

Sharing the Dust
Next Steps
March 17, 2024
2 Timothy 1:13-14; 2:1-2

OPENING PRAYER:

Dear heavenly Father, we ask you to give us all your Holy Spirit, and to give it continually, that it may awaken, enlighten, encourage, and enable us to dare to take the small and large steps of moving out of comfort with which we can comfort each other and into hope in you. Turn us away toward you! Do not allow us to hide from you! Do not let us do anything without you! Show us how glorious you are and how glorious it is to trust and obey you!... You are glorified, you who make us free in Jesus Christ, your Son, by confessing and standing on this: that our hope is in you. *Amen.* (Karl Barth, 1886-1968)

BREAKING THE ICE:

- As a child, what adult did you look up to?
- Who brought you to Jesus? How did that person influence your life?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Part of following Jesus is leading others into a walk with the rabbi. This lesson focuses on different scriptures that highlight a unique way to make disciples. How do the following passages instruct you on making disciples? (2 Timothy 1:13-14, 2:1-2; 1 Corinthians 11:1-2; Proverbs 27:17, 22:26; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Acts 8:27-31)

Read 1 Corinthians 4:16-17, 11:1-2; Philippians 3:17-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-7. Notice how Paul taught those who followed him. What did he say over and over again? Why did he ask believers to do this?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:¹

Jesus' disciples went out and made disciples just as Jesus had taught them. The scriptural record for their work helps us see the practical side of the process. Note what each of these passages reveals about the process of making disciples – Acts 6:1-17, 14:21-28, Acts 19:8-10, 21:15-16

- Jesus' disciples had to choose to follow him and learn the path of discipleship before they could go out and make disciples. It is no different for those who would be Jesus' disciples today. We can make disciples only when we are disciples. Are you willing to be a disciple of Jesus?
- In light of how Jesus prepared his disciples for ministry, what is God doing in your life to prepare you to make disciples? How closely are you walking in his steps? Is your preparation sufficient that you should be making disciples? Why or why not?
- What is required for you to make disciples who will become like Jesus as they imitate you?
- How committed are you to going into your world and making disciples? Why?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Almighty and benevolent God, I ask for the blessing of finding people to mentor. Help me to be able to impart my talents and capacities to help those people in multiple beneficial ways. Please show me the path to becoming a perfect mentor, and do not let me overstep my bounds. Keep me healthy and happy, positive and creative, so that my mentoring will leave a deep and worthwhile impression on the people I help. I humble myself before You knowing all power is Yours. Grant me peace. In Jesus' name, Amen! (Linda Jo Martin)

¹ Ray Vander Laan, *In the Dust of the Rabbi: Becoming a Disciple*, pg. 79