

A vision for one to one discipleship

Discuss:

What are the particular benefits of meeting one to one for prayer and Bible study?

What might keep you from one to ones?

Why make time for one to ones (or one to a few):

1) To mentor leaders :

1. OT examples of mentoring leaders : Moses-Joshua (Ex 24v13), Elijah-Elisha (2 Kgs 3v11)
2. Jesus' example of focusing on a few : Peter, James and John
 - a. He took them to the healing of Jairus' daughter - Mk 5v37
 - b. He took them up the Mount of Transfiguration – Mk 9v2
 - c. He took them aside when distressed in Gethsemane – Mk 14v33
 - d. They quizzed him privately about his teaching – Mk 13v3

2) To do evangelism :

1. Jesus giving a day with two potential disciples – Jn 1v39
2. Jesus taking time with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman – Jn 3v2, Jn 4
3. The Damascus disciples giving days to Saul – Acts 9v19
4. Paul giving time “house to house” – Acts 20v20, cf. 10v22, 16v15, 32,

3) To multiply ministry :

1. Priscilla and Aquilla explaining “the way of God” to better Apollos (Acts 18v24-26)
2. Paul's commendation of multiplying those who can in turn teach others

“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.” (2 Tim 2v2)

3. Paul's expectation that women would be teaching younger women

“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.” (Tit 2v3-5)

4) To engage particular needs :

“And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” (1 Thess 5v14)

What to aim for in one to ones:

1. Leadership
2. Conversion
3. Ministry
4. Progress

In all things, maturity by God's means: Eph 4v9-24

1. What is the role of the pastor-teacher - v9-11?
2. What is the role of church members – v12, 15?
3. List what results from this – v13-16?
4. Why might this be hard – v17-19?
5. What needs to take place – v20-24?

Ultimate aim : Fullness in Christ (Eph 4v13)

The priority of the heart – gaining the heart of Christ – the need for repentance

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (Jam 4v7-8)

The importance of the mind – seeking the mind of Christ – the need for correcting

“This is what we [the apostles] speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments...But we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Cor 2v13-16)

The importance of the will – adopting the will of Christ – the need for exhortation

“Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.” (Rom 13v14)

To become the Word made flesh – Jn 1v14

“...the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live for ever. ⁵⁹... ⁶³The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.” (Jn 6v56-63)

General aim : to develop disciples as ‘pupils’ of Jesus¹

Rabbis were the teachers who had been given the authoritative role to interpret God’s Word for the living of a righteous life – defining what behavior would or would not please God. The disciple-to-be agreed to totally submit to the rabbi’s authority in all areas of interpreting the Scriptures for his life.

Groups of disciples intensely dialoging over an aspect of life and Scripture’s claim on it, was a standard part of rabbinic teaching methodology. Studying their rabbi’s view of Scripture and wrestling with the texts to comprehend God’s way for the conduct of their life was the main priority of a disciple.

[So a] disciple of Jesus is one who is always asking Jesus, as revealed in Scripture, more about who God is as well as God’s will and ways.

The role of the teacher-preacher-author in disciplemaking is [not to be the rabbi with disciples, but] to be a co-disciple [of Jesus] with certain spiritual gifts that can help open the depths and riches of the Scriptures

The central issue of being a disciple of Jesus is: Will I willingly surrender - submit for a lifetime - every aspect of my life, including worldview, paradigms, career, personality, character, ethics, desires, motivations, values, family, ego, sexuality and attitudes to the authority of Jesus and His teachings?

Small groups and one-on-one relationships can often serve much of the purpose of [disciplemaking] if those involved consistently ask and explore what it means to daily surrender every aspect of their lives to the Lordship of Christ.

How to create a culture for one to ones:

1. Promote and model openness with one-another in the preaching, engaging mind, heart and will
2. Foster this sort of one-anothering within small groups
3. Encourage informal one-anothering in the everyday
4. Train by doing one to ones
5. Personally encourage individuals to have a go
6. Get them to share how it has gone
7. Encourage those who’d like to be in a one to one to ask
8. Talk and pray about what’s being done

What to do in one to ones:

1. Ask questions: Jesus “asked them” – Mk 8v27, 12v34, Lk 14v5, Lk 24v17, Jn 13v12
2. Teach and explain – Mk 13v3, Acts 18v24-26
3. Apply truth to their needs – 1 Thess 5v14
4. Take them into ministry – Mk 5v37, 9v2
5. Share your burdens – Mk 4v33
6. Set an example “follow my example as I follow the example of Christ” – 1 Cor 11v1
7. “Always keep on praying” – Eph 6v18

¹ Excerpts from Doug Greenwold, <http://bible.org/article/being-first-century-disciple>