

A New Way of Living: Disciplemakers

D-Group Study Guide – Week 1: The Two Arms of Disciplemaking

1. Social/Fellowship Time (10-15 minutes)

2. Content/Spiritual Conversations (30-35 minutes)

Debriefing from sermon clip: “The Two Arms of Disciplemaking” (previous week’s homework)

• Debrief – Big Idea

Jesus gave His followers one command wrapped in three actions: go and make disciples. And that calling has two arms that always work together: **Relational Outreach** (pursuing those who don't yet know Jesus) and **Relational Discipleship** (mentoring those who do).

1. **QUESTION:** As you think about your own spiritual journey, was there anyone who discipled you into a relationship with Jesus or helped mentor you into maturity? What kind of impact did they have?
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• Debrief – Scripture Deep Dive

We see both arms of disciplemaking in Matthew 28.

1. READ Matthew 28:16-20 — The Great Commission

"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" (ESV)

1. **QUESTION:** In the video, Pastor Jake mentions that, even though the English translation of the Great Commission has a number of verbs, the only imperative in the Greek is "make disciples" (*matheteuo*). Why does this matter?
2. **QUESTION:** What is the difference between making a convert and making a disciple?

3. **QUESTION:** The message named two arms — Relational Outreach and Relational Discipleship. Which one comes more naturally to you, and which one do you tend to neglect? How has that impacted your response to the Great Commission?

2. The first arm we see is Relational Outreach. READ John 1:40-46 — Andrew, Philip, and the first "arm"

"One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah'... He brought him to Jesus. The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'" (ESV)

Notice the pattern: Nobody in this passage evangelizes a stranger. Andrew goes to his own brother. Philip goes to a friend from his hometown. The chain of the gospel spreading in John 1 runs entirely through *existing relationships* — this is relational outreach in its earliest and simplest form.

1. **QUESTION:** At Freshwater, we call these our "three"—three people in your life you're praying for who haven't yet said yes to Jesus. Who are yours? *(Encourage them to share their names and their relationship and what Jesus might be up to in that person's life)*
2. **QUESTION:** When Nathanael expresses skepticism, Philip simply invites him to "come and see." What might be a way that you can relationally invite one of your three to take one step closer toward Jesus?

3. The second arm we see is Relational Discipleship. READ 2 Timothy 2:1-2.

"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." (ESV)

Within this single verse, there are four generations of disciples passing this on to one another: **Paul → Timothy → faithful men → others they will teach**. Paul isn't just asking Timothy to remember what he was taught – he's asking him to hand it off to people who will hand it off again. Disciplemaking that stops at one generation isn't finished; it's just delayed.

1. **QUESTION:** What about you? Have you ever tried to do this for someone else? Have you ever tried to disciple or mentor someone else in the faith? Why or why not? *(Encourage them to share hindrances or fears.)*

2. **QUESTION:** As you look at your life right now, what may compete with or hinder your ability to make disciples? (i.e. too busy, feelings of inadequacy, weariness)
 3. **QUESTION:** If you disciple or you want to disciple, either way, finish this sentence: *"I multiply disciples because ____." (What are your motivations?)*
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• Debrief – Practical Application

1. **Name your "three."** Who are the three people in your life you're praying for who haven't yet said yes to Jesus? If you don't have three names yet, ask God this week to bring some to mind. Then narrow that down to one that you will reach out to this week to set up a next step (invite to a church event, grab coffee with for a spiritual conversation, etc.)
 2. **Start a list.** Begin a running list of names — anyone God may be putting on your heart to disciple in the coming months. You don't need to act on it yet; just start writing it down and bring it back to your group next week.
 3. **Ask the pathway question.** Where are you on Freshwater's Disciplemaking Pathway right now – Outreach, Fresh Groups, Community Groups, or D-Groups? What might be your next step – either being disciplined further or beginning to disciple someone else?
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• Debrief – Closing Prayer

Close by praying specifically for the names each person named in "your three," and ask God to show each person in the group who He wants them to invest in next.

3. Homework for next week

- Watch week 2 of the Disciplemakers video content: Relational Outreach
 - <https://thefreshwater.church/2026/10/disciplemakers26-w2/>