

## **How Do We Live Like Jesus Commanded? Understanding the Biblical model of Discipleship**

Often within church life, we can become so focused on activities, meetings, and programmes that we can lose focus on the first calling and final command of Jesus to make disciples. As we emerge from a pandemic that has brought so much disruption to our normal rhythms and patterns, how can we ensure that the Great Commission doesn't become an omission from our lives? This seminar will focus on recovering the invitation and challenge of making disciples within the life of the church and how we can better reflect the models and methods of Jesus.

**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. What has been revealed?**

- Matthew 13:1-9
- The nominal, the shallow and the resilient
- The dye and the sparkle

### **II. How can we move forward?**

- From response mode to recovery mode
- From building the church to making disciples
- From the Trellis to the Vine

*“Structures don't grow ministry any more than trellises grow vines. Most churches need to make a conscious shift away from erecting and maintaining structures and towards growing people who are disciple-making disciples of Christ.”*  
Col Marshall & Tony Payne

### **III. Key Shifts**

#### **A. From Optional to Essential**

1. Not ABC but DEF
2. First invitation and final command

#### **B. From Crowds & Content to Connection & Community**

1. 1-3-12-72-5000

2. *“One must decide where he wants his life to count – in the momentary applause of popular recognition or in the reproduction of his life in a few people who will carry on his work after he has gone. It’s a question of which generation we are living for.”* Robert Coleman

C. From Distance to Proximity

1. Parenting language: 1 Thessalonians 2:5-8, 1 Corinthians 4:14-17
2. Living Example: Not just telling but training and showing

D. From Accidental to Intentional

1. Mark 3:13-15
2. *“They were constantly being sent out from their warm fellowship with Jesus to do specific tasks, always things that Jesus did himself. It was very intentional. There was a conscious commitment to pushing them beyond their comfort zones.”* Graham Tomlin
3. The need for intentionality in a world of formation

E. From Pew to Participation

1. Luke 9 & 10
2. Ephesians 4:11-12
3. Everyone gets to play
4. Whole-life dimension