

REPLICATE

SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION GUIDE



REPLICATE THROUGH RELATIONSHIP

Check in – share your successes and/or struggles with the last challenge.

Watch *Replicate Through Relationship* video on Mt. Zion's YouTube channel (Commit, Imitate, Replicate playlist) or on the website.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Invitation

1 Thes. 2:1 it says that Paul's visit to this church had results. It takes a disciple to make a disciple. We cannot replicate Jesus in others if we are not striving to replicate Jesus in ourselves. What does it mean to be a replica of Jesus, and why is this important to making disciples?

Discipleship is more than just teaching people information. In verses 2-8 we see how Paul approached discipling relationships with the Thessalonians. Verse 8 says that he did not just share the gospel but his entire life. What does this look like, and how do we do it with others? Read 1 Corinthians 11:1.

It is hard to correct and have accountability with someone without a true relationship. People often will not completely listen due to a lack of relationship but will listen and respond to those whom they have established trust with. What are ways we can build relationships and trust with others in order to create an avenue for discipline and accountability?

Being a replicator requires a close relationship to the one you are discipling, but it also requires sacrifice like a parent. Some of the "fatherly" and "motherly" things Paul's lists in this passage are facing opposition, having pure motives,

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being honest, not wearing a mask, not being people-pleasing, nurturing, not placing burdens on others, encouraging, and comforting. How do we walk out the actions that Paul describes in this passage in our discipleship relationships?

Challenge

Is someone helping you become like Jesus? Are you helping someone become like Jesus? What do these relationships look like, and how do they look like Paul's relationship with the Thessalonians?

Take some time to reflect on how you can grow in your discipleship relationships. Write an "I Will" statement about one of the attitudes we saw in Paul's relationship with the Thessalonians that you need to grow in in your discipling relationships? What steps will you take to form more discipleship relationships or deepen the ones you already have?

I will _____

* Please share your "I will" statement with your small group.

Next Steps:

Choose a prayer partner and throughout the week, check in with each other on these "I will" statements. Encourage and pray for one another. At your next small group gathering, share your successes and struggles in your commitment to replicating through relationships.

REPLICATE: COMMITTING TO MENTORING

Check in – share your successes and/or struggles with the last challenge.

Watch *Replicate: Committing to Mentoring* video on Mt. Zion's YouTube channel (Commit, Imitate, Replicate playlist) or on the website.

Read John 6:1-13

Invitation

Jesus' Mentoring Model: Watch me do it, do it with me, do it on your own, teach someone else to do it.

What does this miracle show us about Jesus' mentoring model?

During this miracle, the disciples were learning about ministry as well as who Jesus was. Jesus modeled intentional actions in His relationships with people. He gave the disciples hands-on experience in learning to care for others. He didn't just have them sit back and watch Him meet people's needs. He got them actively involved in ministering to all the people around them. Watch me do. Do it with me. Do it on your own. Teach someone else to do it. This is what Jesus was doing with the time that He had with the disciples. In the text Jesus brought them to a place where others were in need. He had given them real teachings prior to this event. He connected them to God and to each other. Jesus equipped and empowered them to do ministry. He showed them that they could come to the point where they too could make disciples. Why?

Disciples make disciples, right? This is why it is important that we all have a strong relationship

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with Jesus and that we continue the mentoring model — replicating ourselves and making more disciples of Christ.

The miracle listed above is just one example of the mentoring model. As a group, brainstorm some other examples in scripture where we can see this model.

Extra readings to discuss as a group: Proverbs 27:17, Proverbs 13:20, and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

What do these areas of scripture show us about having others in our lives?

Challenge (for challenge portion, break up into gender-based groups)

We can all see the benefits of being in a mentoring relationship. Share some of your own firsthand experiences in being in a mentoring relationship. Then answer the following questions.

Who are the mentors in your life?

If you do not have one, why not? Pray about it. Ask God to show you who your mentor should be.

Who are you mentoring?

Disciples make disciples. If God has done something in your life, then you have something to offer and to share with someone else. He has given each of us a testimony, and we should be willing to share it with others just as the early disciples did. Whatever you know about Jesus, you should be sharing.

Church, we all need to be accountable to someone. Seriously consider committing to a mentoring relationship.

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Take a moment to pray about how you can commit to a mentoring relationship — either seeking out a mentor for yourself or asking God who you should potentially mentor. Jesus in the act of forgiveness.

I will _____

* Please share your “I will” statement with your small group.

Next Steps:

Choose a prayer partner and throughout the week, check in with each other on these “I Will statements. Encourage and pray for one another. At your next small group gathering, update your small group on your mentoring decisions — who you chose as your mentor if you didn’t have one, or who God placed on your heart to potentially mentor.

REPLICATE THROUGH COMMISSIONING

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Invitation

How did Jesus use relationship and mentoring to disciple His 12 apostles?

How did Jesus balance invitation and challenge through this discipling process to help His disciples grow in the truth?

Jesus' goal for His disciples wasn't just to imitate His character, it was to imitate His mission.

Read Matthew 28:18-20. What do these verses reveal about God's mission for His disciples? How do these verses apply to the church today?

Pastor Riley said that God's growth plan for the church is fully - commissioned disciples. Paint a picture of what a church full of commissioned disciples would look like. How would that change how people went to work? How would that change how people interacted with neighbors, co-workers, strangers, and family members?

Challenge

Let's make it personal. Do you see yourself as someone who is commissioned to make disciples that make disciples? Why or why not?

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Who in your life are you discipling to imitate the character of Jesus? How can you lead them to a place of commissioning them into their ministry?

Take some time to reflect on the idea of discipleship and where you are at in the process. Who is God calling you to disciple, and how can you lead them to a place of commissioning them into their own ministry?

I will _____

* Please share your “I will” statement with the group.

Pray

Spend some time praying for each other regarding your “I Will” statements, as well as other things going on in your lives.

Next Steps:

Choose a prayer partner and throughout the week, check in with each other on these “I will” statements. Encourage and pray for one another. At your next small group gathering, share your successes and struggles in your commitment to Replicate Through Commissioning.