

## The Elements of Discipleship Part 4:

# The Vocation of a Disciple

☀ What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word “evangelism”?

☀ How is evangelism different today than it was 20...50...200...2000 years ago?

“The essence of the Bible and of what God wants from a disciple is love. This love is the result of our faith and leads to our obedience.”

## The Big Picture of Evangelism

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### *The Privilege and Responsibility of Evangelism*

☀ Have group members read each of the following verses aloud and discuss the responsibility and privilege of evangelism presented in each:

*“But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.” 1 Peter 2:9-10 (Message)*

*“Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. But how shall they ask him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?” Romans 10:13-14 (LB)*

*“Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?” Matthew 5:13 (Message)*

*“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand —shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:4-16 (Message)*

*<sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20*

*<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

☀ Agree or disagree: “The most important responsibility we have as a disciple is that God has chosen us to reach others.” Why or why not?

## Process Evangelism

*"Who do you think Paul is, anyway? Or Apollos, for that matter? Servants, both of us—servants who waited on you as you gradually learned to entrust your lives to our mutual Master. We each carried out our servant assignment. I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plants, but God made you grow. It's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the center of this process but God, who makes things grow. Planting and watering are menial servant jobs at minimum wages. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving. You happen to be God's field in which we are working."* 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 Message

☀ According to this verse, what processes does God use to reach people?

☀ How can we look at sharing our faith with someone as being a part of his or her spiritual journey?

## Joining God in the Process Evangelism

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### Step One: Patience

"This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." Mark 4:26-29

☀ What can a farmer teach us about patience?

"The typical person needs to hear the gospel 8 times before they make a commitment."

☀ Why does growth to commitment take time?

☀ What does 2 Peter 3:9 teach about God's character and his patience?

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9*

☀ What can we do as we patiently wait for God to move?

### Step Two: Sow the Seed, The Word of God

"A farmer was sowing grain in his fields. As he scattered the seed across the ground, some fell beside a path, and the birds came and ate it. And some fell on rocky soil where there was little depth of earth; the plants sprang up quickly enough in the shallow soil, but the hot sun soon scorched them and they withered and died, for they had so little root. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns choked out the tender blades. But some fell on good soil and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as he had planted." Matthew 13:3-8

☀ What can we learn about sowing the Word of God from this farmer?

"The farmer did not care where the seed went. He just scattered seed."

- ☀ What does Isaiah 55:11 teach about God's word and our sowing?

*"...my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11*

- ☀ What can we do to trust God with the results of our sowing?

### Step Three: Water the Seed with Relationship

*<sup>8</sup>We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. 1 Thessalonians 2:8*

- ☀ Why is relationship essential to evangelism?

"People's most basic need in life is relationship. People connected to other people thrive and grow, and those not connected wither and die." How People Grow, Henry Cloud and John Townsend, 122.

- ☀ What does Jesus' ministry teach us about relationship and evangelism?

- ☀ How can we share our lives with people who don't know Christ?

- ☀ What can we do to make sure that we influence those who don't know Christ rather than them influencing us?

### Step Four: Trust God for the Results

"If you can get this, it will liberate you."

*<sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.. 1 Corinthians 3:7*

*<sup>26</sup>He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>All by itself the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup>As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." Mark 4:26-29*

- ☀ Why is it essential that we trust God for the results of our evangelistic pursuits?

"You cannot beat a genuine commitment out of someone no matter how hard you hit them with the Bible."

- ☀ What does this view of evangelism say about God's sovereignty?

- ☀ How does this change your perspective on evangelism?