

WHITING COMMUNITY CHURCH BAPTIST LIGHT

From the Pastor

What is a Disciple?

Two thousand years ago, Jesus walked up to a handful of men and said, “Follow me.”

Imagine being one of those original disciples. They were ordinary people like you and me. They had jobs, families, hobbies, and social lives. As they went about their business on the day Jesus called them, none of them would have expected his life to change so quickly and completely.

The disciples could not have fully understood what they were getting into when they responded to Jesus’s call. Whatever expectations or doubts, whatever curiosity, excitement, or uncertainty they felt, nothing could have prepared them for what lay ahead. Everything about Jesus—His teaching, compassion, and wisdom; His life, death, and resurrection; His power, authority, and calling—would shape every aspect of the rest of their lives. In only a few years, these simple men were standing before some of the most powerful rulers on earth and being accused of “turn[ing] the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). What began as simple obedience to the call of Jesus ended up changing their lives, and ultimately, the world.

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? As you will discover, the answer is fairly simple, but it changes your life completely.

The word *disciple* refers to a student or apprentice. Disciples in Jesus’s day would follow their rabbi (which means teacher) wherever he went, learning from the rabbi’s teaching and being trained to do as the rabbi did. Basically, a disciple is a follower, but only if we take the term *follower* literally. Becoming a disciple of Jesus is as simple as obeying His call to follow.

When Jesus called His first disciples, they may not have understood where Jesus would take them or the impact it would have on their lives, but they knew what it meant to follow. They took Jesus’s call literally and began going everywhere He went and doing everything He did.

It’s impossible to be a disciple or a follower of someone and not end up like that person. Jesus said, “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40). That’s the whole point of being a disciple of Jesus: we imitate Him, carry on His ministry, and become like Him in the process. (cont’d on page 2)

Financials

Our 2015 General Fund Approved Budget is \$80,710. Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$6,725.83 per month in order to meet this budget. As of May 30th, we are \$763.23 over budget.

Gen fund income:
\$34,392.20

Gen fund expense:
\$30,109,.98

July Mission

The mission for the month of June is Fox Valley Community Table (FVCT).

Whiting Church has been involved with preparing and serving lunches at FVCT since 2001. The number of meals served has grown over the years. Typically 65-85 servings are provided during the hour lunch. Our regularly scheduled serving date is the first Saturday of every month.

Your contribution will help to keep this great ministry going.

If you have questions or want more information contact Barb Moravec, RoseMary Buelow or Kathy Najdowski.

What is a Disciple (cont'd)

Yet somehow many have come to believe that a person can be a “Christian” without being like Christ. A “follower” who doesn’t follow. How does that make any sense? Many people in the church have decided to take on the *name* of Christ and nothing else. This would be like Jesus walking up to those first disciples and saying, “Hey, would you guys mind identifying yourselves with Me in some way? Don’t worry, I don’t actually care if you do anything I do or change your lifestyle at all. I’m just looking for people who are willing to say they believe in Me and call themselves Christians.” Seriously?

No one can really believe that this is all it means to be a Christian. But then why do so many people live this way? It appears that we’ve lost sight of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The concept of being a disciple isn’t difficult to understand, but it affects everything.

-Pastor Nick

July Ladies’ Bible Studies

This month we will be meeting together on different days of the week and at different times of the day.

Even amidst everyone’s busy summer schedules, we want to continue studying the Bible and building relationships among the ladies of all ages.

Watch for more information of days, times, & activities on the church website google calendar, the weekly email updates, Sunday morning Worship announcements, or by contacting Christi Lewis.

Families Connecting with the Lord (FCL)

It’s not too late to attend Families Connecting with the Lord (FCL)! The last two dates are Wednesday, July 1 & 8 from 6:00-7:30 pm. The nights starts with dinner and continues with Bible time and ends with an activity. Children and parent(s) will together examine what it means to pursue God together. Children and parent(s) will equally be challenged to grow in their relationship with God.

