





**REVIEW**

Anthony begins this session with a recap: when you *discover* God’s love for you and respond personally by being born again, you become a new creation *delivered* out of darkness to live ever more *devoted* to the Word, worship, and one another. Next, the devoted get *developed*. **Is salvation instant or a process? Is Christian growth instant or a process? Look up the terms *justification* and *sanctification* and discuss them in terms of what we’ve learned in this session.**

The goal of scholastic pursuits in the West tends to be mastery of academic material or teachings. **How was Jesus’ way of teaching radically different?**

Anthony explains that developing as a disciple of Jesus isn’t about reading the stories He told or listening to His teachings. It’s about *acting* on these things, in obedience and faith. It’s about following His example in everything we do, to become more like Him. **Why does Paul instruct the Corinthian church to imitate him? Do you find yourself naturally or intentionally imitating people you admire?**

Jesus didn’t choose the brightest and best of His day to change the world. He chose ordinary women and men willing to follow Him, instead of following their own selfish agendas. The disciples observed and obeyed, constantly asking Jesus to teach them how to live. **Have you ever felt underqualified to be a Christian? How does Jesus’ discipleship model encourage you? Of all the Christians you know personally, who would you say is most like their teacher, Jesus?**

Anthony explains that we change the world for Jesus by being like Him in the world. **None of us imitates Jesus perfectly, but can you trace growth in the lives of your kids, friends, or Christian colleagues who are consistently seeking to know God and make Him known? In which ways are you more like Jesus than you were a year ago, or ten years ago?**

As Christians, our lives demonstrate that we know Jesus, and people take notice. **What sort of questions have you been asked about your faith or your lifestyle, by people curious about or critical of Christianity? How did you respond?**

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Paul describes the multiplication principle of discipleship to Timothy by saying, ‘...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’ (2 Timothy 2:2). Anthony reminds us that Jesus didn’t say, ‘Come, listen to My sermons.’ He said, ‘Come, follow Me.’ The way to multiply disciples isn’t by education, but by imitation. We’re to put God’s Word into practice and pass it on. **How would putting truth into practice and passing it on play out in your life on an average Tuesday morning, or a Friday night?**

Anthony assures us that as we devote ourselves more and more to Jesus, spending time in wonder and worship and His Word, we develop bigger dreams. **What do you dream of doing for God’s Kingdom with your gifts, talents, passions, and opportunities?**

It’s not just plastic and other rubbish that ends up buried in the ground of this planet God loves. The treasure of so much human potential also gets buried beneath doubt and fear. Our gifts go untapped, untouched, undiscovered, and undeveloped, and we lose out on world-changing opportunities. **Do you fear not fulfilling your God-given purpose? Does it freak you out that you’ll need to give an account for the way you spent your earthly life? Why, or why not?**

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## **BIBLE EXPLORATION**

Proverbs 4:18 reads, ‘The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.’ This is a striking image for the discipleship pathway. Our lives should be shining ever more brightly, the closer we get to eternity. (We shouldn’t be getting more cantankerous, critical, or cynical the older we get!)

**How might we intentionally ensure that as we age, we grow softer, glow more brightly, and resemble Jesus more and more?**

In Ephesians 2:10, Paul writes, ‘For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.’

**When it comes to living out God’s plans for your life, what is your responsibility and what is God’s? How would you explain this concept to a friend who has recently become a Christian?**

In Matthew 25:14–30, Jesus tells the story of the three talents. **What is Jesus’ warning to His followers? What is His encouragement? Is God convicting or challenging you about a buried talent (or two, or five)? In your current circumstances or season, what does investing your talents look like?**

## **LAST WORD**

Before heading into the final session of this series, take a moment to celebrate that Jesus has seen fit to accompany you on life’s journey, patiently loving you and leading you as He develops in you a greater likeness to Himself. And get ready. Because as He develops you, He will begin to deploy you in world-changing ways.

## **DEEPER WALK**

*Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.*

**Read:** Read 1 Timothy 4:8 in a few different Bible translations. What is God saying to you? What kind of 'training for godliness' is He prompting you to pursue?

**Write:** Use the word *develop* to write an acrostic poem. (It doesn't have to rhyme, and it only needs to make sense to you.) Using each letter, *d-e-v-e-l-o-p*, as a sentence starter, write down habits or areas of your life that you long to surrender fully to God so that He can develop you more and more into the image of Jesus.

**Pray:** Plan to meet up with a friend. Pray for one another, asking God to develop in each of you the character of Christ, so that He might use you to impact the lives of people in your spheres of influence.