

Series Title: ‘Becoming Whole Life Disciples

Primary Aim: To help us to see how discipleship can and should impact every area of our lives. As we do so our prayer is that each of us would grow into disciples whose lives are transformed by our relationships with Jesus. Our premise is that knowing Jesus will have an outflow on how we go about our work, rest and playtime, how we relate to others, how we steward all that God has given us and above all how we worship Jesus in all that we are do. Having looked at Mission last term we are now trying to cultivate whole of life disciples who, in whatever they are doing, live for Jesus amongst the lost. The areas are deliberately broad (and it would be good to communicate that breadth at least initially) but given that we are restricted by time it will be necessary to hone in on a particular aspect of your topic. The principles we define in session 1 will run throughout and it will be helpful to refresh ourselves of these at the beginning of each session. There should also be some specific principles that will be applicable to other areas of your topic beyond the scope of what you are able to cover in the time given.

1. Jesus in all of life – The Nature of Whole-Life Discipleship

Passages: Colossians 3

Blurb: This first session helps us transition from last terms topic, “Missional Living” to becoming Whole-Life Disciples. We will try to cut through the jargon and define whole-life discipleship and begin to think about what it might look like to be disciples for the whole of life. In particular we will try and make sense of the so called “sacred-secular divide” and establish principles that will run through our series.

2. Whole-life work, rest & Play – Honouring God in all that we do

Passages: Ecclesiastes 2, Colossians 3:17, 23-24

Blurb: If becoming whole-life disciples means that everything is important to God (and thus serving God in the spheres of influence he has placed us in) we now need to think though how Jesus could and should impact our work, rest and play. What does it mean to live for Jesus in the Arts or the world of Finance? What does it mean to live for Jesus in how we go about our hobbies, sporting interests and rest time?

3. Whole-Life Relationships – Cultivating Jesus centred Relationships

Passage: Mark 12:29-31, John 13:34, Matthew 12:34, Matthew 7:1-2, Matthew 23:11-12, Matthew 7:12

Blurb: As we consider what it means to relate to others (elders, friends, family, Christians, non-Christians, boyfriends/girlfriends etc) as whole-life disciples we turn again to the life of Jesus. He truly shows us some staggering principles which help us approach our relationships with others. Above all what we want to help one another begin to think about how our faith influences how we relate to others and there is a wealth of material to choose from. One very helpful book on this is “The Relationship Principles of Jesus” book by Tom Halliday (available to borrow).

4. Whole-Life Stewardship – Faithfully using all that God has given us

Passages: Matthew 25:14-30

Blurb: We couldn’t talk about becoming whole-life disciples without discussing all that God has blessed us with. This session introduces the notion of stewardship which concerns all that we have been given, for example our money, possessions, energy and time. Above all we want to help people to connect our relationship with Jesus in all of the decisions we make daily about how to use all that He has given us to be faithful with.

5. Whole-Life Worship – Glorifying God in all that we do

Passages: Romans 12:1-2

Blurb: Our final session seeks to bring together the elements we have been thinking about under the notion of worship. Our concern here is not the mechanics of how we think about our sung-worship in church (though that is a part of it) but how we live to bring glory to God on a day by day basis.