



Life Group Study Notes

“Bethel’s Discipleship Path: Lead a Life Group”

Sr. Ps. James Lowe - July 8, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Who was your favorite coach or teacher? Why?
- What is one important quality that a great coach or mentor needs to have?
- Have you ever coached, mentored, or tutored someone? What did you like about it?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Key Quote:

2 Timothy 2:1-7 NIV You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

Discipleship is personal.

Paul had a close relationship with Timothy, who was younger than him. Paul related to him like a spiritual father. Familial language was used by Jesus and the apostles when referring to those who believed and followed Jesus. God has called us to care for one another like a family. We are to help others find and follow Jesus, and are to regard them as spiritual family.

The people we help follow Jesus are not “projects.” Discipleship is not merely a task or a job. God cares deeply about them. Discipleship should be personal. We should care personally about them.

We should care enough to ask people and pay attention to how they are doing in the following areas: faith, family, finances, fruitfulness, and friendships. If a person is doing well in these areas, they will prosper and honor God. Engaging people regarding these issues should be done with grace and love.

Our involvement in people's lives should never be controlling, manipulative, or oppressive.

Discipleship has purpose.

Discipleship aims at the transfer of the knowledge of God to others, especially the next generation. God wants us to know him, to know his ways, and to know his purposes. We cannot walk closely with God and do the things that please him and further his kingdom, if we do not acquire this knowledge. Someone had to teach us, and we have to teach others.

It's been truly said that the church is only one generation away from extinction. People are not born with an intimate relationship with God. People are born separated from God due to sin. Every person must learn of Jesus to become reconciled to God. They must grow in the knowledge of God to become and to do what God desires for them.

This will only happen as we embrace our responsibility to disciple the next generation. We are all called to find others who will follow and obey Jesus, and to transfer the knowledge of God to them.

Discipleship involves a process of thinking.

The apostle Paul exhorts Timothy with three analogies: the devoted soldier, the disciplined athlete, and the hard working farmer. Discipleship involves important principles derived from each of these analogies.

We must think like a soldier who is devoted to his commander. Our commander is Jesus Christ. We must put his objectives and commands as our top priority. We do not belong to ourselves. Our loyalty belongs to Jesus above every other person or human institution.

We must think like an athlete, knowing that we must live a disciplined life and do things God's ways. We can not compromise God's morality or violate his principles or deny his truth, or we will forfeit our reward that God has prepared to give us on the Day of Judgment.

We must think like a farmer, understanding that it is only through hard work that we will enjoy a fruitful harvest. Laziness only leads to poverty, spiritually as well as materially. To have significant impact in other people's lives, we must labor diligently in building relationships with people, in serving them, and in ministering to them spiritually.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Who are you helping to follow Jesus? How well do you know them?
- What knowledge of God have you transferred to others? What other knowledge of God should you pass on?
- Which analogy underscores the thinking you need to focus on at this time: the devoted soldier, the disciplined athlete, or the hard working farmer?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for those who imparted the knowledge of God to you.
- Ask God for new opportunities to help others follow Jesus.
- Ask God to help you grow in your conviction to teach others the knowledge of God.