

## The Family: Playbook

Discipleship is Christ's strategy for the Church to spread His glory throughout the earth, and parenting is simply another setting for discipleship. Are you motivated? Are you equipped? You are not in it alone. We are here to help.

This morning: Finishing our series on the family

Begin with a report

- Brian & I went to Chicago to visit a large, multisite church - see how God had multiplied their ministry
- Went because we believe God is calling us to multiply again
  - In a couple weeks - will be completely out of room - at Southwood & Anderson
  - No room for new students, families, children, visitors
  - Must launch our next campus ASAP... and then another & another to keep up with what God is doing in our community
- So we went to Chicago - Harvest Bible Chapel - 14,000 at 7 campuses

One of most important lessons we learned, frame it as a question...

**To launch our next campus, what's the PRIMARY thing we need to do?**

**Most people assume the answer is: raise money and buy a building.**

- But that's not been the case for Harvest
  - 1 campus in rented community center - costs little; easy to start; doing well
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> campus - \$58 M office building; fits 3000 - Price: \$1 - Hobby Lobby
  - Someone else gave them a TV studio - now a campus
  - A family gave them Masonic Temple in downtown Chicago - newest campus
- Money and buildings - God can take care of that in an instant!
  - So raising \$ and building buildings is not the PRIMARY thing we need to do

**So what is the primary thing we need to do to launch our next campus...**

**Answer we saw at Harvest & here 5 yrs ago when we launched Southwood: MAKE DISCIPLES**

- What we need more than \$ or facilities - disciples of Jesus who make more disciples
- Actually the task Jesus called every one of us to participate in
  - **Matt 28:19-20a**
- = His Great Commission - final instructions to His followers, to us
- This is how Grace Bible Church will grow & launch our next campuses

**BUT here's the problem - that word "disciple" is insider language**

- churchy language - hear it in church all the time
- but most people don't have any clear idea what it means
- **It reminds me of my son**
  - likes to speak in his own language - kind of a 3-yr old thing
  - "What would you like for breakfast?" "Orga-borga-morga-forga"
  - Cute - but I don't know what to do with it!
  - Funny for 30 secs but then gets frustrating.
- Some of you may have felt that same sense of frustration on Sunday mornings

- hear all this insider language - like “disciple” - but you don’t know what it means

### What is a disciple? What does it mean to “make a disciple”?

- Actually very simple
- **in Greek: disciple = “learner” - one who learns to follow a teacher**
  - o learns to walk in his steps and be like him in every way.
  - o In Mt 28, Jesus is calling us to make disciples of Him.
  - o That begins with the GOSPEL
    - We’re not born followers of Jesus; we’re born followers of sin - guilty
    - But God offers us grace - forgiveness & deliverance from sin
    - Comes the moment we believe the GOSPEL
    - You are forgiven and become Jesus’ disciple.
    - That’s the first step of discipleship.
  - o For all those who believe, Jesus tells us to **“teach them to observe...”**
    - That’s how a person GROWS as His disciples - learn to follow Him
  - o **SO: A disciple is a believer who has learned to follow Jesus**
- **In Col 1, Paul defines for us what a disciple looks like... Col 1:28**
  - o “Complete in Christ” = your life is completely like Jesus’ life
  - o Your character mimics His character
- **Or as Paul explains in Gal 4:19**
  - o “until Christ is formed in you” - looks so much like Jesus - when the world sees you, they see Jesus
  - o They see Jesus’ love in you... compassion in you... humility in you...

**The ONLY way Grace Bible Church can grow to become all that God wants us to be...**

**...is if we all become multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ**

- each of us growing
- AND each of us helping someone else grow

**Now let’s get practical. How exactly do you make a disciple?**

**The Bible lays out a 5-step process for making disciples:**

It begins with a decision that you make...

#### **1) COMMIT to make disciples**

- Discipleship doesn’t happen by accident
- You must decide to invest your time & energy into this sacred work

#### **2) SHARE the gospel in word & deed**

- We can’t create disciples - only God can do that.
- What we’re responsible to do: share the message that can create disciples: Gospel
  - o Share the gospel with your words
    - Be ready in season and out of season - know the gospel cold
      - if fuzzy, talk to one of us
    - Pray for opportunities to share it
  - o Share the gospel with your actions
    - love, service, kindness, forgiveness - how we show the world that Jesus is real
    - John 13:35

God will use our words and actions to save some. For all of them, move to step 3...

### 3) PROVIDE the essentials

- The new believer is a baby Christian, and what does a baby need?
  - o Love, protection, food, poop cleaned up
  - o Just the basics of life - just the most essential things.
- So in spiritual life - new believers needs just the essentials - basic truths & practices
- Teach them the essentials of the faith
  - o Who is God? Jesus? How can you know you have eternal life? How can you resist sin and walk in obedience? How do you pray? Worship?
  - o Essentials packet
    - Resources: Bible Studies: Essentials
    - Class this fall

### 4) TRAIN to be self-sufficient

- One of my happiest days as a parent: Gracie went to the restroom all by herself!
- That's your goal as a parent - to help your kids become self-sufficient
  - o If that doesn't happen, we begin to worry!
  - o You are supposed to grow up and learn to take care of yourself.
- Same in the spiritual life: we are supposed to learn to take care of ourselves.
  - o How to feed ourselves from God's Word.
  - o How to strengthen ourselves through prayer and accountability.
  - o How to use our gifts and participate in the body of Christ.
- That's the 4<sup>th</sup> step: training them to walk with the Lord on their own for life

### 5) COMMISSION to make disciples

- The final step - call them to join you in the Great Commission - the goal / finish line
- As Paul says in **2 Tim 2:2**...
  - o Have the vision, desire, and skills to repeat this process with someone else
- That's my hope for everyone in this room:
  - o Sunday morning - someone accepts the gospel
  - o I can look at you and ask, "Please disciple..."
  - o And have you say, "You bet!"
- I want all of us to have the passion and ability to make disciples for Jesus Christ
- That's God's desire for Grace Bible Church.

### Challenge this fall: Commit to invest in the task of making disciples

- Where do you need to grow so that you'll be ready to make a disciple?
- Who can you help grow? Who has Jesus brought in to your life?

### TRANSITION TO ZACK:

Past few weeks we have been talking about family

- God designed the family to be the primary relationship where discipleship happens - where parents train their children to follow Jesus
- And so Zack Nigliazzo our Children's pastor is going to come give us his vision and practical ideas for how we parents can disciple our children.

## Overview

- Purpose
- Pillars
- **Playbook**

## Playbook

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power, and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood **through what has been made**, so that they are without excuse

“Nothing has made me feel more incompetent as a human being than parenting!”

— Brian Fisher

Ephesians 4:11-13

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

How we Make Disciples

- COMMIT to make disciples
- SHARE the gospel in word & deed
- PROVIDE the essentials
- TRAIN to be self-sufficient
- COMMISSION to make disciples

How we Make Disciples as **Parents**

- COMMIT to make disciples...**of your kids**
- SHARE the gospel in word & deed...**with your kids**
- PROVIDE the essentials...**to your kids**
- TRAIN **your kids** to be self-sufficient
- COMMISSION **your kids** to make disciples
- **Walk alongside them in life**

Playbook

1. Bring the wisdom together
2. Put the information at your fingertips
  - a. Commit to Family
  - b. Lay Foundations
  - c. Build Framework
  - d. Grow Alongside
  - e. Call to Pass Along
  - f. Cultivate Ownership
3. Keep intentional parenting in front of you

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

The words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

You shall teach them **diligently** to your sons and shall talk of them **when** you sit in your house and **when** you walk by the way and **when** you lie down and **when** you rise up.”

4. Encourage you
  - Example
  - Making it work
    - Do it
    - Do it again
    - Do it consistently