

North End Collective

Summer Renewal 2022



At North End Collective, we fundamentally believe the Church is the tangible expression of Christ in our City, made known by any group of people who commit to embracing three rhythms: **Worshipping** together, experiencing **Community** together, and living on **Mission** together.

While the Church can certainly be more than this, it can never be less.

This is what we call the **irreducible minimum**. Wherever these **three things** are present, then we have found an expression of **the church** in our midst!

Week 5: What is Discipleship?

OPENING QUESTION

Have you ever wanted to be like someone else? Maybe it was a superhero or a character in a TV show or Movie. Maybe it was just someone you admired at school or work. Share with each other (or write it down) who that person was and anything you might have done to be more like them!

MAIN IDEA

The heart of discipleship is nothing less than desiring the heart of Jesus and learning from Jesus: to love God in worship the way that Jesus worships, to love others in community the way Jesus loved, and to live on mission in this world like Jesus lived.

In other words, **discipleship isn't a program to be followed - it is a person!**

Discipleship is an invitation to be like Jesus.

We believe discipleship is cultivated and expressed within the irreducible minimum of the church. We believe that when we worship together, experience community together and live on mission together then we are cultivating the heart of discipleship together.

Consider for a moment:

Worship trains (and often even retrains) our hearts to more completely love God.

Community trains our hearts to more completely love others.

Mission trains our hearts to more completely love this world.

In other words, we become more like Jesus by being a part of his body - his church!

Take a moment to read Matthew 16:24-26

Jesus offers a generous invitation and definition of discipleship.

:: **Whoever wants to be my disciple...** First, Jesus offers an invitation to **all** to be his disciple. Second, discipleship is only for those who desire it. It is never forced, but is always available.

:: **Must deny themselves** ... To those who desire to apprentice beneath Jesus, he states the obvious - you must first deny yourself. This may seem harsh in a world that values the individual, but Jesus knows our hearts all too well - that we are like our ancestors Adam and Eve - interested in power and self preservation

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:: **take up their cross** ... Which is why he also says we must take up the cross. It's not a one time denial of self interest and preservation - it is a daily, life-long journey toward less of us and more of Jesus.

:: **and follow me** Finally, denial and sacrifice are not something we do in isolation in order to punish ourselves - it is instead something we do so that we might join Jesus and others in living a full life. We must once and for all decide to actually follow him!