

SESSION 6

RESILIENT MAKING

GET STARTED

- A disciple is simply a learner of something. With that definition, we actually know more about disciple making than we realized. **When have you taught someone how to do something (sport, hobby, cooking, music, etc...)? Share a story.** In its simplest form, that is disciple making!
- There can and should be an element of multiplication in our faith. We also see this in the business world in statements like, “success without succession is failure.” It raises the question: can a business person really be considered successful if they don’t pass that success on to others? It becomes even more important and challenging when we ask the same question about our faith. **Is a Christian truly successful if he/she doesn’t pass their faith onto others? What do you think.**

TAKE IT IN

- Watch Session 6: Resilient Making at mynorthside.com/resilient. **What encouraged or challenged you from the video this week?**
- **What did you learn and/or how was your experience with the writing your faith story spiritual exercise?**
- **What has been your biggest takeaway for the Resilient study?**

TALK IT OVER

Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16

- In verse 11, Paul starts strong by saying that we should teach others the ways of Jesus. In the NLT it is translated as “insist that everyone learn them.” While we may “insist”, not everyone is receptive to hearing about Jesus. **How does that play out in your life? Are you able to insist people learn what you know about Jesus? What are some ways we can be persistent and “insist” people learn about Jesus without chasing people away?**
- Perhaps verse 12 answers, at least in part, the question above by being an example of what a Christ-follower looks like. We know that one way to learn is from the example of others. **Would you say you’ve been a good example of what a Christian should look like (home, work, community, etc...)?** We have all fallen short in one or more of these areas, but the good news of Jesus is that there is grace. Grace encourages us to keep pursuing and allowing God to change us. **What changes need to happen in order to be a better example of faith to others?**

- Verse 16 gives us a sober reminder that how we live matters; not only for our salvation and eternity, but for others as well. They say the best way **NOT** to win someone over to the cause of Christ is to be a hypocrite. **Without naming any specific people, whether they are famous or someone you know personally, have you encountered any hypocritical Christians? Have their actions made it more difficult for you or the Christian community to share your faith? What can we do to counteract the tendency of Christians being viewed as hypocrites?**

Read Matthew 28:16-20

- The portion of Scripture is called “The Great Commission”. The word commission can be both a verb and a noun. As a verb it means to “give an order”, which is how most of us interpret this word; as an action and something we must do. However, as a noun, a commission is defined as “a group of people charged with a particular function.” **Does thinking of this “Commission” as a noun change your perspective? Does the realization that there are millions of people “charged with this particular function” of making disciples give you more or less urgency? More or less belief for positive outcomes?**
- This Great Commission is perhaps very familiar to many. However, maybe you’ve never read it in the Amplified (AMP) version of the Bible. Verse 19 in the Amplified gives a broader definition of the phrase “go and make disciples.” It says to “*help the people learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words.*” Helping people learn may be the easiest of these three actions. **Take some time in your group to discuss how you can help people do all three: learn, believe, and obey.** As a group, review this week’s training exercise of taking a disciple making next step. **What is your one next step to live out the Great Commission?**

LIVE IT OUT

Living out our faith often involves helping lead others to discover a relationship with God or to grow closer to Him. There are many ways to make disciples. It all begins with who you know, and how you can help them take a next step towards Jesus. Continue to prayerfully ponder these steps to helping others know Jesus...

- Who do you know that doesn’t know Jesus? Invite them to church.
- Who do you know that needs godly friends? Invite them to join your group, or to a meal to build your friendship with them
- Who do you know that struggles with a hurt, habit, or hangup? Invite them to Care Night or to join Care Group. Better yet, come with them to Care Night.
- Who do you know that wants to learn more about the Bible and spiritual growth? Invite them to join a Northside U course.

Individual Training: Jesus made disciples. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to do the same. This is what resilient disciples do. This week, your training will focus on taking a disciple making next step (pg. 4). This exercise will offer several options to choose from and pursue. Review this exercise as a group, share your plans for a next step, and encourage one another to make disciples.

Memorize: “*You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.*” **2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT)**

SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

GROWING AS A DISCIPLE MAKER

THIS WEEK'S TRAINING GOAL: Take A Disciple Making Next Step

INTRODUCTION

When Jesus came to earth, He did many things. He preached, healed, taught, worked miracles, went to the cross, died for our sins, rose from the dead, and ascended back to heaven. But, the daily thing that Jesus did was call twelve ordinary men into a personal relationship with Him. For three years Jesus trained His disciples to change the world. Everything Jesus did before and after his death and resurrection was centered on this task. Jesus made disciples. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to do the same. This is what resilient disciples do.

Just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus commissioned His disciples to make disciples. This commission appears in some form in all four Gospels (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:46-48, John 20:21) and the book of Acts (1:8). In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says to “go and make disciples...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”. **Jesus told His disciples to make disciples and to teach their disciples to make disciples until the whole world knows about the Gospel.** Pastor Steve Murrell, leader of a disciple making movement in the Philippines, writes, “It is the central underlying idea that every disciple should make disciples. Not many, not most, but every disciple should make disciples. Not just church staff, not just mature Christians, not just evangelistic types. Regardless of travel or work schedule, status, gender, or age. Every disciple should make disciples.”

Why is this mission so important? The Christian movement faced extreme hostility during the first three centuries following the death and resurrection of Jesus. These resilient disciples lived in unbelievably difficult conditions and persecution. Rather than keep quiet or retreat, they endured with a disciple making mission. They knew that they could only change the world if they made disciples of the people of the world. This still holds true today as we pursue becoming resilient disciples¹⁴.

That leaves us with the question of, “How?” If the mission is to make disciples, then how do we do it? There are many ways to answer this question. The best most practical answer is to simply invite others into our lives through meals, coffee, hospitality, friendships, and sharing the hope that we have in Jesus at intentional moments. Peter sheds some light on this, “*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. Friends, this world is not your home, so don’t make yourselves cozy in it. Don’t indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life in your neighborhood so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they’ll be won over to God’s side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives*” (1 Peter 2:9-12, MSG).

¹⁴ Murrell, Steve, WikiChurch: Making Discipleship Engaging, Empowering, and Viral (Charisma House, 2011), 141-142.



Below are several ideas for some disciple maker next steps. Each is another way to answer the question of how to make disciples. Prayerfully consider each, and choose one of the options or come up with your own. Share your next step with your group. Ask them to pray for you and offer accountability. Finally, go and make disciples.

PRAYER

Disciple making happens when we ask for the Holy Spirit to work. Prayer is the best place to start developing as a disciple maker. Choose 2-3 people and commit to consistently praying for them. Begin praying for these people daily. Program it into your phone to serve as a reminder. Pray for them to know Jesus or to develop a deeper relationship with Him. You may never formally disciple them in any way, but you might be the only person specifically praying for them and their relationship with God.

SPIRITUAL HABITS

Throughout Resilient, you have practiced several spiritual habits (prayer, fasting, bible reading, etc...). If you missed or bypassed one, go back and complete it. Moving forward, what does it look like to continue one or more of these habits on a regular basis? How we prioritize our time says a lot about what we value in our lives. Are you prioritizing developing your relationship with God through spiritual habits? **If you are looking for a place to begin**, start with committing to 1% of your day (15min). Spend this time in prayer or Bible study. There are some great Bible reading plans that can be accessed for free through the YouVersion Bible app. As you develop this habit, begin increasing your time to 2-4% (30-60 min). The habits of Bible study and prayer are the foundation of every disciple of Jesus. No other habit will do more to transform your life than praying over, studying, and living out God's Word. **If you have already established a rhythm of these habits**, begin branching out into other spiritual disciplines (solitude, celebration, confession, sabbath, etc...). Below are some resources to get you started...

- *The Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster
- *The Life You've Always Wanted* by John Ortberg
- *Practicing The Way* by John Mark Comer
- *Prayer & Fasting* by David Roadcup and Michael Eagle

We all have a tv show, movie, or restaurant that we regularly recommend to others. That same idea applies to discipleship. If we are regularly experiencing God and growing in our faith, then we will naturally want to share that experience with others. As you develop spiritual habits, it is a wise idea to invite someone to come along with you. Learning and growing alongside someone else provides accountability and encouragement. Plus, that is what disciple makers do!



SHARE YOUR STORY

Since you already have your faith story written down, now is a great time to take steps towards sharing it. Practice sharing your faith story in 3 minutes with a friend, spouse, family member, or your group. This will not only help build your confidence, it will also give you feedback to help refine your faith story. Begin praying for an opportunity to share your faith story. If the opportunity arises in your life, be bold in your obedience, trust the Holy Spirit, and share your story.

LEAD A MICRO OR LIFE GROUP

One of the best next steps as both a disciple and disciplemaker is investing into others. This creates the space for the Holy Spirit to work in and through you. Groups create an environment for discipleship to happen, and there are 2 group options to potentially pursue. First, you could start a Micro Group. These groups are usually 3-6 people (recommended to be gender specific) meeting weekly to study a set 6 month discipleship curriculum. Micro groups are a great option to gather some friends to develop discipleship relationships with. Second, you could start a Life Group. These groups are usually 8-12 people meeting weekly to study the Bible, support each other, and serve others. There are all different types of groups (mens, womens, couples, any season, etc...), and together they dive into studies based on the sermon or Group Ministry recommendations. With each group, you can start them with people you know, or group members can be added through the GroupFinder. To learn more about groups and how to start one, head to www.mynorthside.com/groups.

SERVE OTHERS

Every follower of Jesus is called to use their gifts, given to us by God, to serve others. If you are not regularly serving somewhere, there are tons of opportunities surrounding Northside. You could serve with one of the various ministries (Kids, Students, Worship, Groups, etc...), in our community through one of our local outreach partners, or globally on a short-term outreach trip. You can learn more about all of these opportunities at www.mynorthside.com/serve. Also, throughout the year, there are one-time service projects taking place in and outside of Northside. These projects are a great place to start and you can learn more through our ProjectFinder at www.mynorthside.com/projectfinder.

NORTHSIDE U

Northside U offers short-term courses in studying the Bible, spiritual growth, leadership, marriage, and family. Your next step as a disciple maker may be to develop your knowledge and confidence. The call of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is to make, baptize, and teach disciples. Northside U is a great place to be better equipped to live in obedience to this commission to make disciples. Courses are offered at specific times throughout the year, and you can learn more through our CourseFinder at www.mynorthside.com/coursefinder.

FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

FAMILY CONVERSATION: SESSION 6

RESILIENT MAKING

Scripture:

“Command and teach these things. Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:11-12

Devotion:

The word disciple, or mathitís in Greek, simply means “leaner” or “pupil.” To be a disciple of Jesus means that, just as you listen, learn, and apply the lessons from your teachers/coaches, you are called to listen, learn, and put God’s teachings into practice.

Jesus presents us with an incredible command in Matthew 28:19-20, *“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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* Jesus gives us the responsibility of becoming someone else’s teacher. Other people can watch, listen and learn from us what it means to follow Jesus! Paul, who has been discipling Timothy, instructs him to continue to teach and uphold the truths of the Gospel, regardless of his age. He encourages him to be an example in every aspect of his life, demonstrating that discipleship is not about how old you are, but about your character and faithfulness in following Jesus.

Conversation:

- Is there anyone in your life that you look to as an example of following Jesus? Who are they? What makes you want to follow them as they follow Jesus?
- In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul encourages Timothy to not let anyone look down on him because he is young, but to set an example for other believers. Have you ever felt that you were too young to be an example of what it means to follow Jesus? How did that make you feel?
- Do you have any friends who don’t know Jesus? As a family, discuss how you can begin to invite others into your faith journey.
- A perfect place to start discipleship is in your family! God has designed the family with incredible intentionality, where the parents would be the first and loudest example in their children’s lives. Together, create a simple family discipleship plan. Discuss how you can teach and learn from one another, set goals for regular family devotions, and brainstorm how your family could begin serving together.

Prayer:

Together as a family, thank God for the incredible privilege we have to share the good news of Jesus with those that don’t know Him. Ask for the Holy Spirit’s help and guidance as you pursue discipleship relationships both inside your family and out. Ask him for courage and boldness to be an example for others regardless of your age.

NEW LIFE GROUP NEXT STEPS

During session 5 or 6 of *Resilient* is a great moment to talk about where your group goes next! Our hope is that your group decides to continue on in community. To help guide this conversation, read through and discuss the following as a group.

Life groups matter because God designed us to grow in relationships. The heart of every group is to create an environment where spiritual growth happens. Read through the best practices of a successful group environment below. Based on your personality or past group experiences, which stand out to you as being particularly important? Why?

STUDY God's Word (1 Timothy 3:16)

- **Relevant Studies:** Groups choose engaging studies based on spiritual needs and God's leading to grow together.
- **Join the Discussion:** Group members come ready to join the discussion to share what God is teaching them. As a group, it's not about having all the answers but a willingness to seek them together.

SHARE Your Lives (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

- **Be Real:** The atmosphere should encourage openness and transparency among members. This is an environment where people should feel free to be themselves.
- **Connection & Consistency:** We can't grow spiritually without connecting relationally. Consistency is essential for cultivating relationships with God and one another. Group members attend regularly and connect beyond normal group time.

SUPPORT Each Other (John 13:34-35)

- **Provide Care:** Group members choose to be present, celebrate, pray for, and support one another.
- **Provide Confidentiality:** To build authenticity, members must be able to trust that issues discussed within the group will not be shared outside the group.



Take Next **STEPS** (Colossians 1:28)

- **Share Ownership:** Group members encourage one another to participate in ownership of the group (snacks, hosting, leading, discussing, praying, etc.).
- **Celebrate Steps:** Group members encourage and challenge each other to take next steps of faith (big or small). As this happens, the group will celebrate every step toward Jesus.

TALK IT OVER:

- How would it look if we continued intentionally creating an environment of Study, Share, Support, & Steps?
- Do we want to continue as a group for another season?
 - IF SO:
 - What logistics do we need to discuss (when/where, kidcare, etc.)?
 - What topics would you like to study next as a group?
 - Add your continuing group meetings to your calendar.
 - IF NOT:
 - How can we celebrate the end of this season of grouping (i.e., cookout, desserts, restaurant, etc.)?
 - What is your next step to reconnect with a different life group or ongoing community?

