

“Gospel-Centered Discipleship” Discussion Questions

Introduction

1. Why is it so important for the gospel to be central in discipleship?
2. What kind of disciples do we make when we share our faith but not our failures?
3. How does your experience of discipleship compare with the author’s story?
4. What are you hoping to get out of this book? How will your group commit to applying what you are learning together?

Chapter 1

1. Share what you thought discipleship was prior to reading this chapter. Has your view changed in light of what you read?
2. What are the three aspects of a disciple’s identity? Which aspect comes most naturally to you and which one is most challenging?
3. Why is it dangerous to separate evangelism from discipleship?
4. Do you tend to lean towards being a vertical (piety-centered) disciple or a horizontal (mission-centered) disciple? What are some practical ways you can help one another grow towards being a more diagonal (integrated) disciple?

Chapter 2

1. Should we call Matthew 28:18-20 the Gospel Commission or the Great Commission?
2. What concerns or objections do you face when being sent to make disciples?
3. What do you think about the idea that “your baptism is your commission?”
4. What does it mean to “teach them to observe all that I commanded.”
5. Which can you grow in most: going, baptizing, or teaching?

Chapter 3

1. What “cause” are you willing to fight for? Where do you spend your extra time, energy, and effort? What does this misguided fighting reveal about your heart?
2. How does the reality of who you are compare to the image you project yourself to be? In what way has social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs) further exposed our tendency to project this false image of ourselves?
3. How does the gospel correct our image?
4. What can this group do to help point one another to beholding and becoming the image of Jesus?

Chapter 4

1. Do you tend to gravitate towards being the religious person who verbally punishes others for failing to keep the rules or the rebellious person who is quick to overlook one another’s failure? How do both of these prove inadequate?
2. Consider Psalm 32:3-4. Does anyone in the group have trouble confessing sin with honesty? What are we robbing ourselves of when we fail to confess our sins to each other and God?
3. How is confession of sin repentance from being inauthentic?

4. Do you find yourself falling into religious performance or spiritual license? How can you help one another avoid these extremes and center on Christ?

Chapter 5

1. Why is it essential for us to move beyond addressing outward actions and get to heart motivations? How can this group help one another do this?

2. Discuss how you have previously viewed religious affections? In what ways did the chapter challenge your previous view and in what way did it affirm it?

3. Have you taken a sober look at the warnings in Scripture? What are the sins in your life that you take lightly and need to be warned away from? Take some time and ask the Spirit to show each person in the group areas that they are failing to heed God's warnings concerning sin.

4. How can your group promote earnest, life-giving repentance with one another? What does it look like for you to help each other turn from sin to Christ?

Chapter 6

1. In what ways have you neglected the person of the Holy Spirit in your life? What would it look like for this group to be led by the Spirit together?

2. How did Jesus live in relation to the Holy Spirit during his time on earth? What can we learn and apply from this?

3. How would walking in dependence on the Spirit change the way we view the events that come up each day?

4. Do you interact with the Spirit as a person? How are you learning to recognize the Spirit's voice and respond with obedience?

Chapter 7

1. How can you relate to Haydn's story of being converted to Christ but not community or mission? Take some time to share your own story with respect to the "three conversions" mentioned in this chapter.

2. Do you consider others before yourself in your community? What would this look like practically? Discuss some real life examples of people who reflect the selflessness of Christ.

3. How is God calling you to reorient your life to be in steady community that is gathered around the gospel and sent out on mission? List specific barriers that keep you from this and have your group talk you through each of them.

Chapter 8

1. What would it look like for you to take the next step in "sharing not only the gospel but your very own lives?"

2. Describe the spiritual mentors in your life. What did you appreciate about them?

3. Why don't we encourage and exhort one another more often?

4. Which discipling role do you need to grow in most: father, mother, friend?

Chapter 9

***Important note: One difference between the author's description of discipleship groups and Anchor's Discipleship groups is that our D-groups are not formed solely on the basis of the participants choice of "friends." Perhaps we may change**

our format in the future, but in our context, having people just choose their own groups would be difficult, as many people would just be left without a group, especially new people who don't have pre-existing friendships. Finding a new group would require a lot of self-initiative on the part of a new person, which we've seen is difficult in our context.

1. Pick a sin you struggle with and consider the what, when, and why surrounding it in order to know your sin.
2. Where should our power to fight sin come from? When we fight sin, what are we truly fighting for?
3. What are the three principles of a discipleship group? Which do you need to grow in?
4. Write down the lie you tend to believe and a counter, gospel promise you can believe.
5. Pick a passage of Scripture and do Text-Theology-Life. Share with your group.

Chapter 10

1. Who might God be calling you to disciple? What steps do you need to take to disciple them?
2. What part of Text-Theology-Life could improve your Bible reading ?
3. Set a regular time to begin your fight club to fight for the noble, glorious image of Christ to be revealed in one another!

Chapter 11

1. What is the difference between systematic and relational thinking?
2. How can you mobilize your church to value discipleship more?
3. Can you think of some good discipleship stories you could share with others?
4. What are some gospel phrases that help you trust the gospel?