

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

How would you respond to the question, who are you, what do you do, and where do you do it? How does your lived reality match what you say is true about you?

PRACTICING PRAYER:

Woodlands has a host of missionary personnel they support. Spend time praying for those missionaries using [this guide](#) (one for each day of the week).

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES

We're made in the image of a happy, generous God. When we practice generosity, we live according to our design and tap into God's joy." - <https://www.practicingtheway.org/generosity>

What invitation to living generously are you sensing from the Lord? What steps will you take to follow that invitation?

VERSE MEMORY:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28: 19-20

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Check out the [local outreach](#) webpage on the Woodlands website. Pick a ministry that you would like to investigate further and step in to join in on this opportunity to contribute to the efforts to make disciples locally.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

The Global Welcome ministry at Woodlands has a number of volunteer opportunities to provide transportation for UWSP international students attending Intersivarsity's [Tea and Talk](#) fall events.



Leader Resource Guide

Date: September 29, 2024

Step Into Mission



OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

What's your favorite type of cuisine? Are you a "meat and potatoes" kind of person, or a fan of an ethnic cuisine?

Who greatly influenced you in your journey on becoming a believer and disciple of Jesus? What did that look like?

NOTES

TO BE A CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

HELPING PEOPLE FAITHFULLY FOLLOW JESUS

BOTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FOSTERING CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

1. What stuck out to you in your interacting with Scripture this week? What is the Lord teaching you?
2. Story so far... How have the previous weeks' "Step In" messages about being grounded and growing and gathering in worship prepared us for the invitation to step into mission? How does worship and being grounded and growing equip us to be on mission?
3. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What is a disciple? What other scriptures have shown us about disciples or followers of Jesus? From that understanding, what does it mean to make disciples? What are the implications and non-negotiables of making disciples in fulfilling the Great Commission?

Definition from [this article](#) from Desiring God: "The standard definition of "disciple" (noun) is someone who adheres to the teachings of another. It is a follower or a learner. It refers to someone who takes up the ways of someone else. Applied to Jesus, a disciple is someone who learns from him to live like him — someone who, because of God's awakening grace, conforms his or her words and ways to the words and ways of Jesus."

Another helpful identifier from Practicing the Way, "one who is with Jesus, becomes like Jesus, and does what Jesus did."

It might be helpful to retrace the storyline of the 11 disciples Jesus was talking to in Matthew 28. As a group look at what their journey of discipleship looked like to this point in Matthew, and then beyond (think Acts; dip into the Acts sermon series from last year). Let this be a place of abundant grace! Pay attention to the disciples as they try to follow Jesus in their imperfect and sometimes obnoxious ways while you also mark how Jesus gently, but firmly forms them into people that love and act more and more like He loves and acts.

4. "Matthew 28:18-20 is an area not just a perimeter command." Reading Acts 1:8, Jesus implores the disciples to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. What would that look like for us in Plover, Central Wisconsin, the United States, and to the ends of the earth? Sketch out a map or diagram that has Plover at the center. Brainstorm some of the far reaching missionaries that represent the "perimeter" of the ends of the earth and "draw those fences". Continue identifying places closer to home that are opportunities to make disciples and shade those areas in (consider local campus missionaries, local outreach ministry opportunities, regional and national ministries). How do you see that the Great Commission is not simply a "perimeter" command, but also an "area" command. How does the Holy Spirit equip us to make disciples?

See Romans 8:15, Ephesians 2:18, and Philippians 3:3.

5. What does it look like for you to be a disciple of Jesus? Where is He calling you to join Him in making disciples locally and globally?

There were a lot of opportunities talked about on Sunday. The beauty of the body of Christ is that we are made up of lots of different members with different stories, passions, and skills. Oh, the beautiful diversity. And that diversity working towards a unified vision of making Christ known on the earth. Take time to sit with the opportunities presented and not let it overwhelm you but rather sit in discernment for where the Spirit is leading you to take action and then do it. Take action.

Also, as a group, pay attention to where you see passion in some of your group members. How can you encourage one another to take action?

6. Read John 1 - 5 for Woodlands in the Word this coming week. The sermon passage will be Titus 2:1-8.