LEADERSHIP DRIP

Season 2, Episode 2 Leader Guide

Let's Talk About It!

Why Does Discipleship Matter?

Why does discipleship matter to the heart of our leadership?

Join the conversation as Pastors Charles Ross and Dan Stauffer discuss keeping discipleship at the core of our leadership when so much needs to get done.

EPISODE NOTES

The Great Commission is Our Ultimate Why

Life is a whole lot simpler when we're not leading, so what keeps us going when leadership gets hard?

Whether we lead on the job, at home, on a team, or in the church, we need a why that is bigger than the task in front of us. For every follower of Jesus, that why is the Great Commission.

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

Matthew 28:18-19

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations…"

Jesus received all authority, and then He entrusted it to everyone who follows Him. It is the ultimate entrustment, and one day each of us will give an account for what we did with it.

Yet in the modern-day church, our services, events, strategies, and tactics can crowd our focus. Vision leaks, and our leadership can subtly drift from *why* we are doing what we are doing to only focusing on *what* we are doing.

Our ultimate "why" is to lead others to be a disciple of Jesus.

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What is a Disciple?

Luke 9:23

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Have I drifted from discipleship as my focus?

Events are tools of discipleship, not the end goal. Pastor Dan spoke to Jesus and His disciples engaging in "big events" like the feeding of the 5,000. Yet, the crowd being fed was not the end goal. Jesus used it as an opportunity to impart something to His disciples.

Signs we've drifted from discipleship...

- Our teams are tired and unfocused.
- Serving feels like an obligation ("I have to") instead of an honor or privilege ("I get to").
- We can't point to life change or anyone taking a next step.
- The event has become the goal instead of a tool to lead people.

How do we know we're winning?

Celebrate life change. What gets celebrated gets repeated. At Next Level Church, our 5 Core Values give us clear definitions of the discipleship we wish to see grow within the lives of those we lead:

- Set Free to Be: We live in freedom by knowing who we are in Christ.
- Strive to Thrive: We passionately pursue our relationship with Jesus.
- Better Together: We are known, loved, and challenged through authentic relationships.
- Serve All, Love All: We use our gifts to serve others with the love of Jesus.
- Live to Give: We generously steward all we have been given.

What will it cost me?

To make disciples, we must become one. We can't lead someone to a place we're not going. Everything we build will disintegrate if our personal relationship with Jesus disintegrates. Making disciples costs us...

- A daily, personal pursuit of Jesus.
- Time invested in developing people, so we never lead alone.
- Challenging conversations, as we know, love, and challenge people.
- A willingness to be known, loved, and challenged ourselves.

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Am I making disciples, or am I just trying to check the box?

Pastor Dan described two young churches of similar size on the same Sunday. One team was discouraged and focused on shortcomings; the other team stopped to celebrate at every turn. When discipleship is at the core of our leadership, we see:

- Greater joy.
- Greater perseverance through challenges.
- A healthier, life-giving culture.
- Real life change.

DRIP THIS INTO YOUR LEADERSHIP

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

1. **Am I Following Jesus?**
    - Are you daily aware of the voice and conviction of the Holy Spirit?
    - What is God's Word challenging you to do to right now?
    - Who are you inviting in to know, love, and challenge you?

2. **Am I Leading with a Discipleship Why?**
    - What does God want to teach you and your team through your next event?
    - Whose life change can you celebrate with your team this week?

3. **Am I Willing to Pay the Cost?**
    - Who can you invest your time in, so you're not leading alone?
    - Where do you need to be more willing to be challenged and developed?