

Wednesday Discipling POD: Week 1

Date: June 11, 2025

Discipling POD Introduction

A Discipling POD is a structured, intentional approach to discipleship within our church community, guided by the acronym POD: **Purposeful**, **Organizational**, and **Disciplined**.

- **Purposeful:** Intentional actions driven by our mission to make disciples, aligning with our vision: “A gospel-centered family where every member makes disciples.”
- **Organizational:** A structured, systematic approach, including small groups, mentorship, and clear pathways for spiritual growth.
- **Disciplined:** A committed, consistent practice of teaching, training, and equipping believers to grow in faith with steadfast dedication.

Resources

- The Bible (recommended: ESV or NIV translation)
- *Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus* by Mark Dever (available for \$5.00 at the church office)
- Five-Day Bible Study Plan: *The Inevitability of Influence* (distributed by group leaders)

Discipling Assignment (June 11–17)

- Read Chapter 1 of *Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus* (pp. 21–26).
- Complete the Five-Day Bible Study Plan, one devotional per day (avoid completing all five in one sitting).
- Ensure everyone in your group has a copy of the Bible study plan.

Prayer Time

Conclude with group prayer, focusing on the week’s assignments, spiritual growth, and unity within the group.

Small Group Discussion Questions: Discipling – Helping Others Follow Jesus

1. How does our culture’s focus on independence impact our Christian community?

Society often promotes an individualistic “i-life” mindset, seen in trends like solo living or declining community involvement. How have you noticed this influencing your relationships or church participation? How can the communal “we-life” of Christianity encourage us to prioritize community?

Suggested Answer:

- The “i-life” shows up when I prioritize personal convenience, like checking my phone instead of engaging at church events.
- The “we-life” of Christianity calls us to reflect God’s love through community. For example, inviting someone for coffee to discuss faith can counter individualism and foster discipleship.

2. What does Jesus’ command to make disciples mean for us today?

Read Matthew 28:19–20: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* How does this Great Commission apply to your life? How does Jesus’ promise empower you to disciple others?

Suggested Answer:

- The Great Commission calls me to help others follow Jesus, such as sharing the gospel with a coworker or mentoring a younger believer.
- Jesus’ promise to be with me gives confidence, even when I feel unqualified, encouraging me to start a Bible study with friends.

3. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

A disciple is someone in a saving relationship with Jesus, following Him through faith and self-denial (Mark 8:34). How does this shape your view of being a Christian? Can you share a time when following Jesus required sacrifice?

Suggested Answer:

- Being a disciple means surrendering my life to Jesus, not just believing in Him.
- For example, I gave up a job opportunity that conflicted with my faith values, which was hard but deepened my trust in Jesus.

4. How do love and obedience motivate us to disciple others?

Read 1 John 4:19–21 and John 14:15. Discipling flows from loving God and obeying His commands. How have you seen love or obedience inspire you or someone else to help another grow in faith? What steps can you take to show this love?

Suggested Answer:

- Love for God motivates me to disciple, like when I studied Scripture with a friend to help them understand prayer.
- Obedience to John 14:15 pushes me to encourage a struggling believer. A practical step is scheduling time to mentor someone in our group.

5. How can our church be a hub for discipling?

Discipling happens primarily through the local church via baptism and teaching (Matthew 28:19–20). What discipling initiatives (e.g., small groups, mentorship) does our church offer? How have you been mentored or helped others grow in faith? What can our group do to strengthen discipling?

Suggested Answer:

- I've been mentored through my church's small group, where my leader helped me apply Scripture.
- I've helped others by teaching Sunday school. Our group could pair up for accountability, pray together, or organize a workshop to train members in sharing their faith.

Closing

- Close with prayer, focusing on the assignments and spiritual growth.
- Remind participants to complete the week's assignments.
- Confirm the next meeting: **June 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM.**