

Introducing and Multiplying DNA Groups (Part 1)



Series Goal

To provide an orienting vision and supporting structure with regard to discipleship in hopes that we might develop a “culture of discipleship” here at Mercy Hill. The aim is that it would become a normal thing here for people to be engaged meaningfully in each other’s lives, pursuing Christ together, and inviting unbelievers to join in.



Sermon Text

Matthew 28:16-20



Big Idea

Disciples of Jesus are to be busy making disciples of Jesus. But do we even know what this means? Do we even know what discipleship is? When we consider the idea in light of the whole of Scripture we come to see that discipleship to Jesus has as its end conformity to His image. It is the God-ordained process by which we are renewed in the very image we had long since marred.

When we open our New Testaments and read, we can’t help but come to the conclusion that anyone who would bear the name of Christ, anyone who would call him or herself a Christian, is, in biblical terms, a disciple of Jesus. And as we read on in our New Testaments, what we come to understand is that being one of Jesus’ disciples is not a stagnant sort of thing. There’s a certain explosiveness to it. There’s an out-flowing, ever-replicating, momentum that is set off in the heart of each disciple. Here is the very heartbeat of the church of God. Here is both our identity and our purpose. Here is what we must be and what we must do. *We must be disciples of Jesus who are busy making disciples of Jesus.*

(1) The Background

The entire story of Scripture can be told, in one sense at least, from the perspective of genetics.

Chapter #1: Creation—When we say today that a child is a “spitting image” of his parent, we are not too far off from what it means for man to be made in the image of God. We were His children with, we might say, our Father’s DNA. We looked like Him. We were created to, as a mirror, reflect Him and His glory into the world all around.

Chapter #2: Fall—At the tree of testing (Gen 3:6), the image of God in man was not fully lost, but it was most certainly marred. We still looked something like our Maker, but now with severe deformities. Like a mirror, broken, we still reflected our Father to some degree, only now in fragments and flashes.

Chapter #3: Redemption—At Calvary, in our arrogance, I suppose we thought we were doing away with the image of God once and for all. But, truly, God, in His grace, was making a way for us to be renewed in that image forevermore!

Chapter #4: Restoration—God promises to finish for us what He’s begun in Christ (1 John 3:2).

(2) The Definition

Discipleship to Jesus is the way we are slowly renewed in His image. When you think about it, as Jesus set out to make disciples, what was He doing? He was calling people out of darkness, away from their broken way of life and the realm death—and He was inviting them to follow Him, learn from Him, and begin to live more and more like Him.

DNA Groups are smaller groups of committed people who meet on a consistent basis to Discover, Nurture, and Apply Christ together until He is all in all.

Reflection Questions



- Are you a disciple of Jesus busy making disciples of Jesus? Are you going with the gospel to unbelievers? Are you starting conversations, asking good questions, listening to their stories, and engaging them meaningfully with the good news of Jesus? Are you helping other Christians in their journey towards Jesus? Are you openly, honestly, meaningfully involved with others and pursuing Christ together with them? If not, why not? If so, how so? Who might God be calling you to move towards even this week?
- Read Colossians 3:5–10 and Ephesians 4:17–24. What do you think it means to put off the old self and put on the new self as Paul calls us to here? How have you been doing at this lately? Why might it be helpful to pursue this alongside other believers in something like DNA Groups?