

We Joyfully Make Disciples

- **Intro:**
 - **Rigged Hearts**—incessantly pursue our joy; wired to get more joy as we get more Christ and lead others to as well (2 commands—pursue joy in God and make disciples!)
 - The more you **SAVOR** the joy of being a disciple, the more you **DESIRE** to share that joy and see that joy in the lives of others through discipleship.
 - The more you **PURSUE** the joy of others in discipleship, the more joy you experience in **BEING** a disciple.
- **What is biblical joy?**—a durable state of emotion of gladness and comfort rooted in God himself and is the gift that Jesus secures and the Spirit pours out. Biblical joy is not an emotional state found in one's self or circumstances!
 - **Psalm 16:11**—in YOU is the fullness of joy and at your right hand pleasures forevermore
 - **Psalm 37:4**—delight yourself in the Lord
 - **Psalm 43:4**—then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my exceeding joy
 - This is why earthly joys are incomplete apart from finding full joy in God. **Earthly joys are meaningful, just not "MEANINGFULLEST"!** Earthly joys find fullness **ONLY** in relation to joy in God (friendship, marriage, etc)
 - **Philippians 4:4**—rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice
 - God wants **JOY** for his adopted children! We cannot walk around with a lack of joy!
 - **Biblical joy is Secured by Jesus and poured out by and in the Holy Spirit**
 - **John 15:10-11**—If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.
 - **John 17:13**—but now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.
 - **Galatians 5:22**—fruit of Spirit (that fruit belongs to and comes by the Spirit of God)
 - **True joy is FROM the Spirit. Belongs to the Spirit. Comes as result of Spirit's work in us**
- **What is a disciple?**—a close follower
 - **More than simple/passive interest**; the follower wants to participate **WITH** the one he follows! **A disciple imitates—so compelled by who is disciples IS that he desires to DO what his disciples DOES.** He longs to grow like the one he follows and in his joy recruits others to be followers, too. (see this in sports fanatic, food junkie, art enthusiast, etc)
 - **They want YOU to be invited IN to participate in and experience that joy as well!**
 - **We are created and wired to be disciples**—to be shaped by an identity deeper than our own, in something greater than ourselves and our circumstances.
 - **We were created to follow and know and imitate and enjoy and become like our Creator.**
 - **Making disciples**—pointing people to the one by whom and for whom they were made; helping others become more fully committed followers of Jesus! **Disciples make other disciples because of the joy they have experienced in Christ as Lord!**
 - **Discipleship = leading others to follow Jesus and find their joy in him!**
- **How are joy and discipleship connected?**
 - **The picture of discipleship (1 These 1:2-7)**
 - **Discipleship entails our teaching and our lives**—"our gospel came to you"... "what kind of men we proved to be"—**Paul and the apostles made disciples by TEACHING and LIVING in such a way as to show the power of the gospel!**
 - **Discipleship's goal is salvation**—"our gospel came..in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...and you became imitators of us and of the Lord"
 - **Discipleship produces JOY in the discipler and the disciples**—"you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit."; 3:9—"all the joy we feel..."
 - **The Fruit of Discipleship—1 These. 2:17-20; 3:6-9**

- 1 Thess 2:17-20—what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.
 - Those we disciple become our joy! Not **COMPETING** with our joy in Jesus but **COMPLETING** and **EXPRESSING** that joy!
 - True in ordinary life—kid takes first steps, rides back without training wheels, scores first goal—YES!! There is tremendous joy there. This is **MORE** than personal accomplishment though. The joy is a **JOINING IN** on the joy of our kids, spouse. etc.
 - Gospel Joy—something more ultimately joy-giving in seeing other people find their deepest joy in Christ. The joy to which all other joys point!
 - Joy of accountability partner staring down temptation with the power of Christ; a new believer express joy of the Word coming to life for them; a fellow believer respond to disastrous news with joy and comfort in Christ; persecuted fellow believers stand strong in the hope and confidence of Christ
 - In discipleship we also experience and participate in that joy and, thus, multiply our own joy in Christ! The most certain and satisfying joy trip we can take is the trip of multiplying disciples who find their ultimate joy in Christ alone!
 - 3 John 1:4—“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth”
 - **NO GREATER JOY**—what a statement from someone who knew, touched and walked with Jesus! That is what true joy in Jesus does—it expands and draws others in!
 - The way our joy in Jesus grows is not as it stays siloed and quarantined **INSIDE** us but that our joy expands and ripens and deepens as it extends **OUTSIDE** us and draws others into it.
 - This joy is for **NOW** and **FOREVER**—v.19—“at his coming”—this joy that is found in discipleship is both for **NOW** and for eternity. Our joy in the coming of Christ/eternity is exponentially increased by discipling others into joy in God! Makes sense—Jesus comes to fully complete all the joy of his people and graciously **INCREASES** our joy by allowing us to experience a degree of the joy of all those we’ve disciplined!
 - 1 Thess. 3:6-9—Paul considered it “good news” to hear of their faith and love
 - “for now we live”—Part of Paul felt “dead” until he knew his disciples were standing strong in Jesus. The news of their faith landed on his soul with gospel refreshment!
 - “all the joy”—a joy that we cannot feel apart from the fruit and work of disciple-making.
 - Interesting note—Paul does **NOT** write with this kind of intensity to the churches he has yet to meet (Rome/Colossae). The personal relationship is amping his joy!
- How do we practically do this?
 - Experience the freedom of a joy motivation rather than guilt/shame—discipleship is the pursuit of the **JOY** of all people whether in **RDU** or to the nations!? Our obedience to the great commission is our commitment to our own joy and the joy of all peoples!
 - Obedience to the great commission, as in all the commands of God, is not in competition to our joy but is actually the means by which that joy is multiplied and completed!
 - This is a call to a joy-rewire! We must rewire our Brains and hearts to believe that God has sovereignly wired humans to actually find **MORE** joy as we live in obedience to him!
 - **Keep it Simple**—we make disciples of Jesus like the world makes disciples of everything else
 - Talk about Jesus and show your joy in Jesus to both believers (insiders) and unbelievers (outsiders).
 - Talk about what God is doing in our lives. Talk about what we are learning from the Bible. Talk about the way he shapes the way we think about EVERYTHING. Talk about what it looks like to walk in obedience to Jesus.
 - **Begin at home**—Begin with your roommate, friends, spouses, and children.
 - Incorporate unbelievers into your life at home (have neighbors over, read a psalm, pray with and for them, talk about Jesus in normal ways).
 - Incorporate younger believers into your life. Bring her into the mess of running your home and family of 5. Bring him with you to Lowes. Have her over to help with chores

- during nap time. Go on runs together. Ask questions about life, share how you're fighting sin, share what you're learning, give good books. Pray, and see what God does.
- We intentionally do THIS while we are doing all the other things in our lives.
 - Think of discipleship more in terms of everyday life and less like a program
 - Unbelievers are EVERYWHERE.
 - Go places regularly. Get to know the people that are in your same place at your same time. names. families/kids. Offer to pray for people. Pray, and see what God does!
 - Pursuing joy in discipleship doesn't necessarily mean changing WHAT you do but changing HOW you do it! How might we USE what we do regularly as opportunities to pursue joy in discipleship.
 - Timmis—Discipleship = ordinary people doing ordinary things with gospel intentionality.
- Close:
 - The more you SAVOR the joy of being a disciple, the more you DESIRE to share that joy and see that joy in the lives of others through discipleship.
 - The more you PURSUE the joy of others in discipleship, the more joy you experience in BEING a disciple.
 - Because all authority belongs to King Jesus and because he is with us to the end of the age and because he has done everything to secure for himself a people from every language and tribe and nation and because Jesus is worthy of the worship of every man on the planet, we can pursue our joy and the joy of others in Him!!