

PART TWO

Going Deeper (Eight Sessions)

Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

Session 8a

Introduction to Part 2 – Practicum: Going Deeper

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

— Ephesians 4:1-6

It is time to put the skills and insights gained in part 1 of this discipleship experience into practice. Through the daily study of God's Word and gathering with others for mutual conversation, encouragement and support we can be more intentional in our faith walk.

Components

There are three important components to this phase of our discipleship experience. Participants will be asked to:

1. Spend personal time with God each day in prayer and meditation on his Word.
2. Meet with one or two others between each session using the discipleship conversation model we practiced in part 1. We will be using a two week cycle for the rest of the sessions. It is preferable that the participants meet in their small group after the first week's daily reflections but before the next large group session. The purpose of these gatherings of two or three people is for mutual support and encouragement as they process their insights, questions and reflections on the focus of the week. It is also an opportunity to practice the discipling conversation skills learned in part 1.
3. Meet every two weeks with the large group to process what we have learned, share insights from our daily devotions and time together in small groups, and spend time in prayerful preparation for our next area of focus.

Large Group Meeting Session Flow

Welcome and Prayer

Sharing (insights, questions or revelations from the daily devotions from the prior week)

Introduction of Session Focus

Time in the Word

Large Group Discussion on the theme and text

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Small group Breakout sessions (groups of two or three) for Discipling Conversations:

Each person will share how things are going in the focus area of the week. They will then allow their discipling conversations to arise naturally out of the sharing by following the flow of the discipling conversations.

Where are you now? (Current Reality)

Where do you want to be? (Vision)

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

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

What resources will you need?

How can I hold you accountable?

Participants will be asked to set a time for your small group to meet and reflect on the daily devotions for between the sessions.

Large group wrap-up: participants share any closing thoughts, questions, insights or observations that arose from the break-out groups.

Reminder

1. Continue to do the daily devotions and journal their insights and questions.
2. They should set a time during the second week of devotions to meet with one or two others for a discipleship guiding session. Close in prayer.