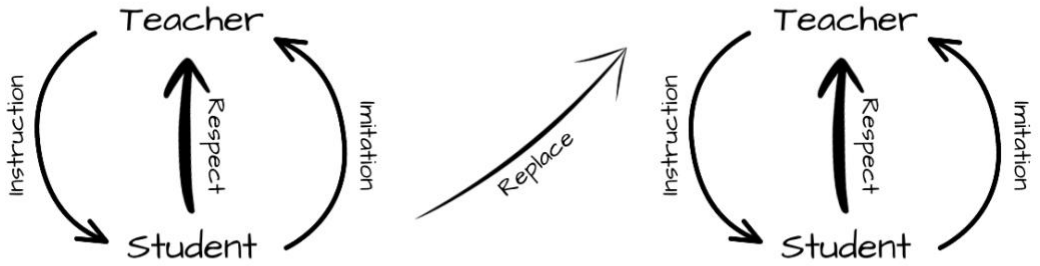
FBCD Dive! Women's Ministry

Follow Me: Session 1 (Mark 1:1–3:35)

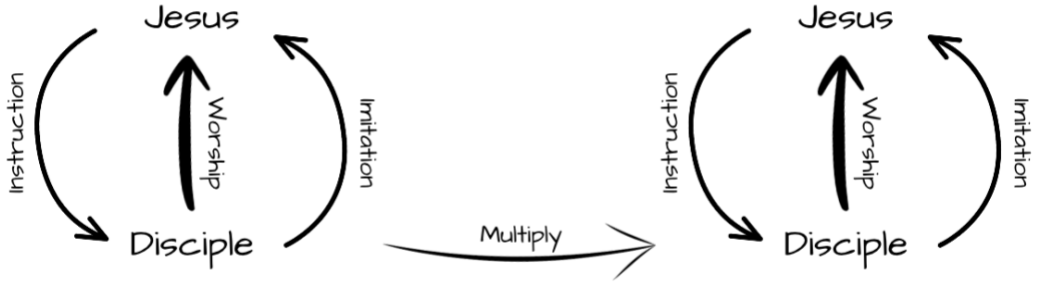
October 18, 2026

First Century Models of Discipleship:

1. **Sophist Philosophy**: The student would pay the teacher to gain knowledge and virtue.
2. **Socratic/Platonic Philosophy**: The teacher would question the student to draw out knowledge and virtue that are inherent within the student.
3. **Judaic Philosophy**: The teacher would instruct the student, and the student would respect and imitate the teacher with the goal of replacing the teacher.



4. **Christian Discipleship**: While similar to the Judaic model, disciples of Jesus worship him instead of merely respecting him. Disciples of Jesus go on to make more disciples of Jesus, not of themselves.



What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

To be a disciple of Jesus is to be a **learner**, **follower**, and **imitator** of Jesus.

- To be a learner implies that there are things we don't know. Learning begins when we realize there is something we don't understand.
- People do not follow other people or commit to things that don't matter to them.
- People imitate what they value and desire.

Discipleship in Mark 1:1–3:35

Introduction: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1).

- Mark immediately makes a statement concerning the **identity** of Jesus. While Jesus is a man, he is not an ordinary man. He is the Son of God.

The Role of Jesus in the Flow of Redemptive History:

"Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel'" (Mark 1:14–15).

The Gospel of God: Jesus explains the good news of God with a statement and a call to action.

1. **Statement**: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand…"

    - From the start, Mark makes sure that we as disciples understand that the kingdom of God is very much real, but it is not yet fully realized.

2. **Call to Action**: "…repent and believe in the gospel."

    - **Repent**: We are imperfect followers of the perfect Son of God. Mark repeatedly shows us that discipleship is not instantaneous and perfect obedience. Rather, discipleship is a life of repentance.
    - **Believe**: We are to have faith in the plan of God that is unfolding before our eyes.

The Authority of Jesus: Jesus has authority in the calling of his disciples (1:16–20; 2:13–14; 3:13–19), in his teaching (1:22), in his driving out of demons (1:25–27, 34, 39), in his healing of sickness (1:31, 34, 40–42; 2:11–12; 3:1–6), and in his forgiveness of sin (2:5).

The Need for Jesus: "He said to them, 'Those who are well have no need for a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners'" (Mark 2:17).

The Rejection of Jesus: Jesus is rejected by many (3:6, 19, 22) and called "out of his mind" by family (3:21), but rejection by others does not determine the validity of Jesus. "We can follow the example of Jesus, who did not quit, even when He was opposed or questioned. Our faith can remain strong, even if people disagree with us or place themselves against us" (Page 39).