

**The life God has always wanted you to have...**

# A Disciplemaking Manifesto

*“For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God’s power.”*

–Paul, 1 Corinthians 4:20

It’s in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 4:20 that we offer this disciplemaking manifesto. Our ultimate goal is to get beyond “a lot of talk” to embracing Jesus’ way of life—together with friends.

## Why?

Jesus commands his followers to “...*go and make disciples...*”

It’s not just a suggestion.

It’s not a program.

It’s certainly not optional.

And it’s NOT just for paid pastors, ministers and missionaries.

It *is* a command from Jesus himself to ALL of His followers

## This is what God made YOU for.

*You* are a disciplemaker.

And here’s the kicker:

Living as a disciplemaker isn’t so much about changing the world as it is changing the way you live in the world.

## But what might this look like *in your everyday life*?

The pages that follow seek to help you and your friends answer that question. We’ll highlight three deceptively simple but profoundly life-changing onramps to a disciplemaking way of life for every aspiring follower of Jesus.

Are you ready? Let’s go!

—Bill Allison for our team of Cadre Disciplemaking Missionaries

This Disciplemaking Manifesto is taken from Chapter 5 of *The Disciplemaking Genius of Jesus*. You can get your copy at [CadreMissionaries.com/store](http://CadreMissionaries.com/store). This manifesto is for you and your friends to wrestle, live, and share with others.

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# The Disciplemaking Genius of Jesus



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# DEDICATION

“Much have I learned from my teachers,  
even more from my friends,  
but from my students, most of all.”

—Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 7a

When King Jesus reigns at the center of our lives together, we’re simultaneously teachers, friends, and students with each other. Then that mutual inflow into each others’ lives becomes our overflow to others. In other words, we’re disciplemaking friends.

This book is dedicated to all of our disciplemaking friends—some of whom are named and their stories told in this book—and many, many more who are not. However, three people must be named here because they are my longest and most intense disciplemaking friends—without whom Cadre Missionaries, all of its disciplemaking training, and this book would not exist. Those three people are Dave and Rennie Garda and Stacy Allison (the woman of my dreams who also happens to be my wife of over 30 years, the mother of our seven children, and the best disciplemaking friend I’ve ever had). For many years, the four of us have aspired and very imperfectly lived out what I’ve finally taken the time to write down in this book.

Most of all, this book is dedicated to our disciplemaking God, ***“for everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen”*** (Romans 11:36).

—Bill Allison, 2018, Chillicothe, IL

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## CHAPTER 5



Glenn Kaiser, a disciplemaking pastor I know and love in the inner-city of Chicago, throws down this challenge: “You have received unmerited love and grace. Share it—or quit reading, studying, and singing about it.” He does have a way with words.

Let’s be clear here. *Reading* a book about disciplemaking friendships and *living* Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships that multiply are two different things. Most of our bookshelves are a kind of Hall of Shame of biblical ideas we read about—maybe even got ramped up about— but never really did anything about. Isn’t that painfully true? So let’s dare to ask and wrestle a critically important question at this juncture:

*If one wants to step into the adventure of Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships that multiply, where does one start?*

Start Here, Start Now—with PIE. That's right. Let's have some PIE!

## Step 1 Pray

You might be tempted to skip this section because it's about prayer. You may believe that prayer is a given for modern-day Christians. But you'd be badly mistaken. It seems to me that we often like to do everything but pray. One pastor friend of mine shared with me that the leaders of his church decided to meet about thirty minutes before one of the Sunday services to simply pray together. They invited anyone from the congregation to join them. One couple arrived at the appointed time and place and asked, "Is this the place where there's a seminar on prayer?" One of the leaders smiled and said, "It's not a seminar on prayer. It's a time of praying together." The couple turned around and walked out of the room.

It's interesting to note that somewhere between twelve to eighteen months of Jesus' ministry—right before he chooses twelve disciplemaking friends—*"Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night"* (Luke 6:12)

Let's follow Jesus' example—and not just talk about prayer—but actually pray. [*I'll let you decide if you want to pray all night.*] But where do you start? When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, what did Jesus do? He gave them a prayer to pray. I'd like to do the same for you right here, right now. We call it the *Disciplemaker's Prayer*.

## The Disciplemaker's Prayer

Deut 6:1-9, Mark 3:13-14; 12:30-31, Matt 28:18-20, John 17:20, Acts 1:8, 1 Cor 4:16-17



Heavenly Father,

Thank you for giving me a disciplemaking way of life in Christ Jesus. As I go through every part of this day, help me to love you and love the people who cross my path—starting with my family. Don't let me miss the adventures you are sending my way to live and speak the Good News about Jesus today. Draw my heart to you and to specific people you want me to pull close for Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships. By your Word and Spirit, transform me into a follower of Jesus who loves you, loves people, and makes disciples—who make more disciples, *ad infinitum*.

—In Jesus' name, amen.

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Why should you pray the *Disciplemaker's Prayer*? Consider the following reasons:

### **Because It's Biblically-Based**

Note the seven passages of Scripture listed at the top of the *Disciplemaker's Prayer*. This prayer has its genesis in these seven passages of Scripture. We encourage you to look up each passage and find it in the prayer. I have to believe that God loves it when we pray the Bible to him. *Who might like to join you in studying the seven passages of Scripture and trying to find them in the prayer?*

### **Because It's a Jesus-like Way of Life, Together.**

Note that this prayer is not only prayer—but a short description of what it looks like to follow Jesus with others in real life on Monday morning. *What might God do in and through you and a few friends if you actually started to live the Disciplemaker's Prayer together where you live, work, play, and church?*

## **Because It's for Every Follower of Jesus**

Note that God gives every follower of Jesus “a disciplemaking way of life in Christ Jesus.” Disciplemaking as a way of life is not only for full-time pastors and missionaries. I believe the Bible teaches that all followers of Jesus are full-time ministers regardless of what they do for a living. This prayer will daily remind you to embrace your biblical identity as disciplemakers no matter what you do for a living. *What does “every follower” mean to you?*

## **Because It Starts with Our Families**

The *Disciplemaker's Prayer* says, “starting with my family.” Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships must start with our families. What happens if we live disciplemaking friendships with everyone but our family? What happens if we live disciplemaking friendship only with our family? Are you and your spouse disciplemaking friends? Praying and aspiring to live this prayer helps us to clarify: *What does it look like in your family to live out disciplemaking friendships?*

## **Because It's an Invitation to a Disciplemaking Adventure**

So many Christians seem to be bored. Here's your chance to remind yourself every day that life with Jesus and friends is an adventure. *Are you up for a daily adventure with Jesus and friends?*

## **Because the World Needs God's Good News**

If you dare to pray this prayer from your heart every day, the Holy Spirit will nudge your heart in living and speaking the Good News of Jesus Christ with those in your everyday life at the right times. *Who has God placed in your everyday life that needs the Good News of Jesus?*

## **Because We Naturally Drift Away from the Main Thing**

Everything in 21st century life tends to pull us away from the simplicity and beauty of living Jesus-like disciplemaking

friendships that multiply. Praying the *Disciplemaker's Prayer* daily re-centers our hearts and helps us focus on that which is most important—not just what is screaming for our attention. *Do you find yourself drifting away from that which God deems most important?*

### **Because It's About Living Jesus-Like Disciplemaking Friendships**

Note the sentence, “Draw my heart to you and to specific people you want me to pull close for Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships.” A disciplemaking adventure starts right where you are—right now. *Who is someone in your everyday life God might be nudging you to pull close for disciplemaking friendships?*

### **Because None of the Prayer Is Self-Help**

God has given us everything we need: The Word of God, the Holy Spirit of God, the People of God (the church), and the mission of God. *How would you live if you really believed that God has given you everything you need to live Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships that multiply?*

### **Because It's About Loving God and Loving People**

According to Jesus the most important commandment is loving God with everything you have (Mark 12:29). Jesus also clarified the second greatest commandment: loving others as you love yourself (Mark 12:30). Show me someone who wakes up and aspires to live a life of loving God and loving people, and I'll show you someone who is living Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships that multiply. *How would your relational world be transformed if everyday you embraced God's love (inflow) and then lived it with those around you (overflow)?*

### **Because It's About Disciplemaking Friendships that Multiply**

Note these words in the prayer: “...who makes disciples—who make more disciples, *ad infinitum*.” That's keeping D<sup>3</sup> multiplication in

your heart and mind every day as you pray this prayer. *Ad infinitum* is Latin for “to infinity and beyond.” Okay, that’s the fun definition. The official definition of *Ad infinitum* is over and over again in the exact same way. Frankly, that’s what this whole book is about. ***Have you ever had the joy of being a disciplemaking friend with someone who became a disciplemaking friend with someone else?***

We’ve been praying the *Disciplemaker’s Prayer* together with our friends for years now. We share it with everyone everywhere we go. This prayer has become one of the first and most important building blocks in helping others embrace a Jesus-like disciplemaking way of life that multiplies. We hope you will join us in praying, living, and sharing this prayer with all your disciplemaking family and friends—starting right now. Before you continue reading, I hope that you’ll pause long enough to stop reading and pray the *Disciplemaker’s Prayer* right now.

## **A Real Life Story of God Answering the Disciplemaker’s Prayer**

The *Disciplemaker’s Prayer* isn’t just a mental or theological construct we assent to—but rather a prayer that continually brings us back to a simple Jesus-like disciplemaking way of living—that spreads to others. If you dare to pray the *Disciplemaker’s Prayer* daily, you’d better buckle your seatbelt. Why? Because God will answer your prayer when you dare to pray, “Draw my heart to you and to specific people you want me to pull close for Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships.” And it will transform your life in such a beautiful way you’ll never want to live a “normal” life again. In the words of my disciplemaking friend, James, “God will give you the life you never knew you always wanted.”

## **A True Story: James Part 1**

One Sunday morning, I was preaching at my home church. After the message, I was hanging out with people, listening, praying, encouraging them and being encouraged by them. I was really

enjoying a conversation with a particular guy about my age (it turned out he was a little younger—isn't everyone?). Then someone else came up to our little group and started to interact with me. After a few minutes, I noticed that the guy I was previously having a great conversation with was slowly moving out of the circle.

As I watched this guy move away, a slight sense of urgency entered my heart—a Holy Spirit prompting one might say. When it comes to responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, my batting average isn't that great. But I desperately want to improve. And that's why I pray the *Disciplemaker's Prayer*: “Lord, draw my heart to you and to specific people you want me to pull close for Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships.” I stopped my current conversation and said to the guy who was starting to walk away, “Hey, I'd love to connect with you sometime to continue our conversation.”

He said, “Okay.”

We looked at each other awkwardly and after a long pause I asked, “When?” Then I finally moved toward him and we exchanged names and contact info. Did I mention it was awkward?

A few days later we were sitting across from each other in a coffee shop over his lunch break. I invited him to tell me his story. He had been raised in a church but never really understood the Gospel until recently. And very recently, he was in the middle of challenging personal issues that had driven him to a biblical understanding of the Gospel and a relationship with Jesus. Hence, he was in church the previous Sunday. Near the end of our lunch conversation, he said, “I told my wife that I think you'd be a great mentor for me.”

Sometimes when you pray the *Disciplemaker's Prayer*, you get a nudge from the Holy Spirit about who you should pull close for disciplemaking friendship. Other times, a friend may get the nudge and approach you. Sometimes it's both people getting a nudge from God.

I quietly prayed in my heart right there in the moment, “Lord, is this just a good idea, or is this a God idea?”

And I got nothing from God for certain in that moment. [Does that ever happen to you?] What to do? A long awkward pause as I mulled this over in my heart and mind. This guy just shared his story and laid his heart out to me. He needs help and he’s asking for it. I know I’m not supposed to disciple everyone, but I am supposed to disciple someone. And I know God will show me who. Not hearing a direct and clear word from God in that moment, I thought that perhaps we should at least take one more step to see what happens. I looked him in the eyes and said, “Memorize Psalm 112. When you have it memorized, call me and we’ll connect.”

I’ve never done that before with anyone. And I’ve rarely done it since. But I didn’t know James that well—this was our first sit down together. I was more than willing to be a friend in his journey. However, I was hoping we could be—not just friends—*but disciplemaking friends*. So I invited him to memorize a chapter of the Bible I was already working on myself.

I was very surprised at what happened next. *To be continued.*

## **Will You Spare One Minute?**

Everything in life will pull you off the simplicity and beauty of living and sharing Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships that multiply. That’s why we’re sharing the *Disciplemaker’s Prayer* with you. And just how much time will it cost you to pray the *Disciplemaker’s Prayer* everyday? *Less than one minute*. Can you spare one minute for a prayer that could change the way you live in the world?

## **Here Are Some Crazy and Fun Ideas for Starting Here and Now with the Disciplemaker’s Prayer**

1. Go to [www.disciplemakersprayer.com](http://www.disciplemakersprayer.com). Print copies of the prayer for yourself and others. Then share the *Disciplemaker’s Prayer* page

with your family and friends through texts, email, and social media. Invite them to start praying the *Disciplemaker's Prayer* with you every day. When you see each other, share stories of how God is working in, around, and through you for his glory. And don't forget to pray the *Disciplemaker's Prayer* together when you're together.

2. Keep the *Disciplemaker's Prayer* near you. Put it in your phone case. Tape it to your mirror in your bathroom. Put it on the fridge. Carry it in your wallet or purse. Use it as a bookmark in your Bible or a current book you're reading.

3. As suggested earlier, use the seven passages of Scripture as a brief Bible study and prayer time when you eat, travel, or send family members off to school or work every day. Read one verse a day. Try to find the verse in the prayer. Then pray the prayer together out loud. Keep it simple, brief, and consistent.

4. Pray the *Disciplemaker's Prayer* with your heart and soul—not just with your lips. It's a prayer and a declaration about how you desire to live on mission empowered by God so that God gets the glory.

5. We're not saying you should get a tattoo of the *Disciplemaker's Prayer* on your back, but if you do please send us a picture. [I did say these are "crazy and fun ideas."]

## **One Last Caveat**

The *Disciplemaker's Prayer* isn't about memorizing words and repeating those words over and over again without any thought or heart behind the words. So please don't misunderstand what I'm challenging you to do here. I'm not inviting you to read the *Disciplemaker's Prayer* every day. I'm inviting you to commune with God via a prayer that is rooted in God's Word. I'm challenging you to the adventure of touching the very heart of God via prayer and being transformed by God's heart for you and those around you.

## Step 2 Initiate

What happens after Jesus spends the night in prayer? According to Luke 6:12-13, *“At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles...”* and then Luke goes on to list the names of the twelve apostles.

What’s the point?

Once you’ve started to regularly pray the *Disciplemaker’s Prayer*, don’t be surprised if you get a nudge from God about who you should be pulling close for Jesus-like discipling friendships. That’s a prayer God loves to answer. And he may actually send someone your way who approaches you first. That’s what we see in the life of Christ.

### Jesus’ First Discipling Friends

Here’s how Jesus got connected to his first disciples—who became his first discipling friends...

*The following day, John (the Baptist) was again standing with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, “Look! There is the Lamb of God!” When John’s two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.*

*Jesus looked around and saw them following. “What do you want?” he asked them.*

*They replied, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?*

*“Come and see, he said.” (John 1:35-39, bold mine)*

Note that the two disciples of John the Baptist, Andrew and John (John 1:37 and 40), are the ones who *initiate* time with Jesus—and that Jesus welcomes them. *“The next day”* (John 1:43), Jesus heads to Galilee and he invites Philip to follow him. In other words, Jesus *initiates* time with Philip.

Some time later, Jesus moves from Nazareth to Capernaum (Matthew 4:13). Why? No one knows for sure because the Bible doesn't explain it. It just tells us Jesus moved to Capernaum at this point. But it is interesting to note that these first disciples were fisherman from the area of Bethsaida. From Nazareth (where Jesus previously lived), Bethsaida was a day's walk—about twenty miles. However, from Capernaum, Bethsaida is only about six miles—a relatively short walk in first-century Israel. *Could it be that Jesus moved to Capernaum so that he could initiate more (TW + K<sup>4</sup>) with his first disciples?*

All that to say this: *With whom might God be leading you to initiate a disciplemaking friendship?* Not sure? Start by praying the *Disciplemaker's Prayer*. Listen and respond to the nudges of the Holy Spirit. Initiate time with someone when prompted. If someone initiates time with you, respond like Jesus did (John 1:35-39) and see what happens. Embrace the adventure of disciplemaking friendships. Jesus did and the world has never been the same since.

## **A True Story: James Part 2**

Because of a prompting from God after church, I initiated time together at a coffee shop with James over his lunch hour. At that gathering, I just wanted to hear his story and discern whether or not he and I were supposed follow Jesus together—and if so, to what extent. While I didn't get a clear leading from God immediately at the time, I did sense we should take another step toward a disciplemaking friendship. I knew James wanted me to mentor him, but, again, I was wondering if he'd be open to the idea of a Romans 1:12 mutual disciplemaking friendship that multiplies. Of course, I didn't say it like that to him. That would be weird. (Think "Down-Low Disciplemaking" here.) So I challenged James to memorize Psalm 112 and then to contact me. I wondered if and when I might hear back from him.

I think it was about five days later he called. He was ready to recite Psalm 112 from memory. The quickness of James' response surprised me. We scheduled another gathering over lunch.

Once we both shared Psalm 112 from memory with each other, I said, "Our family would like to have your family over sometime for dinner. Would your family be up for that?" Never underestimate the discipling power of food and hospitality. Soon after that, James, his wife, and three kids were hanging out with me, my wife, and the many, many Allison kids. It was after this first family gathering at our house that my wife and I began to understand that this friendship was going to be bigger than just James and me. It was going to be a family discipling adventure for both families.

Our next family gathering was at James' house the following month. And then James and I would continue to meet every few weeks on his lunch break. It went on for a number of months like this. When we gathered as families, we always ate a light meal together and then dove into community and friendship with each other. We began to informally engage prayer and Scripture in a conversational way. Think  $(TW + K^4) \times D^3$  here—without actually using those terms in our conversations. Again, we didn't talk about it, explain it, or write it out for everyone to memorize—we just started living it together. It was fun, rich, and focused on following Jesus together as friends.

One day, we loaded our kids into our 15-passenger van for another family gathering at James' house. (I wished I was kidding about the van, but that's been our family vehicle for that last 25 years of my life. Did I ever mention our many kids?) As we left the neighborhood, we noticed that our friends across the street from us had put a "House for Sale" sign in their yard. (You might now be connecting the dots: The Allisons have lots of kids, a 15-passenger van, lots of people coming and going at their house and now the neighbors are moving. I wonder why?)

When I saw the “House for Sale” sign, I pointed it out to my wife and kids. We were sad. We loved those neighbors—and still do. As we drove out of the neighborhood, I briefly prayed out loud (think K<sup>4</sup> prayerfulness), “Lord, please put someone or some family in our neighbor’s house that we can love, encourage, and be a blessing to for your glory.”

When we arrived at James’ house, we ate and enjoyed family time together. James said, “Would you pray for us? We’re going to be moving and we don’t know where yet?”

Slightly alarmed, I said, “Are you still staying in the area?”

James said, “Yes.”

I looked at my wife. She looked at me. We both smiled. I said, “A house across the street from us just went up for sale today. If you buy that house, we can get a lot more time together, follow Jesus together more, raise our kids together, and we can aspire to love the people in our neighborhood together.”

It wasn’t long after that, James and his family moved across the street from us. Yep, they are crazy too. That was about ten years ago now. I’m happy to report that we have gotten ten times more time together simply because of proximity. We have followed Jesus together more. We have raised our kids together. And we have aspired to love and reach out to a number of our neighbors together. And here’s the brutal and whole truth: We have argued together. We have cried together. We—and our kids—have argued, disagreed, and have hurt each other a number of times. We have confessed our sins to each other and have repented together. We have forgiven each other. We have fought for each other’s marriage together. We have had a lot of joy and tears together. In other words, it’s a real, messy discipling friendship. To this day, we continue to do all of the above together because that’s how Jesus-like discipling friendships that multiply roll.

*To be continued...* again.

## **No Initiation = No Disciplemaking Friendships**

Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships start when someone initiates. Don't be surprised by someone who initiates a friendship with you. Nor should you be afraid to initiate some level of friendship with someone when God nudges your heart. Just take one simple step at a time as you seek to discern what God may—or may not—have for you. If no one acts on the promptings of the Holy Spirit to initiate friendships, well, how sad is that?

## **But I'm an Introvert**

I can guarantee right now that someone reading this is thinking, "What about introverts? Initiating disciplemaking friendships goes against our/their personality." Let's think about that. Jesus had twelve disciples—very close disciplemaking friends. Do you think any of them may have been introverts? If I were a betting man, I'd take that bet. Who might you guess would be the introverts amongst Jesus' disciples? Why? And perhaps more important, so what?

The bigger question underlying the introvert question is this: Does your personality type take you off the hook for initiating disciplemaking friendships? Let's think about this for a moment. Jesus didn't say, "Go and make disciples—unless you're an introvert. Then you folks make the coffee and stack chairs." No, every follower of Jesus is on the hook for making disciples and responding to the Holy Spirit's nudges—regardless of his or her temperament. Furthermore, I think introverts are amazing disciplemaking friends. My wife is the epitome of what it means to be an introvert. Is she commanded by Jesus to make disciples? Yes. However, she and other introverts don't make disciples by being up front in a crowd. They don't talk about it. They just live it quietly—and I contend—often more effectively—precisely because they lead with friendship. My wife's been living  $(TW + K^4) \times D^3$  long before I even understood those disciplemaking concepts. Introverts—like Holy Oly and my

Cadre Missionary partner, Dave Garda—lead the way in *Down-Low* disciplemaking friendships that multiply. Many of the stories I’ve shared throughout this book are about introverts who are living Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships that multiply.

## **What If Disciplemaking Is Leadership?**

One of my friends who is a leader in his denomination asked me, “Do you do any leadership training?” I said, “Yes. We call it disciplemaking training,” and then I winked at him. (We’re still good friends.) There is so much talk about leadership these days. Here’s a crazy thought on leadership: Whoever initiates disciplemaking friendships is a leader—even if he or she doesn’t hold a “leadership” title or position. Real leaders don’t need a title or position. They just live it. It’s a way of life for them, not a job. While I’m jumping off a cliff, let me say this: All disciplemakers are leaders, but not all “leaders” are disciplemakers. There. I said it. But before you reject it, run what I just said through your Jesus grid<sup>(2)</sup>.

Jesus is the ultimate leader. But he lived as a humble servant who made disciplemakers. Pardon me, but I’m a little suspicious of any talk of “leadership” that is not centered on Jesus, humility, servanthood, and disciplemaking. The more I study Jesus the more I question current conventional wisdom on leadership. We really need to pause and rethink what it means to be a ministry leader in light of the biblical Jesus. I contend that making disciples like Jesus is the fullest and truest expression of what it means to be a spiritual leader. And if that’s true, then whoever initiates, lives, and shares (TW + K<sup>4</sup>) x D<sup>3</sup> as a way of life with others is a leader. What if instead of defining leadership as “influence,” we defined it as initiating disciplemaking friendships that multiply? What might happen if every paid and volunteer leader in a ministry actually led—not just with their lips—but with their lives like this (TW + K<sup>4</sup>) x D<sup>3</sup>?

*I dare you to find out.*

## Step 3 Engage

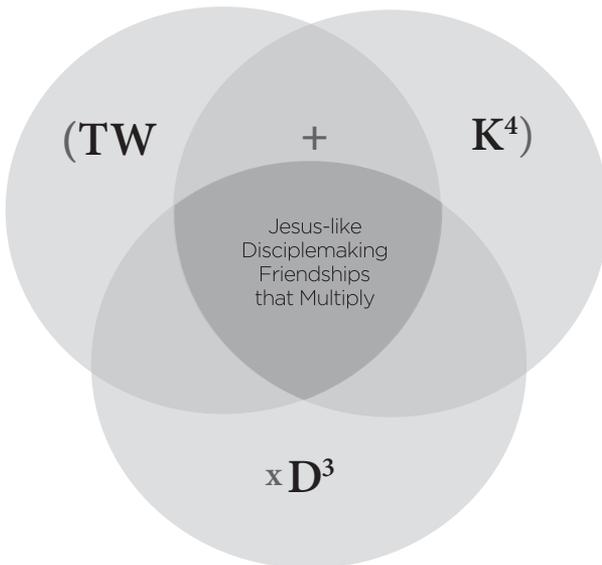
- You're praying the *Disciplemaker's Prayer* with family and friends.
- Your looking for someone who might initiate time with you—and you're listening for the promptings of the Holy Spirit so you can initiate time with others.

The question now is: How do we engage with those we believe God wants us to pull close for Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships that multiply?

### *What does that engagement look like in real life?*

Here's the great news. You already know the answer. Don't over think this. To engage with those you believe God wants you to pull close for Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships—aim squarely for  $(TW + K^4) \times D^3$ . This is how we move toward Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships that multiply.

### **The Disciplemaking Genius of Jesus**



## A True Story: James Part 3

Once James and family moved across the street from us, (TW + K<sup>4</sup>) became a normal part of our lives—though we’ve never used these terms—we just try to live it together. I knew if we kept living (TW + K<sup>4</sup>) together, that inflow would eventually overflow to others in both our respective spheres of influence where we live, work, play and church. In other words, our living D<sup>1</sup> (TW + K<sup>4</sup>) together would inflow and then overflow to a D<sup>2</sup> generation of (TW + K<sup>4</sup>) and then would eventually get to D<sup>3</sup> generations of (TW + K<sup>4</sup>).

Once when James walked over to our house, we sat down together in the living room, and he said, “I love how you are a missionary.”

I said, “You’re a missionary too, my friend.”

“Not like you—you’re a real missionary,” he said.

By now you should be able to predict my response. I looked right at him and with just as much confidence that he showed in his statement, I met it and exceeded it when I said, “You really are a real missionary—and in many ways you’re more of a missionary than many of us ‘missionaries.’”

James had no place in his head for this at this time. Again, he said, “No way. That’s not true.”

I know James seeks to live a God-glorifying life wherever he goes—including where has worked for years. I know that his many friends and coworkers have noticed the way God has changed and continues to change his life. It’s a testimony to the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So I thought, okay James. Time to throw down. So I asked, “What did you do last Friday night?” I honestly didn’t know what he did, but I know the nature of his work.

James thought and said, “Last Friday night, my job required me to be at a seedy bar for a few hours.”

I asked, “What happened?”

He said, “I was very uncomfortable and I couldn’t wait for it to end so I could get out of there.”

I said, “Anything else happen while you were there?”

He thought for a moment and then said, “Yeah, one of my old drinking buddies came up to me and said, ‘James, I haven’t seen you in a long time! I’m buying you a beer!’”

Knowing that James was a fairly recent recovering alcoholic, I asked, “How’d that go?”

“Well, I smiled and told him that I wouldn’t drink it. But my old friend just laughed in my face and said, ‘You’re funny! I know you James. You’re an alcoholic like the rest of us. I’m buying you a beer.’ Then the guy turned away and started to walk to the bar to buy me a beer. But I said to him, ‘Bro, don’t waste your money. I’m serious. I won’t drink it.’”

Then James said, “The guy wiped the smile off his face. He walked back to me and he asked, ‘What has happened to you?’ So right then and there, I shared my story about how Jesus is changing my life. We talked for about 10 minutes. He really wanted to know.”

I smiled at James and said, “And you say you’re not a missionary?”

James smiled and said nothing. Checkmate. And that was the last time I’ve ever heard him question his biblical identity. In fact, he is embracing his identity as a discipling friend with others more and more.

Several years later, while both our families were in our 15-passenger van heading out for a day together at some sand dunes near Lake Michigan, James said, “I’ve been praying and journaling. My son’s involvement in various sports has put me in the lives of some other dads. We see a lot of each other. I don’t think they have any guys sharpening them. I’m sensing I should invite them to a Bible study at my house.”

I said, “You should follow that prompting to see what happens.”

“I was wondering if you would lead the study,” James said looking at me hopefully.

“They’re not my friends—they’re your friends,” I said. “And I am confident in God working in and through you. God often speaks to my heart through you.” I meant every word of it.

There was a short pause in the conversation as we rolled on down the interstate.

James broke the silence, “If some of these guys are interested in being in the Bible study, would you be willing to be in it too?”

“More time with you—helping you help your friends follow Jesus? You know I’m an easy touch for disciplemaking friendships that multiply,” I smiled. James did too.

James said, “I might need some help doing this.”

I said, “I’ll be glad to coach you and be with you. Let’s pick a Gospel and plan on one chapter for each gathering. You study the chapter and write questions for the group to haver over. I’ll meet with you 30 minutes before the study to hear your plan and answer any questions, and we can pray for the study. Then you’ll lead the study. Sometime after the study, we should have a short conversation about how we think it went. What went well. What didn’t. And anything else we need to address.”

And that’s how we’re doing it. Recently, James said, “I’m sensing that I need to challenge the guys in our study to pray about the guys in their lives who need what we have. Maybe they need to start something with their family and friends.”

With a heart full of joy, I said with a smile, “Maybe they do. I like the way you think James.”

I think James and all followers of Jesus—regardless of what they do for a living—are in the ministry of helping people find and

follow Jesus. What might God be able to do if every follower of Jesus understood and embraced their biblical identity as disciplemakers?

## **What If Everyone...?**

Jesus said, “go and make disciples of all nations.”

Many Christians in our country hear the word "go" and "nations" and they immediately let themselves off the hook for their responsibility for making disciples.

Why?

Because they are not going to other nations. They are staying in this nation. Thus disciplemaking in our country gets relegated to those who are in vocational ministry.

How is this working for us? Let's be honest. It's not. But all is not lost... yet.

Consider this: If you're a follower of Jesus, you've been commanded by Jesus to ***"go and make disciples of all nations"***—and that includes the nation in which you live.

Before you worry about whether or not God might send you to another nation, why not first live as a Jesus-like disciplemaker in the nation in which you now live? After all, if you don't live with Jesus' heart and passion for making disciples now and here, you won't magically start making disciples by going overseas. Going overseas does not a missionary make.

## **So what might living as a Jesus-like disciplemaker look like for you?**

**Are you a stay-at-home mom?**

Then go about every part of mothering in a God-honoring way AND seek to make disciples of those who cross your life's path—starting with your kids, other mothers, etc.

**Are you a student?**

Then go about every part of being a student in a God-honoring way AND seek to make disciples of those who cross your path—starting with your friends at school.

**Are you in business?**

Then go about every part of business in a God-honoring way AND seek to make disciples of those who cross your path—starting with your colleagues and with those whom you do business.

**Are you on staff at a church or ministry?**

Then go about every part of your vocational ministry in a God-honoring way AND seek to make disciples of those who cross your path—starting with other staff, volunteers and students.

**Are you a construction worker?**

Then go about every part of your construction job in a God-honoring way AND seek to make disciples of those who cross your path—starting with your coworkers.

**Are you in healthcare?**

Then go about every part of your job helping people with wellness in a God-honoring way AND seek to make disciples of those who cross your path—starting with coworkers and patients.

**Are you a farmer?**

Then go about every part of farming in a God-honoring way AND seek to make disciples of those who cross your path—starting with your neighbors, friends, and associates.

**Are you a \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

Go about every part of your job as a \_\_\_\_\_ in a God-honoring way AND seek to make disciples of those who cross your path.

***Get the idea?***

Sounds simple, doesn't it? But let's be honest. Most of us are not living with this kind of disciplemaking intentionality. This must change. Jesus wants us to bring his disciplemaking intentionality and proactivity to every nook and cranny of our lives—and ultimately to the whole world.

Disciplemaking like Jesus isn't something you add on to your life. *It's a way of life. It's your way of life.*

Here's some good news: Jesus isn't asking you to form so many different and disconnected circles of relationships that you'll never be able to manage them all.

Here's the challenge: Jesus wants you to bring disciplemaking intentionality and proactivity to all of your relationships right now wherever you are.

## **Where do you start? Start Here, Start Now—with PIE.**

1. Pray the *Disciplemaker's Prayer*.
2. Initiate some level of friendship with a few where you live, work, play, and church.
3. Engage some level of  $(TW + K^4) \times D^3$  with those friends and see where it goes.

Let's keep this completely real. *Will you:*

- Pray the *Disciplemaker's Prayer* daily?
- Initiate some level of friendship with those around you as the Spirit leads?
- Engage disciplemaking friendships  $(TW + K^4) \times D^3$ ?

Those are three very important questions you must dare to answer right now. Why right now? Because in a few minutes, you'll have completely read this book. You will leave with a mental understanding of what we believe to the core of our being is The

Disciplemaking Genius of Jesus—the **Why, What, and How** of disciplemaking friendships that multiply.

Will this book join a host of other lonely, ignored, and forgotten books on your bookshelf? That's it—the end? Next book.

This doesn't have to be the end. *It could be a beginning.* You could go on a Jesus-like disciplemaking adventure with God and friends.

I beg you to seriously and prayerfully ponder this: *Will you dare to embrace a Jesus-like disciplemaking way of life with others?*

Don't make this more difficult than it really is. Don't overthink this. And please don't make this a program.

It's not so much about changing the world as it is inviting King Jesus to change the way you live in the world. The question is: *Will you dare to invite King Jesus to change the way you live in the world starting right where you live with your family and friends?*

If so, start with **PIE**.

Then help others start with **PIE**.

Then help those people help others start with **PIE**.

Get yours and one to share, today!

# The Disciplemaking **GENIUS** OF JESUS

by Bill Allison



Jesus-Like Disciplemaking Friendships that Multiply

**BONUS:** This *Manifesto* is a free gift. Your reading, praying and living it is a gift to back to us. Since you made it to page 27 we want to do something special for you and a friend:

If you purchase a copy of *The Disciplemaking Genius of Jesus* we'd like to give you a second copy for free.

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## **Haver at It**

The Hebrew concept of friendship [haver] is the practice of grappling in twos and threes over the application of Scripture as we share life and mission together. We think of it as disciplemaking friendships. That's why I encourage you to *haver at it* right now.

## **From Ideas to Convictions**

Prayerfully develop and work your **PIE** plan.

## Pray...

the *Disciplemaker's Prayer* drilling down on “*Draw my heart to you and to specific people you want me to pull close for Jesus-like disciplemaking friendships.*”

Prayerfully consider those who are already in the normal orbit of your life where you live, work, play, and church. What names come to mind?

*If and when God prompts you (or they initiate with you) write their names below.*

## Initiate...

Prayerfully explore any nudges from the Holy Spirit by seeking time together. It can be a meal, a ball game, a concert, coffee, dessert, a movie, church service or activities, serving together, a hike, a walk, a bike ride, a kid's event, a conference, a Cadre training, a jog, a workout, time at a park, or anything else in the rhythm of your life that you might be able to invite others into—or join them in.

*What next step should you prayerfully initiate?*

## Engage...

Prayerfully live *Down-Low Disciplemaking by living* and see where the friendship goes (TW + K4) x D3. You don't have to make disciplemaking friendships happen. God does that. However, God wants you to cooperate with him in this process. Engage those who want disciplemaking friendships.

*What might be a first step toward disciplemaking friendships that multiply?*

# Heart, Hands, and Heels

As you read this Manifesto on Start Here, Start Now—With **PIE**:

1. **Heart:** What did you hear God say to you?

2. **Hands:** What will you do about it?

3. **Heels:** With whom will you share this—and when?