

Making Disciples by Asking Good Questions

Learning to follow Jesus as a disciple happens within a relational context. Trust is essential, and this takes time to establish. Sometimes one-on-one interaction is the best way to build trust with a mentor. Eventually, three people (a “triad”) becomes more effective because it has a relational dynamic that draws each person out in unique ways and is small enough that each person gets their share of time. Remember, we are each a disciple of Jesus, and we want Him to lead. The mentor is there to help the disciple listen to the Holy Spirit in the word of God, to discern what next step of obedience Jesus is calling them to take. Here are some questions that can help guide your discussions.

Getting to Know You

- Where did you grow up? Who are some people from whom you learned the most?
- What are five words you use to describe yourself?
- What’s something few people know about you?
- Who inspires you to be better?
- What excites you about life right now? What are you thankful for?
- Where would you say you are in your spiritual journey?
- How would you describe your spiritual life right now?

Ongoing Check-ins

- What are some highs and lows from this week/celebration and challenge/good and bad/blessings and beefs/“happy and crappy” (thanks Paul Voltmer)?
- How is your soul? How is your relationship with God? In what ways are you abiding in Jesus?
- What’s an important lesson you’ve learned this week/year?
- What are you celebrating? What have you seen God doing lately?
- What is the Lord inviting you into that is hard? How can we help you with that?
- Where are you reading in the Bible right now, and how have you put it into practice?
- What are you hearing from God?

Digging Deeper

- How do you feel most fulfilled? When makes you feel “alive”?
- What emotions did you experience this week? What did you learn from that?
- What are some things you noticed about yourself this week that surprised you?
- What are some doubts you struggle with?
- Where is fear or shame manifesting in your life right now?
- Where would you like to use your gifts?
- What risks are worth taking?

Wrap-up

- What is one response to God’s word you will act on this week?
- What is your next step of obedience to Jesus?
- How can we pray for you?

Reading or studying through a book of the Bible can be a great guide to spiritual conversation, as long as the mentor comes up with some good discussion questions to help draw out the understanding of the disciple. There are many good, printed guides that can help in this process, from the Navigators, Cru, Intersity, and other publishers that focus on discipleship materials. Remember, the goal is for the disciple to engage God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit in every area of their life, so no subject is off-limits if it seems important. Moving the conversation toward prayer (e.g., "How can I pray for you this week?") can be a good way to keep the conversation on track toward engaging God together.