

*The New England*  
**DISCIPLE-MAKERS WEEKEND**

***The Disciple's Commission***

October 27-29, 2017  
Camp Spofford, New Hampshire  
[www.campspofford.org](http://www.campspofford.org)

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**Objectives Of The Weekend**

- Encourage and equip men to become disciple-makers of Jesus through fellowship with like-hearted men of God around the written word of God.
- Help disciple-makers by providing a setting that will reinforce the things they are teaching their disciples.

**Our Theme**

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

The theme for our weekend is ***The Disciple's Commission***:

***Commission***: *n* - an authoritative order, charge, command or direction; a document granting such authority; the power thus granted; authority to act as the agent for another. *v* – to authorize; to send on a mission.

This weekend we will grapple with the implications of Jesus' authority to direct us into a life of personal, accountable discipleship.

***Get ready to be challenged, encouraged, and changed!***

## Schedule

- Friday, October 27
  - 7:00-8:00 - Arrive at Camp Spofford
  - 8:00 – Introduction
  - 9:00 – ***The Disciple’s Commission***
  
- Saturday, October 28
  - 8:00 – Breakfast
  - 9:00 – Personal reflection with God
  - 9:30 – ***The Disciple’s Loves***
  - 12:00 – Lunch
  - 1:30 – ***The Disciple’s Frontlines***
  - 3:30 Free Time
  - 5:00 – Dinner
  - 6:30 – ***The Disciple’s Disciples***
  
- Sunday, October 29
  - 8:00 – Breakfast
  - 8:30 – Personal reflection with God
  - 9:30 – ***The Fruit Of Our Weekend***
  - 12:00 - Lunch
  - Depart

Friday Evening

## THE DISCIPLE'S COMMISSION

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”  
(Matthew 28:18-20)

“Anyone who joins [a church] should know that it is a place of transformation, of discipline, of learning, and not merely a place to be comforted or indulged. Engaging with God and entering the transformative life of the church does not mean we get a kind of 'free pass,' an unconditional love that leaves us where we are. Instead, we get a fiercely demanding love, a divine love that will never let us escape from its purifying, renovating, and ultimately healing grip.” *Wesley Hill, "Washed and Waiting"*

**“Disciple-making is leading a person into a relationship with Jesus and teaching him to obey all that Jesus commanded.”**

Friday Evening

**THE DISCIPLE'S COMMISSION  
LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES**

***Your thoughts:***

***Implications of Jesus' Commission***

***Reasons men do not intentionally disciple other men (or do not allow themselves to be intentionally disciplined)***

**WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU WANT ANSWERED?**

Saturday Morning

## THE DISCIPLE'S LOVES

"But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday Morning

**THE DISCIPLE'S LOVES**  
**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES**

***Your thoughts:***

***Read, Observe, Record, Discuss***

John 13:1-5. What do you observe about the way Jesus loved His disciples?

John 13:12-17. What do these verses (13:12-17) tell you about why Jesus washed the disciples' feet?

John 13:34-35. What are the implications of Jesus' new commandment?

**“A disciple is one who is learning to live and love like Jesus and helps others to do the same.”** (Dale Losch, Crossworld.com)

Read Luke 10:25-37.

Based on Luke 10:25-37, work together to **record characteristics** of a person who **loves like Jesus loves**. Next to each characteristic, also record an additional verse of Scripture that speaks to that characteristic.

**Characteristic**

**Scripture**

**Choose one** characteristic from the list that **you especially need to apply** to a person who **needs to experience** the love of Jesus. Share your response.

**WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU WANT ANSWERED?**



## A TOOL TO SHARE

### HOW TO MEMORIZE THE BIBLE

- **Pray**
- **Choose a passage that is important to you now.** Motivation is key.
- **Do the work.** Everything that is of spiritual value takes work, but God will help you. (Philippians 2:12-13)
- **Read/study/think about the passage in its context.**
- **Write the verse on a card and memorize it one phrase at a time.**
  - Write out and memorize the reference first. (Example: John 13:34-35)
  - Add the first phrase to the reference. (Example: “John 13:34-35. A new commandment I give to you”)
  - Add each subsequent phrase, starting at the beginning. (Example: “John 13:34-35. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another”, etc.)
  - After you memorize the whole passage, write out the reference once more at the end of the passage.
  - Practice reciting the whole passage several times.
- **Review-Review-Review**
  - Review the passage several times a day during the next few weeks.
  - Ask a friend to help you review your verses.
  - Use the passages you memorize to minister to someone else.
  - Pray the passage.

### Weekend Application

Work together with a member of your small group to memorize John 13:34-35.

## THE DISCIPLE'S FRONTLINES

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-16

This afternoon, we’re using principles from “**FRUITFULNESS ON THE FRONTLINE. Making a difference where you are.**” by Mark Greene.

“The Frontline”

1. **Where** are the places that you regularly meet people who don’t know Jesus?
2. **Which** of those places might God be calling you to minister in?

The book suggests **six ways** that God can use us where God has **already placed us**.

- Modeling godly character
- Making good work
- Ministering grace and love
- Molding culture
- Being a mouthpiece for truth and justice
- Being a messenger of the gospel

“What if, for now at least, we are where we should be? What if, for now at least, the people we are with day by day on our frontline, down our street, in our fitness class, in our workplace ... what if they are the ones God wants us to love and serve? What if the bit of God’s earth that we’re in is the bit of God wants us to help tend and steward into flourishing life? Who knows how God might work through any of us on our daily frontlines?”

### EXAMPLES

Saturday Afternoon

**THE DISCIPLE'S FRONTLINES**  
**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES**

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Our question: “**How might God use me to make a difference where God has already placed me, by \_\_\_\_\_?**”

- **Modeling godly character**

“Here the emphasis is on ‘modeling’, on the way we come across to others, on how our character leads people to expect certain kinds of responses from us.”

Modeling godly character is **letting** the life of Christ influence my thoughts, words, and actions regardless of the situation, wherever I am.

1 Peter 2:11-12

- **Making good work**

“Work is God’s instrument to get things done that he wants done, for the benefit of people and to his glory. ... Work is how we make ourselves useful to other people. And bring joy and beauty.”

“Christ came not only to save souls, but to reconcile ‘all things to himself’. And until he comes again to complete the renewal of all things, we are called to be involved in making the world as much like he would want it to be. Everything we do should serve this divine purpose. Our work is meant to contribute to creating a context for human flourishing.”

Colossians 3:23-24

- ***Ministering grace and love***

“Grace doesn’t have to. But grace does. Grace is on the lookout for opportunities. ... Love doesn’t have to. But love does. Love is alert to possibilities.”

“At root, whether convenient or not, ministering grace and love is at root about generosity. Generous living. It’s about taking the focus off ourselves and proactively thinking about how we might help someone else. It’s about being alert to the opportunities to serve someone.”

Philippians 2:1-5

- ***Molding Culture***

“Culture is the way we do things around here.

“Our ways of doing things in our cultures are either positive or negative. They either help people flourish as whole human beings or they make it more difficult. ... So we look for ways not only to change our own behavior, not only to show love to individuals, but to seek to create systems that are ‘loving’, to change the way things are done around us for the good of all.”

Jeremiah 29:4-7

- ***Being a mouthpiece for truth and justice***

“Mouthpiece” means “speak up”.

“You can be a mouthpiece for truth and justice, for fair dealing and right living, by speaking wisdom into a situation. ... For example, what do we when there’s a juicy piece of gossip whisking its way around our sports club, or when someone in the family is being blamed for something they didn’t do and they don’t know how to stick up for themselves?” (i.e. unjust speech)

Psalms 15:1-5

- ***Being a messenger of the gospel***

“What would it look like if our ‘evangelism,’ our living as *sent ones*, was less agenda-driven or rushed, and more characterized by love, patience, authenticity, and confidence that the Spirit knows the right timing? What would it look like to enter into friendships with a long-term perspective and a desire to walk with people and relate them, regardless of whether or not things went the way we wanted them to go in terms of their coming to Christ? As *sent ones*, every encounter we have with another person, believer or not, has purpose. We live intentionally, but without distorted agenda. ... Our kingdom purpose as *sent ones* invites us to live redemptively in every relationship.” *Latte Love*, by Doug Nuenke

“We can base our evangelism on three safe assumptions:

1. God wants people saved. God loves the people on your frontline.
2. God is the lead evangelist – not you, not your pastor, not your DVD.
3. You have some role in this – however small.”

Colossians 4:2-6; 1 Peter 3:13-16

**WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU WANT ANSWERED?**

## **A TOOL TO SHARE**

### **Praying For My Frontline**

God has given us the great privilege of partnering with Him to bring spiritually lost people into a relationship with Himself.

“We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

“The most important use of any person’s name is when we repeat it in God’s presence.”

#### **PRAY FOR GOD’S WORK IN THEM**

Pray that God would ...

- Draw them to Jesus – John 6:44
- Take away their spiritual blindness – 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
- Overcome wrong thinking – 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- Give them a heart to know God – Jeremiah 24:7
- Convict them of sin – John 16:8
- Grant them repentance – 2 Timothy 2:25-26
- Open their hearts to respond in faith – Acts 16:14

**PRAY FOR GOD'S WORK IN ME**

Pray that God would ...

- Give me compassion for spiritually lost people – Matthew 9:36
- Help me prepare to speak to people about Jesus – 1 Peter 3:15
- Give me boldness to speak – Ephesians 6:19
- Help me to speak clearly – Colossians 4:4
- Give me endurance to keep praying – Hebrews 10:36

**PRAY FOR THE PROCESS**

Pray that God would give me opportunities to develop my relationships with \_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 4:2-6) by...

- Modelling godly character
- Making good work
- Ministering grace and love
- Molding culture
- Being a mouthpiece for truth and justice
- Being a messenger of the gospel
  - Identify with Jesus
  - Share my story
  - Learn about his/her spiritual journey
  - Share the good news one piece at a time
  - Put the pieces of the gospel together
  - Ask if he/she is ready to believe in Jesus

Saturday Evening

**THE DISCIPLE'S DISCIPLES**

**A TOOL TO SHARE**

*The Pipeline Illustration*



Saturday Evening

## THE DISCIPLE'S DISCIPLES

**“ ...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you ...” - Jesus**

“Disciple-making is leading a person into a relationship with Jesus and teaching him to obey all that Jesus commanded.”

Jesus' approach to disciple-making was both ***accountable*** and ***personal***.

**THE DISCIPLE'S DISCIPLES**  
**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES**

***Your thoughts:***

**Discuss** the difference between mentoring and disciple-making.

“Mentoring is a long term relationship where the focus is on supporting the growth and development of the mentee. The mentor is a source of wisdom, teaching, and support, but not someone who observes and advises on specific actions or behavioral changes in daily work.” (A Guide to Understanding the Role of a Mentor - The Balance <https://www.thebalance.com>)

***Discuss:***

“There are many areas in the family of God that allow for blending and being interdependent, but discipleship is not one of them. We can learn in groups, we can serve in teams, we can worship as a family, but we can only be disciples individually. **A ministry that seeks to make disciples must support the personal responsibility and accountability required in developing individual discipleship.** It can use a variety of methods, but it must always bring discipleship to the personal level of each individual.” - *Intentional Disciplemaking*, by Ron Bennett

What does Colossians 1:28-29 teach about supporting the personal responsibility and accountability required in developing individual discipleship?

How did Jesus model the **accountable** aspect of His disciple-making?  
(Refer to examples in the gospels.)

How did Jesus model the **personal** aspect of His disciple-making?  
(Refer to examples in the gospels.)

This weekend we have been talking about making disciples. Jesus modeled what Jesus did to make disciples. We see Jesus ...

- Loving – John 13:1
- Praying – John 17:1-26
- Modeling – John 13:13-15
- Teaching – Matthew 5:1-2; 13:1-52; Mark 8:31-33;

***Discuss:***

What might it **look like** for **you** to **intentionally** do those four things (love, pray, model, teach) with another man? Write down one way you can practically do **each of those four things**. Then discuss what you wrote.

- Name him
- Love him
- Pray for him
- Model your life for him
- Teach him

***WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU WANT ANSWERED?***

## Sunday Morning

# THE FRUIT OF OUR WEEKEND

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves." James 1:22

Rather than adding more teaching on Sunday morning, we want to use Sunday morning to process what we discussed on Friday night and all day Saturday. We are asking God to speak to each of us personally this weekend in a way that will equip each other to act on what we heard and saw. (Luke 6:46-49 – i.e. hearing without action leads to disaster.)

### ***Schedule for Sunday:***

- 8:00 – Breakfast
- 8:30 – Personal reflection with God on your weekend
- 9:00 – Worship / Prayer
- 9:30 – Large Group – processing the weekend together – personal testimonies /questions/applications/feedback
- 10:30 – Break
- 10:40 – Small Group – share/pray/one-to-one follow-up application
- 11:15 – ***God's Vision For Us***
- 11:55 – Photo
- 12:00 Lunch
- ***Go Make Disciples***

## Sunday Morning After Breakfast

### Personal Reflection With God On Your Weekend

- Spend half an hour with the Lord after breakfast.
- Pray through Matthew 28:16-20. What has **God been saying to you** this weekend about the commission you received from Jesus. Also, what have **you been saying to God** about this? **Write it down.**
  
- Read and meditate on Philippians 1:21-26. Most people don't think like the apostle Paul. We are not eager to die and depart this life and be with Christ. Instead, we have **many reasons** to remain on in this life. But Paul had **only one reason** to remain on in this life. What was it? ... Is this a model to follow (Philippians 3:17-21)? Write down your thoughts.
  
- One final question to respond to: ***If no one you know takes Jesus' commission seriously, will you?***

**Sunday Morning**

**LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES**

Process the weekend together: personal testimonies/  
reflections/questions/applications/feedback/etc.

**SMALL GROUP APPLICATIONS**

Choose **one** application from the weekend that you especially want to follow-up on from The Weekend. ***Write it down.***

Pair-up with a member of your small group.

- Share your applications with each other.
- Schedule a time to talk with each other by phone sometime during the week of November 13<sup>th</sup> to follow-up on what your applications from the weekend.
  - Set a time to talk \_\_\_\_\_
  - Exchange phone numbers \_\_\_\_\_
- Pray together