

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

***The Disciplined Soul***

October 26-28, 2018  
Camp Spofford, New Hampshire  
[www.campspofford.org](http://www.campspofford.org)

## ***New England Disciple-Makers Weekend***

### ***The Disciplined Soul***

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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, centered 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***

*“In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith ... discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness ... it is for this we labor and strive ... Prescribe and teach these things.”*

1 Timothy 4:6-11

Daily time with God is at the heart of our relationship with God. How can we effectively train men in the disciplines necessary to develop personal, consistent time with God in prayerful meditation in the Bible? This weekend, we are working together to develop the disciplines that will nourish us in the words of our faith.

***The Disciplined Soul***

***Feeding Your Soul***

***The Transformed Soul***

***The Ministering Soul***

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

## **Schedule**

- Friday, October 26
  - 7:00-8:00 - Arrive at Camp Spofford
  - 8:00 – Introduction
  - 9:00 – ***The Disciplined Soul***
  
- Saturday, October 27
  - 7:00 – Prayer Ministry
  - 8:00 – Breakfast
  - 9:00 – ***Feeding Your Soul***
  - 12:00 – Lunch
  - 1:00 – Workshops
  - 2:30 – Relational Time
  - 5:00 – Dinner
  - 6:30 – Worship/Prayer
  - 7:30 – ***The Transformed Soul***
  
- Sunday, October 28
  - 7:00 – Prayer Ministry
  - 8:00 – Breakfast
  - 9:00 – Worship/Prayer
  - 9:45 – ***The Ministering Soul***
  - 11:45 – Commission
  - 12:00 – Lunch
  - 1:00 – Depart

**Friday Evening**

## THE DISCIPLINED SOUL

“We will never get anywhere in life without discipline, be it in the arts, business, athletics, or academics. This is doubly so in spiritual matters. In other areas we may be able to claim some innate advantage.... But none of us can claim an innate spiritual advantage. In reality, we are equally *disadvantaged*. None of us naturally seeks after God ... Therefore, as children of grace, our spiritual discipline is everything –everything! I repeat ... ***discipline is everything!***” K.H.

### 1 Timothy 4:6-11

If we don't eat, we die (*“constantly nourished on the words of the faith,”* verse 6)

Do the work (*“train yourself for godliness,”* verse 7b; *“For this we labor and strive,”* verse 10a)

Disciple-makers develop other disciplined men (*“In pointing these things out to the brethren,”* verse 6a; *“Prescribe and teach these things,”* verse 11)

An **IDEAL** plan for any discipline:

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***Saturday Morning***

## **FEEDING YOUR SOUL**

### ***Launching Point:***

“But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”” Matthew 4:4

### ***One Man’s Story:***

### ***Group Discussion:***

Matthew 4:4 is a quote from the Bible Jesus used. Read Deuteronomy 8:1-6 together. What principles stand out to you in these verses?

“Setting time aside for God takes discipline. Spiritual disciplines are habits, practices, customs, patterns, routines that we cultivate for a spiritual purpose. Every life is held together by a web of habits that have become nearly automatic. ... We don’t even question the practice. We won’t question the habit of meeting with God, either, if we understand its importance.” J.F.

- According to the Bible, what are some benefits of developing the daily habit of spending time hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, or meditating on God’s Word? (List verses together.)
  
- ***A thought to discuss:*** If you teach a man to have daily time in God’s Word, on a scale of 1-10, how well will you eventually disciple him?

- **What approaches do you use** to teach a man to develop the habit of spending daily time with God? Together, evaluate the methods/approaches you discuss based on the *I-D-E-A-L* plan.
- From your experience, **why do you have a hard time** developing the discipline of daily time with God? Why do men resist doing the work?
- The following quotes relate to helping men become successful in their desire to spend daily time with God. **Read** and **highlight** the quotes on your own and then **discuss** them together:

“‘I know I should, but I don’t.’ That’s the story for many men. How do we help men get past ‘should’ to ‘do’?” R.B.

“Success is a few simple disciplines practiced every day. ... Failure is not a single, cataclysmic event. We do not fail overnight ... failure is nothing more than a few errors in judgment repeated every day. Now why would someone make an error in judgment and then be so foolish as to repeat it every day? The answer is because he or she does not think that it matters. On their own, our daily acts do not seem that important. ... More often than not, we escape from any immediate consequences of our deeds.” J.R.

“The things that take you out of failure and up toward survival and success are simple. So simple, it’s easy to overlook them ... because when you look at them, they seem insignificant ... Mostly they’re just little things you do every day and that nobody else even notices. They are things that are simple to do – yet successful people actually do them, while unsuccessful people only look at them and don’t take action.” J.O.

“We must do the work. We can’t sit around waiting to ‘want to’ have daily time with God, we just do it. In fact, I think I can argue that you **will not want to do something unless you first did it when you didn’t want to**. ... And if you stay with it long enough, the initial *drudgery* of something you really don’t want to do becomes a *discipline* that you know will make you feel better, have more energy, etc. Eventually, you’ll *delight* to do it: ‘I wouldn’t miss it.’ That’s a normal progression: *drudgery*, *discipline*, *delight*. But it starts with ‘doing the work.’” (See Hebrews 12:11) B.E.

- “You have to become a self-feeder. Every believer has to be able to feed themselves spiritually from the Word of God. Remaining dependent only on the pre-digested meals that are regurgitated once a week in a worship gathering will lead to immaturity and a deficiency of spiritual strength.” D.D.

Work together to list some key characteristics of a ***self-feeding*** Christian? Then discuss some ways we, as a disciple-makers, can build those characteristics into other men?

## ***Reflection/Application***

Take ten minutes to review this discussion session and record your key reflections and applications on the journal page below.



**WORKSHOPS**

(Choose one.)

- **GET A GRIP ON SCRIPTURE**

One key part of being an effective disciple-maker is developing a firm grasp on the Bible ... not only to read His Word (Rev 1:3), but also to hear it (Rom 10:17), study it (Acts 17:11), memorize it (Ps 119:11), and meditate on it (Ps 1:2-3) ... and then with that firm grip of Scripture, to put it into action! (Jas 1:22)

- **MY STORY**

Learning to tell the true story of God in your life.

- **FEEDING MY SOUL**

Quoting from Jon Bloom's article *Become What You Eat*, "...living soul food is more vital to our ultimate health than bodily food. But learning to eat well for the sake of our body's well-being has valuable lessons for eating well for our soul's well-being. And one of those lessons is that our taste preferences can be changed."

## THE TRANSFORMED SOUL

### **Launching Point:**

“Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Romans 12:1-2

### **One Man’s Story:**

### **Group Discussion:**

Romans 12:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 talk about being **transformed**. Use those verses as a starting place and discuss what it means for God to **transform** us?

**Meditation** is a transaction between the Spirit of God, the Word of God, and the man of God that allows a man to hear God speak personally and respond to the changes God wants to make in his life.

- Discuss the difference between reading the Bible for information and hearing God speak personally to your heart as you read the Bible.
- Discuss what the following verses teach about meditation on Scripture.

Psalms 1:1-3

Joshua 1:8

Hebrews 4:12-13

- What practical suggestions do you have to help a younger believer learn to meditate on Scripture?

Jesus' **parable of the sower** (Matthew 13:18-23; also add Mark 4:20 and Luke 8:15) is about four ways people respond to the Word of God.

- Read the parable and discuss what makes the Word of God take root and bear fruit in a man's life?

- The Lord's sower parable illustrates three important goals of God's Word. Discuss each goal and how ***we as disciple-makers can help the process of understanding/retention/application take place for other men.***

1. Understanding

2. Retention

3. Application

***Some final thoughts:***

“The dizzying potential of the human mind reaches its apex in the possibility of possessing the mind of Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit – a possibility affirmed by Paul when he said, ‘But we have the mind of Christ’ – a mind which is constantly renewed (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:16; Romans 12:2) ... It is within our reach, and it is our duty.... God calls us in His Word to a massive and positive discipline of the mind. This can only happen through a profound exposure to and continual immersion in God’s Word, accompanied by the illumination of the Holy Spirit.” K.H.

“You must remember this: You can never have a Christian mind without reading the Scriptures regularly because *you cannot be profoundly influenced by that which you do not know*. If you are filled with God’s Word, your life can be informed and directed by God ...” K.H.

“I’ve figured out that if I don’t read the Bible, I will default to what I used to be.” B.H./B.E.

“Growth and transformation take time, but growth does occur over time if we stay with it! ... We need to take the small steps today that will result in transformation tomorrow.” B.E.

“Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.” 1 Peter 2:2

### ***Reflection/Application***

Take ten minutes to review this discussion session and record your key reflections and applications on the journal page below.

## **THE MINISTERING SOUL**

### **Launching Point:**

“Come and hear, all who fear God, and I will tell of what He has done for my soul.” Psalms 66:16

### **One Man’s Story:**

### **Group Discussion:**

The discipline of sharing what God has spoken through His Word with another person has become a lost art. How often do we read something in the Bible and think, “I need to share that with \_\_\_\_\_”?

It takes discipline to ask the question, “What has God given me from His Word that He wants me to pass on to someone else?” One of our jobs as disciple-makers is to increase the number of times we ask that question.

“The disciplines are for us, personally, for sure, but they are also for those around us. *Encourage* each other in every appropriate venue. Small churches can set aside time even during Sunday morning worship for people to share highlights of what God said to them the previous week. Sunday School classes, small groups, and home Bible studies can certainly do this. All church board and committee meetings can aside time for people to share their times with God.... In short, sharing a ‘fresh word’ when you come together should become a standard way of operating.” B.E.

- Use the following verses to discuss some benefits of sharing with others what God has spoken to you from His word.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Hebrews 10:23-25

Proverbs 25:11-12

Psalms 119:97-100

- What are some reasons men **do not** take the initiative to share with others what God has spoken to them from His word?
  
- What are some ways we can train men to share Scripture with each other, soul to soul?
  
- Pair-up with someone in your small group and each share one thing God has spoken to you from His word during the past week.
  - Read or summarize the passage of Scripture.
  - What did God say to you personally from what you read?
  - Why was that word from God significant to you?

***Some final thoughts:***

“I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; Behold, I will not restrain my lips, O Lord, You know.”  
Psalms 40:9

“A man who has the Word of God on his heart and mind and lips is a dangerous man.”

## ***Reflection/Application***

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## ***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 of 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.

***“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