

### The Discipleship Pathway

# Deploy

## SESSION GOALS

*The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of informing our knowing, feeling, and doing.*

**MAIN IDEA:** God is sending you into the world to make disciples who make disciples.

**Head Change:** To know that following Jesus is not a spectator sport but requires your full participation.

**Heart Change:** To feel grateful that Jesus promised to be with you always as you go and make disciples.

**Life Change:** To step out of your comfort zone and into the adventure of telling others the good news of Jesus.

## OPEN

**When it comes to sport, would you rather participate or spectate (or neither)? Describe the most memorable sporting event you've ever participated in. Describe the most memorable live sports event you've ever been a spectator at. If you could play for any team in the world, which would it be?**

Following Jesus is not a spectator sport. It requires exhilarating, full-contact participation, and in the final session of this series, Anthony urges us to get on the field knowing that Jesus is out there with us.

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**REVIEW**

Anthony reviews the timeline of Jesus’ ministry to His disciples: He invested three years with them, during which time they *discovered* He was God’s Son as they saw people *delivered* from sin and sickness. The disciples *devoted* themselves to becoming more like their Master, Jesus, and *developed* as He pushed them out of their comfort zones. **Why did the disciples abandon Jesus when He was arrested and crucified? Where and why did Jesus regather them after His resurrection? Describe a ‘mountaintop’ moment you’ve experienced. How did God *deploy* you from that place, into the world?**

In Matthew 28:16–20, Jesus sends His disciples to make more disciples. He assures them He’s been given all authority in heaven and on earth and that He’ll be with them always. Jesus’ powerful statement, ‘*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations...*’ essentially reminds the disciples – and us! – what they are *there for*: to go and make disciples. **Why doesn’t God just take us straight to heaven when we get saved? Why would it have been a far less effective Kingdom-building technique if Jesus had said, ‘Therefore, go to church’?**

In Luke 10:2 Jesus says, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’ **Do you agree that being a Jesus follower isn’t a spectator sport? If so, what does that mean to you in your current circumstances? What’s your harvest? Do you think the people you encounter at work or in other arenas of life need *more* or *less* hope? Do you believe God has determined the exact time and place of your existence? If so, how does that inform your resolve to be deployed to make disciples?**

Anthony reminds us that Jesus doesn’t just want us to gather. He commands us to go. As disciples, we’re called to make *more* disciples. **What do you love most about meeting with hundreds or even thousands of other Christians to worship? Why is it not enough to do only that? Do you feel ready to go out and make disciples? Why, or why not? Why do you think God uses ‘nobodies’ like us to build His Kingdom?**

Anthony shares a friend’s story about looking for FAT people for his discipleship mission: people who are

Horizontal lines for writing.

*faithful, available, and teachable.* **How might you explain each of these adjectives to one of your kids? Which of these three words best describes you? Which one do you need to work on? Have you personally experienced how God provides the ability when you offer Him your availability? When you hear stories of exponential disciple-making movements, do you believe it can happen where you are?**

Jesus sent out eleven disciples to change the world. Anthony remarks, ‘It’s just enough to make a soccer team, with no substitutes!’ His point is that every single disciple should be on the pitch, playing their heart out. None of us should be merely cheering from the sidelines, living our disciple-making dreams vicariously through others. **Do you find this challenging, convicting, or comforting? Why?**

Anthony explains that global crises and chaos in recent years have shown how desperately the world needs the church of Jesus Christ. **Do you agree that the church hasn’t been serving the world the way we could and should have? If so, how can we rectify the situation? In your current church community, what would it look like for ‘the crowd to invade the pitch’? What’s the difference between the ‘church militant’ and the ‘church triumphant’? How would you answer Leonard Ravenhill’s question: ‘Are the things you’re living for worth Christ dying for?’**

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## **BIBLE EXPLORATION**

God has always used disciples to make disciples. Isaiah 6:8 reads, ‘Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.”’ **If time allows, read all of Isaiah 6. How was the prophet Isaiah FAT: faithful, available, and teachable?**

If you feel downright terrified at the thought of sharing your faith with others, you’re not alone. Jonah did everything in his power to outrun God’s instruction to go and make disciples. But Jonah wasn’t just afraid; he was angry. Jonah 4 records his disgruntlement that God would relent from destroying the evil people of Nineveh. **Of all your current friends and acquaintances, who do you think would be most hostile toward the gospel? What scares you most about speaking to people about Jesus? Have you ever felt irritated or repulsed by a person or group of people, consciously or subconsciously thinking you deserve the good news about Jesus but they don’t?**

## **LAST WORD**

In this one short life, may you be all God made you to be and do all He put you here to do. May you live with a sense of urgency and expectancy, knowing that God wants to use an ordinary human like you to carry the priceless message of grace to a desperate world. Wherever you find yourself, may God open your eyes to opportunities to lead others to discover His love, be delivered from sin and fear, and live devoted to Him. May you partner with God to develop faith in fellow disciples who will in turn be willing to be deployed for God’s glory and the good of the world.

## **DEEPER WALK**

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

**Read:** Mark 16 and Luke 24 also record Jesus' instructions to His disciples – to go and make *more* disciples. Read through these two gospel accounts. How is God convicting and comforting you?

**Write:** Write down the names of people in your immediate harvesting field. How does your life intersect with theirs? What ideas is God giving you to help them discover His love and set out on a path of deliverance, devotion, development, and deployment?

**Pray:** Set an alarm on your phone for 10:02 a.m. every day this week, to pray that God would send more and more workers into the harvest fields of the world, to make more and more disciples. Pray that He would send you too.