

**Disciple Making 101 - Introductory Announcement:**  
**(Overview of the whole Advanced Lay Servants course)**

November 19, 2016

Welcome to the adventure!

We're glad you accepted the invitation, as many have before us. The first invitation was extended by Jesus himself in Matthew 4:17-22:

*From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "**Come, follow me,**" Jesus said, "**and I will make you fishers of men.**" At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

There is a point in our journey toward spiritual maturity that we become concerned about what Jesus wants, and it becomes our desire to please him with our behavior. This flows out of a basic concept of the church: **Jesus is Lord**. We have a desire to repent, to turn toward Jesus Christ and away from all other directions, and then move toward him. As we focus on him in our desire to do what pleases him, we hear his calling: **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men**. We who once spread nets for fish will now be taught to spread nets for human beings. That is the call. The same call is extended to James and John, who are mending the nets; that mending is also a part of fishing.

**This is the basic call upon all Christians: follow Jesus and learn how to fish for people.**

This seminar on making disciples for Jesus Christ is in service of this calling. There are a variety of methods of fishing for people, and some are more effective than others. The church growth movement began when Donald McGavran, a missionary supervisor in India, "*lamented that so much activity was taking place in the name of evangelism but that very few disciples were being made.*" He began to study what was working. At that time there were few examples of success to study as the vast majority of his missionaries were ineffective at fishing for souls. Most of our efforts today are similarly ineffective. As missionaries repented of methods which did not work and humbled themselves to adopt methods that did work, the lost began coming to the table in greater numbers. The church of today needs to similarly and humbly repent. So do we as individual Christians. It's time to return to the most basic principles to learn how to fish for people.

What is the simplest system one can use to make disciples and mature them spiritually to the point where they can make their own disciples? A flood of new ideas and methods in evangelism has made us skeptical. The innovation that is needed in churches today is far more elementary yet entirely sufficient: **Jesus is Lord**. How can we overcome resistance to this innovation?

The goal of the course is to provide a specific method to fulfill both the Great Commission and ¶126 of the 2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church: "Every layperson is called to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20); every layperson is called to be missional." The course is designed so that lay servants can take the material back to their churches and teach it to others with the help of their pastor.

Let's begin!

David Kueker

*\*Reflection Question 1.01: What do you believe would be your reaction if you were on the beach that day to receive the invitation from Jesus to follow him? What problems would that solve for you? What problems would arise?*

*\*Reflection Question 1.02: Do you believe that "Jesus is Lord" is entirely sufficient as a means of making disciples? Why or why not?*

*\*Reflection Question 1.03: How would your life be different if "Jesus is Lord" was your central purpose?*

*\*Reflection Question 1.04: How would your church and the lives of other Christians around you be different if "Jesus is Lord" guided all their decisions and actions?*

*\*Reflection Question 1.05: What methods of "fishing for people" do you see taking place in your own church? In other churches? As you observe them in use, are they effective or ineffective in your opinion?*

### **Expectations for the Advanced Lay Servants Course:**

#### **1. Download the class materials.**

PDF - so you can print the pages for your own three ring notebook or five manila folders.

#### **2. Review the materials in this file prior to class and come prepared.**

- **Introductions for Modules 1-5:** Here are brief instructions for working with the information in each module and completing the worksheets.

- **Reflection Questions** are optional - for your understanding and for class discussion.

- **Class Reading Assignments:** This is the information that we will cover in class. Jot down some notes as these quotes may be discussed in class.

- **Class Worksheets and discussion questions:** be ready to share your opinion in detail on these items with the class or in your small group. You may be asked to hand these in to your instructor.

- **Homework:** these are written assignments to complete **PRIOR** to class. You may be asked to hand these in to your instructor for review. (#1.4 - My Neighborhood Map)

#### **3. Before and after class, feel free to email questions about the materials to me** at david (@

symbol) [disciplewalk.com](http://disciplewalk.com). (Please put DM101 in the message title so that I respond promptly.)

**4. Links to additional resources** will also be included in case you are curious.

**5. “Introduction to Module 1” etc.** I hope eventually to add instructions to help you teach portions of this material to others in your local church in the future.

David O. Kueker