

## Called to Make Disciples

Our primary calling as a church is not to “make a difference” but to make disciples: Matt. 28:19-20. Our core business is *helping people to know and follow Jesus*.

What does it mean to be a disciple?

*Becoming* like Jesus Rom. 8:29 an apprentice.

*Learning* to increasingly do what Jesus would do if he were in our place.

*Organising* our lives around Jesus. Putting him at the centre.

*Glorifying* God in all things. 1 Cor. 10:31 Col 3:17

*Becoming* the best version of ourselves. Eph 2:10 We are God’s workmanship – his work of art. We are not mass produced appliances! We have a unique combination of temperament, gifting and personality. Sin has spoiled this but God is in the business of restoring us so that we can be like “us” again. He restores and repairs. The best version of us is like Jesus!

God works through circumstances and situations to do his renovating work.

We are either heading towards the best or worst version of ourselves.

The Holy Spirit is always calling us towards the best version of ourselves. He reveals Jesus to us and He prompts us to trust Him. Discipleship is about keeping in step with the Spirit.

*Flourishing and thriving*. Ps 92:12-14. “Your flourishing is never just about you. It is a “so that” kind of condition. God designed you to flourish “so that” you could be part of his redemptive project in ways that you otherwise could not. He wants you to flourish “so that” people can be encouraged, gardens can be planted, music can be written, sick people can be helped, or companies can thrive in ways they otherwise could not. When you fail to become the person God designed, all the rest of us miss out on the gifts you were made to give.” *The Me I Want to Be*, Ortberg, 30



### Points to Ponder

- 1 What particularly struck you from the sermon? What was encouraging/challenging?
- 2 What aspects or images for being a disciple particularly resonate with you?
- 3 What things might we organise our lives around instead of Jesus?
- 4 Give some examples of what it looks like to head towards the best/worst version of you.
- 5 How does the Spirit work in us to draw us towards the best version of ourselves?
- 6 From the list in the box above talk through where the links are. What leads to what?
- 7 What situations and circumstances might God use to shape us in to the version of ourselves that we were always meant to be?
- 8 What’s the role of the group you’re in in helping you to help people to know and follow Jesus?