



REPRODUCE

S E C O N D T I M O T H Y

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FELLOWSHIP ALLIANCE CHAPEL

SPECIAL THANKS

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Way to go!

In Him,
Pastor Dave Krilov



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INTRODUCTION

"Fella's, we play to win! And to win, it's going to take a team!"

I can remember my high school football coach encouraging us with this simple, but often forgotten truth. In a similar way, the Church is God's team, and this team works together to make disciples. That is winning. There is no plan B to this mission. The Church is God's plan A.

The important thing I want you to realize is that everyone plays on God's team. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ then you are called on to the field to be a part of the mission to make disciples. You see, God made a promise all the way back from the beginning that He was going to keep in Jesus. We were created to know and enjoy the great God who created Heaven and Earth. We rebelled and suffered the consequences of death: physically, spiritually, and relationally. But God promised to restore that. First, by reconciling us to Himself through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus would die in our place for the penalty we deserved for our rebellion against God. When we trust Jesus and follow Him, we become disciples of Jesus. He reconciles and restores us to a right relationship with Him and begins to transform us to look like Jesus.

But that's not it. He restores relationships by bringing a people together, called the Church, who love one another. The overflow of this love spills out into the world by making other disciples of Jesus. So, God is bringing people to Himself and Jesus will return to restore all creation. But in the meantime, He has us on the mission to make disciples- He wants us to reproduce. The Church is God's team.

So, the question you need to ask yourself is, "Am I in the stands, or on the field?" Maybe you are in the stand, and you forgot that you are wearing the team jersey. Get in the game! Maybe you are on the field. If so, every athlete needs to refine their skills to stay on the mission.

No matter where you are in your walk with Jesus, this study in Second Timothy is for you. I am excited that you are taking the step to be a part of this series. May God bless you and give you the boldness to endure. For what? To make disciples – to reproduce!

WHAT CAN I EXPECT IN A SMALL GROUP?

The way Jesus changes us is in the context of true fellowship with Him and one another. During your time together, you will explore what it means to reproduce through making disciples by studying the book of Second Timothy and practicing useful skills. You'll also have time to get to know each other's stories, pray for one another, and watch God work among you. And believe it or not, this will be fun! By the end of your time together you will know each other a lot better than you do now.

In order for you to get the most out of this series with your group we're asking you to do three things:

SHOW UP

You'll need to **show up**. It sounds obvious, but it's worth saying. In order for you to connect as a group, you need to spend time with one another. And that starts by showing up for the group meeting time.

JOIN IN

You'll need to **join in**. This means that you need to join in and participate in the discussion and in the exercises that accompany each session.

BE REAL

You'll need to **be real**. These groups are a safe environment of grace. No one is perfect. Be who you really are.

If you can commit to these things, there is no telling how God is going to speak to you and use you in the lives of others in your group.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Each of the twelve sessions within this Guide follows the same format. This Guide was developed to fit into a two hour group meeting. Our suggested format is as follows:

FELLOWSHIP – 30 MINUTES

Use the first thirty minutes of your group time for informal fellowship. Catch up on the events of the week and enjoy light refreshments together.

INSTRUCTION – 45 MINUTES *(The instructional portion of the evening covers several areas)*

Big Idea – Review the big idea so that the group has an idea of the direction of the session.

Open in Prayer – A Scripture verse is provided to guide your opening prayer. Either read it to the Lord as is, or use it to structure your own prayer for the group.

Read the Passage – Read through the selected passage out loud to familiarize yourselves with the text and prepare your hearts for the teaching.

Watch the Video – A pastoral teaching is provided for group members to view.

Opening Question – An opening question is offered for reflection.

Digging Deeper – Engage the text with the discussion questions provided.

EQUIPPING – 45 MINUTES

Equipping for Action - Utilize the last forty-five minutes of your time together to practice essential skills in disciple-making. Consider practicing these skills throughout the week.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF SECOND TIMOTHY

Timothy initially encountered the apostle Paul during Paul's first missionary journey (46-48 AD) in the city of Lystra located in present-day Turkey. Timothy, who lived in Lystra, was the son of a Greek father and a devout Jewish mother (and grandmother) who raised him in the knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures. When Timothy heard Paul preach about Jesus Christ he converted to Christianity. On Paul's second missionary journey (49-52 AD), he stopped at Lystra once again. At this point, young Timothy joined Paul and his missionary team. He traveled extensively with Paul and was personally disciplined by the apostle. Over the course of time, Timothy settled in Ephesus to pastor the strategic church while Paul continued on his journeys.

While Paul's preaching reached many souls for Christ, it also won many opponents. Around 58 AD opponents to his message finally had him imprisoned, first in Jerusalem and then in Rome. Details of his imprisonment are unclear, but it was during this time that Paul wrote letters to the churches he planted in Ephesus, Philippi, and Colossae. He also wrote to various people; Philemon, Titus, and Timothy. The book of Second Timothy is quite possibly the apostle Paul's last surviving letter. At the time of the writing of this letter, probably in the mid-60's AD, Paul is nearing his death and Timothy is pastoring the church at Ephesus. It is uncertain if Paul ever saw his beloved Timothy again. Ancient historians record that Paul was beheaded under the persecution of Nero around 67 AD.

NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE



**All dates are approximate

SESSION 1 : CALLED



BIG IDEA – We are all called to be on the mission to reproduce.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(16) I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, (17) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, (18) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints. *Ephesians 1:16-18*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 1:1–7

(1) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, (2) To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (3) I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. (4) As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. (5) I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. (6) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, (7) for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

WATCH THE VIDEO



OPENING QUESTION:

When you consider the call to reproduce, what barriers personally hold you back from being on the mission to make disciples? (e.g., lack of time, inexperience, fear, family priorities, etc.)

DIGGING DEEPER:

- 1)** What comes to mind when you hear the word “disciple?” Do you consider yourself to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? Why or why not? What are some reasons that as Christians, we have difficulty identifying with being a disciple?
- 2)** Reread 2 Timothy 1:1-7 and identify the disciple-making relationships mentioned. How would you describe the quality of the relationships from your observations of the text? Do you have similar discipling relationships in your own life?
- 3)** Notice each reference to God in this passage. What do you learn about God? How does personally knowing and believing these truths impact your willingness to join in the mission of making disciples?

Timothy is an ordinary person just like us, called to be on mission with God. He does his best to live out his faith, but he has insecurities and needs encouragement and reassurance. It is easy to identify with Timothy, so thankfully we have this letter from Paul guiding him in the mission and reminding him that he is not alone. Often, when we think about making disciples, we imagine evangelizing on a street corner or knocking on doors inviting people to church. It can look like that, but you will not find those suggestions in this study. So take heart, God has not given you a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love, and self-control. Embrace the call and commit yourself to exploring the mission of disciple-making for the next twelve weeks while learning valuable skills that you can use for the rest of your life.

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

In the video, Pastor Dave and Pastor Don discussed the three characteristics of a disciple of Jesus Christ. A disciple (1) follows Jesus, (2) is being transformed by Jesus, and (3) is making other disciples of Jesus. While most of us have varying degrees of strength and weakness in each of these areas, the majority of people will probably choose "making other disciples" as the area where they need the most improvement. Over the next twelve weeks, this equipping section will contain exercises that are meant to equip you in sharing your faith and making disciples.

SHARING YOUR STORY: PART 1

"Remember" and "remind" are key words in 2 Timothy 1:1-7. Paul reminds Timothy of his journey of faith and that God has given him a spirit of power, love, and self-control. No matter how long you have been a Christian, it is important that you never forget where you came from. Each one of us has a story of God's power and saving grace and it is in sharing the story of our past selves that we will be able to identify with people who have not yet discovered God's grace. Sharing who you used to be is the beginning of sharing your testimony.

In one to two minutes, describe what your life was like before you knew Christ. Include how you felt, what you struggled with, how you tried to solve problems, and what the result was. (You are not giving your whole life story. This is meant to give your hearer a snapshot of yourself when you did not have Jesus in your life.)



LEADER TIP

You may need to split up into smaller groups depending on the size of your group and time constraints. Also, give people a few minutes to gather their thoughts before you begin this exercise.



TESTIMONY TIPS

- » Avoid bashing (people, religions, institutions, etc.)
- » Avoid sensationalism. It is not necessary to go into detail about your past sins.

NEXT WEEK:

Right now you may be feeling like you are in way over your head. You are not alone. Even Timothy was probably wondering what he had gotten himself into. Next week we will be learning about where we can find the courage to be on the mission to **Reproduce!**

SESSION 2 : COURAGE



BIG IDEA – We can have courage on the mission to reproduce because God is able.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(6) Blessed be the LORD! For He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. (7) The LORD is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him. (8) The LORD is the strength of His people; He is the saving refuge of His anointed. (9) Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever. *Psalm 28:6-9*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 1:8–12

(8) Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, (9) who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, (10) and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, (11) for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, (12) which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.

WATCH THE VIDEO



OPENING QUESTION:

What type of “suffering” for the gospel concerns you the most? (For example, rejection, embarrassment, appearing weak or old-fashioned, losing credibility with peers, etc.) What reassurance in 2 Timothy 1:8-12 gives you courage to be on the mission to reproduce?

DIGGING DEEPER:

- 1) In 2 Timothy 1:11, Paul points out that he has been appointed “a preacher and apostle and teacher” and in verse nine, he states that we are all “called...to a holy calling.” Paul describes this holy calling in more detail in 2 Corinthians. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 to discover the role of every disciple of Christ. As a group, discuss and define this title using the five W’s and one H – who, what, where, when, why, and how?
- 2) According to 2 Timothy 1:9, why did you receive this holy calling? How does this knowledge support or contradict the popular notion that “God just wants me to be happy?”
- 3) Paul begins this passage with the clear command, “Do not be ashamed,” (2 Timothy 1:8) and concludes his thoughts with his personal convictions. Paul states, “But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.” (2 Timothy 1:12) When you think about your life, your experiences, and your personal relationship with God:
 - » What do you *know* about God that gives you courage?
 - » What are you *convinced* that He is able to do for you?

There is a clear call on the life of every believer, and to fulfill this role requires courage. Thankfully, Jesus has blazed the trail ahead of us and is intimately present in our lives. Our relationship with Jesus “who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light” is a life-changing, personal message that we can bring to the searching or hurting people around us. Our relationship with Jesus is also our source of courage because we know that He is always with us.

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

SHARING YOUR STORY: PART 2

Last week you took time to remember what life was like before you knew Christ – an important step in identifying with people who do not yet believe in Jesus. Equally important is your story of how you met Jesus. Paul commands us to “not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord.” (2 Timothy 1:8) Every story is unique just as each life is unique. Maybe Jesus revealed himself to you with a BANG or maybe it was a quiet revelation of His overwhelming love. Perhaps it was a sudden awareness or maybe it was a gradual discovery that took time to comprehend. However Jesus revealed himself to you is your story and it is meaningful and worth sharing. Telling others how you met Christ is the second part of sharing your testimony.

In one to two minutes, describe how you met Christ. Include what you learned about Jesus that convinced you to give your life to Him. Tell your story as though you are speaking to unbelievers.



LEADER TIP

Once again, you may need to split up into smaller groups depending on the size of your group and time constraints. Also, give people a few minutes to gather their thoughts before you begin this exercise.



TESTIMONY TIPS

- » Make Jesus the star of the story...not yourself.
- » Try to avoid Christian terms that may be unfamiliar to the average hearer.
- » Include what you did to begin your relationship with Jesus.

NEXT WEEK:

Next week we will begin to get down to business and explore the question, "How do we reproduce?" We think you will be pleasantly surprised by the answer. It is not as difficult as you might think! So embrace your role as an ambassador for Christ, take courage for the journey, come back next week, and learn how God intends for us to **Reproduce!**

SESSION 3 : DISCIPLING



BIG IDEA – We reproduce in a relational environment where example can be followed and the life and teachings of Jesus can be learned and embraced.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(1) Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!
(2) It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! (3) It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore. *Psalms 133*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 1:13–18

(13) Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (14) By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. (15) You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. (16) May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, (17) but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me—(18) may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

WATCH THE VIDEO 

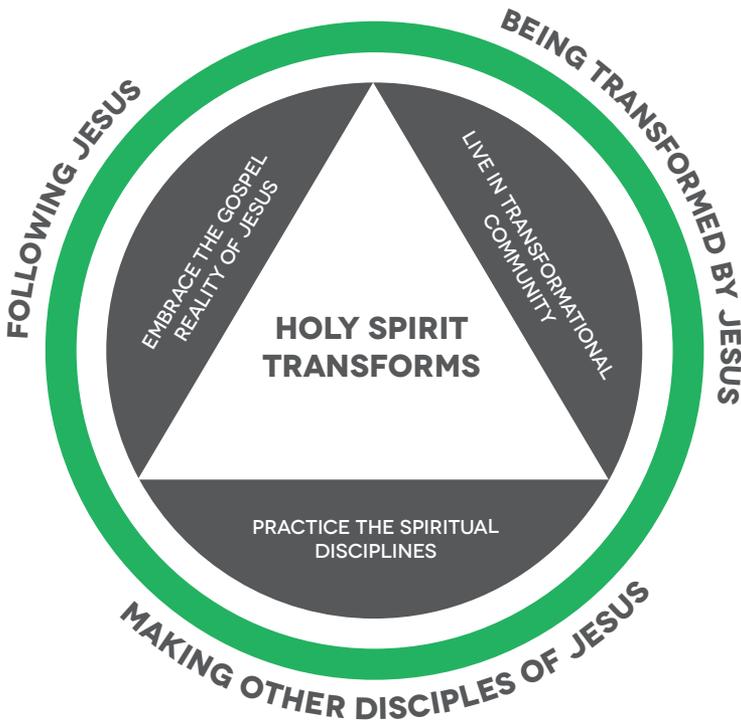
OPENING QUESTION:

How can involvement in a transformational community personally benefit you in the mission to reproduce?

JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP DIAGRAM:

Disciples who are: following Jesus, being transformed by Jesus, and making other disciples of Jesus will find themselves cooperating with the Holy Spirit in three general activities:

- » embracing the gospel reality of Jesus
- » practicing the spiritual disciplines
- » living in transformational community



Following Jesus – A disciple seeks to follow Jesus in every area of life.

Being transformed by Jesus – A disciple experiences transformation into the likeness of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit rather than individual effort.

Making other disciples of Jesus – A disciple joins the mission with Christ to make other disciples.

Embracing the gospel reality of Jesus – We exchange our views of life for the realities Jesus professed in the Bible (e.g., exchange “God is out to get me” for “God loves me unconditionally”).

Practicing the spiritual disciplines – We engage in activities that create space for the Holy Spirit to transform us (e.g., prayer, silence, service).

Living in transformational community – We gather regularly with others in an atmosphere of love, grace, and acceptance to help us learn and embrace the gospel realities of Jesus and practice the spiritual disciplines.

**See Appendix A for a broader description of each area.

DIGGING DEEPER:

1) In 2 Timothy 1:13, Paul instructs Timothy, saying, “Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me.”

- » What is a pattern useful for?
- » When you consider Paul’s life, your own journey of discipleship, and the diagram explained in the video, what various things could the term “sound words” refer to?
- » What are the benefits of passing on sound words (discipling) in a relational environment as opposed to individual, personal Bible study?

2) Paul encourages Timothy to “guard the good deposit entrusted to you” in verse fourteen.

- » What do you think Paul means by the phrase “the good deposit”?
- » Think about the phrase, “by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.” When you consider the role of the Holy Spirit within a transformational community, how does His presence enable us to successfully “guard the good deposit”?
- » How does guarding our hearts and minds from the world and choosing to look at life through the reality of the gospel “guard the good deposit”?

3) Paul mentions several different people in 2 Timothy 1:15–18.

Discuss Paul’s experiences with these people. As you consider this passage, what do you learn about realistic expectations of group life?

Relational environments always carry an element of risk. Consequently, there are many people who subscribe to a “God and me” mindset. However, as safe and insulated as that may feel, they are missing out on living patterns of following Jesus. Transformational community is the most effective environment for discipling. It may not be perfect, but through the power of the Holy Spirit people become more firmly rooted in following Jesus in faith and in love.

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

SHARING YOUR STORY: PART 3

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” When a person surrenders their life to Christ, their life should begin to look different. The new disciple of Christ sets out on a journey of life-long following, learning, and maturing. Paul points out this new path of living when he instructs Timothy to follow the pattern that he has learned from him. Your life should look different also. Having the ability to articulate the changes that have occurred in your life as a result of your salvation is the shining conclusion of sharing your testimony.

In one to two minutes, describe what is different about your life as a result of following Jesus. Include how Jesus met the needs, struggles, or void that you had described in the first part of your testimony. Also, include what you did that initially strengthened your relationship (e.g., started going to church, joined a Bible study, tuned in to K-Love, etc.) Finally, talk about the most meaningful changes He has brought to your life.



TESTIMONY TIPS

Avoid leading people to the conclusion that God automatically fixes everything and that life will be perfect if they surrender to Christ. Convey hope, but be truthful.

NEXT WEEK:

Hopefully you have found some encouragement that discipling happens best in the relational environment of a transformational community. It means you do not have to do this alone! But what exactly are you supposed to be reproducing? Next week we will answer that question so that we are all traveling down the same road in our quest to **Reproduce!**

SESSION 4 : DISCIPLE-MAKERS



BIG IDEA – Disciple-makers reproduce disciples who make more disciples.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(2) Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. (3) Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. (4) One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. (6) They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. *Psalm 145:2-4, 6*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

(1) You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, (2) 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. (3) Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. (4) No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. (5) An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (6) It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. (7) Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

WATCH THE VIDEO



OPENING QUESTION:

Recall one Christian in your life who helped you become the disciple you are today. What did they do that encouraged you to mature in your faith?

DIGGING DEEPER:

- 1) From what does Paul encourage Timothy to draw his strength in 2 Timothy 2:1? How would you define grace? What encouragement does the role of grace in your own life give you when you consider the mission to make disciples?
- 2) 2 Timothy 2:2 clearly outlines the plan for making disciples who can make disciples. Jesus had instituted this plan in Matthew 28:19-20 (often called "The Great Commission").
 - » Summarize the plan and discuss what this looks like in our modern-day society.
 - » Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this plan.
 - » Consider effective ways to carry out this plan in everyday life.
- 3) Paul compares an intentional disciple-maker to a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer. What insights do these comparisons imply about disciple-makers? Brainstorm a list of characteristics or phrases that describe an effective disciple-maker. Share the top two that you identify with.

Perhaps you have taken a straight path to discipleship that was clearly marked out. Or maybe you have meandered along a winding path with some stops and wrong turns along the way. Regardless of your own personal path, you have learned a great deal about life with Christ that you can share with other people. It is God's plan that you invite others to join you on the journey to follow Jesus, be transformed by Him, and help others to follow Jesus. You can be the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer. You can make disciples who make other disciples.

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

SHARING YOUR STORY: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

One of the images that Paul uses to describe a disciple-maker is a farmer. Pastor Erik talked about the farmer and commented that crops do not grow by accident. Seeds need to be planted. Your story of salvation is one of the most powerful seeds that you can plant to help a person begin to understand what a relationship with God is like. Over the last three weeks you have shared the three parts of a balanced testimony. Today it is time to put it all together into a cohesive whole.

In three minutes, share your testimony with your group. Begin with what your life was like before you knew Christ, explain how Jesus came into your life, and conclude with how your life has changed as a result of aligning your will with His.

Over the coming week, be aware of opportunities to share your testimony. Pray for occasions to share and practice on family members.



TESTIMONY TIPS

- » Keep your testimony to three minutes, or about the time it takes to ride in an elevator. Your goal is to engage in a conversation, not give a monologue.
- » Details of your testimony can vary based on the situation and the person you are talking to.

NEXT WEEK:

It is one thing to sit in our groups and talk about sharing our faith and stories of salvation. It is an entirely different thing to get out in the real world and do this with people who might reject us or make fun of us. Where do we get the confidence to be so bold? Next week we will explore the foundation of our confidence so that we can bravely share the good news of Jesus Christ and **Reproduce!**

SESSION 5 : CONFIDENCE



BIG IDEA – We can have confidence when we remember who God is and that He is faithful.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(14) Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14-16*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 2:8–13

(8) Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, (9) for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the Word of God is not bound! (10) Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. (11) The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him; (12) if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; (13) if we are faithless, He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself.

WATCH THE VIDEO



OPENING QUESTION:

What truth in 2 Timothy 2:8-13 increases your confidence in the mission to make disciples? Why did you select that truth?

DIGGING DEEPER:

- 1) In verse ten, what is Paul willing to “endure...for the sake of the elect” and why? From what source(s) does Paul base his confidence according to 2 Timothy 2:8-13?
- 2) Reread 2 Timothy 2:8-13 and underline every reference (including pronouns) to Jesus Christ. What does Paul emphasize about Jesus that can fuel our confidence?
- 3) Paul contrasts his bondage in chains with the limitless freedom of God’s Word in 2 Timothy 2:9. Look up the following passages of Scripture regarding God’s Word and discuss how believing these truths can increase your confidence.
 - » Psalm 119:105
 - » Isaiah 55:10-11
 - » John 8:31-32
 - » Ephesians 6:13-18
 - » 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - » Hebrews 1:3
 - » Hebrews 4:12

Making disciples takes confidence. It is tempting to look for that confidence within ourselves – our level of experience, range of knowledge, proper training, or past success stories. While these things can certainly bring us confidence in disciple-making, they are fleeting sources and can disappoint us at any time. Thankfully, God has given us eternal sources of confidence in Jesus Christ and in His Word. These sources are infinitely dependable, can always be found, and will never run dry.

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

LISTENING WITH INTENTION

Paul writes to Timothy that he “endure[s] everything for the sake of the elect.” In contrast to Paul’s point of view, our society promotes a “me first” mentality in many ways. People hear the message every day that they should be happy, fulfilled, and take care of number one before they take care of anybody else. These ideas have infiltrated many aspects of our lives, including our conversations. We often listen to others with one ear, while formulating what we want to say in response. We have tendencies to interrupt or talk over one another without thinking. We listen to their stories, only to interject with our own story or point of view.

This common way of communicating obviously has its flaws. One of those flaws is that it prevents us from truly getting to know another person. In this equipping exercise, your goal is to put your “self” aside and really listen to another.

For this exercise you will need to divide into pairs. One of you will ask questions and listen while the other person talks. After 10-15 minutes you should switch roles.

Listener – Your responsibility is to ask open-ended questions (questions that do not have a “yes” or “no” answer) and to listen to the answers without interrupting or inserting your own thoughts. Your goal is to learn about the other person so your questions should extend beyond small talk.

Some sample questions could be:

“Tell me about your family.”

“Tell me what a typical day looks like for you.”

“What are some of your favorite childhood memories?”

Talker – Your responsibility is to answer the questions as openly and honestly as you feel comfortable. Enjoy having someone’s undivided attention!

** This is not meant to be conducted like an interview. Ask a question and based on the response you can ask another question, and so on. This exercise will help your conversation skills and people will feel that you care for them. This is vitally important in disciple-making because "people won't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

Afterwards, re-gather as a large group and share your experiences. Did it feel natural or uncomfortable? As the listener, was it difficult to leave your "self" out of the conversation? As the talker, was it hard to open up or did it feel refreshing to have someone's attention?

NEXT WEEK:

Next week we will take a look at the importance that our character has in disciple-making as we answer the question, "What must we watch about ourselves as we **Reproduce?**"

SESSION 6 : CHARACTER



BIG IDEA – Character development is a key ingredient in effective reproduction.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(1) O LORD, you have searched me and known me! (2) You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. (3) You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. (23) Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! (24) And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. *Psalm 139:1-3, 23-24*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 2:14–19

(14) Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.

(15) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of truth.

(16) But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, (17) and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, (18) who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. (19) But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

WATCH THE VIDEO



OPENING QUESTION:

What facet of your character is God currently working on in your life? Is there some way your small group can help you grow?

DIGGING DEEPER:

- 1) 2 Timothy 2:14-19 emphasizes our speech. We are charged “not to quarrel about words,” “rightly [handle] the Word of truth,” and “avoid irreverent babble.” According to the text, what are the consequences of ignoring these commands?
- 2) Our speech is a reflection of our character. Read the following passages that illustrate this connection and take a few moments to discuss your observations and opinions.
 - » Matthew 12:33-37
 - » Matthew 15:18-20
 - » Luke 6:43-45
- 3) Paul encourages us to “do [our] best to present [ourselves] to God as one approved” in 2 Timothy 2:15. One of the most effective ways to present ourselves and cooperate with the transforming power of the Holy Spirit is to practice spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines do not transform us; they are simply activities that create space for the Holy Spirit to work. Some spiritual disciplines have an inward focus such as prayer and meditation on the Scriptures. Other disciplines have an outward focus such as service to others and living in simplicity. And finally, there are spiritual disciplines that are practiced corporately, such as worship and celebration.

What spiritual discipline have you practiced (or would like to practice) in order to give God the most room to transform your character? What is the greatest benefit you have seen (or would like to see) as a result?

** See Appendix A for suggestions of spiritual disciplines that compliment 2 Timothy 2:14-19

Our character, and consequently our speech, matters a great deal. Sometimes we can get so caught up in working for God that we can forget that He needs the time and space to work on us. Thankfully, the Lord has given us the means for godly character development through engaging in spiritual disciplines. As we allow Him to transform us more and more into His image, we will have a greater impact on the people around us and become more effective disciple-makers. We can each be “a worker who has no need to be ashamed.”

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

STARTING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

Gentle exploration of a person’s spiritual background and the ability to begin a spiritual conversation are very useful skills. Paul cautions us that words are important and must be spoken in ways that avoid irreverent babble and quarreling. Last week you practiced listening and asking open ended questions. Hopefully, as you listen to others talk about their lives you will find that there are connections that can be made to inquire about their spiritual beliefs.

Below are some common situations that people may talk about. As a group, discuss different questions or phrases that you could consider saying that might turn the conversation in a spiritual direction. *Please keep in mind that your goal is to begin a spiritual conversation, not fix the problem or tell them what they should do.*

- 1) **Difficult Circumstances** – “I’m in real trouble. I thought I could get through this, but I’m just not sure what to do anymore. I might lose my _____ (job, house, family, etc.) because of the stupid decisions I’ve made.”
- 2) **Positive Circumstances** – “My life is just about perfect right now. I feel like everything is finally falling into place and I can relax and enjoy it all! Life...is...good.”
- 3) **Family** – “My kids are driving me nuts right now. I keep telling them that I hope they have kids just like them someday so they know the torture they’re putting me through!”

4) **Possessions** – “Did you see the new iPhone is coming out next week? Are you going to get it? I’ve been waiting for it because it has much better features than this one I have right now.”

5) **Appearance** – “I’m considering getting some Botox. What do you think?”

As with any skill, practice makes perfect. This coming week, reflect on conversations that you have throughout the day and see if you can come up with questions or phrases that could have nudged the conversation in a spiritual direction. As future conversations occur, you will find you are more prepared to use gentle, natural words that will help you gain further insight into the spiritual lives of the people around you.

“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” *Colossians 4:5-6*

NEXT WEEK:

Character not only affects our speech, it also affects our conduct. Next week we will delve into the importance of our conduct as we continue on the journey to learn how to **Reproduce!**

SESSION 7 : CONDUCT



BIG IDEA – Conduct counts in reproducing because being a disciple is “caught” by others.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(9) And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, (10) so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. *Colossians 1:9-10*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 2:20–26

(20) Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. (21) Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. (22) So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (23) Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. (24) And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, (25) correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, (26) and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

WATCH THE VIDEO



OPENING QUESTION:

Share a time in your life when your actions did not quite line up with your words. What happened as a result?

DIGGING DEEPER:

1) It has been suggested that the “great house” mentioned in 2 Timothy 2:20 refers to the Church body and the various vessels represent people who range from nominal acknowledgers of faith to genuine believers and followers of Christ.

- » Describe your understanding of the differences between a dishonorable vessel and an honorable vessel.
- » What are some things a dishonorable vessel could do to become an honorable vessel?

2) Paul gives Timothy instructions in conduct in 2 Timothy 2:22-25.

- » What types of behavior is Timothy cautioned to avoid? Why is it important for Timothy, or any believer, to avoid this sort of conduct?
- » What conduct is Timothy encouraged to pursue and exhibit? According to 2 Timothy 2:25-26, what does conduct like this have the potential to do?

3) Many people excuse poor conduct saying that God made them with a fiery nature, an insatiable appetite, a loud mouth, etc. They believe that they are just living authentically. What are some things you could say to a person who believes their conduct can never change?

Conduct is important in the life of a Christian. The old saying is very true, “More is caught, than taught.” People are watching, and you will have a much more effective witness if your behavior matches what you say. Similar to your character, your conduct is a reflection of your heart. Therefore, true and lasting change in your conduct is not brought about by trying harder to be good. It is the result of an inner transformation that God accomplishes for us as we submit our lives and our wills to Him in increasing measure.

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

Paul encourages Timothy to be kind to everyone and avoid controversies. One of the most meaningful ways that you can express kindness to someone is to pray for them. It is also a helpful way to avoid controversy because when you pray for someone, God works on your own heart, too. Often, just telling a person that you will be praying for them is enough to receive a thank you and bring a smile to their face. But there are times when the kindest and most effective thing you can do is pray for that person at that moment. Yes, this means praying out loud. Many people feel very intimidated by this, but keep in mind that by praying out loud with someone, you are giving that person a front row seat to see God in action in answer to your prayers. With a little practice, praying out loud can get easier and easier.

For this exercise, split up into pairs. Each man should pray with another man, and each woman should pray with another woman. Each person should take a turn listening to a prayer request, and then praying for that person. Please ask for prayer for yourself, not your neighbor or coworker. And please do not complicate your prayer request with a long, elaborate back story.

Afterwards, re-gather as a large group and share your experiences. What did it feel like to be prayed for? What did it feel like to pray for another? Do you have a real-life experience of praying with someone that you could share?



For an amusing video on prayer tips, check out “Johnny and Chachi - Killer Prayer Tips” on YouTube.

NEXT WEEK:

We have covered a lot of ground since the first session, but one thing we have not yet covered is who to disciple. There are a lot of people out there, and time is scarce. Next week we will be exploring this question of who we should pursue in our goal to **Reproduce!**

SESSION 8 : PURSUE



BIG IDEA – We pursue those who want to grow in their relationship with Christ.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(1) May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, (2) that your way may be known on Earth, your saving power among all nations. (3) Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! *Psalm 67:1-3*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 3:1–9

(1) But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. (2) For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, (4) treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (5) having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. (6) For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, (7) always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. (8) Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. (9) But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

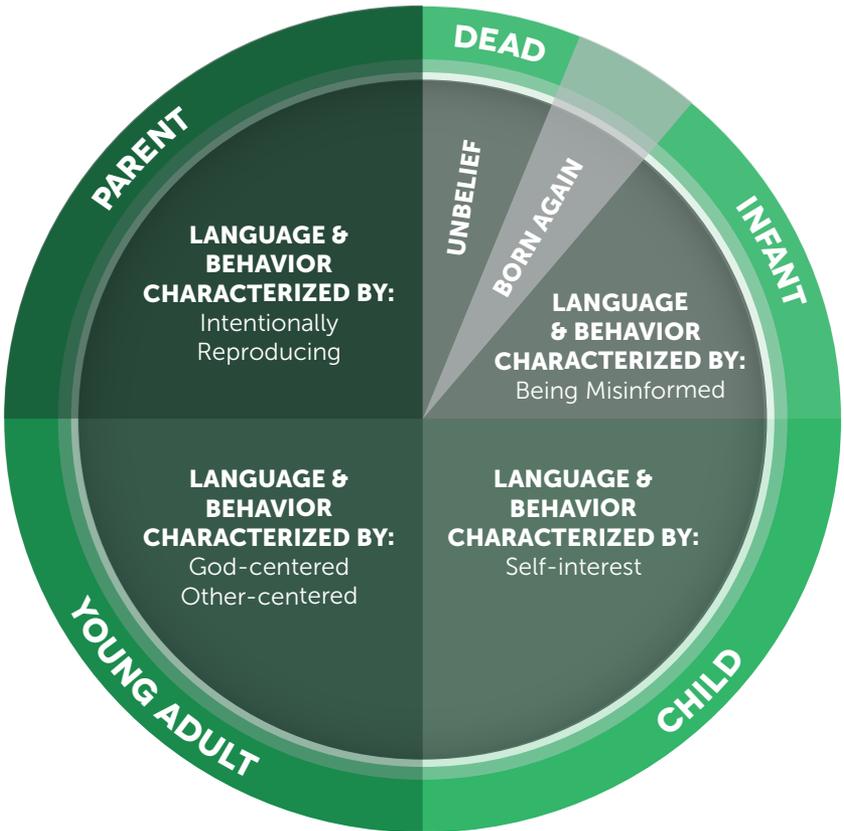
WATCH THE VIDEO



OPENING QUESTION:

Can you see yourself in one of the stages of spiritual growth? Or do you feel you are a mixture?

SPIRITUAL GROWTH DIAGRAM



DEAD

Unbelief in Jesus

"I don't need Jesus. There are many paths to God."
Needs a secure relationship with a believer

BORN AGAIN

INFANT

Misinformed about faith

"I think I should avoid all my non-Christian friends now that I'm a Christian."
Needs explanations and modeling

CHILD

Self-focused

"I'm not sure this church is meeting my needs right now. It's too big."
Needs connections with a spiritual family

YOUNG ADULT

Service and others-focused

"I feel compassion for the elderly so I've started to volunteer."
Needs a place to serve and skills training

PARENT

Intentional in disciple-making

"I'm starting a lunch Bible study once a week at work. Please pray for me."
Needs ongoing encouragement with co-laborers

** See Appendix C for further insights into each stage of spiritual growth.

1 Putman, Jim, et al. Real-life Discipleship Training Manual. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2010, p. 59.

DIGGING DEEPER:

1) 2 Timothy 3:1-4 lists heart attitudes and behaviors that people will have in the last days. Then in verse five, Paul writes that these people will be “having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.” Read through the list carefully and consider:

- » How can people exhibit these attitudes and behaviors, yet have the appearance of godliness?
- » What insights does this passage give you regarding your expectations of the people who comprise the Church?
- » According to verse six, are the people described here good candidates for discipling?

2) 2 Timothy 3:6-9 gets more specific about deceptive people who are among the earlier list. People who “creep into households” and capture the weak. Paul even provides an example of two men who he states were, “corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.”

- » What feelings or convictions stir within you to know that there could possibly be real live people doing this very thing within our local church body here at FAC?
- » What is the best thing you can do to protect people from falling prey to those who oppose the truth?

3) So who do we pursue in discipling? This passage tells us who to avoid rather than note qualities we should look for. Based on what you have learned so far and your own experiences, brainstorm a list of qualities that you would look for in someone to disciple.

Not everyone is a good candidate for intentional discipling. Investing in those who are ready and willing will be a wise use of our time as opposed to investing in people who are resistant, self-centered, and ungrateful. A useful acronym to remember is to look for people who are spiritually FAT – faithful, available, and teachable. Of course, finding a person to disciple should be a Holy Spirit directed pursuit. You should cover everything in prayer before you do anything else. It is also wise to ask a mature Christian friend to join you in prayer for this important decision.

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

IDENTIFYING A GOOD MATCH

In the video, Pastor Dave and Pastor Jim discussed a tool that explains spiritual growth through the imagery of physical growth. We go from spiritual death to birth, and then progress through childhood, young adulthood, and finally to spiritual parenthood. As with physical growth, you cannot skip a stage and people progress through spiritual growth at their own pace. People will reach different levels of maturity at different times. And just as each stage of physical growth is celebrated and enjoyed, each stage of spiritual growth should also be celebrated and enjoyed. **One stage is not more important or more valuable than another.** You are celebrated and loved right where you are.

- 1) Let's take a few moments, though, to consider who you are. God created you with attention to every detail. Your personality, your interests and passions, your spiritual strengths, and even the various life experiences you have gone through all add up to the uniqueness of YOU! Before you begin to consider a discipling relationship, take a few moments and fill out the chart below. Do not do this exercise as a group. (Take about five minutes to complete this.)

INDIVIDUALITY CHART

PERSONALITY TRAITS	INTERESTS/PASSIONS	LIFE EXPERIENCES	SPIRITUAL STRENGTHS

2) Now consider the various people in your life. These can be people from church, from the workplace, the neighborhood, or anywhere! (Take about ten minutes to complete this.)

(A) Make a list of people that could possibly be a discipling opportunity. This could go two ways here – you could be looking for someone to disciple or for someone to disciple you. Keep in mind the list of qualities your group brainstormed in #3 of “Digging Deeper.”

(B) Identify any areas of similarity between the answers on your personal Individuality Chart and the people on your list. For example, do you and someone on your list both love to read books? Or are you both single parents? Find areas of commonality.

3) Take some time to pray through the people on your list. If possible, spread out through the home or area where you are meeting. Consider each person on your list and ask the Lord to lead you in determining if He is calling you both to a discipling relationship. Ask Him to show you the next step. (Take about ten minutes for prayer.)

4) Use the remaining time to come back together as a large group and share what you are feeling and what the Lord is impressing on your heart.

NEXT WEEK:

This may be starting to feel real now that you are praying for actual people! Everything we are learning is not meant to stay in our heads, but to influence our actions. As we set off on a life of discipling, we begin an exciting journey. Come back next week to learn about the elements that aid us on this journey to **Reproduce!**

SESSION 9 : JOURNEY



BIG IDEA – The people of God and the Word of God are important for the journey.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(105) Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (133) Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me. *Psalm 119:105, 133*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 3:10–17

(10) You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, (11) my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. (12) Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (13) while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (14) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it (15) and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

WATCH THE VIDEO



OPENING QUESTION:

Considering all you have learned in this series, what are you prone to ignore in your journey of being a disciple and making disciples? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER:

- 1) Disciple-making seems like such a daunting task. It may be tempting to leave discipling to the “professionals,” but take a look at 2 Timothy 3:10-11 and discuss the questions below:
 - » What did Paul model for Timothy and how can this be accomplished by the average Christian in today’s culture?
 - » What are you already doing that you could begin discipling someone simply by inviting him/her to join you?
- 2) When you consider 2 Timothy 3:11-13, what can you expect to occur in your pursuit to reproduce? What was Paul’s confidence in the midst of persecutions? What role does fellowship with the people of God play in handling persecution?
- 3) Paul has much to say about the importance of Scripture in the journey of a disciple. Take a few moments to reread 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and discuss what the Scriptures do for the believer who knows and believes what they say. What practical steps can you take to incorporate more of God’s Word into your life?

Disciple-making is a journey that, like most journeys, requires some essentials in order to be prepared for the adventure. God has graciously given us two very important elements that help us through the ups and downs of the journey of disciple-making – His people and His Word. Maintaining fellowship with His people ensures that discipleship is happening in the context of relationship and that we have strength and support for the bumps in the road. Making God’s Word a priority ensures that we are submitting ourselves to sacred writings that are God-breathed and positioning ourselves for transformation. These two resources are readily available to any Christian here at FAC, so disciple-making is not just meant for the “professionals”...it is meant for you!

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

One of the most frequent obstacles to making disciples is the fear that someone will ask a question that you do not know the answer to. This is a very real hesitation because no one wants to get caught off guard or look like they do not know what they are talking about. So what is a person to do? How can we disciple another person and not fear that moment when they ask something that we do not know the answer to? We can learn how to find the answer and guide the person we are discipling to look for the answer so that someday they will know how to “self-feed” and explore questions on their own.

Before you set off finding an answer it is important that you acknowledge the question. Keep in mind that the person doing the asking may be feeling vulnerable just by asking. So make sure you do not just brush their questions aside. A great response could be, “That’s a really good question. I’ve never thought about that before. How about we try to find the answer together?” Or, “Give me a few days and I’ll get back to you with what I find.” Responses like this give your disciple the space to continue to ask questions and give you the space to find the answers.

The best way to learn a new skill is to actually do it. Below are a series of questions that a potential disciple could ask you. Your task is NOT to answer the question (even if you know it). In fact, many questions that people have will never have a clear answer. Your task is to go through a process of discovery as a group looking for an explanation. Teach each other how to find answers. Feel free to use any resource that will help you. And remember, your first step should always be to pray and ask the Lord to give you wisdom and revelation.

- 1) **Bible content question** - “I’ve heard that God helps those who help themselves. That’s in the Bible, isn’t it?”
- 2) **Theology question** - “If God is so forgiving, why couldn’t He just forgive Adam and Eve when they took a bite of that apple?”
- 3) **Life question** - “This makes me happy and I think God just wants me to be happy. Don’t you agree?”

What are some questions that you have regarding disciple-making? Is there a common question that a few of you are asking? Go through the process you have just practiced and see if you can answer your own questions.

NEXT WEEK:

Despite all of the different circumstances, persecutions, questions and answers that come our way in the journey of disciple-making, there is one absolute that we must always focus on. Next week we will learn how to keep the main thing the main thing as we continue on our journey, to **Reproduce!**

SESSION 10 : JESUS



BIG IDEA – Remember to always point people to Jesus in reproducing.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(16) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, **(17)** comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. *2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 4:1–5

(1) I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **(2)** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. **(3)** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **(4)** and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. **(5)** As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

WATCH THE VIDEO



OPENING QUESTION:

How can you personally keep the main thing (pointing people to Jesus) the main thing as you set out in reproducing?

DIGGING DEEPER:

1) What is Timothy charged to do in 2 Timothy 4:2? Define the terms preach, reprove, rebuke, and exhort. Why is it important for disciple-makers to follow this charge? (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

» When have you been the recipient of reproof or rebuke? Was it a positive or a negative experience? What happened as a result?

OR

» When have you reproved or rebuked another person? Was it a positive or a negative experience? What happened as a result?

2) 2 Timothy 4:3-4 presents the common temptation that people have to gather information, resources, and people to support their own ideas. Why do you think people are prone to turning away from the truth and wandering into myths? Brainstorm ways you can protect yourself or your group from this prevalent pitfall.

3) Paul gives Timothy further instruction in 2 Timothy 4:5. How is Jesus a model or example of each of these lessons? How have you been an example to others?

This passage in Second Timothy gives us clear instruction to point people to Jesus as we disciple others. In 2 Timothy 4:2 we are encouraged to use *words* through preaching, reproving, rebuking, and exhorting because people need to hear the truth. In 2 Timothy 4:5 we are encouraged to point people to Jesus using our *actions*. Jesus provides us with the perfect model of sound wisdom, putting others first, intentional disciple-making, and fulfilling the purpose that the Father had for His life. As we combine both our words and our actions, we also have the opportunity to point others to Him—the main goal of our efforts, the main desire of our hearts, and the main lover of our souls—our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

SHARING THE GOSPEL – PART 1

Over the past nine weeks you have learned how to share your story, listen to others with intention, ask good questions, pray for people, and gain a comfort level with questions people might ask. At some point in your conversations, you may have an opportunity to share the gospel with another person. Paul encourages Timothy to “preach the word” and “do the work of an evangelist.” In order to do this, we need to have a level of comfort in sharing the powerful story of God so that others can hear and put their trust in Christ, too.

For the next two weeks, you will be reviewing two different lenses of the gospel. This week we will explore the themes of the gospel and next week we will look at the story of the gospel. Both lenses are important, and an understanding of them will give you a more complete picture of the good news of Jesus Christ.

For this exercise:

- 1) Read through the brief descriptions of each thematic element below.
- 2) Discuss each element as a group so that everyone has an understanding of the essentials.
- 3) Break into pairs and practice explaining the gospel to each other.
- 4) Come back together as a group and relate your experiences.

LENS #1 – EXPLAINING THE GOSPEL THEMATICALLY

A thematic explanation of the gospel can be thought of as a vertical orientation between God and individuals. He knows of our sin problem and He does something about it through the person and work of Jesus Christ and begins to transform us by the power of the Holy Spirit. This explanation can be found in popular gospel tracts such as “Would You Like to Know GOD Personally?” and “Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?” by Cru.

God – God loves. God is the eternal, all-powerful Creator. He is perfectly holy and all-knowing. He created you in love and desires for each person to know Him personally. But there is a problem...

Sin – Sin separates. People would rather place themselves on the throne of their lives than allow God to rule. This attitude of self-rule separates us from God. In life, sin separates us from personally knowing God and experiencing His love and plan for our lives. In death, we are separated from His presence to spend an eternity in despair and regret. This is really bad news, but there is hope...

Jesus – Jesus bridges. Jesus is the only solution to fix the problem of sin and separation. Jesus is God incarnate. He took on human flesh and lived a human life, but without sin. He then substituted himself for us and paid the penalty of sin through His death on the cross and bridged the separation through His resurrection. He paved the way for us to know God personally in life and to live with Him in peace and joy for eternity. This is really good news, but we have a responsibility.

Faith – Faith saves. It is our responsibility to put our faith in Christ and trust Him. We cannot bridge the gap through any accomplishments of our own. We have a responsibility to de-throne ourselves and place Jesus on the throne of our lives. We must admit and deal with sin in our lives and trust Him to transform our thoughts, habits, attitudes, and lives through the power of His Holy Spirit.

Sharing the gospel should occur in the course of normal conversation rather than lecture. Take your time and ask questions to make sure they are following. Ask them what their thoughts are and try to discover their hesitations. And remember, spiritual understanding depends on God's timing, not yours, so do not get discouraged if they decline.

NEXT WEEK:

Discipling sounds like a lot of work, but there is great reward in knowing that you are engaging in a mission that has eternal benefits. Join us next week as we look at the significance we can discover as we embrace the goal to **Reproduce!**

SESSION 11 : SIGNIFICANCE



BIG IDEA – A reproducing life is a significant life because it yields eternal rewards.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(14) For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

(15) Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. (16) Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:14-16*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 4:6–8

(6) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

WATCH THE VIDEO



OPENING QUESTION:

What are your thoughts on what constitutes a life of significance? How do your daily choices support or conflict with your long-term hopes and goals?

DIGGING DEEPER:

- 1) Paul uses the illustration of a drink offering to describe his situation. What comes to mind when you think of the word “offering?”
- 2) What phrases does Paul use in 2 Timothy 4:7 that indicate his satisfaction with his life? When you consider these phrases in light of the mission to reproduce:
 - » How is disciple-making a fight? A race?
 - » Why do you think Paul points out that he has kept the faith?
 - » What makes the life of a disciple-maker a life of significance?
- 3) What is the reward that Paul is looking forward to? How about you? What do you consider to be a life well-lived and what rewards are you looking forward to (earthly and/or heavenly)? Has your opinion of a significant life changed or been challenged over the course of this series?

It is very easy to get caught up in pursuing earthly significance. Everybody wants to be happy and fulfilled and it is tempting to look for significance in financial stability, social position, and our achievements. All of these things are enjoyments of life and they are gifts from God, but they are temporary pleasures that will not last for eternity. People are the only thing that we can bring with us to Heaven. Living a life of sacrifice and pouring our lives into people will be the most lasting thing we will ever do. The responsibility may seem daunting, but if we stay in the fight and cross that finish line we will reap a life of significance and an eternity of reward.

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

SHARING THE GOSPEL – PART 2

Last week you began to get comfortable with sharing the gospel through viewing it thematically – God, sin, Jesus, and faith. This week you will look at the gospel as a story. This can be considered a horizontal view as it relates to all of creation. This world was made perfect by God for us to live in harmony with Him and His creation. Sin has marred and destroyed that. We see rebellion, death, decay, injustice, etc. Jesus came to reconcile us to God Himself and promises to give to those who are saved a restored creation that is free from the effects of sin. God’s kingdom, in the fullest sense, will be accomplished.

Telling the story of the gospel includes 4 areas: creation > fall > redemption > restoration.

For this exercise:

- 1) Read through the brief descriptions of each story chapter below.
- 2) Discuss each element as a group so that everyone has an understanding of the essentials.
- 3) Break into pairs and practice explaining the gospel to each other.
- 4) Come back together as a group and relate your experiences.

LENS #2 – EXPLAINING THE GOSPEL AS A STORY¹

Creation – The Bible is a sweeping story of God’s love. He is described as the Creator of all things and He is the only one who does what is good and right and perfect. He created the heavens and the earth and everything in them. He created the first humans, Adam and Eve, and placed them in the Garden of Eden. He walked with them and talked with them and they experienced a life that was full and complete in perfect relationship with God.

Fall – Unfortunately, Adam and Eve eventually chose to rebel against God and His authority. They chose to follow their own rules and acted in

disobedience. God's perfection cannot allow rebellion to remain in His midst, so Adam and Eve were cast out of paradise. They were separated from God and their rebellion continued to spread from generation to generation. Everyone fell under this curse of separation for thousands of years.

Redemption – Eventually God called one man, Abraham, to follow Him. God established a special relationship with Abraham and over several generations He grew Abraham's family into a great nation that became God's family. This family, the nation of Israel, was to be a visible picture to the surrounding nations of what life with God means. However, this family still lived with sin. They oscillated between periods of obedience and rebellion and went through ups and downs, but they held onto God's promise that He would deliver them through a Savior. Then one day an angel appeared to a young Israelite virgin named Mary. She would be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus was born, and unlike every other person in history, Jesus would live a life that was good and right and perfect. He called people to follow Him and He invited people to be a part of the kingdom of God and live once again under God's rule and reign. Many people were threatened by Jesus' goodness and claims of divinity, so they had Him brutally murdered. But God, in His great grace, counted Jesus' death as punishment for sin and accepted Jesus' perfect life for our own. Three days later Jesus rose from the dead, conquering death and extending the invitation for every person to reject the reign of sin and follow Him.

Restoration – After Jesus ascended into his rightful place in heaven, the disciples gathered together and began to spread the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. People believed in their message of reconciliation to God and the Church was born. People all over put their faith in Jesus and once again began to enjoy a life that was full and complete. We can be a part of this amazing story by trusting in Jesus and giving Him authority over our lives. Someday Jesus will come back and there will be no more pain or sickness or death. But until then, we can live with a foretaste of what life is like in the kingdom.

Sharing the gospel in story form may seem long, but there are advantages. People like stories, and every person's life has threads of this progression of creation > fall > redemption > restoration. Every person has ideas and interpretations of life, why things are broken in their lives, what they are looking for to fix it, and what their lives will look like when everything is as

it should be.² If you can listen well and identify their ideas, you can parallel the story of God with their own. A few examples of this thread that is woven through people's lives could be:

Creation – Successful people are happy people.

Fall – I am working a dead-end job with no promotions in sight.

Redemption – I really need a new boss who will recognize my potential or maybe I should find a new job.

Restoration – When I advance in my career that will feel really good and I will be happy.

Creation – A loving spouse should meet my needs.

Fall – My spouse does not support me and that hurts.

Redemption – I'm trying to get my spouse to listen to me and love me enough to make more of an effort.

Restoration – When my spouse pays attention to me and meets my needs then I will feel truly loved.

Creation – I should feel attractive.

Fall – I am so discouraged with this body of mine.

Redemption – I'm working hard to lose some weight and tone up. A nice tan wouldn't hurt, either!

Restoration – Once I like what I see in the mirror, I will feel better about myself.

It may seem out of place to share the gospel story as outlined above in direct response to these personal stories, but you may be able to talk about the dissatisfaction we often feel in life and how that is not how God meant for it to be. Questions may arise in the conversation and an opportunity to present the gospel may open up.

NEXT WEEK:

By now you probably realize that the mission of making disciples is not a one-time experience that you complete. It is meant to occur throughout our earthly lives. This requires great endurance. Join us next week as we look at the resources that the Lord has graciously given us to make sure we have what we need to endure to the end on the mission to **Reproduce!**

1 - Kalinowski, Caesar. The Gospel Primer. Missio Publishing: www.missiopublishing.com, 2013, p. 30-31.

2 - Chester, Tim, and Steve Timmis. Everyday Church: Gospel Communities on Mission. Wheaton, IL, Crossway, 2012, p. 111.

SESSION 12 : ENDURANCE



BIG IDEA – Our endurance to stay on the mission until the end comes from the Lord and each other.

OPEN IN PRAYER:

(17) O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. (18) So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come. *Psalm 71:17-18*

READ THE PASSAGE: 2 TIMOTHY 4:9–22

(9) Do your best to come to me soon. (10) For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. (11) Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. (12) Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. (13) When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. (14) Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. (15) Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. (16) At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! (17) But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. (18) The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (19) Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. (20) Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. (21) Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers. (22) The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

WATCH THE VIDEO

OPENING QUESTION:

What have you discovered through this series that strengthens and inspires you to endure to the end in reproducing?

DIGGING DEEPER:

- 1)** Read 2 Timothy 4:9-16 and discuss the various relational experiences that Paul had. Then consider the following:
 - » How has Christian fellowship disappointed you in your journey?
 - » How has Christian fellowship supported you in your journey?
- 2)** What was Paul's experience with the Lord according to 2 Timothy 4:17-18? How can experiences and convictions such as these affect a person's behavior? Have you had an experience where the Lord stood by you and rescued you?
- 3)** Paul sends his final greetings and sentiments in 2 Timothy 4:19-22. To conclude the final session in the Reproduce series, share how this study has impacted you and what the people in your group have meant to you on this journey?

Disciple-making is a life-long pursuit that requires great endurance. Thankfully, the Lord has given us two very significant resources to accompany us on this journey – His presence and other believers. People will come and go throughout our lives. Sometimes they will disappoint us, but many times we will find support and encouragement as they come alongside and aid us on the mission. That is why we believe strongly that small groups are a necessary component to your growth as a Christian. One thing that will never change is that God will be with us every step of the way. He will always stand by us, and as we continue down the narrow path of discipleship we can be assured that He will provide the endurance we need and safely bring us into His kingdom.

EQUIPPING FOR ACTION:

NEXT STEPS

Our hope is that the conclusion of this series will be a launching pad rather than the completion of a Bible study that will sit on your shelf. Please take a few minutes to watch the concluding video and hear about the various opportunities that you have. As a group, discuss the following questions below.

- 1) What has been your overall experience of group life? What has been easy? What has been hard?
- 2) Would you like to stay together as a group? If so, talk about your hopes and expectations of continuing. If not, discuss how you will plug in elsewhere to keep moving forward in your Christian walk.

Congratulations on completing the **Reproduce** series! We hope you have enjoyed delving into the book of Second Timothy. We also hope you have gained a deeper understanding of making disciples and feel more confident in participating in the mission.

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 13:20-21

APPENDIX A

“JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP” DIAGRAM EXPLANATIONS

As people connect to God, His people, and His work, we want them to hear God’s call and follow it. In short, we want to make disciples of Jesus. But what is a disciple? A **disciple** is someone who is **following Jesus, being transformed by Jesus, and making other disciples of Jesus**. When Jesus called his disciples, he said, “Follow me (follow Jesus) and I will make you (being transformed by Jesus) fishers of men (making other disciples of Jesus).” **Matthew 4:19**

Following Jesus (*Luke 9:23-24*)

A disciple is following Jesus wholeheartedly. It is not “I lead and Jesus follows.” No. It is “Jesus leads and I follow.” In every area of my life. In my relationship with God, those in my home, at work, at church, and out in the community.

Being transformed by Jesus (*2 Corinthians 3:18*)

A disciple is being transformed by Jesus from the inside-out. Jesus is not after behavior modification, but heart transformation. He gets to the core of why we do what we do in order to bring transformation. He gets to the belief behind our behavior so that we are trusting Him rather than the lies of this world.

Making other disciples of Jesus (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

A disciple is making other disciples of Jesus. This is something that a Christian starts and matures into from the very beginning of his conversion. Jesus wants us to reproduce. He wants us to make disciples who make other disciples.

Disciples who are following Jesus, being transformed by Jesus, and making other disciples of Jesus will find themselves cooperating with the Holy Spirit in three general activities: embracing the gospel reality of Jesus, practicing the spiritual disciplines, and living in transformational community.

Embracing the gospel reality of Jesus (*Colossians 3:1-17*)

Because of the gospel, disciples of Jesus have a salvation “past”, “future”, and “present” reality that should shape their life. We have a “salvation past”, that is, Christ’s complete work on the cross and resurrection provides

forgiveness from the penalty for our sin. We have a “salvation future”, that is, the hope we have when Jesus returns and we will be with Him for all eternity, away from the presence of sin. However, we often forget that we live in the gospel reality of “salvation present”, that is, God’s giving us grace to live our life free from the power of sin and be transformed to look more like Jesus. It’s in this “salvation present” that Jesus is sanctifying us as we **embrace Jesus’ perspective on reality**, and **embrace the promises of Jesus in everyday life**. As we like to say, we are embracing the gospel reality that...

- » God is **Great**, so we do not have to be in control.
- » God is **Glorious**, so we do not have to fear others.
- » God is **Good**, so we do not have to look elsewhere for satisfaction.
- » God is **Gracious**, so we do not have to prove ourselves.

Practicing the spiritual disciplines (*2 Peter 1:3-11*)

Spiritual disciplines are simply practices that create space for the Holy Spirit to transform us into the image of Jesus Christ. These are not things we do to earn more acceptance and love from God. Rather, these are things we practice to expose us to the reality of our acceptance before God because of the gospel and experience the love of God. Seeing and savoring Jesus is the goal in practicing the spiritual disciplines.

Living in transformational community (*Hebrews 10:24-25*)

Transformational community helps us actively embrace the gospel reality of Jesus and practice the spiritual disciplines. This type of community is both encouraging to those within it and inviting to those without it. It is encouraging to those within it because it is a place of acceptance, love, and grace, with the goal to help each other be transformed to look more like Jesus. In addition, it is inviting to those without it because this type of community is really what every person longs for! And because of the inviting love of Jesus shown to those within the community, they want others to experience it as well.

APPENDIX B

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FOR SESSION 6

Consider choosing to practice ONE of these disciplines that connect to 2 Timothy 2:14-19

Rightly handle the Word of truth – *2 Timothy 2:15*

- » Do an inductive Bible study of a passage of Scripture being able to interpret what the passage is saying to us now.
- » Lead/teach that Scripture to your family, friends, or group.
- » Read a doctrinal book that expands your understanding of God in an area in which you are unclear. (e.g., when will the resurrection happen?)

Avoid irreverent babble – *2 Timothy 2:16*

- » Spend a day without gossip. Do not allow any gossip to come out of your mouth at work, at home, wherever you are.
- » Spend a day when you use only edifying words. Only edifying words come out of your mouth for an entire day. (yes, even when your kids blow it!)
- » Practice silence for an entire day or pick a time period that works for you and your family of 1-2 hours that you go without using words. When you begin to speak again consider the power of your words. You may want to journal your experience.

Depart from iniquity – *2 Timothy 2:19*

- » Think of an area in your life that you are not living/doing what is right. What spiritual discipline would help train you in righteousness? For example:
 - fasting from _____
 - pursue reconciliation with _____
 - confessing your sin of _____ to a trusted friend serving by helping _____
 - meditate on the gospel of Jesus and what He has done for you, ... etc

APPENDIX C

SPIRITUAL GROWTH PROFILES ¹

	CHARACTERISTICS	PHRASES	NEEDS
DEAD Unbelief in Jesus	rebellion; spiritual apathy; superstitious; looks to the world for satisfaction; anger or resentment towards God or Christians	"I don't believe in God." "I've been a good person so I'll be ok." "Evolution explains away the need for a God."	explanations and answers for Christianity; a real model of Jesus lived out in front of them; an explanation of the gospel
INFANT Misinformed about faith	enthusiastic about new faith; worldly perspective with biblical truth mixed in; ignorance about the Bible; possible unrealistic expectations of Christians or themselves	"I know Jesus forgave me, but what do I need to do to make sure I go to Heaven someday?" "I'm content with just God and me." "God just wants me to be happy."	explanations of truths found in the Bible; modeling of the habits of growing believers; individual attention from a spiritual parent
CHILD Self-focused	concerned about how things make them feel; high expectations of Christians so can be disillusioned; mimics Christian behavior to look the part; more knowledge of what Christians say than what the Bible says	"Today's worship made me feel so good. I hope that continues." "Look at that person's outfit! Who comes to church looking like that." "I hope my small group never changes." "I was sick and not one person called me."	a listening ear without judgment; help to begin self-feeding; guidance in establishing realistic relationships with others; modeling appropriate expectations; patience from more mature believers
YOUNG ADULT Service and others-focused	desire to serve others regardless of personal cost; may be black and white about issues; can make assumptions based on their passions; feels a personal responsibility about success or failure of serving	"I think I will lead a group because others need a group like this." "Sally just had a baby so let's all take her a meal. I'll start a schedule." "I prayed a lot for this event but not one person came to Christ."	help in identifying their gifts; opportunities to serve and to debrief about their experiences; encouragement to try new things; assistance in establishing healthy boundaries; guidance in expectations
PARENT Intentional in disciple-making	desire to see others grow to independence; enjoys a coaching role; pursues unity and is often team-minded; strategic in ministry; able to self-feed	"I would like to get my friend plugged into this ministry." "I think you would be a great leader. Would you like to co-lead with me to learn more about it?" "Would you like me to disciple you?"	support from other co-laborers and the church family; encouragement and accountability; opportunities to disciple others; opportunities to strengthen their skills and knowledge

¹ Putman, Jim, et al. Real-life Discipleship Training Manual. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2010, pp. 211-215.

APPENDIX D

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community. New York, NY: Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., 1954.

Chester, Tim, and Steve Timmis. Everyday Church: Gospel Communities on Mission. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.

Kalinowski, Caesar. The Gospel Primer. Missio Publishing: www.missiopublishing.com, 2013.

Putman, Jim. Real-Life Discipleship: Building Churches That Make Disciples. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010.

VIDEO VIEWING OPTIONS

OPTION 1: DVD

Each group leader will be provided with a standard definition DVD to watch the videos on a TV or laptop.

OPTION 2: VIMEO

All of the videos have been uploaded to the FAC Vimeo web page in 1080p high definition. There are two methods of watching via Vimeo.

Method 1: To view on Vimeo's website through a computer or mobile device, please follow these steps:

1. Go to: www.myfac.org/reproduce
2. Scroll to the bottom of the page where you will find links for each of the 12 video sessions.
3. Click a link for the desired session and you will be taken to the Vimeo website where you can watch the video.

Method 2: Vimeo provides an app to watch their videos compatible with most mobile devices, streaming players, and smart TVs. The Vimeo app can be downloaded through your devices app store or applicable interface. To find out more please visit:

<https://vimeo.com/everywhere>

OPTION 3: DOWNLOAD MP4 SOURCE FILES

This option provides the **highest quality** viewing experience. It's available through any computer, or a smart TV capable of playing downloaded MP4 files, either through a USB flash drive, network drive, or media player. To download the original source MP4 files, first follow the steps listed above in **Method 1**. Once you are on the Vimeo web page for the desired session's video, click on the button below the video titled "Download." Then in the drop down box click on the link that appears titled "Original MP4 file." The MP4 file will automatically download to your hard-drive. Once it has finished downloading you may then transfer that file to the device of your choice to watch on your TV in high quality 1080p resolution.

NOTES



REPRODUCE

S E C O N D T I M O T H Y