

Keeping It Real: Handling Discipleship Discouragements With Hope ELF 2024



Facing the Desert

What things do you find most difficult in your discipling ministry?



- I Samuel 30:1-6
- I Corinthians 16:9
- II Corinthians 1:8-11

Remembering the Call



The Call to BE Disciples Comes Before the Call to MAKE Disciples

- Mark 1:16-20
- Mark 2:13-17
- Mark 3:13-15
- Mark 10:28-31

Remembering the Call



“The process of becoming disciples of Jesus is a slow and painful one for the Twelve...One does not become a mature disciple in year one.” (Garland)

- Mark 8:14-21; 9:34; 10:35-41; 14:37-38, 50

Let's Talk

How do these texts in Mark encourage you as a Disciple-Making Leader?



Finding Hope: Six Reminders

1. Discipleship is ultimately GOD'S work, not ours.
2. The power of discipleship is not in our words or efforts or in our amazing curriculum; it is in God's Word, empowered by the Spirit of God.
3. We are indeed accountable to God for our plans, our efforts, our words, and our actions, AND those we disciple are also accountable for their response in faith & obedience.

Finding Hope: Six Reminders

4. Discipleship is always “messy” because people are messy. We forget things. We are far from perfect ourselves.
5. Anytime discipleship “works,” it is because God is faithful, not because we are so amazing. Gospel work is God’s work.
6. Always, always, always...fix your hope on God Himself. Do not use your discipleship outcomes as the measure of your “success” or as an indication of “failure.”

Let's Talk

How have “discipleship failures” impacted you?

How have you handled the disappointments?

How do these six reminders bring needed perspective?



Conclusion & Prayer



- A personal story: wrestling with unexpected disappointment...
- Any Questions?
- Small Group prayer based on Romans 15:13