What Is The Gospel?

According to Bill Hull, disciple making author, "The gospel you preach will determine the disciple that you make." For example, a consumeristic gospel creates consumeristic disciples who are more focused on meeting their own needs than the needs of Christ and his kingdom. But a kingdom oriented gospel produces disciples intent on imitating Christ.

Chapter one of Bill’s book, "Conversion & Discipleship" is an excellent resource for examining this issue. Bill explores the 5 dysfunctional gospels that exist in our culture and inspires us to re-examine the gospel that we see in the scriptures.

Have each member on your board write their own definition of the gospel here.

______________________________________________________________________

Now have each member of your board ask two people from your congregation what their definition of the gospel is, and report back at your next meeting.

Is there anything missing in your own definition or those of your congregants? Is there anything that doesn’t match up with what the Bible says about the gospel?

Here are some scriptures to examine, which speak directly to this....

A List of Resources to help you with this discussion, is listed in the appendix.

What Is a Disciple maker?

If you were to read the New Testament through cover to cover, and you had to come up with a concise definition of a disciple maker, what would you say? Have each member of your board write their own definition here.

______________________________________________________________________

Now have each member of your board ask two people from your congregation what their definition of a disciple maker is and report back.

Is there anything missing in your own definition or those of your congregants? Is there anything that doesn’t match up with Jesus’ own words on disciple making?

The following is a list of relevant scriptures on disciple making, to inform your discussion...

Matthew 4:19 “Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!”

Mark 8:34 “Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.”

Matthew 28:19 “Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Lk 14:33 “So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.”

Lk 14:26 “If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison-your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters-yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.”
Lk 8:1 "Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him."

A List Of Resources to help you with this discussion, is listed in the appendix.

**What Are The Core Values of a Disciple making Culture?**

Values are the beliefs which drive us, at the very core of our being. We all have them. We all have beliefs we hold about what motivates a follower of Jesus. To get you started in this process, here are three core values of our denomination which should be included in this list of disciple making values.

- Christ-Centered
- Spirit-Empowered
- Mission-Focused

What other values are at the core of a disciple maker’s heart?

________________________
________________________
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A List Of Resources to help you with this discussion, is listed in the appendix.

**List The Practices Of A Disciple making Culture**

Think of a church you know which leads many people to Christ and trains them to make disciples of others. What are the practices of that kind of a church?

Do this in remembrance of me.
Luke 19:5 “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”
Matthew 9:10 “Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.”
John 15:8 “When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.”
John 8:31 “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.”
Lk 18:1 “One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.”
John 13:35 “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”
Jn 21:24 “As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Mathew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple”, Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.”
Mark 9:35 “He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him and said, “Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.”
Mark 6:12 “So the disciples went out, telling everyone they met to repent of their sins and turn to God.”
A List Of Resources to help you with this discussion, is listed in the appendix.

Once you as a church answer these four fundamental questions, you will be well positioned to start looking at disciple making curriculum that fits the values and practices that you have chosen.

Appendix

**Following Jesus in Disciple-making**


**Handbooks and Manuals**


3DM Huddle Resources. [www.3dmovements.com](http://www.3dmovements.com/)

**Disciple-making & the Gospels**


**Disciplemaking Process**


**Disciplemaking Growing Foundations**


**Small Groups Ministry**


Resources Brochure

Spiritual Formation Aids on the Web

- Art & Prayer: [http://www.prayerwindows.com/art.html](http://www.prayerwindows.com/art.html)
- Sacred Space: [http://www.sacredspace.ie/](http://www.sacredspace.ie/)
- Approaches to Prayer: [http://www.annunciationtrust.org.uk/approaches/about_editors.shtml](http://www.annunciationtrust.org.uk/approaches/about_editors.shtml)
- Youth Bible Resources: [www.faithweaver.com](http://www.faithweaver.com)
- Navigators: [http://navresources.ca/](http://navresources.ca/)
- [http://live.simplyyouthministry.com/6YearPlan/HighSchool4years.aspx](http://live.simplyyouthministry.com/6YearPlan/HighSchool4years.aspx)
- Youth Devotional Materials: [www.youthwalk.org](http://www.youthwalk.org)
- Verge Network: [http://vergenetwork.org](http://vergenetwork.org)
- 3DM Resources [www.3dmovements.com/](http://www.3dmovements.com/)

Disciplemaking & Youth


Parenting


3DM Resources. *DISCIPLESHIP TOOLBOX - LIFESHAPES FOR KIDS.* Order on line

Spiritual Formation / Disciplines


Other Cultures