

## **Greater Things! *The Call of Discipleship***

When our daughter, Emily was around 6 or 7 years old, I can still remember her fidgeting when I was tying a string or turning a screw. She wanted to do it. You could see her watching intently and her fingers would begin to move as if she was already performing the task in her mind. She wanted to do what I was doing. Apparently, Jesus knows how much we want to be a part of his mission. This is discipleship - doing what God does. Our hands and heart fidget to do what God has done in us and for us. Heading the call of discipleship is about advancing God's mission in the world as God works through us, following his example and being led by his Spirit.

### **Journey Together:**

- 1). What is the most important thing you learned from your mom or dad?
- 2). What are some important things you are learning from others right now?
- 3). If you could do anything that Jesus did what would you want to do and why?

**Note:** Jesus encouraged the disciples that they would one day do even greater things than He was doing in His name. Does this surprise you and why?

**John 14:12** *"The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing."* (Message Bible)

**Road Map:** Mark 6:6-13.

- 4). What were some of the great things that Jesus gave the disciples to do when he sent them out together?

5). What did the call of Jesus entail here? What specific call and instruction does Mark mention here as Jesus extends His authority to the twelve?

6). How many of the things that Jesus instructs the disciples to do have you seen or been used by God to carry out yourself?

**Note:** There are four important keys to note about Jesus call for advancing God's kingdom here.

- a) Called to "be with him."
- b) Everything is through Jesus name.
- c) Called to repentance.
- d) Call of complete dependence on God.

7). How important are each of these things and why?

8). What are some of the greater things that come to mind that were accomplished in Jesus name through His disciples? What great things do you imagine God wants to accomplish through you?

9). What further questions do you have from this weeks reading?

10). How can this group pray for you right now?

### **My Journey:**

1). How has God been using journey in your life this week to do *Great Things* for Him?

2). How is God reminding you this week of our call to "be with Him?"

3). What great things of God can we pray about together today?

## Backstory:

I guess you could say I am a part time Warriors Basketball Fan. Part time in that I get all excited as the season gets close to the finals if my Warriors are winning. I even bought the special 2017 National Championship basketball cap, but other than that, I am not much of a follower – only a fan, since I pay no attention to them during the regular season. Are you a follower of Jesus or only a fan? You were baptized and you still talk about Him when salvation issues come up or at church, but pretty much detached from Him in your day to day existence?

Author and teacher, Francis Chan illustrates the problem with many people who say they are followers of Jesus, but only pretend to follow. He says they are like people on the highway that have their turning signal on, but never really turn. It's as if they have forgotten that their blinker is on. They appear like they are going to make a turn, but never intend to do so. These people believe in turning – they just never actually execute the turn.

Life with Jesus is more than believing. It is following. It begins by watching – observing Jesus life in order to follow His pattern. But life with Jesus is not a spectator sport. It's all about being and doing the things of Jesus. All who believe are called to discipleship or as German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in *The Cost of Discipleship*, “Only he who believes is obedient and only he who is obedient believes”. *Invitation*, the first of the Journey series small group bible study is just the beginning of the Christian life and journey. Discipleship is the journey.

The call of discipleship is the call to a new experience of life in God with Him at the center. It is also a call to action – to continue the ministry that Jesus started. It is a call to join Him in advancing His kingdom. This was the purpose of His coming, that we might participate in the life of God and to entrust us with His mission. It is also why He said it was necessary that He return to His Father – to open wide the door for the Spirit's indwelling that we might experience the life He lived and continue the work He started.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”, Jesus said, that He might extend such authority to us. (Matthew 28:18) Unlike most CEO's, kings and even spiritual leaders – Jesus was eager to give away His authority and spiritual power. His practice was to minister and have His disciples watch. Then He would have them do what they had seen Him do. Next, they would talk through it. In the end, it was always Jesus purpose that His followers would not only do the things that He was doing, but go on to teach others the same things they had learned. Jesus not only gave authority away to do what He was doing. He also gave the authority to teach what they had learned to others. Until we begin to practice what we have seen and experienced from Jesus, the life of Christ is just that – His life, but it will never truly become our life.

The goal of this week's *Greater Things* study is for participants to realize the importance of following vs just believing and to imagine some of the things that Jesus might have us do in His name! Let's do greater things together in Jesus name!