

*This midweek study will explore the doctrine of discipleship. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.*

### Essential Doctrine: Discipleship

Discipleship is a process that takes place both formally and informally to effect spiritual maturity as people follow Jesus. Informal discipleship, as passages like Deuteronomy 6:4-9 suggest, happens everywhere, in every arena of life. Growing in our faith and deepening our walk with Christ is something that requires our whole life, not just the mind. Formal discipleship refers to periods of instruction. We make disciples through our words and actions, providing verbal instruction from God's Word and non-verbal examples through our lives (Acts 20:17-24).

### 1 God calls us to make disciples (Matt. 28:19).

Option: Ask students to share some specific fears they have about disciple-making.

- ▶ *What are ways we can overcome those fears and begin impacting people with the gospel through discipling relationships?*

#### Read Matthew 28:19.

- ▶ *What is the difference between a disciple and a convert?*  
A convert refers to someone who becomes a Christ-follower. A disciple refers to the active, daily following of Christ for each believer.

### 2 God calls us to be disciples (1 Cor. 11:1).

Option: Ask students to share about the person who has been the most influential in their spiritual lives since they got saved. Instruct them to explain what made this person so influential.

#### Read 1 Corinthians 11:1.

- ▶ *Why would Paul tell the Corinthians to imitate him?*  
Paul could tell them to imitate him because his life was a constant imitation of Christ.
- ▶ *Who has a spiritual walk you could imitate? What about this person makes you believe they have a strong spiritual life?*
- ▶ *Is your life worthy of being imitated by someone else? Why or why not?*

### 3 Discipleship involves being globally minded (Acts 1:8).

#### Read Acts 1:8.

Think about the fact that the gospel started with twelve men in Jerusalem and somehow ended up reaching you thousands of years later. This is the effect discipleship can have.

- ▶ *Is it ever difficult to think outside of the context in which you live? Why or why not?*

Global discipleship isn't just for the spiritual elite; it is for all believers who are passionate about spreading the name of Jesus all over the world.

#### WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *What would it look like if all Christians in the world devoted themselves to making just two disciples?*

If we became serious about making disciples, the ways God could use that obedience to impact people all over the world are limitless.