

Biblical Foundations for Discipleship

This session will explore some biblical images and metaphors for discipleship that help to provide us with a strong framework for spiritual formation. Through unpacking this overview, we will consider how resilient disciples are formed and what foundations we need to build on in the discipleship of others.

Rick Hill is a speaker, leader and writer from Belfast in Northern Ireland. He works for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in the areas of discipleship and leadership and has recently published his first book, *Deep Roots of Resilient Disciples*. Rick also serves as an elder in Carnmoney Church and has recently been coordinating discipleship ministry there. Prior to this, Rick comes from a background in youth ministry with both Scripture Union and in a local church. Rick is married to Sarah, they have two young sons, and in his spare time, he enjoys running.

I. Discipleship Throughout the Bible

1. Optional or essential?
2. Christian or disciple?
 - A. What was Jesus doing?
 - a. “Covered in the dust”
 - b. Investing in a few
 - c. Matthew 28:18-20
 - B. Why did Jesus do this?
 - a. Genesis 1:26-27 (*tselem – eikon*)
 - b. Isaiah 42:6 (light to the gentiles)
 - c. John 8:12 (I am the light of the world)
 - d. Matthew 5:14 (You are the light of the world)
 - e. “to become like little Christs”, C. S. Lewis

II. Specific Biblical Images for Disciple-Making

A. Farmer

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Not a factory but a field

B. Parent (or Family)

1 Corinthians 4:14-17

1 Thessalonians 2:5-8

Up close and personal; not experts but examples

C. Apprentice

2 Timothy 2:2

1 Corinthians 11:1

Not just information but imitation

Suggested Readings:

[Deep Roots of Resilient Disciples, Rick Hill](#)

“The Great Omission” by Dallas Willard