
Sunday, July 16, 2017
Did You Know?

One-on-One Discipleship

Over the past few years, City on a Hill has been emphasizing the importance and necessity of discipleship. We used Scripture verses like Colossians 2:6-7 which says,

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Last year, our focus verse came from 2 Timothy 2:2

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

This year, we've been going through Psalm 119 which accentuates the absolute authority of God's Word. You put that all together and what you see happening is a community making and raising disciples of Jesus rooted in His Word.

When I was in university, it was a season of tremendous growth. And, when I look back at those years, God blessed me with wonderful, encouraging people, but there is one person in particular who taught, encouraged, and demonstrated what it means to be a follower of Christ: my discipler. We met every week at the Starbucks near campus and spent, sometimes, hours sharing, talking, teaching, and praying. My one-on-one discipleship with him became the most precious time throughout the whole week. We were in the Word together -- we read, studied, and applied the things we were learning. I never took the Bible seriously until I began discipleship.

Perhaps because that relationship had such an impact on my life, now, as a pastor, I've been encouraging Poiema to pursue discipleship relationships. Did you know that we have over a dozen one-on-one relationships in Poiema? That's not counting the students who are doing discipleship on campus with various campus ministries! As we've been teaching about discipleship, it is happening!

I am so thankful to see older Poiema (as well as Emerge and Families) take the responsibility to disciple our young people. They are hungry. They want to learn and grow. I've seen a greater interest in knowing God's Word. These one-on-ones are focused on the reading, meditating, memorizing, and applying of Scripture. They share their QTs (quiet times or devotions) regularly and each disciple knows that there is someone praying for them and longing to walk alongside them in this season of life. It hasn't been easy. Discipleship isn't easy. It's like training. We must go through the rigorous work to become spiritually mature, but the ultimate goal of one-on-one discipleship is to make your disciple a disciple maker -- to encourage and empower them to teach as they have been taught. There are two ways we can pray: pray for a discipler who can teach and demonstrate Christ to you and pray for someone YOU can teach and demonstrate Christ to. Let us continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, being rooted and built up in Him and His Word.

Pastor Tim