

Opening Your Life Up

Disciples Who Make Disciples

1 Thes 2:7-12

Opening Your Life Up

What is God's will for your life:

To love God with all you are. To love your neighbor.

To be a disciple who makes disciples of others.

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- Disciples who make disciples:
 - Live a “lived faith” that is constantly growing
 - We notice others around us & pray for them and us
 - Out of genuine love for them we draw near and live a faithful and consistent faith
 - Be ready to tell our story & God’s story.
 - Know the Holy Spirit is at work moving people from unbelief to belief in Jesus to belief in Jesus in all things.

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What area of unbelief has Jesus been exposing in you lately?

Where is Jesus inviting you to believe in Him in that area?

What steps are needed to move into belief in Jesus in that area?

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- Paul and his companions deeply and genuinely cared for the people of Thessalonica.
- People today need to see and experience deep and genuine love for them before they care to hear what we believe.
- Do we have that same deep and genuine love for others?
- Do we undermine our message by a lack of genuine love and care?

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- Paul and his companions shared their whole lives with the people.
- The people heard the Good News through their words AND saw and experienced it through their lives.
- There is no shortcut to making disciples. It takes time, patience, and commitment to others.

Open Your Life Up

- Becoming a disciples who make disciples isn't about adding another class, seminar or calendar date.
- You already go places on a regular basis.
- You already interact with people on a regular basis
- You are already in your mission field. You are responsible for playing your part in your mission field.

Unbelief  Belief in Jesus  Belief in all things

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- Things we already do that with an intentional pivot of opening up our lives to others becomes the means of discipleship
- First: STORIES
 - Everyone loves stories. Everyone has a story. Everyone wants to tell their story.
 - Is anyone listening? Who wants to hear their stories?
 - Do you know your story? Your story with God?

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- Second: LISTENING WELL
 - Not everyone really listens. Listening has 3 part: **Attention, Absorption, Action.**
 - When we listen well, people will open up.
 - Listening well takes time, patience, and commitment

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- Third: Celebrate
 - We live to celebrate- weekends, holidays, vacations, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.
 - Do we celebrate with others? Do we include others in our celebrations?

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- Fourth: Eating
 - Everyone has to eat. Everyone loves to eat.
 - Out of 21 meals a week- can we invite people to 1 meal?
 - Tables break down walls, reveal our community, build trust, deepen friendships, foster stories, offer opportunities for mini-celebrations.
 - Our culture works against tables. We should value tables and meals.

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- Fifth: Blessing and Good deeds
 - Jesus modeled this practice, Paul & Peter call it out in their letters.
 - Blessing and good deeds should be our daily normal, not an exception.
 - Blessing and doing good for no reason makes people take notice.
 - It can be in big thing and in simple things. It comes in all shapes and styles- suited to who you are.

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- Blessing and Good Deeds
 - Gifts, meals, coffee/tea, sitting with someone in a hard time, listening to others, words/notes/texts of encouragement and appreciation
 - Holding doors open, saying “Thank you” & “You’re Welcome”, asking how they are doing (and listening), following up on past conversations, etc.

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- This week, how will you:
 - Ask to hear someone's story? Share your own?
 - Listen well (attention, absorption, action)
 - Who will you invite to a meal?
 - How can you celebrate with others? Who will you include in your own celebrations?
 - How will you bless others? What good deeds can you do for others?