

**Life Group Notes**  
**Sunday 25 June 2017**

**Speaker:** Andrey Bondarenko

**Title:** Making Disciples

On Sunday, Andrey and Natasha Bondarenko were with us from Ukraine. He spoke around what it is to be a disciple and said that being a believer is very different to being a disciple. He said that it takes time for believers to become disciples and looked at three elements that help us in that development.

When Jesus appointed his disciples in Mark 3:13-15 he did three things:

- 1) **Chosen;** He chose the twelve. This was the foundation of their discipleship, they were chosen by him. We too are chosen by Him. We need to note that he chose them a year before he sent them. So often we want to get on and do something and we can miss what he is saying to us and what he would have us do. Sometimes it all seems very quiet and so we make ourselves busy, but Jesus would have us spend time with him and wait to be sent by him. We need to spend time with Him to be transformed and understand that we are chosen.
- 2) **Sent;** He was going to send the disciples in time and they were sent to lost people, the same as we are sent primarily to lost people. Knowing Jesus leads us to spend time with unbelievers. Discipleship is impossible without reaching the lost. Many conflicts in church life may well be sorted if we put our time to reaching the lost rather than reaching for our own preferences. We are sent to preach the gospel as much as we can rather than just build church. We need to learn how to love and serve people from different backgrounds.
- 3) **Authority;** he gave them authority and they had to grasp that responsibility. We don't always grasp that authority because we think we are not good enough or because of fear, but often it is because we want an easy life. Jesus said all authority had been given to Him and he passes it to us!!!

So we need to see that the **goal** of a disciple is not to find a church where we like the worship or to find a partner or because we want healing – although all those things are okay – the goal of a disciple is to be Christlike, becoming like him and to do whatever he asks. He is the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings and as such if he says we should do something it should be our privilege.

We need to be **open** to teaching – that will most likely come through friends, pastors and other disciples. God wants to encourage and rebuke us in order to make us more like his Son, and he uses the people around us to do that.

There is also a **cost**. We should not be surprised that there is a cost to discipleship., Jesus paid the ultimate price with his life. Being a disciple so often means moving out of comfort zones in obedience to the one who chose us for a task and time such as this!

**Suggested application and questions**

- 1) What did you hear on Sunday that was new or a fresh reminder for you?
- 2) Why do you think being chosen is the first step to being a disciple?
- 3) When was the last time you shared the gospel with an unbeliever – how did it go?
- 4) How can knowing you have the authority of Christ help you in your everyday life?
- 5) When was the last time you got out of your comfort zone, what did you do, what was the outcome?