

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - We Belong 2020: Let's Follow
Topic - DiscipleSHIFT (2 parts)

Date - 22-AUG-2020
Speaker - Snr Ps Ben Lee

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Reward
2. Spirit Touch Your Church

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand what our purpose is as believers.
2. Understand what disciple making entails.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. Our life purpose is to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20).
2. Disciple making is relational, purposeful, and requires culture transformation.
3. Discipleship is a long obedience that is built through scriptural foundation, spiritual experience, and a life surrendered to God.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Our calling on planet earth is to ask what we were created to be.

- "Don't act thoughtlessly but try to find out and do whatever the Lord wants you to do." - **Ephesians 5:17 (TLB)**
- "But I reckon my own life to be worth nothing to me; I only want to complete my mission and finish the work that the Lord Jesus gave me to do, which is to declare the Good News about the grace of God." - **Acts 20:24 (GNB)**

Our purpose in life is found in the unfinished work of the Church. We, as believers, are the Church. Our unfinished work is to tell others about the finished work of Christ. Jesus teaches in Matthew 28:19-20 that our life purpose is to make disciples of all nations. *Our purpose is to be disciplined to make disciples.*

PART 1

Why then, are so many believers more like attendees? Is something missing in the church today? Disciple-making is missing.

1) Disciple Making is Relational

- Culture puts an incredible emotional weight on the shoulders of an individual.
- Every time Christ calls a person, He places him or her in a community. Every one of us belongs to two families: our natural family and our spiritual family.
- Christ redefines family around the community of disciples (*Matthew 12:48-50*).
- *“While our natural families are still the most significant earthly relationships, we must learn to situate our natural families under the overarching rubric of the family of God – not as distinct social entities competing for time and attention but as members of the same family.” - Joseph Hellerman*
- We need spiritual father and parents, and even siblings, who will grow together in Christ.
- *“The family and the local church are two sides of the same discipleship coin working together to form the next generation in Christ.” - Brian Haynes*
- It takes a family to raise a child, it takes a village to raise a family.
- We also need spiritual friends (*Eccl. 4:12*). It is not so much about discipleship, but about creating relationships for spiritual growth and encouragement. Jesus not only gave love to others, He also received love from friends.

2) Disciple Making is Purposeful

Jesus: “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4:19.

- A disciple is someone who:
 - is following Christ / “follow me” (v.19a)
 - is being changed by Christ / “I will make you” (v.19b)
 - is committed to the mission of Christ (to save people from their sin) / “fishers of men” (v.19c)
 - A Christian is a disciple (*Acts 11:26*)

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” - Matthew 28:19-20

- Disciple Making is:
 - Reaching people with the gospel / “go” and “make disciples” (v.19)
 - Nurturing their walk with Christ / “teaching them to obey everything I’ve commanded you” (v. 20)
 - Nurturing growth into His likeness / “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (v.19)
 - Continue this process with others / “go” and “make disciples” (v.19)
- Making disciples is about a heart change. We are to make disciples who then disciple others.

3) Disciple Making means Culture Transformation

- In July 2018, our Vision, Mission and Core Values got updated.
 - The main shift is from running programmes to making disciples.

- We started with strengthening and rebuilding our cell groups which has proven to be useful in the pandemic today. It is doing life together even outside of the cell meeting – spiritual life is not a programme.
- In this culture shift, all cell members are personally disciplined, and they are rising up spiritually. When we become effective in making disciples, there will be more disciple makers.

PART 2

Are we growing up in the Lord or are we just growing older?

1) Disciple Making Dimensions

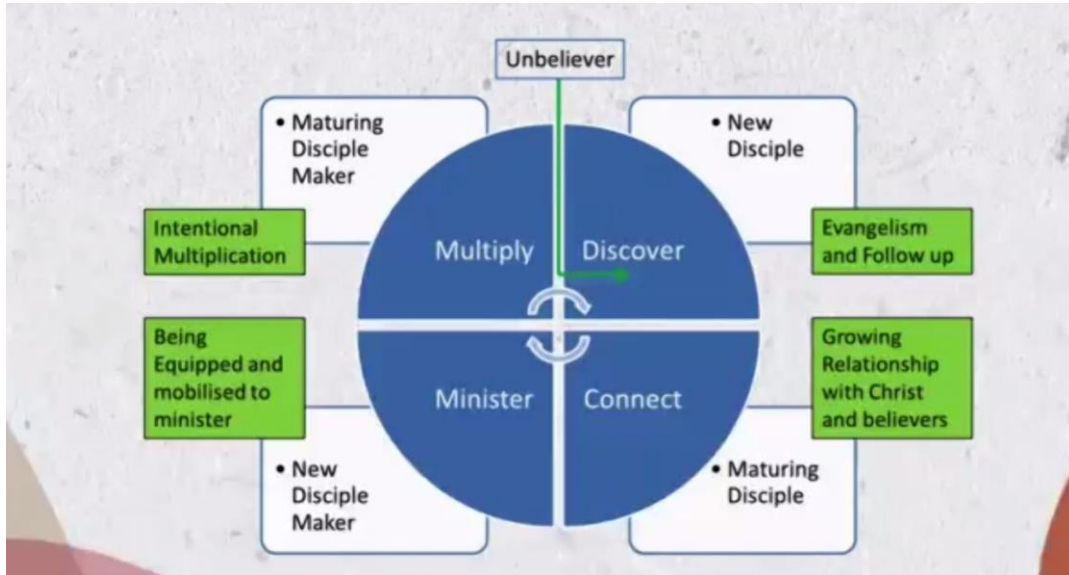
- Scriptural Foundation
 - *“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free...” - John 8:32*
 - Build up scriptural foundation by learning from the Scripture and sharing with others what you have learnt.
 - Scripture knowledge builds the foundation of our faith.
- Spiritual Experience
 - There are milestone experiences formative for faith.
 - God’s Spirit is responsible for our spiritual rebirth in Christ and our ongoing renewal into His image.
 - Experiences leads us to encounter the Truth (*Psa. 34:8*).
- Surrendered Life
 - Disciple making is primarily based on obedience. Faith is obedience, even at personal cost.
 - God’s Spirit is active, and our disciple makers are discipling us. However, you and I need to respond accordingly in our hearts by surrendering our old self and our old ways.
 - Obedience leads us to submit our will to Christ (*Psa. 40:6-8*).

2) Disciple Making is a Long Obedience

- *“Discipleship is a long obedience in the same direction.” - Eugene Peterson*
- The goal of disciple making is to equip the child, young person and adult, to have a lifelong relationship with Christ and to make disciples.
- Obstacles to a long obedience:
 - *“Our hearts are idol factories.” - Tim Keller*
 - Our old self and the desire for self-actualisation lurks in our hearts always. Our heart is deceitful (*Jeremiah 17*) and we need to be careful that we are obeying God and not our worldly desires.
 - We try to find life in false vines almost every single day. We are tempted to find life in the worldly vines of work, family, possessions, etc. As believers, we lean on God’s grace for obedience. Jesus is the true vine (*John 15*); the only vine that gives us life.
- *“The church is the only institution in society that connects with people from cradle to grave.” – Linda Hoops*
- Similarly, our natural and spiritual family (the church) is connected with us from cradle to grave.
- Our life on earth and our relationships with each other is a preparation for eternity.
- Good News for us:
 - RiverLife Church is relational.
 - Many show care and concern to others.

- *Whole Life Inventory* results (July 2016) shows that:
 - 26% are being disciplined.
 - 51% are not disciplined but desired to be disciplined.
 - 23% are not disciplined and do not wish to be disciplined.

3) Disciple Making Roadmap



- There is a clear path outlined in the Bible for discipleship and disciple making.
- The aim of the roadmap above is to make it easier for all to identify where we are and what our next step might be.
- This tool is for pre, new and growing Christians. It illustrates major steps to help us grow spiritually as a disciple.

NEXT STEPS

- 1) Express gratefulness to our family – they are very important to our wellbeing and is one of the pillars of support.
- 2) Be planted in a local church – join a cell group, get baptised, join the church family, share in their vision and mission.
- 3) Seek out a Paul – seek to be mentored/discipled.
- 4) Be a Barnabas – encourage each other in your spiritual journey.
- 5) Seek out a Timothy – seek to disciple others. You do not have to be spiritually mature to disciple others, but you need to continue growing in faith to effectively disciple.

Discussion Questions

1. **Share one impactful moment that you had (or your journey) in your time in RiverLife Church. What made you choose RiverLife as your spiritual family? (Recap)** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

Get members to think about their time in RiverLife Church (it is our 29th anniversary!). It is also an opportunity for them to examine their relationship with the church.

- *Do they feel a sense of belonging at RiverLife?*

- Do they have that ‘burden’ to help grow the people in RiverLife and bring the church to her next spiritual milestone?
- What can they do to feel like they ‘belong’ more to RiverLife – that RiverLife is more than a community but a family?

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

At some point in your spiritual journey, you must have made the choice to make RiverLife your spiritual family. Naturally, as a family member you want to fulfil the purpose of the church – disciple making – to finish what Christ set us to do (declare the Good News).

- 2. As mentioned by Snr Ps Ben, disciple making requires long obedience. How can we sustain our long obedience to God and not lose stamina? (Relate, Reflect) [15 min]**

Leader’s Notes:

Obedience to God is one of the important dimensions in disciple making. Long obedience to God comes with the full surrender of our lives to God. When we give God our dreams, align our desires to His, and let Him direct our steps, it is easier to obey Him for the long haul.

“Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.’” - Luke 9:23

Here are two articles on surrendering to God:

- 1) *Surrender to God: 5 Things to Let Go* - <https://www1.cbn.com/spiritual-life/surrender-to-god-5-things-to-let-go>
- 2) *Total Surrender* - <https://utmost.org/total-surrender/>

Also, journeying with a Barnabas (more mature believer) and our spiritual family (the church / cell) can help us last the long haul.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

We will not regret surrendering to God. When we surrender, instead of being miserable for the loss of control over our lives, we will gain deep-seated contentment and divine joy. Walking in His will for us is the safest place we can be. There are practical things we can do to help ourselves as well – to invest our time and energy into our cell community life, and the church. When we are actively participating in a community of believers, we will be spurred on in our faith, and kept accountable in our ways! This will help us to last the long haul.

- 3. Ps. Ben shared some next steps that we can take after this weekend. Which of the following steps would you want to take first? Why and how do you plan to take that step? (Response) [15 min]**

Next steps:

- Express gratefulness to our family
- Be planted in a local church (this can include getting water baptized, joining the family, serving in a ministry, etc.)
- Seek out a Paul
- Be a Barnabas
- Seek out a Timothy

Leader's Notes:

Knowledge must be turned into action, if lasting change is to take place. The purpose of this question is to facilitate the "next steps" for members to take, now that they know the direction and emphasis of the church. As members share their next step, encourage them and provide them with suggestions to spur them on!

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting to Cell & Closing the Discussion)

As RiverLife transitions into a Disciple-Making Church, let us all make this an emphasis in our lives as well – maturing into the likeness of Christ. This is why we exist as a church, and this is why we exist as disciples of Christ! So, let us all take our next steps so that we can mature together as the body of Christ into the likeness of Christ!

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray for the following pointers:

1. COVID-19 Situation
 - Pray for Christians to continue to grow and share the good news during this period.
 - Pray for the recovery of our economy, locally and globally.
 - Pray for the decrease in the total number of infections in the community and dormitories.
2. For God to give us the intense desire to be disciple and to disciple others:
 - For the Holy Spirit to lead us to our Paul/Timothy.
 - For us to be a Barnabas to our cell members.
 - To surrender our lives to God and cling to the true Vine – Jesus, for without which we are nothing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting www.riverlife.org.sg/brp.
2. **Water Baptism Class**
Sat, 5 Sep | 2pm to 5pm | Online via Zoom
Register for this class at rlc.sg/baptism-class by Sun, 30 Aug.
For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.
Next baptism service is on Sun, 27 Sep afternoon



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.
Scan this QR code on the right.

SCAN ME



2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0
Bank Code: 7171
Branch Code: 029



Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.

