

Family Focus

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

DISCIPLESHIP

Disciple: 'A learner, a pupil; one who not only accepts the views of the teacher, but attempts to put them into practice'. The Greek word is *mathētēs*: 'a learner' (from *manthano*: 'to learn', indicating thought accompanied by endeavor).

Those who are faithful in the Lord - Christians - can rightly be called disciples. Yes, those who were with Jesus during his ministry time on earth and us today. Being a disciple means that we are always striving to be more like Christ, or as Paul said in several letters to the early church, to 'imitate' him, as he did Christ.

The action of trying to be like Christ can be summed up in two words that Jesus said more than once, "Follow Me." That meant more than just tagging along, but rather being in His footsteps. Jesus taught by both words and actions, not so we would simply know, but so that we would know what to do. Jesus did not just speak the word of God, He demonstrated (lived), the words of God. We are to do the same. There are nineteen occurrences of 'Follow me' in the four gospels. Simply put, it means to committ yourself fully, pick up your cross, and then act by following Him.

A part of discipleship is becoming 'fishers of men' as Jesus told some of the first disciples. How is that done? Like Jesus did, with both words and actions. Don't think that words are the only way to teach about God and Christ. Did Jesus only preach? No, he healed, comforted, encouraged, fed, etc. He touched people on the inside and the outside, and told them who His source was - God the Father, and why - because God loved them.

As Jesus ended His time with the first disciples, He told them to go and make new disciples, spreading the gospel to all nations. His leaving them in bodily form did not mean they would not be able to follow any longer. Indeed, they had to then follow even more closely without Him than before. Our call is the same as their's: 'Follow me', and spread the gospel to all. Show God and Christ to people through your actions and your daily life and be ready to tell people 'who' and 'why'.

In His Service,
Britt Newby for the Elders

Shepherds' Vision Goals

Overall Goal:

To grow spiritually and numerically as "a family growing people to the glory of God".

Goals for the next 12 months:

1. Increase participation by at least 10% in these areas: Sunday Worship, Bible School, Ministry Works, and Small Groups.
2. Make a list of 5 folks to pray for & invite to Small Group or Worship.
3. Add 20 new teachers.
4. Total Congregational giving challenge - increase giving by 28%.

Want to learn more about specific plans to reach these goals? Ask an elder or minister or go to our website: www.fairviewroad.org.

Shepherds (*Denotes quarterly Chairman): Glen Godsey, *Charles Martin, Britt Newby, Don Osburn, James Treece, Dee Vanderburg