

# CORE

CORE DISCIPLESHIP - Following Jesus. Becoming Like Jesus. Living the Mission of Jesus.

## OPENING PRAYER

Father, thank You for inviting us into a relationship with You through Jesus. Open our hearts to Your Word tonight and teach us what it truly means to be Your disciples. Help us not only to grow in our own faith, but to become people who intentionally lead others closer to Christ. May Your Holy Spirit shape us more into the likeness of Jesus and strengthen us to live on mission every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## OPENING QUESTION<sup>(OPTIONAL)</sup>

Think about someone who taught you a skill that changed your life—a coach, teacher, parent, mentor or friend.

**What made them such an effective teacher?**



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## WORD

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. 23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

- **Matthew 4:17–23**

### Supporting Passages

- Matthew 28:18–20
- 2 Timothy 2:1–6
- Ephesians 4:11–16

## MAIN REFLECTION POINTS (REFINED)

When Jesus began His public ministry, His first invitation wasn’t simply, “Believe in Me.” It was, “Follow Me.” Before there were churches, sermons, conferences or ministries, there was an invitation into relationship. Jesus called ordinary people to walk closely with Him, learn from Him, become like Him and eventually continue His mission by making disciples themselves.

This is the heartbeat of discipleship.

Our culture often encourages us to build life around ourselves. Success is measured by independence, comfort, achievement and personal fulfilment. Yet Jesus presents a completely different vision of life. Instead of asking us to build our own kingdom, He invites us into His Kingdom—a Kingdom marked by surrender, community, service and multiplication.

Discipleship is much more than learning information about Jesus. It is learning to orient our whole lives around Him. In the first century, a disciple wasn’t simply a student who attended classes.

## MAIN REFLECTION POINTS (cont...)

A disciple was an apprentice who stayed close to their rabbi, observed how they lived, adopted their values and gradually became like them. Jesus still calls us into that same kind of apprenticeship today.

This journey doesn’t begin only after someone becomes a Christian. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus patiently walked with people before they fully understood who He was. He answered questions, welcomed doubters, challenged assumptions and invited people to take another step towards Him. That’s why, as a church, we want to create environments where people can safely explore faith, ask honest questions and experience the love of Christ long before they have everything figured out.

Discipleship is also never meant to stop with us.

Jesus’ final command wasn’t simply to make converts but to “make disciples of all nations.” Healthy disciples eventually become disciple-makers. Paul modelled this with Timothy, encouraging him to pass on what he had learned to faithful people who would then teach others. This picture reminds us that God’s Kingdom has always grown through intentional relationships.

As Every Nation Brisbane, we want to cultivate a disciple-making culture through the Four E’s:

- **Engage** people who are exploring faith.
- **Establish** new believers in the foundations of following Jesus.
- **Equip** disciples to grow in biblical maturity and ministry.
- **Empower** mature believers to lead, serve and make disciples themselves.

Every person is somewhere on this journey. Whether you’re exploring Christianity for the first time or have followed Jesus for decades, there is always a next step. The goal isn’t simply attending church or gaining more knowledge. The goal is to become more like Jesus and to help others do the same.

The Church is God’s family and God’s training ground. Through worship, LIFE GROUPS, serving, friendship, prayer, generosity and mission, we encourage one another to keep moving towards Christ together. As we do, we become a powerful witness in Brisbane—a city that longs for authentic community, genuine purpose and lasting hope.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1.

Jesus' invitation was simply, "**Follow Me.**"

What do you think Jesus was inviting His first disciples into, and how is that different from how people often think about Christianity today?

2.

Where would you place yourself on the disciple-making journey right now?

- Engage
- Establish
- Equip
- Empower

What is one next step Jesus may be inviting you to take?

3.

Who has had the greatest influence on your walk with Jesus?

What did they do that helped you become more like Christ, and how might you pass that on to someone else?

4.

Australian culture often celebrates independence and self-sufficiency, while God's Kingdom values community, sacrifice and multiplication.

Where do you feel this tension most strongly in your own life?

5.

Jesus calls every disciple to help someone else follow Him.

Who is one person God may be inviting you to intentionally pray for, encourage or walk alongside over the coming weeks?

## THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

This week, prayerfully choose one person.

Pray for them every day.

Invite them to share a coffee, meal or conversation.

Ask how you can pray for them.

Look for an opportunity to encourage them or open a spiritual conversation.

Remember: disciple-making isn't about having all the answers. It's about faithfully helping someone take one step closer to Jesus.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for calling us to follow Jesus and for welcoming us into Your family. Thank You for the people who have invested in our lives and helped us grow in faith. We ask that You would continue shaping us into disciples who love You deeply, serve others faithfully and live on mission every day.

Holy Spirit, give us eyes to see the people You are already drawing towards Yourself. Fill us with courage to Engage those exploring faith, wisdom to Establish new believers, grace to Equip one another in Your Word, and faith to Empower others to become disciple-makers themselves.

May Every Nation Brisbane be known as a church where people don't simply attend, but belong; where they don't simply believe, but become; and where disciples faithfully make disciples for the glory of Jesus.

In His mighty name we pray.

**Amen.**