

Creation Week | Discipling

I. Make Your Plan

- Who are you going to disciple?
 - This really isn't a difficult choice. God has called you to evangelize all unbelievers He brings into your life, and He's equally called you to be part of the discipleship of every believer He's brought into your life.
 - For husbands and wives, your first calling is to disciple your spouse. If you have kids, they're an easy answer as well. From there, just ask yourself what other born again followers of Christ are in your life, and then choose one.
 - However, there is an additional consideration that will help you narrow down your options. We recommend you ask one additional question. Who are the Christians in my life God already has me spending more time with?
 - Often times the people with whom you feel "stuck" are the people God has purposefully placed into your life because He wants you to be part of their discipleship. So, just choose. Choose one. Choose two. I recommend you start small if you're not already in the habit of discipling anyone.
- When will you disciple them? You need to be able to actually pick days and times the two of you can plan to get together.
- Where will you disciple them?
 - The single best place to engage in life-on-life discipleship is in your or their home.
 - If you're taking the lead on the discipleship, your home is the best.
- What will you use to disciple them? The Celebration of God!

II. Work Your Plan

- Just start.
 - Our world is delusional when it comes to what it takes to start a relationship. All it takes is for us to choose to love someone as Christ does. When we do that, we'll be the best friend they could have. How they respond is up to them, but — please keep this in mind — relationships are not inherently reciprocal.
 - God loves us when we hated Him. We can be someone's best friend even when they think we're their enemy. The point is, just invite them over. Introduce them to your family. Have them over for a meal.
- Introduce them to this show.
 - Send them a link, tell them about it, encourage them to listen to it along with you, ask them what they thought about specific episodes. As they interact with the material they'll come to better understand what discipleship is and how God would have us interact.
 - If they truly are born again believers who want to love and serve God more and — hopefully — help you do the same, they'll eventually be excited about the opportunity. Of course, they'll likely feel just like you and I do — tentative and unsure, but we're all in this together. We can take baby steps and slowly become the people God created us to be.
 - You may find that the first person you ask doesn't bite. That's okay. Seek out someone else. It may surprise you who finally takes the bait and starts doing life with you.
 - When it comes to your kids and spouse, take a more direct approach. Tell them about the awesomeness of God and explain to them His goals in discipleship. Brightly invite them to participate with you.

- **Start now.** Don't wait for Creation Week to get here. Tell your kids about it. Invite that friend over for dinner, show them the Celebration Wall, tell them about Creation Week, and invite them back over for dinner sometime that week.
- **Make opportunities to talk about Mercy and God's awesomeness in Creation.**
 - If we're going to be intentional, we're going to need to proactively make opportunities.
 - Ask your mom friend to come over that week for play dates where both of you and the children can do Creation Week themed activities.
 - Watch the videos and talk about the impact they made.
 - Read the verses and discuss them.
 - When school is over, ask your kids how God showed them mercy today.
 - Text some Creation-themed thoughts each day of Creation Week. Have them line up with the different days of Creation.
 - Write a blog post.
 - Publish a social media video encouraging your community with the truths of God's Mercy and the power and grandeur of His creating the world.
 - This doesn't have to be a big deal. There's no special curriculum — at least not yet — there's no method or plan you absolutely must follow.
 - All you have to do is purposefully engage with at least one other person where you actively engage in God's Truth. And though it doesn't have to revolve around mercy or the Creation, we're encouraging it because it will provide a foundation for growth in your discipleship relationship throughout the year.
- **Potential Problems**
 - One of the biggest condemnations of small groups is that it's rarely about God. People get together to talk about God, but it's amazing how quickly the conversation turns to self.
 - There's the sacred-sounding-self-talk that mentions a verse and follows it with "Well, I think this verse means . . ." Often those kinds of answers were actually elicited by the group facilitator when they asked "What does this verse mean to you?"
 - But that really shouldn't be our concern. We need to be asking, what does God intend this verse to mean? What does He want for all of us to know?
 - The other kind of self-talk is the one that slowly drifts from talk of God and the Bible to discussing sports and weekends and school and life with no direct tie-in to God.
 - That happens because the people in the small group would rather talk about what interests them than talk about God because . . . if they were being honest . . . God doesn't interest them that much.
 - Travel to foreign countries where people don't have their own Bible and where Christianity is outlawed and you'll find people who would sit huddled in a hidden room for hours just to talk about and hear someone else talk about God and His Word.
 - But too many professing Christians have no real desire to listen to God speak through His Word for longer than 30 minutes . . . and then we need to get home for lunch.
 - You don't have to dedicate every moment you spend with your disciples in nothing more or less than talking to and about God. Life on life discipleship is going to involve interacting in every arena of life.
 - But if you find that you and your disciples spend only 5 minutes a week talking about God and the rest of the time playing and chatting and eating and hanging out with no thought given to how we can do these things to the glory of God . . . then I'm going to suggest you're not really discipling anyone for Christ. You're teaching them that as long as you dedicate a few moments to God every week you can live your life how you want.
 - And though that may be discipleship . . . it's discipleship for the very worst god . . . the god of self.