LEADERSHIP DRIP

Season 2, Episode 1 Leader Guide

Follow My Example

The Heart of Discipleship and Why We Lead

If the people you lead became exactly like you, would they look more like Jesus?

Whether we realize it or not, people are being discipled by our leadership. In this season opener, Pastors Charles and Ashley answer a simple question: What is discipleship? Rooted in the Great Commission and Paul's call to "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ," join us as we practically define discipleship and how we can embrace it as the reason we lead.

EPISODE NOTES

Discipleship: The Reason We Lead

What if discipleship isn't another thing you need to add to your leadership, but the very reason you lead in the first place?

The people we lead are being shaped by how we lead; only we get to determine how they are being discipled. Are they becoming more like Christ and growing in their hunger for God? Or are they disengaged and easily discouraged?

At Next Level Church, **we exist to lead people to become fully engaged followers of Jesus.**

Matthew 28:19-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We have been commanded to "Go and make disciples." Jesus didn't just build followers; He built discipled leaders to carry the mission forward. This is how we continue to advance His Church and His Kingdom forward.

Yet, in the context of modern ministry, it can become easy for our leadership to subtly drift from what God originally intended. We can begin to confuse the tools of discipleship with discipleship itself, and the vision begins to drift from *why* we are doing what we are doing to only focusing on *what* we are doing.

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So, What Is Discipleship?

1 Corinthians 11:1

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

Very simply, discipleship is following Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and helping others do the same.

This, then, invites us to ask 3 simple questions as leaders:

- Whom am I following?
- Who is following me?
- Where am I leading them?

Whom am I following?

Discipleship begins with following Jesus. Paul understood that those he was leading needed to be led by example, and he had the confidence to be that example as he followed Christ. As leaders, we cannot confidently lead people where we have not led or been ourselves.

Following Jesus means...

- Taking up our cross and following Him (Matthew 16:24).
- Pursuing humility and purity of heart.
- Using our gifts and calling others on mission to use theirs.
- Choosing each day to walk closer to Jesus, not further away.

Who is following me?

Discipleship continues with influence. Paul had a clear understanding of his influence, and he leveraged that influence to disciple, or to lead people toward Christ. We have been entrusted by God to steward our influence with intentionality.

Where am I leading them?

Discipleship leads people toward greater health and a Kingdom Impact. Our leadership is not merely about what we say or what we teach, but about how we live and lead our everyday lives. Those we lead are watching how we...

- Manage our time and money.
- Lead and love our families.
- Handle pressure, feedback, and mistakes.
- Forgive rather than hold grudges.
- Pray and pursue Jesus.

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If someone followed me for the next 30 days, would they look more like Jesus because they followed my example?

The goal of discipleship isn't to create people who look like us; it's to lead people to look more like Jesus.

3 Simple Invitations

1. Get closer to Jesus.
2. Get closer to people.
3. Don't just teach; model.

DRIP THIS INTO YOUR LEADERSHIP

Take time this week to reflect on and pray through these questions.

1. **Who Am I Following?**
   - Who are you allowing to influence and shape you?
   - Who are you inviting in to know, love, and challenge you?
   - What is one aspect of Jesus's leadership you can imitate this week?

2. **Who Is Following Me?**
   - Who has God placed around you to intentionally invest in?
   - Who can you invite to not just hear what you say, but watch how you live?

3. **Where Am I Leading Them?**
   - Where are you leaning—toward doing over being, or being over doing?
   - If someone followed you for 30 days, would they look more like Jesus?