

the disciple- making starter

For Everyday Followers of Jesus



Saturate cultivates and curates resources from across the Church for equipping everyday people, leaders, and pastors to be disciples who make disciples in the everyday stuff of life.

We've condensed the essential concepts and first steps toward disciple-making into this short booklet for people like you. We'll start with the most important thing: the gospel. Then we'll outline who we are, how we live, and the simple steps toward a disciple-making life.

Along the way, we'll point to other resources where you can go deeper on each topic.

© 2017 Saturate. Some rights reserved. You are free to use, remix, and build upon this work non-commercially if you attribute "saturatetheworld.com".



EVERY CHURCH. EVERY PERSON. EVERY PLACE.

This starter is designed to help you take steps toward a deeper life as a disciple of Jesus.

Thanks for downloading the starter! Throughout the course of this brief guide, we will touch on several big concepts, such as the gospel, the story of God, our identity in Christ, and our priorities as His disciples. We will spend our entire lives increasingly growing in our understanding, belief, and faithfulness to Jesus. It's our prayer that, through this Starter, you will be able to take steps toward the fullness of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Who is God? What is He Like?

We're all theologians. Every attitude, thought, and action of our lives is an outpouring of what we believe God to be like. Our everyday struggles with fear, control, approval, and satisfaction can all be traced back to who we believe God, in our hearts, to be. The gospel and discipleship don't begin with us or what we must do. In fact, it doesn't even start with what God does. It begins with His character and what He is like. We've found these four gospel truths (4G's) to be incredibly helpful in seeing the connection between God's character and our belief.

God is good, so I don't have to look for satisfaction elsewhere.

This means that God satisfies our needs. We don't need to look to other things like money, fame, sex, alcohol, drugs, religion, or social issues to find our satisfaction. We are free to enjoy His good gifts, knowing that ultimately He alone satisfies. He alone is good.

God is great, so I don't have to be in control.

This means that God is sovereign. He is all-powerful. He alone is in control. Therefore, we don't have to be in control. We don't have to stress and worry. We are free to rest in His power because He is great.

God is glorious, so I don't have to fear others.

This means that God is ultimate in the universe. Therefore, we don't need to fear other people or events. Also, we understand that it's not about us. We are free to die to ourselves in the knowledge that He is glorious.

God is gracious, so I don't have to prove myself.

This means that God looks at us through the sacrifice of Jesus. He does not give us what we deserve. He gives us precisely what we do not deserve: forgiveness. Therefore, we don't need to compete with each other or prove ourselves to God. We are free to love each other and live without religion because He is gracious.

The Gospel: What Has God Done?

The gospel is the good news about Jesus saving and restoring all things. The gospel is the fuel for all mission. The gospel is the glue for all community. The gospel is not something we graduate from—it's the foundational truth for all life.

There are two big aspects of the gospel that inform and empower our life of disciple-making.

1. The Power of the Gospel: The Gospel is the Power of God to Save

In this case, the Good News is that God, in and through the work of Jesus Christ and the power of His Spirit, accepts us, empowers us, and is changing us.

We have been saved from the penalty of sin, are being saved from the power of sin, and will be saved from the presence of sin because of God's power and work, not our own (Ephesians 2:8-9; Colossians 1:27-29; 2:6-7; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

2. The Purpose of the Gospel: The Gospel is the Means of Restoring all Things

In this case, the Good News is that God sent His Son to redeem the world and create a new humanity. Eventually the whole world will be renewed. Death, decay, injustice, and suffering will all be removed. God is saving a people and sending them out for His mission so that Christ will be glorified in all things.

You have been saved by God's work for God's work (Ephesians 1, 2:10,14-22; 2 Corinthians 5:15-21; Revelation 21).

In other words, there is a massive movement going on. God is doing something remarkable, and we have been called to it! We—the people of God—are participating within God’s redemptive plan by being a people who display a foretaste of what the future will be like under God’s rule (Jeremiah 29; Matthew 5:3-16; Luke 6:20-36; 1 Peter 2:9-12).

All this means your community is not just a weekly time slot. Your role in participating is not to walk through curriculum. You have the opportunity to proclaim the gospel that has the power to save! You are a part of cultivating a community that demonstrates the restoration of God. As a disciple of Jesus, you speak the gospel in casual conversations and meaningful moments.

Go Deeper: Gospel Fluency

We call the skill of speaking the truths about Jesus “gospel fluency.”
Learn more about gospel fluency and find resources to equip your
community at gospelfluency.com

Whose Story is It?

Everyone is part of the story and is walking out this story in his or her lives. The real question is, whose story is it?

We either see the story primarily as God's Story or primarily as our story. Our point of view is directly connected to our belief in the gospel.

OUR STORY: If we believe it is our story...

Creation: I become what I actualize or determine to be.

Fall: I am good, and others are evil. OR I am not good, but it is not my fault; it is because of some outside influence—not my rebellion and sin. In this case I am deceived/dishonest.

Redemption: It is through my work that I am saved, healed, and made acceptable. I must perform. In this case I or someone else I determine is savior.

New Creation: I can fix me and this place if I will just work harder and more effectively. In this case I am all-wise and almighty.

GOD'S STORY: If we believe it is primarily God's story...

Creation: He is the creator and originator of all things. I exist because of Him.

Fall: We rebelled against Him, and His Word stands. We really die.

Redemption: He saves us by His work, and we put our faith in Him to save by grace.

New Creation: He has work for us to do, which He prepared and enables us for.

The Story is God's, not ours!

Go Deeper: We must grow to learn and tell the true Story.

Engage in the Story of God and learn how to share God's story with others
with a host of resources: www.saturatetheworld.com/storyofGod

Who Are We? What is a Disciple?

Discipleship is not a program of the church but the mission of the church. Discipleship is learning to follow Jesus in your real life—not just in a Bible study, at a church building, or within spiritual disciplines.

Making disciples is leading people to submit increasingly all of life to the lordship and empowering presence of Jesus Christ. As a disciple of Jesus, your role is to cultivate an environment where discipleship happens.

Life on Life: Making disciples means we share life with people so we know their stories, know their struggles, and can see each other walk in faith and obedience. Plus they get to know us! To be a disciple means we will share our lives with others.

Life in Community: Making disciples requires the input, encouragement, gifting, and example of a whole group of people. It can't just be one-on-one. We need the body. We need community to know how to follow Jesus.

Life on Mission: Making disciples draws us into the mission of sharing the gospel with friends, neighbors, and families. Our communities live outwardly, seeking to make the gospel clear through our words and actions to others.

Go Deeper: Everyday Disciple

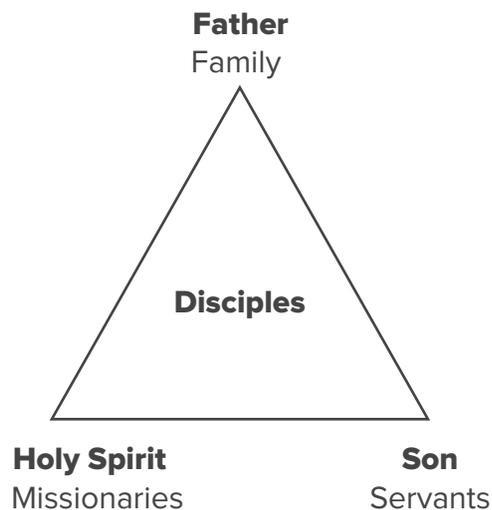
Watch Jeff Vanderstelt articulate this principle well in this short video: Everyday Disciple. <https://saturatetheworld.com/resource/church-is-more/everyday-discipleship/>

Gospel Identity

God commands us to make disciples and baptize them in the name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—God’s way of establishing us in our new identity. God declares something to be so and it is. This is what goes on in baptism. What God does to us, He intends to do through us.

Matthew 28:17-20

Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



Family Identity: We submit to God as our Father as adopted sons and daughters and love one another as brothers and sisters.

Servant Identity: We submit to Jesus as Lord and serve others as though we are serving Jesus.

Missionary Identity: We submit to the Spirit as our Sender and Leader and are empowered to show and share Jesus to others.

Go Deeper: Gospel Identity

Jeff Vanderstelt unpacks this truth in a very helpful way in this animated video:
<https://saturatetheworld.com/resource/church-is-more/baptismal-identity/>.

Practice Your Identity

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you one way you can step into your gospel identity throughout the next month.

Family — Spend time to love, care for, or share life with a fellow disciple of Jesus this week.

Servant — Seek out one opportunity to bless or serve others in your neighborhood or city together with your community.

Missionary — Spend relational time with friends, neighbors, and co-workers who don't know Jesus. This could be a party, picnic, or something simple. Try to get to know some of the stories of people who come.

How Do We Live? Everyday Rhythms of Life

How do we live as disciples in light of the gospel and our identity? There are six cross-cultural rhythms or practices all humans do—these six activities make up much of the everyday stuff of life. The gospel transforms how we live each of these things! This is how.

Story-Formed: We understand, experience, and intersect God’s Story and our story. We hear and grow in understanding the story our neighbors and friends believe and share God’s Story.

Listen: We set aside regular times to listen to God both backward and forward, just as Jesus listened to God in prayer to know His Father’s will. We also take time to slow down and listen to others—our neighbors, coworkers, and friends. We ask questions!

Celebrate: We gather together to celebrate God’s extravagant blessings. God calls people to celebrate regularly His goodness and grace. We invite others into this great party regularly and engage the celebrations of those around us.

Bless: We intentionally bless others through words, gifts, or actions. God desires that all people would be blessed through Jesus.

Eat: We regularly eat meals with others to invite them into the community of God. We see our dining table as the best missional tool. We invite friends, neighbors, and the poor over for dinner.

ReCreate: We take time to rest, play, create, and restore beauty in ways that reflect God to others.

Five Priorities for a Disciple

These five priorities are essential for living our daily lives as obedient and fruitful disciples who are growing to become more and more like Jesus. Consider making these priorities something you pray for yourself and for others consistently, something you encourage yourself and others with regularly, and something you hold each other accountable to.

- 1. Spirit-Dependence:** letting our “minds be controlled by the Spirit” and “keeping in step with the Spirit” in real time every moment of every day, asking the Spirit to lead us throughout our day and in everything we do.
- 2. Repentance and Holiness:** living a holy and pure life before a holy God, essential for us to bear the fruit of the Spirit that pleases and brings glory to God and to maintain right relationship with God.
- 3. Learning and Stewarding:** stewarding our time, money, talents, relationships, jobs—all we’ve been blessed with—in a way that’s appropriate for an adopted child of God and a disciple of Jesus. Daily learning to bring all of life under the lordship of Jesus and the truths set forth in the Bible.
- 4. Loving as Family:** loving our missional/gospel communities as family, as well as the larger Church body, frequently demonstrating and proclaiming the gospel to each other through servanthood, generosity, sacrifice, encouragement, listening, praying, speaking truth, and reconciling conflict.

5. Loving as Missionary Servants: loving those outside the family both by demonstrating and proclaiming the gospel in the everyday, and pursuing our neighbors, co-workers, classmates, and people we get to know through our kids' activities, through our hobbies, or through our favorite places to rest and recreate WITH GOSPEL INTENTIONALITY.

Five Daily Questions for a Disciple of Jesus

1. How is Jesus calling me to live today motivated by the amazing truth of the gospel—who He is and what He’s done for me?

- Who is God?
- What has God done?
- Who am I in light of God’s work?
- How should I live?

2. How is Jesus calling me to live out my identity today as His missionary servant?

3. How is Jesus calling me to live in a rhythm of dependence today upon the Holy Spirit that He has given to be my helper, helping me bear His fruit throughout the day?

4. How does Jesus want me to be a faithful steward today of all the good gifts, relationships, opportunities, and resources He has blessed me with?

5. How does Jesus want me to pursue purity and holiness today, as I seek His help to flee temptation and go to Him with a humble and repentant heart when I fail?

Go Deeper:

There are also important questions to ask yourself weekly as you plan and process your schedule and priorities as a family. Download the entire resource: Questions to Help a Growing Disciples <https://saturatetheworld.com/resource/questions-help-growing-disciple/>

A Road Map into a Disciple-Making Life

Asking the questions throughout this “starter” and engaging the resources mentioned throughout is a great start! However, we want to highlight five practical steps that will change the way you live your life radically. Engage them all and see what happens.

- 1.** Start or participate in a Discipleship, Nurture and Accountability (DNA) group with other disciples where you will go deep into each other’s stories, grow in gospel fluency, learn to tell your story, and learn how to ask good questions. Learn more about how to do that at www.saturatetheworld.com/dna.
- 2.** Pray for three neighbors, coworkers, classmates, or unbelieving friends each day.
- 3.** Seek out one opportunity each week to bless or serve others in your neighborhood or at work.
- 4.** Spend relational time with a friend, neighbor, or co-worker who doesn’t know Jesus and get to know some of his or her story.
- 5.** Read *Saturate* by Jeff Vanderstelt. This book will greatly enrich what you’ve learned in this starter.

The Next Steps Beyond That

Become a Member of Saturate

Membership to Saturate's online community and resource site offers both individual and group access to the best available video, print, and digital resources designed to help you and your church implement a gospel-centered disciple-making culture. We, along with our partners, are committed to resourcing the Church with the best possible content and training and will be adding new resources on a weekly basis.

The Saturate online community connects church practitioners all over the world who are available to interact on a variety of topics, offer shared experience and mentoring, as well as provide support and encouragement. The community also offers live discussion events, moderated topical conversations, and interaction with national thought leaders on a regular basis.

You can get started with 50% off the first year with this coupon code: SAVE50.

Continued Reading

There's much more to learn. Check out these books as another gateway into the disciple-making life.

www.saturatetheworld.com/store

