

Creating a Discipleship Culture in Your Church Plant

Too often we assume we need to ‘do’ discipleship by creating a programme or putting on a course. But discipleship in the New Testament took place in the context of shared life. How can we create a discipleship culture in which the gospel is shaping people’s lives and we are speaking the truth to one another in love? How can we integrate disciple-making with the other rhythms of church life?

Tim Chester is the Associate Director of Porterbrook Seminary, an affordable Bible college-level programme that integrates theological training with involvement in ministry. Tim also pastors The Crowded House in Sheffield, UK, and speaks at conferences around the world. He was previously Research and Policy Director for Tearfund and tutor in missiology at Cliff College. Tim is the author of a number of books including *The Message of Prayer*, *Good News to the Poor*, *Delighting in the Trinity*, *The Busy Christian's Guide to Busyness*, and *You Can Change*. He is co-author of *Total Church*, *Everyday Church*, *Gospel-Centred Church*, *Gospel-Centred Life*, *Gospel-Centred Family* and *The World We All Want* and the primary author of much of the Porterbrook curriculum. He is married and has two daughters.

Jonny Woodrow is the Associate Director of the Porterbrook network. Through the online Porterbrook Learning curriculum and the leadership development program, Porterbrook Seminary, the network trains congregations and leaders for planting and growing gospel centred churches. Jonny planted and leads a congregation of The Crowded House (TCH) in the Midlands in the UK. TCH is a missional church planting initiative, reaching people of other faiths, and difficult to reach communities. Before turning to planting, pastoring and training leaders, Jonny lectured in Psychology at Loughborough University. He is co-author of *Ascension: Humanity in the Presence of God*. He is married to Ruth and they have four children.

I. Five discipleship principles

A. We disciple one another every day

B. We disciple one another in community

C. We disciple one another over a lifetime

D. We disciple one another with grace

E. We disciple one another with the good news

II. Four liberating truths

A. God is great – so we do not have to be in control

B. God is glorious – so we do not have to fear others

C. God is good – so we do not have to look elsewhere

D. God is gracious – so we do not have to prove ourselves

Suggested Reading:

Tim Chester and Steve Timmis, *Everyday Church: Mission By Being Good Neighbours* (IVP, 2011)

Tim Chester, *You Can Change: God's Transforming Power For Our Sinful Behaviour and Negative Emotions* (IVP/Crossway, 2008/2010)