

*Discipleship* ...I didn't even know what the word really meant about two years ago.

After I joined my church, Grace Community Church of Willow Street, in 2002, I became active in a small group. Then, the following year, I was elected to our church council and I joined our Discipleship Commission. At that time, it felt good to be "active" in as many parts of church life that I could possibly manage.

Then, our Discipleship Commission began to talk about becoming an "Intentional Disciplemaking Church". Meaning, we would begin to educate people about discipleship and then begin discipling groups: triads, quads, and one-on-one relationships. I loved the idea, but what did it all really mean?

I did not feel ready or comfortable reaching out to someone else to disciple them. In fact, I didn't feel "qualified" or "worthy" of teaching anyone anything about living the Christian life ...I was still learning myself! Should not only the "elders" or very "religious" people be taking care of that, I thought? I prayed about growing spiritually and asked God to lead me to someone who could disciple me first. God answered my prayer. I was lead to Jenny, who began discipling me and we have become such special "sisters in Christ" since then. She has worked very patiently with me and helps me grow, keeps me accountable, and most of all she has taught me how to pray in ways I never knew I could pray. We have uncovered an amazing "Life" with God that sustains me and weaves it's breath around every aspect of my daily life. This spiritual renewal was completely different and much more fulfilling than the "activity based" mentality I had before. I am energized with new life - with a passion for God's Word and will for my life.

Our church urged all people in leadership positions to attend a class entitled "The Devotional Life of a Leader". Then, soon after, we also attended the "Discipling Others Seminar" hosted by the Navigators. I began to pray about whom I could begin to disciple. I was now very excited to help show others how to live a life with God at the center of every thought, every action and every part of everyday life. Not just meeting Him on Sunday mornings and saying "Goodbye" until next week. This was an amazing discovery for me and I have such a heart to help others discover this for themselves as well.

God answered my prayer. Our pastor had started a sermon series on discipling so others in our church would begin to understand its significance and also to show how our church wants to be "intentional" about our daily walk with the Lord. One Sunday, a woman approached me and asked me if I would be interested in discipling her. I was so excited and we began praying, studying and sharing our life together right away. Since then, I have started a triad with two other women and we continue to disciple together to this day.

Our church has hosted another "Discipling Others Seminar" and since that time we now have over 30 people involved in our discipling "family tree" which is now in its third generation! We are so excited and believe that this will only make our church family a more devoted, faithful and "disciple-making" family of believers.

I continue to be amazed at how living life "with" God can bring such joy, peace and a fulfillment that cannot be described. Of course life has its challenges, hurts, disappointments and even pain, but we can have peace throughout if our minds and hearts are focused on Jesus. I know I continue to sin and disappoint God at times in my life, but knowing and feeling His arms around me and the "assurance of forgiveness" we all have in Christ, keeps me pressing onward. Recently I, and five other women, have started a class for married women who are learning how to be more godly wives based on the book, "The Excellent Wife" by Martha Peace. How amazing this has been to watch women grow and want to strengthen their marriages based on what Scripture says! I am already looking for more opportunities to begin new discipling relationships from the women getting to know each other in this class!

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow!*

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