

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

THE PLAN — II

Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

Pastor Miles McPherson – October 27, 2013



MEMORY VERSE

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

What does a disciple look like? (see Gal 5:22-4; Col 4:2; John 13:35; Eph 2:10, 4:11-16)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS — THE PLAN, PART TWO

A Disciple (*mathetes*) is a follower or pupil, student.

- How are you practically following Jesus? What are the ways you are studying/learning about Jesus?

Read Mark 1:16-20 together as a group.

- What does Jesus require from us in order to become disciples?

Read John 13:12-16 together as a group.

- In what ways are you being a servant to Christ? What areas of your life do you need to become a servant to Christ?

Note: *Doulos* - servant, slave, pertaining to a state of being completely controlled by someone or something—‘subservient to, controlled by’¹

- Consider the following comments by Josef Tson and assess if you are committed or surrendered to Christ.

¹ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 471.



Adrian Rogers [interviewed] Josef Tson, the Romanian pastor... survived years of persecution and exile under... Communist rule... his perception of American Christianity. "...since you asked me, I'll tell you. The key word in American Christianity is *commitment*." Rather than being a positive thing, he saw it as an inadequate replacement of an older Christian teaching: *surrender*.

Tson described the difference, "When you make a commitment, you are still in control, no matter how noble the thing you commit to. One can commit to pray, to study the Bible, to give his money, or to commit to automobile payments, or to lose weight. Whatever he chooses to do, he *commits* to. But *surrender* is different. If someone holds a gun and asks you to lift your hands in the air as a token of surrender, you don't tell that person what you are committed to. You simply surrender and do as you are told. . . . Americans love commitment because they are still in control. But the key word is *surrender*. We are to be slaves to the Lord Jesus Christ."ⁱ

Read Matthew 28:18-20 together as a group.

- Is it possible to be a Christian and not be a disciple-maker?

GROUP ACTIVITY

Discuss how you can help each other grow as disciple-makers.

- Consider that we must appeal to people's Head (what they know), Heart (what they believe), and Hands (what they do).
- How will you measure and hold each other accountable in growing as disciple-makers?

Notes:

ⁱ Bob Butler "Why I'm not a Committed Christian..." From Discipleship Journal online. <http://www.navpress.com/dj/content.aspx?id=4422>

