

***Preheat the Oven - Ephesians 4:10-16***  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

We started with a simple goal. Jesus told His followers to go “make disciples.” If we are to obey this command, we really do need to figure out what a disciple actually is and figure out how to make them. Like making the perfect chocolate chip recipe, you don’t begin with a recipe, you begin with a clear understanding of a great cookie. Then you create a recipe for making that type of cookie. Otherwise you will end up with crunchy cookies that don’t taste right. This is what Paul is explaining in his letter to the church at Ephesus (in fact, all the letters in the New Testament are discipleship letters). He has actually spent four chapters reminding them of the goodness and glory of the Gospel, multiple times reminding them that their belief and lives are centered on something that was done for them in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. But he continues by reminding them that this same Jesus is the sender of missionaries, evangelists, pastors, teachers, the leaders for the church. These leaders are God’s gift for the purpose of making disciples. They are not sent to do all the ministry, rather, they are to, “Equip the saints for the work of the ministry.” and they are to do this so that disciples will grow, find their place in the body, grow in the knowledge of Jesus, move toward maturity, and stand strong against false teaching and the winds of culture. These leaders are the church’s disciple makers. And the goal is to make disciples, who will reach full maturity, some of them becoming leaders of the same mold.

So we spent the last several months creating a recipe that we here at Genesis believe represents the approach Jesus and the first Disciples used to make disciples who eventually made disciples who made disciples. Yet, we hope and believe, this recipe is adapted for our context and culture. So we have developed and shared our discipleship grid, which is our recipe, our pathway for making disciples. We hope to intentionally invest 10 core ingredients, or core competencies into the lives of people within our church, carefully mixing these into our teaching, programming, systems, and events. And we want to be intentional about the way we mix these ingredients into the lives of people across eight differing discipleship life stages, beginning with people who aren’t even in the church and are uninterested and unengaged with Jesus all the way to those who are serving as disciple making leaders and Elders. So the simple goal to make disciples becomes a strategic goal as we continue thinking about intentional ways to help people go from unbelief to maturity in Christ.

So we need to be clear here, to be honest, this grid is not anything new to Genesis. It has always been in the stuff, a background component in everything we do. To be honest, this series has really been more about making clear in a vision casting sort of way what has always been the ministry philosophy for Genesis. We never started with a program sent to us by a denomination or straight out of the next cool book from a pastor whose church grew. From the beginning, 18 years ago it was our desire to be a disciple making church, and we developed our ministries and processes with intentionality, with a recipe. Yet, we never really laid this out to our entire church, and more importantly, to our ministry leaders for full implementation.

But if you examine our ministries we hope you will see the intentionality in making discipleship in everything we do. In our gathering, our liturgy (weekly rhythm of worship) is strategic, our music expresses our love for Jesus while also teaching deep truths about God and the Gospel. We begin and end with Scriptures, and model both the reading of the Bible and prayer in church with intentionality. Our preaching is always from the Scriptures, Gospel-centered, and doctrinal. Furthermore, our Community Groups have an intentional format with mandated rhythms to make sure we don’t drift into one lane on our grid, rather, we want our groups to represent the type of intimacy in disciple making we see in the twelve disciples with Jesus. Hopefully, this series has helped you see that we have sought to be intentional in every area of ministry, every program, every event. The things we do are connected to this grid. As we move forward, we want our leaders to use the grid in building their own areas of

ministry. Some of our ministries will focus on one or two different stages of discipleship, while other ministry teams will lead out in making sure we are intentional about one or more of the ingredients. But everything we do here must begin with our task of making disciples, and therefore will reflect some aspect of this mission. When events or ministry teams do not have as their aim the making of disciples, we either need to repurpose them so they do or do away with those events and ministries. It is our goal to make disciples who make disciples who make disciples. Even as we move into a new building we must not lose sight of this simple yet profound task given to us by our King and Savior. So lets make sure we are clear about what it will look like when a person becomes an authentic follower of Jesus and lets work together to make disciples of our neighbors and to the nations.

**Bible Reading for the Week**

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Job 8	Job 2	Job 3	Job 4	Job 5	Job 6	Job 7

Reading from this past week: Ephesians 4:10-16  
 Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Psalm 120

**Family Worship**

Song - *I am Not My Own*

<https://youtu.be/yxCb6l3jkis?si=R1JUz-5KK-CJyZN2>

Gospel Project

Unit: Paul became a Christian  
 Story: We are part of one church  
 Big Picture Question: Who can be saved?  
 Answer: Anyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be right with God.  
 Scripture: Acts 9

New City Catechism

Question 20: Who is the Redeemer?  
 Answer: The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ.  
 Verse: 1 Timothy 2:5

Scripture

Ephesians 4:10-16

- According to this text, what role do spiritual leaders play in disciple making? What is the goal for each believer?
- How do you see the discipleship grid already at work in our church? What are some specific ways you see Genesis being intentional about making disciples of people in different stages and places of growth?
- What are some things we as a church could do better in our task of implementation of this grid? In other words, which ingredients need some work, and which stages need intentional effort?
- What steps can you take in your life to move in the direction of becoming a disciple who makes disciples?

Prayer

- \*Pray that our church would be intentional in the implementation of our recipe, the grid we have developed in making disciples.
- \*Pray for you mom this week, and for other mothers who are meaningful in your life.