

WEEK FIVE

BIBLE STUDY 9 (pp. 88-ff)

Theme: Discipleship as Spiritual Formation and Mentoring Acts 16:1-5

Paul invites young Timothy to go along with him; Paul became **a mentor in the faith to Timothy**. *Mentoring is essential if Fresh Expressions (FE) is to be sustained.*

Book Reflection -

Heart of FE: Making disciples through mentoring and small groups; when we encounter Jesus, we are called to become his disciples. Ch. has great discussion of how we become disciples: small steps/giant leaps of faith; daily practice/weekly activity; sustained habits/annual practices. Becoming a disciple is a “long obedience in the same direction.”

As we are becoming disciples ourselves, we are called to **enable others to become disciples**, too. Disciples made thru mentoring. *Mentoring* goes both ways – old to young, young to old.

Vocabulary

Mentoring – Key steps: listening, reflecting, connecting to one’s story, prayer

Cumulative Process – Ongoing process of study, worship, fellowship, and relationship by which we become disciples

Sustainability- Ability of a church to survive AND thrive.

Final Thoughts: What practices – daily or weekly or monthly or annually – help you become a disciple? What’s your reaction to the 4 steps of mentoring? Is one step easier/harder?

BIBLE STUDY 10 (pp. 94 -ff)

Theme: A Deeper Dive Into Discipleship Acts 6:1-7

When an issue arose, the Twelve responded by forming a committee! Actually, they chose more folks to help them, to become disciples. Some disciples focused on missional (distributing food); others focused on spiritual (prayer & proclaiming the word).

Book Reflection – The early Methodist movement developed alongside the existing church. Discipleship happens in 3 ways: **information, imitation (mentoring), & immersion**. How we become disciples AND how we make disciples are fundamental questions of FE & the church.

Vocabulary – *Class meetings* and *band meetings* are terms from the early Wesley tradition; the emphasis on each is small groups meeting initially to share experiences and then meeting to hold each other accountable in matters of faith.

Final Thoughts – Have you ever been asked, “How is it with your heart?” Consider the 3 ways discipleship can happen. (See above.) Can we see where these may be taking place at BF? For FE to be formed and sustained, discipleship is the key

Closing prayer