

Bible Study Notes - w/c 17th May
Discipleship

Question 1: Who was the best coach / teacher you ever had? What made them so good and what lasting effect do you think they had on you (and it may not be just their subject / skill)?

Question 2: We are looking at the 5th mark of mission today. Why do you think discipleship is a 'mark of mission'?

Question 3: Jesus asked 'the crowd' to weigh up what it meant to be a disciple. He says unless you love him most / are prepared to see it through to the end / and prepared to submit to His leadership (make peace) you can't be his disciple. What inspires you about that and what troubles you?

Question 4: Alex said that kind of commitment comes only with someone you love (caring for your child, a partner or a parent maybe). Is it, in your experience, possible to love God that way? Have you ever experienced it or seen it in someone else?

Question 5: The privilege of being a disciple of Jesus is two-fold. We are friends with God:
a) Read Colossians 1:15-18 – does any phrase leap out at you, thinking about being friends with Jesus as described here?

b) We are called by him. **You did not choose me, but I chose you** and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last (John 15:16). Alex suggested this is like the difference to running / cycling / knitting (whatever you like doing) for fun and if the British Olympic Committee called you up and asked you to represent your country in that. Would you train harder, be more diligent, think of yourself differently? Does Jesus calling you to be a disciple feel different that way?

Question 6: Jesus then asks us to 'Go and make disciples, not just be a disciple'. How do you think you do that in your small group?

Question 7: We are all at different stages of being a follower of Jesus but we are all called to disciple others (encourage them to grow in their knowledge and love of God). What do you see in each other that encourages you with regard to reflecting Jesus, teaching faith or other ways that has helped you to grow in your own faith? Maybe go round the group and share for each person.

Question 8: Is there anything you could do to help one another grow / mature even more either in the community or church? Being a disciple means growing in faith from discovering Jesus to full maturity, so lots of options. What will you do as a next step?

Why not pray for one another as you finish, to thank God for what has encouraged you in each other, and ask another person for a positive next step to encourage?