

## Lesson 1: Overview

### **Opening:**

Imagine that you were going to have a house built. The builder that you are interviewing to build your house, brings you a brochure. The brochure includes some pictures and some information about the cost, etc.... The brochure looks nice, but the builder is not going to use the brochure to build the house, the builder needs a clearer picture of the technical aspects of the house called blueprints.

Technical drawings, architectural plans, and engineering designs utilize blueprints to ensure that everyone is building according to the plan. Although the way blueprints are made and delivered has changed over the years, a blueprint still serves a vital purpose in development, organization, energy distribution, and focus of a project. It provides the foundational information from which to build from, and when the building is finished we can look at the blueprints and know that the building has been built according to the right plans.

This series of Bible studies is designed to be like a blueprint. We have, as a church chosen to adopt a Mission Statement: “**Love God, Serve Others, Equip Disciple-Makers**” and we have also as a church chosen to adopt some core values. These core values lead us to examine how we fulfill the mission of the church. The Bible provides some clear direction on how we can live out these values by providing purposes of a New Testament church that we can follow.

Over the next 13 weeks we are going to explore our Mission, Values, and Purposes (MVPs) so that we can see the blueprint of what we are working toward together as a church family. When we know the blueprint, we can build the church by God’s design.

Tom Rainer (head of LifeWay Research) notes that vibrant churches are twice as likely to have a defined “process for moving people from salvation, to spiritual maturity, to significant ministry” as other churches.

### **Central Truths:**

God’s word provides a blueprint for the church on discipleship.  
The church exists to train disciple makers.

## **A Disciple Is:**

Jesus walks up to a handful of people, and simply says “follow me.” (Read Matthew 4:18-22) They were ordinary people who had jobs, families, and other roles in the community. Yet, when Jesus calls, they rise quickly and follow Him. They could not have understood all of what they were getting into, but by following Jesus their lives would never be the same. The impact of following Jesus would in a few short years lead some to proclaim in places like Thessalonica that the followers of Jesus have “turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6).

A disciple is someone who obeys God’s call to follow Him.

The word ‘disciple’ means ‘apprentice’ or ‘follower.’

What does the word ‘apprentice’ mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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*“As a disciple I am learning from Jesus to live my life as he would live my life if he were I. A mature disciple is one who effortlessly does what Jesus would do if Jesus were him.” – Dallas Willard*

## **Examine the Text:**

Reading the Biblical Text: Matthew 28:16-20

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore 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> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Look at V. 16. What does it mean to be directed by Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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How would someone know that you are a follower of Jesus? (Read Luke 6:40)  
What does it mean to be like Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Look at V. 17 Notice that the Bible says that the eleven worshiped Jesus, but some still doubted. What role can doubt have in disrupting our focus on the mission of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does Jesus answer their doubts (look at V. 18 and circle the phrase “all authority”)? What does the word authority mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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Now look at VV. 19-20. Underline all the things that Jesus tells the disciples to do.

It is worth noting that in the Greek text, the only command is to “make disciples.” The other things that Jesus tells them to do (“go” literally means “as you go;” “baptize” means “as you baptize;” and “teach” means “as you teach”). Jesus’ point is, we are all disciple-makers but who are we leading people to become an apprentice of? Does our going, our obedience to God (witnessed in things like baptism), and our teaching (the teaching that others hear from us and see in us) intentionally point people to follow Jesus?

### **Applying the Text:**

Each of us have been called by Jesus to become a disciple, to follow Him. That begins with confession. We must confess that He is Lord and invite Him to be the Savior of our lives. (Read Romans 10:9-10)

Jesus did not call just one disciple, nor did all the disciples have the same gifts and skill sets. Yet, Jesus put them together to accomplish His purposes. He does the same in the church today. God calls us to grow in our relationship with Him through obedience (in things like baptism) and understanding (teaching), but He does so for a purpose. He wants us to make disciples of others, to reach out to those around us, and invite them to an apprenticeship with Him. Followers of Jesus have been given a new identity and form a new community with a biblically defined agenda of making disciples. Jesus made disciples through building relationships with people and caring about them personally.

How can we begin to invest in others this week as a group?