

New England Men's
DISCIPLE-MAKERS WEEKEND

The Disciple's Joy

October 18-20, 2024
Camp Spofford, New Hampshire
A New England Men's Disciple-Makers Weekend

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<http://disciplemakersnetwork.org>

Objectives of The Weekend

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

Our Theme

“I have no greater joy than this,
to hear of my children walking in the truth.”

3 John 4

According to the Bible, “*joy*” involves a disciple’s choices to follow God’s word regardless of the difficulties of our circumstances, because of God’s good plans for our lives.

This weekend, we will experience ...

The joy of living in God’s word
The joy of discipleship
The joy of sharing the gospel
The joy of worshipping
The joy of praying
The joy of persevering through trials

Get ready to be encouraged, challenged, and changed!

Schedule

- Friday, October 18
 - 7:00-8:00 - Arrive at Camp Spofford
 - 8:00 – ***The Joy of Living in God’s Word***
 - 8:30 – Meeting Your Team

- Saturday, October 19
 - 7:00 – Prayer Ministry
 - 8:00 – Breakfast
 - 9:00 – ***The Joy of Discipleship***
 - 10:30 – ***The Joy of Sharing the Gospel***
 - 12:00 – Lunch
 - 1:00 – Workshop - ***The Joy of Lament*** (part 1)
 - 2:30 – Relational / Rest Time
 - 5:00 – Dinner
 - 6:15 – ***The Joy of Worship***
 - 7:15 – ***Worshipping Together***

- Sunday, October 15
 - 7:00 – Prayer Ministry
 - 8:00 – Breakfast
 - 8:45 – Workshop - ***The Joy of Lament*** (part 2)
 - 10:15 – ***The Joy of Praying***
 - 11:45 – Group Picture
 - 12:00 – Lunch
 - 1:00 – Depart

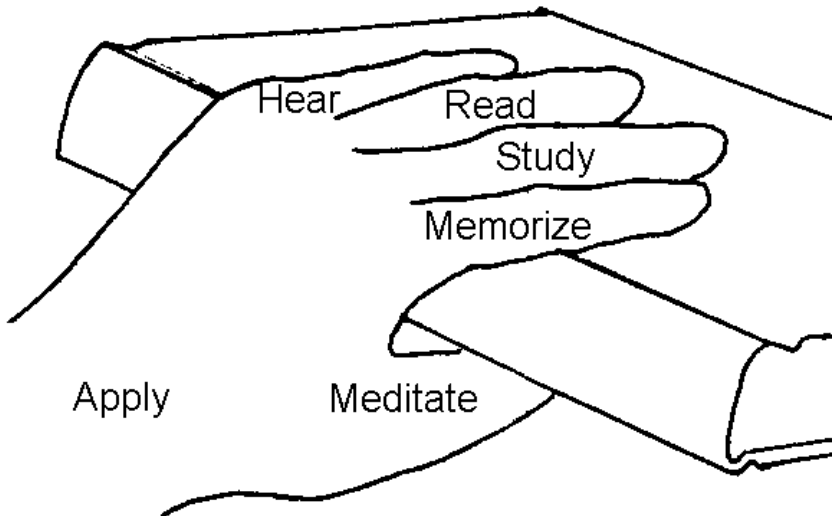
Friday Evening 8:00

The Joy of Living in God's Word

“Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.” Jeremiah 15:16

One Man's Testimony

Six Ways to Experience Joy in God's Word



Friday Evening 8:30

Your Team

Meet the men in your team.

List the names of the men on your team. Leave space below each name to write prayer requests throughout the weekend.

Close your time together in prayer, asking God to use this weekend.

The Joy of Discipleship

"But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves." John 17:13

One key goal of our discipleship with Jesus is that we would share His joy.

TOGETHER, READ the Scriptures below, and for each one, ***consider the place of joy*** in a disciple's life with Christ.

- Our salvation from sin and death – 1 Peter 1:3-9
- The indwelling Holy Spirit – Romans 15:13
- Knowing and doing God's word – John 15:10-11
- Our life in the church, the body of Christ – Philippians 2:1-2
- Faith and the power to overcome challenges in life – James 1:2-6
- The privilege of prayer – John 16:23-24
- Being changed by God – 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7
- Being used by God for His mission – Luke 10:1-2; 17-20
- And much more ...

Discipleship is living and experiencing the things that are described in the Bible (like those above), so that we will experience the joy that Jesus gives.

CHOOSE ONE of the elements of your life with Christ listed above, and then describe a **SPECIFIC EXAMPLE** of how this element of discipleship has created **joy** for you.

SUMMARY: Knowing and applying the specific elements of discipleship described in the Bible will produce joy in our lives.

QUESTION: So, why is our "joy" sometimes less than "fulness of joy"?

TWO COMMON REASONS

1. *Our biblical definition of “joy”*

Sometimes our lack joy stems from our definition of joy.

WORK TOGETHER to create *a definition of joy* based on the Bible.

- First, consider the Scriptures we read above and then add other references that relate to your definition.
- Finally, write out your group’s definition of biblical joy.

2. *“Joy-Suckers”*

Joy-suckers are habits, thought patterns, circumstances, failures, or specific people that steal our joy.

John 10:10 describes Satan as a thief:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

One thing Satan can steal from us is our joy. In fact, he is often our chief joy-sucker. How does Satan do this?

READ the following verses of Scripture:

- Philippians 2:3-4,14; 4:6-7
- James 1:19-20; 3:2-5

CHOOSE ONE issue from these verses. Often, when Scripture gives us a command to obey, an application to make, a sin to avoid, a promise to trust, etc., Satan tempts us (just like he tempted Jesus – Matthew 4:1-7). When we fall to Satan’s temptation, ***how*** does that impact ***your joy***? **GIVE AN EXAMPLE.**

What did King David ask God to do for him when this happened to him? Psalm 51:12

DISCIPLESHIP IS ...

“pouring our lives into intentional, Christ-centered, Scripture-based, Spirit-directed, prayer-covered, love-soaked relationships with others, helping us know Christ, teaching us obedience to what he has commanded, and growing together in Christlikeness.”¹

Discipleship is about enjoying our Father, His Son, and His Spirit ... enjoying God’s love ... enjoying His word ... enjoying His people ... enjoying His mission ... enjoying our conversations with Him ... even enjoying God’s molding and chastening us ... all for His glory and our joy.

BEST THOUGHT FROM THIS SESSION

Review your notes from this session. Mark, highlight, or record the **best thought** that stood out to you from this session.

END THE SESSION IN PRAYER

Saturday Morning 10:30 – Team Session

The Joy of Sharing the Gospel

RESPOND to this statement made by a Christian author:

“There is one thing both nonChristians and Christians can agree on. They both hate evangelism.”

TOGETHER, READ the following Scriptures:

- Luke 2:8-11
- Mark 1:14-15
- Luke 10:1-3,17-20
- Luke 15:1-7 (also skim vss. 8-32)
- John 4:34-38
- Acts 5:16-18; 38-41
- Romans 10:8-15

KEY WORDS

Notice these key words in the above verses: ***good news, gospel, joy, rejoice.***

Our words evangelism and evangelist are based on these Greek words:
euangelion – good news
euangeliste – one who brings good news

“After the death of Christ, the term *gospel* (good news) encompassed also the preaching concerning Jesus Christ ... suffering death on the cross to procure eternal salvation ... rising to life and being exalted to the right hand of God in heaven ... to return in majesty to consummate the kingdom of God.”²

SUMMARY

So, what did the angels, Jesus, and the early Church think about evangelism?

Telling/speaking/proclaiming the good news about Jesus and His kingdom is ***one key source of a disciple's joy.***

QUESTION: Are we good news?

Jesus embodied the good news that He spoke to people. In the same way, God wants us to be the personification of the good news we speak. If we want to bring good news to people, we need to embody good news.

Because of this, evangelism is far more than just giving people a talk about Jesus.

READ and **DISCUSS** 1 Peter 3:8-17 and Colossians 4:2-6.

As we discuss these verses, give specific **EXAMPLES** of how our way of life in Christ impacts the way we speak to people about the good news about Christ and His kingdom?

THE MAN GOD MADE YOU TO BE

One key to experiencing the joy of sharing the gospel is being the person God has made you to be, in the places where God has placed you.

QUESTION: What has God placed *in you*, and *around you*, that opens opportunities for you to share the gospel with people?

Think about this question, then ...

- **WRITE** your answer(s) to the question.

- Share **ONE EXAMPLE** of how you have seen God use this in you to influence lost people.

CONCLUSION

There are many ways to share the words of the gospel with spiritually lost family, friends, coworkers, and even strangers.

If you have never been trained to share the good news concerning Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension to heaven, and His return to complete God's kingdom ... the men who brought you to this weekend will consider it a great joy to teach you what others have taught them. Ask them about how they can give you this training.

Even if you have much to learn about sharing the good news (as most of us do), the things we have discussed this morning will help us all to remember ***how*** Jesus wants us to share His good news. In 1 Corinthians 13:1 the apostle of Paul wrote ...

“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”

So, whenever and however we speak the good news, ***speak it in love***.

BEST THOUGHT FROM THIS SESSION

Review your notes from this session. Mark, highlight, or record the ***best thought*** that stood out to you from this session.

END THE SESSION IN PRAYER

Saturday Afternoon 1:00

The Joy of Lament (part 1)

Pat Testerman

The Joy of Lament?

***To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.
How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.
But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.***

Psalm 13 (ESV)

What is Biblical Lament?

"A Prayer in Pain that Leads to Trust"¹

Not Mere Complaint

Welcomed and Gifted by God

Neglected by Man

¹ Vroegop, 28.

Psalm 13 as a Template

Biblical Lament:

1. Assures us we are in a long line of those who have lamented (Introductory Script)
2. Addresses God as the One who can answer our cries (v 1-3a)
3. Presents our complaints honestly and openly to God (v 3b-4)
4. Expresses trust in God's sovereignty, mercy, and faithfulness (v 5)
5. Commits to praise God in the midst of our suffering (v 6)

Discipleship into Suffering

Called Alongside

"There are no words. I am sorry. I love you." – Jeff Roach (pg 55)

Showing Up: *The Ministry of Presence*

"The ministry of presence always precedes the ministry of intercession" – Gary Moore

God Is a God of Presence... We Are Called to Be Present

Preparing, Entering, and Sitting in the Ashes (Job 2:11-13)

Inclining Our Ears: *The Ministry of Listening*

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger...

- James 1:19

Listening to Those Who Suffer Expressively or in Silence

Listening to the Sufferer's Story

Listening with Discipline

Sharing in Suffering: *The Ministry of Empathy*

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

- Romans 12:15

Empathy and Compassion: Weeping with Those Who Weep

The Mighty Power of God's Compassion

Crying out Together: *The Ministry of Lament*

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

- Psalm 13:1a

Modeling Lament

Sharing the Lost Discipline of Lament

Discerning and Responding: *The Ministry of Counsel*

For everything there is a season... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak...

- Ecclesiastes 1a, 7b

Being Slow to Speak

Leading with Prayer

Admonishing, Encouraging, Helping, and Patience
(1 Thessalonians 5:14)

Staying Close: *The Ministry of Persistence*

You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

- James 5:8

Being in for the Long Haul

Persistence Multiplies Disciples

Discussion: The Joy of Lamenting with our Disciples

The Joy of Worship

A Psalm for Thanksgiving.
Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful singing.
Know that the Lord Himself is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.
For the Lord is good
His lovingkindness is everlasting
And His faithfulness to all generations.
Psalm 100

“In genuine spiritual worship, we bow before the Most High God, the most merciful and reliable and winsome of all beings, and we crown Him as Lord of all that we are. We consent to His gracious, transforming work in our lives; we agree that He can work in us, so that we’ll be willing and able to do His will. In other words, we choose to let Him be God in our lives. This is our greatest privilege, the highest thing we can do.”³

TOGETHER, READ the following verses of Scripture. As you read, describe what each reference teaches about genuine spiritual worship.

- Exodus 20:3-4
- Psalm 2:11-12
- 1 Chronicles 29:10-13
- John 4:20-24
- Matthew 6:9-13
- Romans 12:1-2

“The heart of worship is who God is and what He has done for us through Jesus Christ.”⁴

Joy Is Expressive

Joy – the expression or display of glad feeling; the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying.

Here are some ways people in the Bible expressed their joy in worship:

- Nehemiah 8:1-3, 9-10
- Psalm 149:1-5
- 1 Chronicles 29:14-17

QUESTION: How do you express joy when you worship?

END THE SESSION IN WORSHIP with your team to prepare for our corporate time of worship.

Saturday Evening 7:30

Worshipping Together

Sunday Morning 8:45

***The Joy of Lament* (part 2)**

Pat Testerman

Review: Psalm 13 as a Template for Biblical Lament²

Biblical Lament:

1. Assures us we are in a long line of those who have lamented (Introductory Script)
2. Addresses God as the One who can answer our cries (v 1-3a)
3. Presents our complaints honestly and openly to God (v 3b-4)
4. Expresses trust in God's sovereignty, mercy, and faithfulness (v 5)
5. Commits to praise God in the midst of our suffering (v 6)

Discussion: How Can Our Own Suffering Serve in Discipleship?

Discipleship from our Suffering

Suffering from the Front

Imitate me as I imitate Christ.

1st Corinthians 11:1

² Patrick Testerman, *Lament as Discipleship: Walking and Crying out to God with One Another*, (Chichester, NH: Flying T Press, 2024), 39-53

Growing: *Conforming to Christ in Our Suffering*

Therefore, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

1st Peter 4:19

Be Transformed

How Did Christ Suffer?

Inviting and Opening: *Allowing Others into Our Suffering with Vulnerability and Transparency*

And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled.

Mark 14:33

We need the Ministry of Presence

We Need to Lay Ourselves Open

Modeling Humility, Building Trust, Normalizing Suffering

Practicing Christlikeness, and Teaching Ministry

Vulnerability and Discretion

Modeling: *Suffering as Witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2nd Corinthians 12:10

Godly Suffering Points to Jesus

The Witness of Human Weakness

The Witness of Biblical Lament

The Witness of Gospel Repentance

The Witness of God's Mercy and Grace

Teaching: *Making Disciple-Making Disciples Who Lament With and For Us and Others*

And these things which you have heard me say in the presence of many, entrust to reliable men who will be able to teach others also.

2nd Timothy 2:2

Demonstrating Biblical Lament

Explaining Biblical Lament

Sending Biblical Lamenters

Discussion: The Joy of Biblical Lament in Our Own Suffering

I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt bountifully with me.

Psalm 13:6

Sunday Morning 10:15

The Joy of Praying

" Until now you have not asked for anything in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete."

John 16:24

"There is no way to learn to pray but praying."

Samuel Chadwick

TIME TO PRAY

At the end of our 8:45 session, choose a partner and a place to pray.

10:15 - Pray together for your time in prayer.

10:20 - Pray alone.

11:05 – Check-in with your partner and pray together.

11:10 - Pray alone.

11:55 – Gather for our group picture.

Suggestions – what to pray

- Worship using the principles and verses we discussed during our weekend.
- Pray for your family – Ephesians 5:25; 6:1-4
- Pray for those who are discipling you and those you are discipling – 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 3:10-11
- Pray for family and friends who are spiritually lost – 2 Peter 3:8-10
- Pray for those who are experiencing trials of any kind (James 1:2-6) and lament for them.
- Pray for missionaries you know – Mark 10:28-31
- Pray for our nation – 1 Timothy 2:1-4

NOTES:

Scriptures quoted in these notes are from a variety of Bible translations.

1 (p.7) – adapted from “Lament as Discipleship” by Pattrick Testerman, p.17

2 (p.8) – adapted from Blue Letter Bible, Strong’s G2098 – euangelion

3 (p.15) – “31 Days of Praise” by Ruth Myers, p.23

4 (p.15) – Rick Thompson

A New England Disciple-Makers Weekend

Our region is a mission field. Spiritually lost people are everywhere. We need more spiritually mature laborers who will live for Jesus in a redemptive way where they live and work. For many years, the Church in New England has been experiencing a disciple-making deficit:

“Churches today are full of people who haven’t been invited to become disciples. Being a Christian has come to mean going to church and being saved when you die. The ministry of the church is given over to ‘making the final cut’ and solving problems (marital problems, pain, and suffering), not to discipleship.” - Dallas Willard

WE ARE a network of disciple-makers living in New England who are training men and women to live intentionally, and personally, as disciple-makers of Jesus Christ wherever we are. We minister in a variety of churches throughout New England.

OUR VISION is to help create an identifiable culture of intentional, personal disciple-making throughout the Church in New England.

OUR PURPOSE is to train men and women to live intentionally, and personally, as disciple-makers of Jesus Christ so we will be models, advocates, and catalysts who reproduce other disciple-makers wherever God has placed us.

<http://disciplemakersnetwork.org>

“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