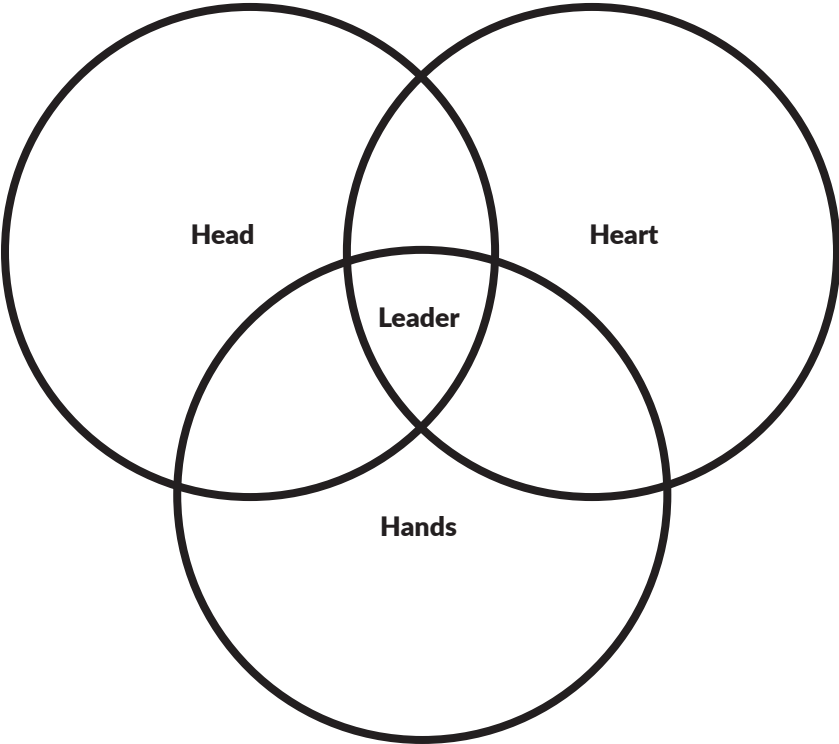
$$2+2+2+2+2+2+2+2+2+2 = 20 \quad \text{or} \quad 2 \text{ to the } 10\text{th power} = 1024$$

When the emphasis is on multiplication, growth happens exponentially. This was the early process of discipleship and leadership development for the early church. Paul would enter cities, develop leaders, and then those leaders would continue to develop others and expand their ministry in the region. Check out how the verse below contains four generations of believers:

2 Timothy 2:2
2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Our Leadership Development Process

1. **Identification (Calling)** Finding potential leaders
2. **Instruction (Competency/Head)** Teaching knowledge, skills and application.
3. **Impartation (Character/Heart)** Developing character, trust, spiritual gifts, and passion.
4. **Internship (Capacity/Hands)** Helping grow confidence and teamwork through shared experience.



As wrap up our discussion on what it means to lead like Jesus, we want to offer a practical process people can use to develop others. This process is not necessarily linear in that several steps may be accomplished in a different order or at the same time. However, this process can be used and repeated to intentionally and continually develop the people around you.

Step #1 – Identification

The first step in developing people is to identify potential leaders. You want to find people who might be called to follow Jesus. Remember that God’s job is to save. Our job is to share. We don’t have to be shy when it comes to reaching out to people. Consider your family. Think of your friends. Pray for your co-workers. Is there someone or a few people who might be interested in spiritual things? Is there someone with whom you can share your faith and they would want to know more? Spend time in prayer and then spend time talking to people, sharing your story and the Gospel with them (Day 2 from our devotional).

Step #2 – Instruction

The second step in developing leaders is instruction. Here you will focus on competency, which involves teaching knowledge and skills for the purpose of application. As you pass along information, it’s important to do so with repetition, grace, and compassion. Repetition is important because people might not remember the first time. Grace is important because people will regularly mess up. Finally, compassion is important because it helps you connect on a deeper level building trust in your relationship.

Day 20 | What is our Leadership Process? (Part 2)

Yesterday, we shared the importance of multiplication for making disciples. Every Christian should be a disciple-maker. The first two steps of developing leaders are identification and instruction. You might not be able to invest in everybody, but you can invest in somebody. Remember that the bulk of Jesus' time was not spent healing the sick or preaching sermons. He spent the majority of His time investing in a small group of people who would go on to do the same. Today we're going to finish our discussion of leadership development, but before we do, I want to share encouraging verses from Paul's letter to the Galatians and his challenge to Timothy, a man whom Paul had personally disciplined and developed:

Galatians 6:9-10

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

1 Timothy 4:12

12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Don't give up. Don't quit. Keep investing in people for the sake of God's kingdom. Set the example for others to follow. God is worth it. You are worth it. God will continue to work as long as we continue to be faithful.

Step #3 – Impartation

The third step of leadership development involves impartation. Here you will focus on developing a person's character, passion for God, and heart for people. It's one thing to learn how to read the Bible (instruction), but it's another to believe what it says and have it impact your life on a personal level (impartation).

When helping impart passion and character to another person, it's important to be open, honest, and vulnerable with your own life. Don't compare your start to someone else's finish. Let people see both your successes and your failures. Show people how you are feeling and connect with how they might be feeling. Remember that even Jesus demonstrated a level of empathy for those around him as exemplified by the time he cried with Mary and Martha (John 11:35).

Step #4 – Internship

The final step of leadership development involves an internship. The experience of the hands makes for a great teacher. Watching videos about playing sports is not the same thing as playing sports. It's one thing to call a play. It's another to play the game. The final step of leadership development involves getting people into the game. If we are going to empower others to lead, we must give them the opportunity to do so. Doing activities together help grow their confidence as well as you can offer feedback and encouragement along the way. Whatever leadership position you are preparing another for, consider the following structure:

- **I do, you watch**
→ Example – You lead a discipleship group. They attend.
- **I do, you help**
→ Example – You lead discipleship group. They help lead discussion.
- **You do, I help**
→ Example – They lead discipleship group. You jump in where needed.
- **You do, I watch**
→ Example – They start their own discipleship group. You are present but not active.

In summary, once you identify a potential leader, you want to come along side that person to develop their head, heart, and hands. Instruction develops the mind, impartation develops the heart, and internship develops the hands.

If we multiply leaders this way and lead like Jesus, we can rest assured that the mission of God will be accomplished.

Closing Prayer

As we finish our four weeks together, it our desire that God will continue to work in your life. For this reason, I would like to pray over you. If you are leading someone else through this study, I would encourage you to pray this prayer over them.

Dear God,
I lift up whomever is experiencing this devotional today. First, let us continue to look to Jesus for our daily needs and questions. We do not live for our identify, but from our identity. God, we desire to be your disciples, which means to follow You, fish for people, and fellowship with other believers. Second, God let us continue to live like Jesus. As Jesus depended on the Holy Spirit, displayed devotion to You, developed healthy relationships, and demonstrated a life of obedience, may we follow in His footsteps and do the same. Third, God let us love like Jesus. May we use our unique shape to serve and build up the body of the church. Finally, God let us lead like Jesus. May we continue to live out the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations. God be with us every step of the way and help us develop leaders will also make and multiply disciples. Thank you for saving us. Thank you for loving us. God, be with us now as we go to the ends of the earth to bring glory to Your Name. Amen.