

#SEE ALL THE PEOPLE

Video Discussion Guide

Show the video found at www.SeeAllThePeople.org.

Starters (15 minutes)

Discipleship is about relationships – our relationship to Christ, to our church, and one another. The video is not about a basketball game, of course. Rather, it's about the relationship between the church and its community. It's about the relationship between the people featured in the short film: Dee, the girl, the players, the crowd that gathered, and of course, "the Old Man."

What did the video say about:

The community around the church?

The relationships between the basketball players and the "old man"?

The little girl saying "Here is the church...?"

The importance of prayer?

Getting ready?

Discuss these questions in groups of two or three, and then share with the whole group:

- What did the video say about the importance of relationships?
- What does this say about your ministry?

The Quick Fix (10 minutes)

In *Developing an Intentional Discipleship System: A Guide for Congregations*, Junius Dotson, the general secretary of Discipleship Ministries, says:

“For too long, The United Methodist Church has looked for a quick fix to help guide our discipleship efforts, and it is not working. We have lost our focus on intentional discipleship, we have forgotten the reasons why we said “yes” to Jesus, and we ourselves have stopped growing as disciples. We have forgotten that being on a path of discipleship is a life-long journey of growth and maturing. I believe a renewed focus on making disciples will be a better investment of our time, money and resources. Our focus must move away from “fixing” churches toward making and growing disciples!”

– *Developing an Intentional Discipleship System*, page 5

Discuss these questions in groups of two or three, and then share with the whole group:

- It what ways have leaders in your congregation tried to “fix your church”?
- What does it mean for you to say “yes” to Jesus?
- How does your church help people live the lifelong journey of faith?

Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

Ask a member to read aloud the following passage from Matthew 28:19-20.

Ask another person to read the background.

“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 that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20, NIV).¹

Background:

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the eleven disciples in Galilee. Some doubted. Some were overcome with joy. Before Jesus left them, he gave them this Great Commission. John Wesley’s notes on this passage offer practical insight.

“Make them my disciples. This includes the whole design of Christ’s commission. Baptizing and teaching are the two great branches of that general design. And these were to be determined by the circumstances of things; which made it necessary in baptizing adult Jews or non-believers, to teach them before they were baptized; in discipling their children, to baptize them before they were taught.”²

Questions for Discussion:

If your group has more than seven members, divide into groups of four to discuss the Scripture passage.

- What does it mean for you to “Therefore go...”
- How does baptizing and teaching fulfill the Great Commission?
- What is the difference between discipling children and adults?

Making It Personal:

When we connect with the why of discipleship, we grow in our faith in connection with others, become more generous, think and act beyond ourselves, and invite others into this new way of life in Christ. Being a disciple of Jesus is not, then, a list of shoulds, but a way of being. If we successfully rediscover and connect with our why, discipleship becomes a way of being that we cannot help! We do not have to invite our friends to church and into this way of life following Jesus, we get to! We do not have to attend a small group or read our Bible more, we want to. When we discover and rediscover the why of discipleship and seek to grow and mature as followers of Jesus, the transformation within us causes a great hunger and desire to do the things God calls us to do. If we lack this, we must circle back to discovering our why once again.

- What does this say about your connection to your church?
- In what ways is God speaking to you this day?

Additional Resources:

- *Developing an Intentional Discipleship System: A Guide for Congregations* by Junius B. Dotson
Free download at www.SeeAllThePeople.org
- TeamWorks, a series of seminars for developing strong teams by Craig Kennet Miller
www.TeamWorksUMC.org
- *Disciples Making Disciples: A Guide for Covenant Discipleship Groups and Class Leaders*
by Steven W. Manskar
<http://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR774/disciples-making-disciples.aspx>
- *Everyday Disciples: Covenant Discipleship with Youth* by Chris Wilterdink
<http://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR793/everyday-disciples.aspx>
- *Growing Everyday Disciples: Covenant Discipleship with Children*
by Melanie C. Gordon, Susan Groseclose, Gayle Quay
<http://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR695/growing-everyday-disciples.aspx>

References

¹ Verses marked NIV are from the New International Version (NIV). Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

² <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/wesleys-explanatory-notes/matthew/matthew-28.html>

