

**Journey Church De Pere 6/20/2021**  
**The Essential Ingredients of Disciple Makers - John 15:1-17**

**God desires us to be Disciple makers and here are some essential ingredients for the local church in the disciple making journey.**

When I chose the word “ingredients” I thought of cooking! I wondered, in 30 in my years of preaching have I ever used a cooking illustration? I do not recall any. So, this is a first!

I reviewed my life of nutrition. I reflected - how many meals have I eaten? Assuming three meals a day, over 71,000... wow! I grew up in eastern WI, in a small town. We had a garden; we were organic before organic was in style. Great ingredients. Mom was a great cook. Dad was of German heritage, so I had sauerkraut at a young age!

Then off to college. Lots of pasta as I recall, and then on my own for about 2 years. How did I survive? Then I got married, that was a move in the right direction! My wife Deb is a wonderful cook.

Now, in the last year with both of us working from home. I travelled less, so, I have been involved in the preparation of the evening meal. And I have learned this simple truth - good ingredients and the right portions all mixed together can make some great meal experiences!

So too, is the case in the realm of discipleship. We need to put together the right ingredients in a local church in the disciple making journey; John 15:1-17.

**1. Disciple makers remain in Christ's power John 15:5**

The power to do discipleship is from Jesus. He is the Vine we are the branches. We find our strength in Him. Without Him we can do nothing!

How do I know if I am in Christ's power? The Bible identifies three ways:

1. Fruitfulness... John 14:12 Jesus said we would do greater things that He did. How is that possible?

From TTI - right now there are about 50,000 students ready for discipleship training in the training centers in India. That feels like a greater thing! But it is all from God's power!

2. Galatians 5:22, 23 *Fruit of Spirit love, joy, and peace, patience, kindness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* Think about your marriage, about your family - is God producing those fruits in your life?

3. 1 Peter 3:15, *effective witness.* We respond to the questions that people may have regarding our faith and life with Jesus. Asking God for opportunities?

I read a book recently called "Spirit walk" by Steve Smith, "Walking in the Spirit" is similar to "abiding in Jesus". Living in God's power. To walk in the Spirit, we need to do a **SWAP**; Surrender to God's will, Wait on God in prayer, Avoid sin in our lives, and Pursue the Holy Spirit promptings. Lord I need your power.

## 2. Disciplemakers remain in **Christ's love** John 15:9-10

Jesus speaks of a Father/son relationship with God the Father. Jesus demonstrated that He loved His Father through His obedience. God is a good father. God invites us to obey so that we shall find joy.

In my life, when I seek to obey Jesus and yield to the Jesus throughout the day, He does bring joy to my life. When I stray from obedience to His word, I lose my joy. If I have joy, I am remaining in Christ's love.

In my work role these past five years, I have learned more about the TTI model of discipleship for church planters, Obedience-based discipleship is at the center, with loving, honest accountability.

10 lessons... The Spirit filled Christian life, My Story, God's story, New Identity and Assurance of Salvation, Living a life of prayer, Learning to feed yourself, A Daily Relationship with God, Discovery Bible Study, God our Heavenly Father, Life in the Church.

In the fall of 2018, at Crosspoint Church in Bloomington, MN I was part of a group that went through the TTI Level One book on discipleship.

Lesson #2 is entitled “Share My Story”...my life before Jesus, how Jesus and I came into relationship, and now my life with Jesus at the center. It can be difficult task to find opportunities to share our stories, and when they come to respond in a reasonable way.

Our group was trying, but it was going slow. Then we started redoubling our praying and seeking to hold each other more accountable, asking each other how our week went in this area.

By week number five, we began to have a breakthrough, we were hearing stories like this - I was working out at a fitness center, listening to Christian music in my headphone, and a person came up to me and asked, “What kind of music are you listening to?” Here was a chance to share their story - which they did!

Obedience-based, love-motivated and holding each other accountable is the way disciples are made in the local church.

### **3. Disciplemakers remain in **Christ's friendship**. John 15:15**

Master-servant relationship – no. Friends? Yes. Wow, a friend of God, and friends with each other.

Foot washing connection – John 13, Jesus and His disciples, dusty roads and sandals produce feet that need to be cleaned. In Jesus' culture, the

model was that the one who is the servant serves the master. The one who is the lesser (in terms of position) serves the one who is the greater.

But Jesus reverses this in God's Kingdom. Jesus is the master, and He serves those that obey Him. So, they have become His friends. They love each other.

I have not practiced foot washing very much. But I do have a foot washing story from Nepal. It was a leadership conference of about 100 pastors (or “Paul's” as TTI would call them). At the conclusion of the gathering,

the Americans leaders washed their feet. We are your servants; we are your friends. It was a powerful experience for all, especially the leaders for Nepal. It brought us closer together as friends of Jesus and each other.

What to do. Maybe you would like to write out a few, "I will" statements will help guide us. You listen to God. You write your statement down. A few ideas...

I will...remain in God's power by practicing the SWAP method of the Spirit walk .

I will...remain in Christ's love by sharing my story with others this week .

I will...remain in Christ's friendship by serving others in my world this week .