

A Quest for More Series - Part 6

“More of God’s Plan”

Pastor Dale Campfield – Eastgate Community Church

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Intro:

Matt 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

We only have 2 more days left of our 40 days of fasting and prayer. How’s it going? Have you noticed a difference in your habits? Have you noticed a difference in the practicalities of feeling the presence of God in your life? Are things different?

We are in a series of having MORE of God. Not more of what He can do for us, but more of Him. We dealt with MORE of the PRESENCE of God on week one. Then we dealt with God’s LOVE, 3 weeks ago Dr. Badu Bediako from Ghana, Africa ministered on God’s PEACE. Then we talked about God’s POWER through the Holy Spirit. Last week, was More of God’s JOY.

Today, we’ll be talking about MORE of GOD’S PLAN.

As you know, today is Super Bowl Sunday here in the United States. The Indianapolis Colts vs. the New Orleans Saints. The winner this afternoon will be the NFL World Champions.

For sure, they all have a GAME PLAN going into this game.

Today: We’re going to look at GOD’S GAME PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.

While holding a football. Each of the teams playing in the game today had a game plan at the beginning of the year that brought them to where they are now – in the Super Bowl. They had to walk out their game plan and stick to it each step along the 16 week regular season. Neither team went undefeated in the regular season, but lost a few games along the way. Even though they lost a few games along the way, they are still where they are today because they stuck with their game plans. Now, being in the last game of the NFL entire season, they will fight against each other to claim the title CHAMPION.

As Christians, we fight many battles along the quest of our lives. Some we win, and some we lose. Many of you today are in the middle of some of those battles. But all of someday, will be in the final battle of life. The battle which we know we will win; but we've got to have a game plan.

Do you have a GAME PLAN given to you by God to fight the battles of your life? Do you know where you are right now in regards to that plan? Do you know the strategy for your life in moving forward?

I would propose today that we need MORE of GOD'S PLAN for our lives, in order to win the battles of life and at the end, to be able to say...I finished the race, finished the course set out before me by God. PAUL...

So...What is God's PLAN for your life? How can you discover it? I hope that the following message will show you more clearly what God's PLAN is and how we can stay focused on that PLAN until the final chapter of our lives is written. So that you too can hear Him say...Well done my good and faithful servant.

Now.... What is God's Plan?

I propose that God's plan for us involves two main areas. In fact, everything we do should be done under the knowledge that it starts with these two things.

A - The Great Commandment

Matthew 22:37 *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."*

B - The Great Commission

Matthew 29: 19 *"Go and make disciples of all nations."*

This is the area we'll be dealing with most of this message. We've talked a ton about love... now, let's talk about what often times becomes the great "O-mission", instead of the Great Commission.

Today, we'll be looking at the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of Making Disciples.

What has made an impact on you lately? Your family? Your neighbors? Your town? Your world? How many would say the Church has impacted their lives?

Some might answer with the affirmative. But the greater question is not has the church

impacted you, but have you as the Church made an impact in someone lately??

Church: the company of all Christians

Impact: the effect or impression of one thing on another

A Church of Impact is Christians collectively effecting or making an impression on others with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Jesus had that in mind when He spoke...

Mt 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

Jesus wasn't giving those standing around Him a nice colloquial phrase to utter every now and then to a gathered group of people called the church. No Jesus was intending to impact His followers in order that they themselves as the Church might make an impact.

"If we take our Handbook seriously, we have to conclude that the church is the basic School of discipline and training for all Christians." - C.S. Lewis, Screwtape Letters

But the measurement of success for our church is not the programs, budget or buildings, but the production and development of disciples.

The programs, budget, and building should be utilized to help us make disciples.

One of the true tests of whether or not a church is making an impact for Christ is not by how many people it takes in, but by how many people is sends out. - Ken Adams

By Doug Morrell

“Perhaps the greatest single weakness of the contemporary Christian Church is that millions of supposed members are not really involved at all and, what is worse, do not think it strange that they are not. As soon as we recognize Christ’s intention to make His Church a militant company we understand at once that the conventional arrangement cannot suffice. There is no real chance of victory in a campaign if ninety per cent of the soldiers are untrained and uninvolved, but that is exactly where we stand now.” -Elton Trueblood

Founded on Jesus’ blueprint for discipleship, John Wesley developed a simple plan for maturing and equipping the saints. Wesley said, “The Church changes the world not by making converts but by making disciples.”

How Jesus Taught:

Jesus ministered to the multitudes at least 17 times according to the Bible. However, there are approximately 46 mentions in the Bible where He spent His time in private with His disciples. In those smaller group settings He trained His committed followers for their own ministries. He ministered one-on-one, one-on-two, and one-on-three. At other times His ministry was conducted one-on-twelve. He also provided on-the-job training with the 70; and spent some apprenticeship time with the 120 as well as placing some emphasis with the 500 in Galilee.

“Go And Make Disciples...Teaching Them To Obey” (Show, Tell, Release, Supervise):
The great commission has two parts. The first is for us to go and make disciples. The second is of no less significance, but most often set aside to secondary importance if used at all. It is to teach them (apprentice disciples) to obey. In fact, there cannot be a disciple without this training. And there cannot be training without accountability.

The primary objective of the Church today as outlined by Jesus is for disciples of Jesus to develop other men and women into disciples. Discipleship should be at the forefront of our efforts. Everything we do, say and teach should be considered as we ask, “How will this help us make disciples?”

The most effective manner to train and equip people for any skill is by providing effective models and opportunities to practice the skill itself. Jesus used a show, tell, release, and supervise model of training. After calling the disciples, He took them along with Him, teaching and healing the sick as He went. Then, after He thought the disciples had seen and learned enough to try for themselves, He commissioned, empowered, instructed, and sent them out to do the same things. This model of training should be no different for those desiring to bring others into a complete understanding and walk in Christ-likeness.

Discipleship is the key to effective ministry in the church. Nothing we can do has more potential to change the world than making disciples.

Matthew Smith

Simply put---Discipleship--- is a lifelong process that God uses to bring us to maturity in Christ.

It says “make disciples.”

3. Remember what a disciple is? A follower of someone.

4. So as Christians, believers, disciples of Jesus Christ, we are to make others followers of Jesus Christ.

What is a disciple? The word disciple in Greek means a “pupil of a teacher.” In a way, every one of us is a disciple. We are all students of someone and if we desire to be leaders, we must always be learning. But a disciple is someone who not only accepts the view of that teacher, but puts it into practice. They not only agree with them, but they submit to their ideas and surrender to their vision. The pupil becomes like the teacher.

Jesus said:

“A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.” (Luke 6:40, NIV)

Disciples are life long learners. We make disciples when we invite people to join with us in learning more about God, our world, ourselves, and the teachings of Jesus.

When we seek to be faithful to this great commission and to make disciples we encounter a great challenge. We can lead and make disciples only as far as we have traveled in our walk with Jesus. This limits us, but it also an impetus for further growth in our lives.

The closer we are to Christ, the closer a disciple we are.

And now..... HOW?

We've talked about discipleship quite extensively and hopefully imparted to you that discipleship is not an option and that it must a lifestyle. Everyone has their own individual ways of discipleing others.

Here at Eastgate Community Church, we have a plan that we'd like to share with you to equip you better in making disciples. We call it our "Path to Discipleshp."

In 1983, God gave me a vision while watching a local high school football game in Anaconda, Montana. The stadium he was sitting in suddenly turned into a supernatural stadium. He saw those on the playing field as the "healthy church"; a church of believers working together as one, united, living in the "Love Zone", worshipping God, etc. The lost were on the outside; their destiny being eternal separation from God. In the stands were souls being disciplined and trained to function as a healthy body making their way down to the field; with each level of the stadium representing different levels of teaching and discipleship. Those on the field then went to the outside of the stadium and brought in the lost, to which it all started over. A continuous motion of winning souls for the Kingdom of God 'till the return of Jesus Christ!

This vision has now filtered its way into our "Path to Discipleship" that we as a church leadership want to make available to every person who desires to use it. We believe in the teachings along this path and desire that everyone would catch hold of these truths and use these tools in helping them to make disciples – which is the PLAN of God for our lives.

*Please see the details of this vision on our website:
www.eastgatecommunitychurch.com



The Un-churched

The Un-churched

Practical Steps to becoming a Disciple of Christ

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