

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Full Spectrum Discipleship #2

Watch the video summary of the **February 8, 2015 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The Beginnings of Discipleship." Please read the sermon passage (John 1:35-51) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

AS THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS UNFOLDS . . .

1. **Embrace small beginnings, patiently focusing attention on Christ** (35-42)
 - a. Live a purposeful life, focused on Christ. (35-36)
 - b. Ask probing questions, focused on Christ. (37-39)
 - c. Make a personal connection, focused on Christ. (40-42)
2. **Address skeptical attitudes, wisely answering questions about Christ** (43-51)
 - a. Winsomely invite the skeptic to "come and see."
 - b. Connect the dots: the OT prophecies of Jesus. Jesus fulfills every prophecy.

ENCOURAGEMENT for full-spectrum disciple-making:

- The reason that God not take you to heaven the second you trusted Christ, was so that you could remain here and teach others about Jesus, what he has commanded and how to joyfully love and follow him.
- Small beginnings may yield slow results. Stay the course! "Am I faithfully making Christ known?"
- Later, Peter was the mouthpiece and Andrew seemed to be a "behind the scenes guy." Learn to appreciate everybody else's role, while embracing and celebrating your own. It's all about Jesus!

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The beginnings of discipleship can be very small. Sometimes you don't know if anybody is learning of Jesus at all. It's okay (and expected!) to experience small beginnings. Jesus had an earthly "small beginning." Talk about your discipleship efforts and where they seem small.
2. Based on #1, above: The life of a disciple should be purposefully focused on Christ Jesus. John (John 1:35-36) identified Jesus as the only "Lamb of God" as he pointed others to him. But he did not push people to him. What's the difference between "pointing" or "identifying" Christ versus "pushing" people toward him? How are you learning to point rather than push?
3. Based on #1, above: Two men started to follow Jesus. Jesus' first question is very revealing and helpful to us as disciplemakers today: he asked, "What are you seeking?" Or, "What are you looking for?" How can we use this question today in evangelism and discipleship?
4. Andrew invited Peter to come and see. Peter eventually did a lot of preaching. Philip eventually explained who Jesus was one-on-one to the Ethiopian eunuch (in Acts 8). Every discipler has a different strength or bent in the way he or she disciples. What is your discipleship strength? How are you using it?
5. Based on #2, above: After Philip had been convinced of Jesus' identity for all of about 10 minutes, he begins inviting skeptics (Nathanael) to "come and see" who Jesus is. Are there sarcastic skeptics in your life? How can we start inviting these skeptics to "come and see" (v. 46) Jesus? Are you prepared to teach others about the uniqueness and deity of Jesus Christ?