

ICEBREAKER & OPENING THOUGHT

Help the group to explore their experience of being intentional.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Work through the apprentice steps

1. First, the disciples were called to simply follow. And as they follow, they watch Jesus teach and heal. This is the first step of apprenticeship: I do, you watch. Jesus did, and the disciples watched.
2. (Matthew 9:9-10) – The next step was for the disciples to start helping Jesus in his mission. Matthew gathered others in his house so that they could be around Jesus as well. This is the second step of apprenticeship: I do, you help. Jesus teaches and heals, but Matthew helps by hosting a dinner.
3. (Matthew 10:1, 5-8) – The next step was Jesus sending out his apprentices to further the mission. He tells them to proclaim the message, “the kingdom of heaven has come near,” and to heal. This is the third step of apprenticeship: You do, I help. Jesus coaches and equips them, but the disciples get a chance to get their feet wet.
4. (Matthew 28:18-20) – And finally, Jesus entrusts the mission to his apprentices. He calls them to pick up the baton and run with it. This is the fourth step of apprenticeship: You do, I watch.

LIFE APPLICATION

“There are things we think we believe until we get to the edge of the cliff and that belief is tested. Then there is our mental map about how things are. This is what we actually believe... Belief is best understood as the readiness to act as if what I believe is really true. What I do—my ‘works’—reveals what it is I really believe, my mental map about how things are.” –John Ortberg

We never violate our mental map, our belief about the way things are. And because we can't picture it, we can't imagine Jesus wants us to do those things. We wonder, “Is that even possible anymore?” The Holy Spirit is the one who makes the impossible possible.

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:15-18

Every apprentice to Jesus has a next step because the Holy Spirit is continually working and prompting us to respond. Paul calls us to keep in step with the spirit (Gal 5:25). The verb here for “keeping in step” means to walk in line behind a leader. Putting our agenda aside in favor of what the Spirit wants to do in our lives. It looks like:

- To reach out to that friend in grief for coffee
- To grow in generosity as you give back to God
- To commit to serving others in some way
- To meet a tangible need around you
- To share your story of finding your way back to God with a neighbor

CHALLENGE

Commit to being an apprentice of Jesus – to be with him, learning to love like him, and learning to live like he did. Spend some time in your group praying for each other and the next steps in faith Jesus is asking you to make. Jesus wants us to keep moving toward him and leaning into his mission. How can you be more open to what the Spirit of Christ wants to do in and through you in the coming days and weeks?