

## Discipleship

Too often discipleship is thought of as a separate church ministry from Sunday School, worship, outreach, etc., accomplished through the completion of topical studies. This definition is inadequate for discipleship. Discipleship is the whole work of the church. Everything we do is part of becoming a disciple and growing as a disciple.

Discipleship is spiritual transformation, God's work of changing a believer into the likeness of Jesus by creating a new identity in Christ. God empowers us to have a lifelong relationship of love, trust, and obedience to Jesus. In this relationship God is glorified. A working definition of discipleship is...

the lifelong journey of obedience to Christ that transforms a person's values and behavior, and results in ministry in one's home, church, and the world.

The following things are practices that I have experienced God using in this transformation process in my life:

- learning what Christ's commands are
- talking about obedience to Jesus with others who are intent on the same
- seeking to be obedient to the commands of Jesus
- corporate and private worship experiences
- practicing prayer
- service to others in Christ's name
- telling others my story and the good news

What kinds of experiences has God used to transform you spiritually? I encourage you to share these with the others in your disciple group or Sunday School class. Share them with other Christians you talk to at work. Inspire their faith too. Disciples of Jesus are everywhere. Let's build them all up, not just the ones in your class or church.

- pastor Robin