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To becoming like Jesus

The Ordinary Guide

Introduction

Have you ever looked at the life of Peter and asked yourself, "When was Peter actually a disciple of Jesus?" Was it when he cut off a guy's ear? Was it when he tried to turn away all the poor, hungry people? Or was it when Jesus told him to "feed my sheep?"

The truth is that Peter was a disciple from the moment he was called by Jesus. This means that all of Peter's life, the celebrating and mourning, the work and rest, the prayer and evangelism was all part of Peter's discipleship. And if it was all part of Peter's discipleship, then it must be part of our discipleship, too!

So what is Discipleship?

Discipleship is ordinarily living like Jesus to become like Jesus.

This booklet is designed to help you create some categories for living and discover what it might look like to follow Jesus in every area of life. Too often we like to have a boundary between our sacred life and our secular life. Most of us have robust secular lives, but struggle to really understand what it means to have the full spiritual life that Jesus promises. get our lives together (we have money and houses) then we can start to follow Jesus. But listen to what Jesus says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and everything else will be added to you." (v) That's a profound and convincing command. Let's rephrase it, "seek first our spiritual lives and our secular lives will be fine."

Some of us have been raised to believe that once we

We believe that Jesus wants us to live life in all our normal spaces, with a new trajectory. Your old trajectory was your kingdom, your success, your homes, your money; but now your new trajectory is God's kingdom. Success in God's kingdom is living like a local disciple who seeks first the Kingdom of God in everything they do.

This is a life-long process. Our hope is that this model of discipleship will be with you for the rest of your life. This isn't a start and finish model, it's a visit and revisit, and revisit model; it's an ordinary guide to following Jesus.

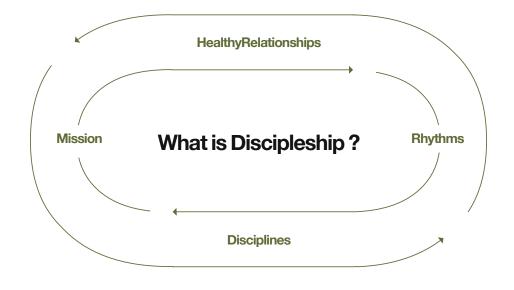
Mark 1v16-17

Matthew 6v33

Categories

It's kind of hard to organize your whole life into a few categories, but we're going to give it a try. Our main goal here is not to compartmentalize, but to organize. In an effort to organize we have developed these four categories: healthy relationships, disciplines, rhythms and mission.

01. HealthyRelationships02. Mission03. Rhythms04. Disciplines



We'll spend time unpacking these categories, but before we do it's important that you know these two thoughts about categories. First, these categories are not the Gospel, they're simply a means to understanding and living with the Gospel. Our hope is that this booklet gives you insight into your life as a disciple and that these categories serve you as you take inventory of different parts of your discipleship.

Finally, each section that you go through will have info about the category and then an inventory of potential parts of your discipleship. Each category will also give you a chance to share how engaged you are in that part and share some follow up steps. It's impossible to be entirely engaged in every aspect of discipleship at all times. Discipleship is seasonal, meaning there will be times where you might be more engaged in specific categories; that's totally okay.

Let's get started.

Healthy Relationships Engagement Scale:

How engaged are you with each of these?

Forgiveness Deliberately releasing feelings developed by hurt
 Honesty Sharing your authentic self with others
Mutuality Equally sharing the weight of relationships
Initiative Mindful to take the first step towards someone
Commitment Being who you said you would at all cost

Proximity Physically being present with others

Healthy **Relationships.**

The story of God has always been one of relationship. Even before the 'beginning of time', God existed in harmony with himself. And as we see the story of God move from creation, to the fall, to Jesus, to new humanity and future eternal communion with him and his church (vs), we see relationships as the context by which all these movements take place and the reality by which they are experienced.

Jesus shows us the importance of relationships, focused on fulfilling the will of the Father to offer all of humanity salvation. To live the way Jesus did, we can realize the importance of relationships by first recognizing our own dependence on being in relationship with him. Without Jesus first pursuing us, offering us forgiveness and acceptance, and inviting us into a safe and never-ending relationship with him, we would be without hope. In short, we would be alone.

Our relationship with Jesus is the context by which we experience salvation, and our connection with Jesus informs us of what it means to have healthy relationships -intentional connections with others based on the initiative and posture of Jesus.

Living like Jesus means we recognize creating and maintaining healthy relationships is essential to our lives because they are the avenue by which salvation is experienced and the gospel is fulfilled. We've provided an inventory to help you reflect on your current experience of connections. Are they intentional? Are you taking initiative to connect with others in love? Are you taking on the posture of Jesus through differences or disagreements? Use the measures below to engage with these important questions about your current experience of healthy relationships.

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Mission.

What is the Mission of God? The mission of God is a global expansion of the Kingdom of God in the hearts and the lived experience of all people, starting in our communities.

Did you know that you're supposed to be living life on God's mission? Since the beginning, God has wanted to partner with his image-bearers, you and I, to share the Kingdom of God with the world.

We believe that your role as a disciple-missionary of Jesus is vital to the whole world hearing the Gospel and it starts with you being an intentional neighbor, friend, co-worker or classmate. As an intentional neighbor you're encouraged to ask questions, listen to stories, invite others into your home, and share the hope of the Gospel with them.

But the intentionality doesn't stop there- God actually calls us to deeply care for our cities because He deeply cares for our cities. It's actually our mission to make sure that justice is present in our neighborhoods and cities. While you work to be an intentional neighbor or co-worker, you should also work to ensure that God's justice is present in the city you live in. God gives us his Spirit to help us by providing words to say when we need them, comfort when we need it, and even initiative when we lack it.

We've provided an inventory with some brief ways you can consider and think through your role as a local missionary. It can be overwhelming to consider all these ways so remember that you have the rest of your life to do this. Consider praying as you go through this inventory and asking God's Spirit to give you a focus in this season of life as you live on God's mission.

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Mission Engagement Scale:

How engaged are you with each of these?

Non-christian friends Neighbors, co workers, others who don't follow Jesus

Local Living Shop or eat at local spaces as a regular

Telling the Story Sharing the Gospel story as bridge building Sharing the Gospel story as a normal part of life

Serving the City Volunteering and meeting needs at local events

Hospitality

Joyously welcoming others into your space

Thoughts?

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Rhythms.

Many of us were taught that our obedience as a Christian is directly connected to our time praying, reading Scripture, or doing other disciplines. Sadly, we ended up with these beliefs because no one ever taught us how to approach the regular, routine rhythms of our lives. We wanted to become more like Jesus, so we assessed our lives for 'holiness' and started to avoid the 'unholy'; but in the process, we've ended up merely dividing our lives between what is 'pleasing to God' versus what is routine or even 'merely human.' But what if they were never meant to be separate?

For Jesus, there was no division between sacred and secular. The same was true of his disciples; as they rested with Jesus, as they listened and shared stories, as they celebrated and mourned - all of their lives were a part of following Jesus and his kingdom work. Their lives show us an important reality as disciples - holiness is being like Jesus in the ordinary.

We identify these normal, day to day habits as rhythms. They are regular commitments - like working or eating - that we do in common, communal spaces. But instead of being things that only serve ourselves, our advancement, or our kingdom, our rhythms are integral aspects of our discipleship. Jesus teaches us that even the most ordinary aspects of our lives have meaning and purpose in his kingdom.

Rhythms are the everyday habits, commitments, and experiences we already do, but now under the direction and care of Jesus. We've provided the inventory below to help you identify the rhythms of your lives as well as some ways of assessing their health in your discipleship. Use the questions below to guide you as you reflect on rhythms as an integral reality in following Jesus.

Rhythm Engagement Scale:

How engaged are you with each of these?

Celebrating Seasons of joy and happiness with others

Mourning Seasons of sadness and lament with others

Work Vocational roles within a community

Rest Leisure and reflections on the past season

Eating and Drinking Daily mealtimes as intentional spaces

Listening Actively paying attention to understand

Thoughts?

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Disciplines.

Have you ever wondered what "read your Bible during quiet time" means? Or why are we supposed to pray "without ceasing?" Spiritual disciplines aren't bad, but most of us do them because of shame or guilt. But what if Jesus invited us to freely do them as practice and not be obliged to do them because of shame? There's good news, he has done just that!

Through the life and ministry of Jesus we see him engage in the public reading of scripture, in the practice of private and communal prayer, in being generous, and even in silence and solitude. Jesus joyfully invites his disciples to these practices—free of the guilt and shame associated with religion that was brought on by the hyper-religious Pharisees.

We believe that Spiritual disciplines are uncomfortable practices that force us to face our limits, ask God for help, and become more like Jesus. As Disciples, we're encouraged to do these practices as a means to being formed into the image of God. But remember that God doesn't love you more the more you read or the more you pray. God loves you because of what he's accomplished through his Son, and spiritual disciplines help us stay reliant on that truth.

Different seasons in life will bring different engagement in these disciplines. We've provided a simple inventory for you to become aware of your engagement in these practices. We hope they free you up to enjoy what's been done for you, not what you can do.

Discipline Engagement Scale:

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How engaged are you with each of these?

)	Read Scripture Opening your bible to read a part of the story
)	Fasting Physical hunger leading to hearing God
)	Silence/Solitude Intentionally curated space to hear God
)	Prayer Asking and praising the Father in words
)	Generosity Giving your resources for the good of others

Sabbath Reflecting on God's work in a past season

Thoughts?

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Next Steps

At the beginning of this guide, we shared that it's near impossible to be fully engaged in every aspect of discipleship at all times. We believe this is good news! There will be times when you're connecting fully with God through prayer, there will be seasons where being hospitable will be more spirit-filled than ever, there might even be times when silence is a powerful tool to connect with God. In it all, the goal is to simply be aware that God is present in every specific part of your life; that all of life is discipleship.

We want to end our guide with a simple question: what might Jesus, our good shepherd, be saying to you right now? We want to encourage you to close your eyes and consider what you know to be true about the work of Jesus and the person of Jesus. What is Jesus saying to you right now?

Finally, This guide is meant to be revisited again, and again, and again. We believe that discipleship is not linear, it's circular. Our invitation to you is to make a regular rhythm or discipline of going through this guide on your own and with others. Our hope is that you will follow Jesus for the rest of your life through The Ordinary Guide.

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The Ordinary Guide

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