

- **Soak** – Read the passage each day and write down any observations, thought's, questions, connections or anything God speaks to you about the passage.
- **Seal** – Seal God's word to you deep within your heart by taking some time to meditate on the most important truth to you this week. Ask God to open the deeper recesses of your heart to teach you what you need most for your life this week.
- **Script** – Journal or write if even a few lines, noting the ways that God spoke to you from the passage, your meditation, or our group time together. This will help you keep better track of God's voice and the way He is speaking through scripture.
- **Share** – Share with someone what you are learning from your time with God in Journey. As you share what you are learning, it will help drive God's word home to you even more and you will notice how God will use what He has revealed to you to bless others.

Journey Covenant:

I want to follow Jesus in the noble purpose He has for me. I want to participate in Journey to enhance my own relationship with God this year. I will commit to doing the weekly assignments and small group meetings.

My best times of availability are: _____.

Signed: _____.

My email address: _____.

Cell Ph: _____.

Journey...Greater Things

...is about the life God has in mind for all of us – the life you have always wanted.

In the famous Jane Austen book, *Mansfield Park*, Tom, the oldest son of the Bertram family once asked his father - a cruel, heartless slave trader, for a nobler mission. "Give me a noble mission, father," Tom cried. *A nobler mission than the slave trade!*

Tom's request is the cry of the human heart for a life purpose that measures up to the magnificent beings we were created and meant to be. The life and mission that Jesus calls us to - in whatever service or use of our talents that God has blessed us with - is this nobler mission. It is the call of discipleship. It is the call of Jesus.

Who was Jesus? What was his mission? What can Jesus teach us about ourselves, life's meaning and our relationship to others?

Invitation – the first lesson in the Journey series is an introduction into the life and mission of Jesus. *Greater Things* builds on the first of the Journey series in the call of discipleship. Through the voice of Matthew – one of Jesus closest followers we are going to learn, experience and practice the rhythms of discipleship with Jesus.

Titles and Topics Covered In Greater Things:

- 1). Greater Things: *The Call Of Discipleship***
- 2). Discipled by a Disciple: *A Great Disciple?***
- 3). Can I Get A Witness?: *The Great King***
- 4). The Kings Inaugural: *A Greater Service***
- 5). The Ethics of Jesus Kingdom Part 1: *A Greater Life***
- 6). The Ethics of Jesus Kingdom Part 2: *A Greater Focus***
- 7). The Ethics of Jesus Kingdom Part 3: *A Greater Community***
- 8). Giving Away The Kingdom: *A Greater Mission***
- 9). Proclaiming Gospel Of Jesus: *A Greater Message***
- 10). Leading By Example: *Becoming Greater Leaders***
- 11). Making All Things New: *A Greater World***
- 12). From Death To Life: *A Great New Identity***

Breaking Down Journey:

Journey was created for larger weekly on or off campus meetings in a teaching format and small group discussion. The beginning story or illustration introduces the topic of study. ***Journey Together*** helps ease participants into the topic through ice-breaker related questions. ***Road Map*** is the main passage for discussion followed by questions that help draw out the topic. If you are leading Journey, feel free to depart from these as needed and come up with your own questions, while staying on track with the main direction of the study laid out in the leaders guide. ***My Story*** has been prepared as a continuation of the larger group meetings for smaller groups that meet during the week to check in with one another and reflect on how God is using Journey in their daily life. We recommend these groups be flexible in terms of location and meeting time. Also, the amount of questions are limited in the My Story section, allowing for more personal interactions and life application. ***Back Story*** is a helpful guide for those leading out in the Journey Series and is only included in the leaders book.

Getting The Most Out Of Journey

Here's what your going to need for Greater Things.

- Good soil - An open and receptive heart
- Working the soil - Determination and diligence
- Hunger & thirst - Desire to follow God as He leads

Best Practices: The five S's of hearing and discerning God's voice

- **Seek** – Pray for God to open up the passage for you. Is there a promise for you to claim, a sin to confess, a word for you to follow, an insight to share?

9. Becoming baptized into the new life identity we have in and through Jesus Christ.

10. Committing to following after Jesus – “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

"We are, to be sure, reconciled to God by Jesus' death, but even more, we are 'saved' by his life (Romans 5:10) – saved in the sense of entering into his eternal kind of life, not just in some distant heaven but right now in the midst of our broken and sorrowful world. When we carefully consider how Jesus lived while among us in the flesh, we learn how we are to live – truly live – empowered by him who is with us always even to the end of the age. We then begin an intentional imitation Christi, imitation of Christ, not in some slavish or literal fashion but by catching the spirit and power in which he lived and by learning to walk "in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

Streams Of Living Water, Richard Foster (1998, p.3)

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Mathew 4:19

More about *Greater Things*

Become like Jesus? There is no greater privilege or accomplishment in discipleship than to become like one's teacher. But Jesus actually inspires and promises us to even greater things by Him through His name. Greater than the works of Jesus? It seems impossible and even blasphemous, but this is what Jesus promised - a discipleship that would continue the mission of Jesus from one disciple to the next - Jesus living on and magnifying His efforts in all those who would pick up their cross and follow Him. Jesus spurred His disciples on with these words: *"You will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father."*

John 14: 12

What greater things? How open was the mission of Jesus? In what way was the kingdom of God to continue and advance after He was gone? What authority did Jesus extend to His followers that would enable them to continue what He had started? How were His disciples expected to accomplish even more in Jesus name? What was the strategy? What resources was He providing? How could they be expected to do even greater things than Jesus with less spiritual power and divine resource than Him?

This is what we want to explore together over the next few weeks. We want to dig deep into the question of what it means

to become like Jesus so that Jesus life and mission lives on in us - so that Christ is literally present on earth as a living body in the lives of those who call Him Lord.

Mathew, one of Jesus' earliest followers was so compelled by Jesus vision that he left his very lucrative tax collectors business to become a follower of Jesus. In Matthew's account of Jesus, we find not only a narrative of Jesus life and ministry – but an actual reference to Jesus pattern of discipleship and the competencies expected of his followers. In other words, we learn from Matthew how Jesus disciplined him and what Jesus expected a disciple to learn and incorporate into their life with him as their rabbi.

From the very beginning of Mathew's introduction about Jesus we discover that Mathew's gospel is about Jesus, Mathew, the disciples and ultimately us. Jesus is the start of a new people (Abraham) and a new kingdom (David) that will ultimately lead us out of our bondage of sin (Babylon). Jesus is *Son of Abraham, Son of David our Deliverer*. Matthew 1

The five speeches of Jesus that Mathew's gospel is arranged around give us the framework for what discipleship of Jesus is about. We are first introduced to Jesus as the *Messianic King* (1-4) **The Great King**. The speeches of Jesus include: *The Sermon On The Mount* (5-7) **Greater Life**, *Sending Out The Twelve* (10) **Greater Mission**, *Parables of the Kingdom* (13) **Greater Message**, *Woes On The Pharisees* (23) **Greater Leaders**, *The Olivet Discourse* (24, 25) **Greater World**. Matthew closes by the call to *make disciples* (28) resulting in a new and **Greater Identity**.

In becoming like Jesus we are *surrendering* to Jesus, the King, taking on His *life*, carrying out His *mission*, proclaiming His *message*, leading by *example* as we help prepare others for the *new world order* by becoming God's *new people*. These are the seven discipleship competencies that got worked into Matthew's life in following Jesus.

Discipleship according to Matthew means:

1. Learning that Jesus is more than my Savior - as wonderful as that is. It means acknowledging Jesus as the # 1 priority of my life (king) and surrendering to His lordship (kingdom).
2. Receiving the life of His kingdom and incorporating the spiritual disciplines that help us practice a new inner life that shows up in the way we live before God and others.
3. Learning how to tell our story of life from above – the blessed life. It means learning the compassionate ministry of Jesus and sharing the good news of the kingdom by incorporating the missionary practices of MT 10.
4. Explaining the Kingdom of God to someone through our own story and the parables of the kingdom in MT 13 paying attention to where people are at (soil) and by how they respond.
5. Learning to live by example and living what we say. Practicing authentic servant leadership as illustrated from the woes on the Pharisees.
6. Reminding others about the consummation of Jesus kingdom and the new world order - preparing for the world to come.
7. Committing to leading an *Invitation* bible study in your room or on campus.
8. Committing to discipling someone in the *Greater Things*

discipleship process.