

# I. What is a Disciple, Discipleship & Discipling?

1. What is a Disciple?

Luke 24:44-49; Acts 2:36-47

A disciple is a forgiven sinner who is learning Christ in ongoing repentance and faith, as a member of a local church community.

■ All Christians are disciples (Acts 11:26b)

# I. What is a Disciple, Discipleship & Discipling?

2. What is Discipleship?

Titus 3:4-8; Ephesians 4:32-5:3; Rom. 8:29

Discipleship means believing in, following and growing in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, so that we become more and more like him.

■ Discipleship is an ongoing process (Php. 3:12-16)

# I. What is a Disciple, Discipleship & Discipling?

3. What is Discipling?

Philippians 3:17

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Discipling is a part of discipleship in which I deliberately help someone else to know and follow Christ.

## II. Why Disciple?

#### 1. God's Promise and Plan

Genesis 22:15-18

15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Revelation 7:9-10

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

## II. Why Disciple?

#### 2. God's Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

### III. Who Disciples?

Ephesians 4:11-14

<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.



"Churches don't need programmes so much as they need cultures of discipling, cultures where each member prioritises the spiritual health of others."

- Mark Dever



#### Think & Talk:

- Who are the people you meet during the week?
- What would it look like for you to prioritise their spiritual health?

Matthew 28:18-20

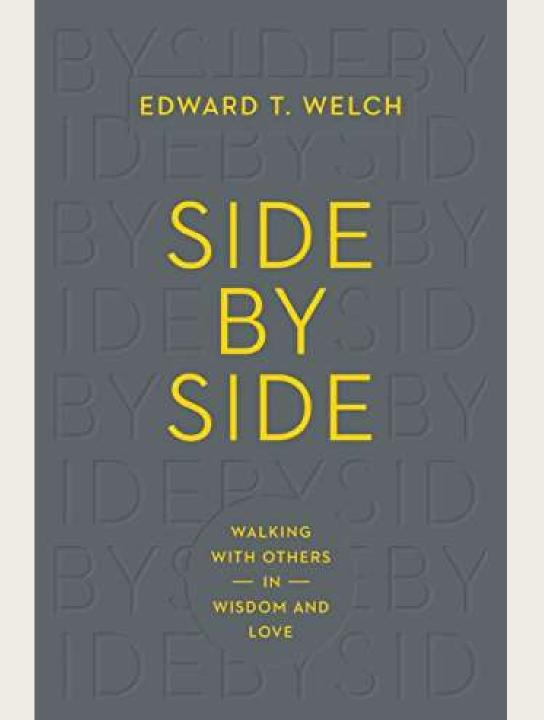
18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Go
- Gospel
- Gather
- Grow
- Always depending on Jesus' authority, power and presence!

Ephesians 4:15-16

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

 Cultivate spiritual friendships—relationships that are centred on Christ, where we encourage one another to know and follow Jesus



"God is pleased to use ordinary people, ordinary conversations, and extraordinary and wise love to do most of the heavy lifting in his kingdom."

- Edward Welch, Side By Side: Walking With Others in Wisdom and Love

We do four basic things:

1. Love

2. Know

3. Speak

4. Do

#### 1. LOVE

■ Realise that we need one another (1 Cor. 12:14-27)

■ Help fellow sinners (Matt. 7:2-5; Gal. 6:1-2)

■ Move towards one another (Php. 2:3-5)

■ Show patience, mercy and compassion (Rom. 12:15; 1 Thess. 5:14)

#### 2. KNOW

■ Have thoughtful conversations (Prov. 18:13; Jas. 1:19)

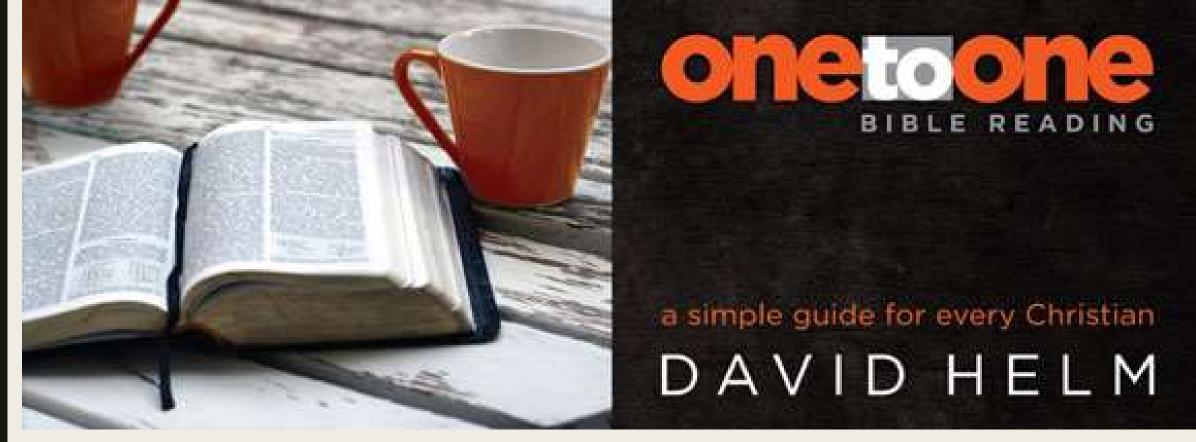
■ Share encouragement and struggles (2 Cor. 1:8-11)

#### 3. SPEAK

■ Clarify the goal (Col. 1:28)

■ Pray (Php. 1:9-11; Eph. 1:16-20)

■ Speak God's truth (Eph. 4:15-16, 29; Heb. 3:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)



"Reading one-to-one is a variation on that most central Christian activity— reading the Bible—but done in the context of reading with someone. It is something a Christian does with another person, on a regular basis, for a mutually agreed upon length of time, with the intention of reading through and discussing a book or part of a book of the Bible."

-- David Helm, One-to-One Bible Reading: A Simple Guide for Every Christian

#### SIX BASIC QUESTIONS for Bible Reading

- 1) What "shines" from the passage? What struck you and caught your attention?
- 2) Is there anything hard to *understand*? Did these verses raise any questions?
- 3) Where do we see **Jesus** and the truths of the gospel in the passage?
- 4) Why did *God* put these verses in the Bible?
- 5) How does this passage *apply* to your life, to the church and to others in your life?
- 6) What did you learn that you would like to share with someone else?

Based on the "Swedish Method" of Bible study, which was introduced by a Swedish pastor, David Berglund, to the Church of Sweden in Västerås in the 1940s. Its impact was significant amongst the youth of Sweden, especially students.

4. DO

■ Encourage and rejoice over obedience (Heb. 10:24; 2 Thess. 1:11-12; 2 Jn. 4)

■ Transformation in all of life towards Christ-like maturity (Col. 1:28; 3:5-4:6)