



The **ROOFTOP**
Joining Jesus in *His* Mission

Joining JESUS

**Pastors & Leaders Course
WORKBOOK**

Name:

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A Letter from Dennis:

Dear Pastor/Leader,

Thank you for making the time to become part of this 'Joining Jesus' discipleship course for pastors and leaders. This is more than a 'Bible Study', it is a transformational process that will result in Christians becoming disciples that make disciples and thus fulfilling the Great Commission:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

We are living in a world that is becoming increasingly disconnected with church and biblical truth and, as such, it is critical that the church becomes, as it was in the beginning, a disciple-making movement!

However, there is a deep challenge as the church has, in so many ways, departed from its original focus on disciple-making 'among the people' and has focused instead on 'buildings' and 'services' with an expectation that people will come to be ministered to.

There is a need for a paradigm shift in our understanding of discipleship if we are to fulfil The Great Commission.

This 'paradigm shift' has enormous implications for Pastors as the training that most have received is focused on 'how to minister to those that become part of the church'. We have, as a pastor in Australia said to me, 'been taught how to preach to people that want to listen'. The challenge is that fewer and fewer people are coming to listen and, as pastors, many of us need to discover how to communicate the gospel to people who haven't 'come to listen' and, at the same time, equip the people that are in the churches that we lead to become disciples who, make disciples beyond the walls of the church.

'Joining Jesus' is a process that has been created to equip you, as a leader, to equip those you lead to become effective as they Join Jesus in His Mission by making disciples who make disciples beyond the walls of the church.

This process is 'more than curriculum', each 'Joining Jesus' group is a learning community. The leader is not the 'teacher' with all the knowledge but will facilitate learning that will take place as you engage with scripture, activity and discussion based upon what is being learned.

Please be aware that the aim of the group is to help each of you to become more effective. Jesus commands us all to join Him in His Mission. You will not be competing against each other, rather you will help each other to become as effective as possible in fulfilling the part that Jesus wants each of you to play in completing His Mission.

Thank you so much.

In Jesus,

Dennis

Rev Dennis Pethers (Founder and International Pioneer)

SESSION 1: Where are we at?

If you are to lead the church to Join Jesus in His Mission, it is important to begin by thinking about the mission field that is around you.



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

1. To what extent is the impact of the marginalisation of the biblical world view being experienced in the place where you are seeking to Join Jesus in His Mission?
2. In what ways is the church that you are leading effective at reaching churched, less churched, or never churched people?
3. 'They are not coming' - What challenges/opportunities does this present to you as a leader?



Activity

Drive around the community/walk around the community and fill in the sheet below

1. What do you see as you look at the people in the community where you live?

2. Which people are likely to be in church?

3. Which are disconnected from church?

4. What would it take to reach those who are disconnected?

SESSION 2: Beyond the walls

As you seek to Join Jesus in His Mission it is important to focus on how He engaged in mission.



Feedback on Activity

What did you see as you walked/drove around your community?

What would it take to reach those who are disconnected from the church?



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

1. In what ways would the focus of the church that you are leading change if it were to Join Jesus in His Mission beyond the walls?
2. How willing/unwilling is the church you lead to experience the reality of what it means to reach less churched and never churchd people?
3. How are you 'navigating' the challenge of your desire to lead a church into effective mission with their desire to stay behind the walls and expecting you to do the mission for them?



Activity

1. Create a short presentation using words and pictures that demonstrates the ways in which the ministry of Jesus is similar to/different from the ways that the church you lead/are part of engages in mission.
2. Go back to some of the places that you visited during the first assignment and seek to engage in conversation with at least one person. Begin to make going to places and engaging in conversation as part of the rhythm of your life.

SESSION 3: Church is ‘people not a place’

It is clear that the church is vital for the mission of Jesus to be completed, but what should the word ‘church’ describe?



Feedback on Activity

What did you include in the brief presentation that you created?

In what ways have you been able to engage in conversations with a person from outside of the church? How are you planning to make this a regular activity?



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

1. In what ways would the focus of the church that you are leading change if it were to Join Jesus in His Mission beyond the walls?
2. In what ways is the local community aware/unaware of the existence of the church you lead being in the community?
3. *“The Church’ is best understood as a scattered group of people that sometimes gathers to be equipped to be effective when they are scattered”.* How do you respond to this statement made by Dennis?
4. In what ways does the story of St Luke’s church challenge/encourage you to think in different ways about making disciples among people outside of the walls of the church in your context?
5. How are people in the church that you lead being equipped to Join Jesus in His Mission?



Activity

Begin to talk to the church about what it is like to seek to be a Christian in the places where they are scattered – share your experience as you have been connecting with people who are outside of the walls.

SESSION 4: Motivation for Mission

As you engage in mission it is vitally important to be sure that you have the right motivation. It can be so easy for other 'motivations' to replace the completion of Jesus' mission



Feedback on Activity

In what ways did you share your experience and speak with the church about the church being scattered?



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

1. What did God ignite in you that led you to answer His call into ministry at the beginning, what has happened since?
2. What is happening in your head and heart as you reflect on the stories that Jesus told in Luke 15?
3. What expectations/distractions have got in the way of God's passion being the motivation for mission?



Activity

1. Put a day in your calendar where you will go to a quiet place and spend time alone with God. Take a Bible and something to write with and on. Start the day by reading Ezekiel 34 and then ...
2. Remember also to continue to seek opportunities to engage in conversation with people beyond the walls.

SESSION 5: Mission and Discipleship

Jesus method for ensuring His mission would be completed was to call and make disciples who would make disciples.



Feedback on Activity

What happened as you spent time alone with God?

What is happening as you are seeking opportunities and engaging in conversation?



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

1. How does Jesus description of a disciple as one who will 'deny himself, take up his cross and follow me' compare with how discipleship is understood and being lived out in the church that you are leading?
2. How do you respond to the statement made by the gentleman from Africa "Jesus didn't call us to go sit down, He called us to go make disciples"? what are some of the implications of this being true?
3. As you reflect on the story about Hereford Baptist church.... What would it take for there to be change in attitude in the church you are leading so that the church viewed discipleship as living among the lost rather than staying away from them?



Activity

Seek God and take a person with you as you engage in faith-sharing.

Ensure that you will not be putting them into situations that they will not be able to cope with.

Allow time for feedback at a time after the faith sharing opportunity.

SESSION 6: Church and Discipleship

The church's mission is to fulfil Jesus Mission and, as such, making disciples who make disciples should be the core purpose of the church. Frequently this is not the case!



Feedback on Activity

What happened as you sought God and took a Christian with you to engage in faith sharing?
Have you had other opportunities to make disciples?



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

1. How do you respond to Dennis' experience of the passion he had for evangelism being so different from what the people in the church had experienced?
2. *"How can we be good at being church if we are not good at making connection with people who are beyond the walls of the church?"*

"If we are only good at being church for those people within the church, then we are not good at being church?"

How do you respond to these comments and how do they relate to the context in which you are leading?
3. In what ways is the training you have received in disciple-making similar to/different from the pastors in Australia?
4. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the need for a paradigm shift in our understanding of discipleship and evangelism if the mission of Jesus is to be completed.



Activity

Create/use an opportunity to share with the church what you have been experiencing. You may also want to encourage the person(s) that accompanied you to share.

Seek God for others who may accompany you as you continue to seek opportunities to share.

SESSION 7: Jesus and Discipleship

Jesus called disciples and equipped them with the intention they would be sent to ensure that His mission was completed. His method must be rediscovered for the church to complete His Mission.



Feedback on Activity

What happened as you shared and invited others to join you in faith sharing?



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

How did Dennis taking Phillip to the gym help him to learn about how to make disciples?

Jesus' *'Tell me, show me, let me'* approach to learning took place 'outside' in 'public places' not behind the walls of a building. In what ways can you begin/continue to equip people 'outside of the walls'?

So much of our disciple making doesn't go beyond 'telling'. Christians are repeatedly told what they should do and why they should do it but they don't do it and, as a consequence, never learn how. What steps can you take to help Christians to see that they can Join Jesus in His Mission?



Activity

Encourage those that have been accompanying you to seek God for an opportunity to share their faith with one other person. You may want to get them together as a small team so that they can share and pray with each other.

Read through the gospels and note the ways that Jesus equipped the disciples to Join Him in His Mission.

SESSION 8: Creating learning communities

Perhaps the greatest hindrance to effective disciple making is that Christians feel completely isolated and unsupported in the mission field! They worship together but are left on their own to witness – Jesus didn't make disciples that way.



Feedback on Activity

What has been happening as you have been taking people with you? Are they beginning to share their faith? Are you seeing any significant breakthroughs?



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

1. In what ways can the focus on 'big numbers' hinder you from devoting the time to making disciples?
2. In what ways can you introduce 'equipping' as a major focus of the ministry that you deliver?
3. What will be required to set up small teams of people who 'learn by doing' with others in a supportive and accountable way?



Activity

Plan to begin a 'discipleship team' that will be equipped to become and make disciples who make disciples.

SESSION 9: Motivation for Disciple-Making

Jesus knew that His mission would be completed by those who were truly committed to Him and His Mission. It is important to reflect on our motivation and ensure that it Jesus and His Mission.



Feedback on Activity

What progress/challenges are you experiencing as you are seeking to form teams of disciples? How are you progressing in personal disciple making?



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

1. How do you respond to the story of the 'Penguin on the rock' who wants to be satisfied without engaging? What are some key solutions to this?
2. *Selfish ambition and vain conceit* are never far from all of us! What steps can we take to ensure that our focus is on Jesus and His Mission rather than 'me on mine'?
3. Jesus equipped his disciples so that they could do 'greater things' than He did. He could do this because 'He knew who he was' and wasn't motivated by insecurities. How do we continue to invest in equipping those who may do 'greater things' than we do?



Activity

Revisit the quiet place that you went to previously to spend more time alone with God.

Take a Bible and something to write with and on.

Start the day by reading Philippians 2:5-11.

SESSION 10: Multiplication

Making disciples who make disciples is a far more effective way of completing Jesus Mission than ‘adding’ those who come to faith without equipping them to make disciples.



Feedback on Activity

What breakthroughs/challenges are you experiencing as you seek to equip leader(s)?



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

1. How do you respond to the story of the exotic dancer in Northern Kentucky? How is this similar to/different from the experience you have in the church that you are leading?
2. How can you, as church, connect people in such ways that they can live lives as Jesus intends and be 'Missionally Holy'?
3. How can you be church in such a way that what you are about is multiplication as you make disciples who make disciples in Jesus' mission field, 'beyond the walls'?



Activity

Set aside some time and create a brief plan for how you will develop a disciple-making strategy that will equip the church to make disciples who make disciples.

SESSION 11: An appropriate method

It is important to have a method of disciple making. This session looks at the method that was used by John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church and explore what can be learned from his method and used in your context.



Feedback on Activity

What are some of the key things that you are introducing as you are creating a disciple-making strategy?



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

1. What things do you have in place to help people to become more like Jesus and cause others to be curious about the transformation that is taking place in their lives?
2. How could you use/adapt Wesley's three questions to bring transformation to those already in the church and those who are outside?
3. What kinds of opportunities could you create that would allow people to be honest and real so that they would experience victory over sin that leads to them not just 'carrying on' but making disciples who make disciples?



Activity

Continue to develop/introduce the plan that you have been working on.

SESSION 12: Making change

Leading the church to become a community of disciples that are making disciples will require significant change to take place. This is not likely to be easy, but with God it is possible.



Feedback on Activity

How are the plans continuing to develop?



Notes on video:



Discussion questions:

1. How would you draw the lagging/leading edge diagram to represent the local church that you are leading?
2. How are you investing in the lagging/leading edge, and in those in the middle, to lead the church towards joining Jesus in His Mission?
3. What kinds of groups/methods are you introducing to equip the church to Join Jesus in His Mission?



Activity

Now that you have been through the **Joining Jesus Pastors and Leaders Course** there are a couple of things that you can do to continue:

1. The Rooftop has created resources that can be used to inspire and the church to Join Jesus in his Mission.
You could use these resources in your context – visit www.therooftop.org
2. You could invite some other pastors to go through this **Joining Jesus Pastors and Leaders Course** and you could lead them.
To find out more visit www.therooftop.org/joiningjesuscourse



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