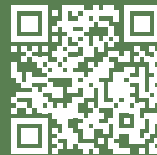


Let's Discuss...Purpose

PART 5_Planting Seeds



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Scriptures mentioned:

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:34-35 NIV

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 NIV

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, He gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Luke 9:1-2 NIV

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17 ESV

the
Discipleship
project

Summary

We chat about one of the shared aspects of our purpose as believers – sharing the Good News of Jesus. Does it always have to be with words? While it's important not to shy away from talking about our faith when the opportunities present themselves, we also have a responsibility to live in such a way that reflects our relationship with Jesus – and draws others to Him.

Definition

the Great Commission: Jesus' final instructions to His followers to make disciples, baptise them, and teach them to obey Him (recorded in Matthew 28:18-20)

Let's Discuss...

- Read The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. How does The Great Commission fit into our lives as disciples of Jesus today? Are we as a church, and you individually, carrying out this mandate?
 - » *Bonus! Check out what Mark (Mark 16:15-20), Luke (Luke 24:36-51 & Acts 1:1-9), and John (John 21:15-25) recorded as Jesus' last words in their gospel narratives. How do they compare to what Matthew recorded?*
- When we look at the example of Jesus, He clearly models that we should share the Good News of His love through both our actions and our words. Jake talks about witnessing in such a way that is true to our authentic self, and Steph mentions the quote "Preach the Gospel at all times and if necessary, use words." (unknown origin) Is it truly impendent on each of us to share our faith both through words and actions, or does this look differently among us since we are each uniquely designed?
- How can we be intentional about living in such a way that reflects the goodness of Jesus, even before we talk about Him with our words?
- Is there anything that holds you back from sharing your faith with people in your world?
- What should we do in the event that we share our faith with someone, and they don't appreciate it or respond well?
- Jake reminds us that when we share our faith we may not always see immediate results, but you never know how that seed you planted might be brought to their remembrance in the future when they need it. Have you ever experienced this yourself - where someone said something to you and planted a seed that only later became meaningful to you? Did that person ever know the fruit of the seed they planted in you?

Let's Pray...

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 NIV

Let's Discuss...Purpose

PART 5_Dropping Seeds



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Scriptures mentioned:

You will know them by their fruits.

Matthew 7:16a NRSV

All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other.

John 13:35 NCV

After all, who is Appollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News.

Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:5-11 NLT

- Let's pray for God to show us how to use our divinely implanted unique giftings and personalities to enhance the way that we shine for Him and share our faith with those around us.

Let's Go Deeper...

- **How to Tell the Truth: The Story of How God Saved me to Win Hearts, Not Just Arguments** by Preston Perry [book]
- **How to Tell the Truth** by With The Perrys [video]
- **Everyday Evangelism | Pastor Sherin Swift** at New Life Fellowship Church NYC [video]