

Session 6

How to Have a Discipling Conversation (Part 3)

Welcome and Prayer

Ask for a volunteer to open the session with prayer.

Sharing

Invite the group to share any insights, questions or revelations from the daily reflections from the prior week.

Introduction of Session Focus

This week we will finish up our exploration of discipling conversations by looking a little more closely at alignment, action plans, resources and accountability.

Time in the Word

Last week we explored the current reality question (Where are you?) and the vision question (Where would you like to be?). Closely tied to these is the question of “alignment.” How does a person’s current reality and vision line up with their faith and values?”

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and discuss how it might be used in a discipling conversation to help someone evaluate their current reality and develop a vision of the future in that is in alignment with their faith and values.

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Watch the video: “How to Have a Discipling Conversation, Part 3) with Pastor David Keener.

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9248204/video/673632325/embed>

Large Group Discussion

1. What did you find most helpful or challenging in the video?

2. When you consider the steps of Alignment, Action Plans, Resources and Accountability which do you imagine will be the most challenging? Why?

3. When forming action plans, why is it important for the person to set goals that are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound)?

Breakout sessions

Gather in groups of two or three to read and discuss the following passage.

Scripture reading — Matthew 4:4

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’”

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this passage reveal about the importance for discipleship guides to be grounded in Scripture?

2. How can knowing the Scriptures protect us from falling into temptation?

3. How would you rate your personal study of Scripture?

4. We will not always be able to recall or reference a Scripture to fit every situation in which we find ourselves. We can, however, prepare ourselves for when a similar question arises. What are some resources or tools we can use to find the answers and guidance we need?

Practice Session

Assign one member of your group to play the part of a discipleship guide and another to be the one guided. Using the discipleship conversation model below, work through the scenario below. This will be a new experience for many and may be uncomfortable at first. Keeping this in mind, remember that as Christ followers we are to speak the truth in love. Our evaluations of the practice sessions should be helpful and encouraging not critical or unkind.

If time allows after the discussion switch roles and repeat the scenario.

Remember

- a. A discipleship guide is not a counselor or mentor. The goal in the conversation is to help the other person discover their own solutions.
- b. Part of the discipleship guides task is to help others see where God is already walking and working in their lives.
- c. In real life situations there will be no time constraints on the flow of your faith conversations. For this practice sessions focus on the alignment, action plans, resources and accountability.

Where are you now? (Current Reality)

Where do you want to be? (Vision)

Does your vision reflect your beliefs, values and priorities? (Alignment)

How do you plan to accomplish your vision? (Action Plan)

What resources will you need?

How can I hold you accountable?

Scenario

You are having a conversation with a friend from church and they share that they constantly worry about money and even though they are financially secure, they get upset when their spouse spends money on things they don't feel are necessary. When you ask them where they would like to be (vision) they say that they would either like to be rich enough to never have to worry about money, or be able to convince their spouse not to spend any without their prior approval.

Begin your discipling conversation with questions about Alignment and then move on to Action Plans, Resources and Accountability.

After about 10 minutes stop and discuss:

1. What went well in the conversation?

2. What might have been done differently? What questions might have been helpful?

3. What issues of alignment were covered (i.e alignment with Scripture, alignment with personal values, alignment with their priorities in life)?

4. How well did the guide do in helping their friend discover their own answers?

5. Was the action plan SMART? (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound)

Large group wrap-up

Have participants share any closing thoughts, questions, insights or observations that arose from the break out groups.

Remind participants to do the daily devotions and encourage them to journal their insights and questions.

Next week: "The Importance of asking Questions."

Close in Prayer

Devotions: Week Six

Weekday 1

Scripture reading — Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Focus Questions

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

1. Read through the Scripture a second time and highlight the word or phrase that stands out for you.

2. What is going on in your life that connects with that word or phrase?

3. God's word is described in this text as living, active, sharp, piercing and discerning. Take a few moments to consider each of these words separately and how they inform or change your understanding of the power of God's word.

4. Where is the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond this week?

Daily Journal

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

What has caused you to think deeper?

Weekday 2

Scripture reading — Deuteronomy 8:2-3

And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Focus Questions

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

1. Read through the Scripture a second time and highlight the word or phrase that stands out for you.

2. What is going on in your life that connects with that word or phrase?

3. Throughout Scripture, humility is seen as a major attribute for leadership. Numbers 12:3 says of Moses, “Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.” Philippians 2:8 reminds us how Jesus, “humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!” Why is it important to enter into faith conversation with a heart of humility?

4. Take a few minutes to think and pray about your own level of humility. What comes to mind?

5. Where is the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond this week?

Daily Journal

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

What have you thought about today in this focus area that you are longing for?

Weekday 3

Scripture reading — 1 Peter 5:6-11

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Focus Questions

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

1. Read through the Scripture a second time and highlight the word or phrase that stands out for you.
2. What is going on in your life that connects with that word or phrase?
3. It is easy to sometimes feel attacked and overwhelmed by the pressures of this world. Spend some time considering the things that are causing you worry or situations that may make you feel as if you are under attack. In what ways does the above Scripture speak to your worry and fear? Take a few minutes in prayer to cast your anxiety on the God who cares for you.
4. Where is the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond this week?

Daily Journal

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

What small specific step and active response can you take in the direction that God's Word is leading you?

Weekday 4

Scripture reading — 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Focus Questions

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

1. Read through the Scripture a second time and highlight the word or phrase that stands out for you.
2. What is going on in your life that connects with that word or phrase?
3. Why is it important to receive comfort from God before we attempt to comfort others?
4. How can receiving and giving God's comfort protect us from emotional and spiritual burnout?
5. Where is the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond this week?

Daily Journal

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

How does this passage focus my attention first on Jesus, second on my identity “in Christ” and third on my participation in the Body of Christ? How is this passage moving me beyond myself to take a specific small step in the direction of serving my family, church, or neighbor?

Weekday 5

Scripture reading - 1 Peter 4:8-11

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Focus Questions

Recording your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

1. Read through the Scripture a second time and highlight the word or phrase that stands out for you.
2. What is going on in your life that connects with that word or phrase?
3. Hospitality is about more than planned dinner parties. It is about welcoming others into your life. How do you react when someone interrupts your busy schedule? Are you resentful or gracious? Welcoming or distant? Take some time to consider and pray about the role of hospitality in your life.

4. Where is the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond this week?

Daily Journal

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

Reflecting on the Scriptures this week, what theme do you see developing?

Review any action steps you have felt led to take. If you haven't made an action step yet, try it today.

Begin to write a one or two sentence statement for this week's Focus Area. Try to have it reflect what the verses this week have taught you about who Christ Jesus is, and his invitation to follow him in this area of life.

Saturday (before worship...preparing)

Saturdays are a day of preparation as we contemplate the coming Sabbath. Look back over the week, consider such questions as:

1. What sins will I lay before the Lord in my confession?

2. What prayers will I lift up?

3. What questions will I be seeking the answers to?

4. What burdens do I need to lay down in order to be fully open to the movement of the Holy Spirit?

5. Who might I invite to journey with me?

Sunday (after worship...pondering)

Sundays are devoted to worship and reflection. We gather together as the Body of Christ to lift our praises to God and receive what only he can give us. Later, reflect on such questions as:

1. What point of the sermon or Sunday School lesson most caught my attention? What exactly touched my heart?

2. Which song, hymn or portion of liturgy most became a prayer or conversation with God?

3. How will making my confession and hearing the absolution affect how I live this week?

4. What strength or comfort did I receive as I participated in worship today?

5. What was the gospel message I heard today and who did I share it with?

6. Who did I speak with that I can remember in prayer this week?