# The Discipline of Love

SUNGAI WAY - SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

1975 - 2017

SSMC MISSIONS WEEK 2017

19-21 MAY

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# Introduction

- Give some examples of what discipline helps to achieve.

# Key Verse

….train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

1 Timothy 4:7b-8

# Key Verse Discovery Questions

- **How do people train to be godly?**

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- How do people train to be godly?
- What other words are associated with training?
- **Is discipline necessary for growth?**

# Supporting Verses / Discovery Questions

1. **Does God want His children to be like Christ?**

- Romans 8:29

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- Romans 8:29 - He predestined us to be conformed to the likeness of His Son

# Supporting Verses / Discovery Questions

**2. What is our role in being conformed?**

- Phil. 2:12b
- II Tim 4:2
- John 15:4-5

# Supporting Verses / Discovery Questions

## 2. What is our role in being conformed?

- **Phil. 2:12b - Work out your own salvation**
- II Tim 4:2
- John 15:4-5

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- Phil. 2:12b - Work out your own salvation
- II Tim 4:2 – In season and out of season
- **John 15:4-5 – Remain/abide in Christ**

# Supporting Verses / Discovery Questions

**3. What is <u>God's</u> role in our being conformed?**

- Phil 2:13
- Eph 3:20

# Supporting Verses / Discovery Questions

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- **Phil 2:13 - God works in us to will and act**
- Eph 3:20

# Supporting Verses / Discovery Questions

3. What is God's role in our being like Christ?

- Phil 2:13 - God works in us to will and act
- **Eph 3:20 – Immeasurably more - according to His power**

# What does it mean to be created in God's image?

## Gen 1:27

# Discovery Questions

- **Ability to create**

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- Ability to create
- **Ability to use words**

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- **Purposeful relationships**

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- **Moral choice**

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- Moral choice

# Supporting Verses / Discovery Questions

**4. What aspect of God's image does He most want reflected in us?**

- Phil 2:5-8
- Matt 20:28
- Rom 15:8-9

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- **Phil 2:5-8 - Our attitude should be the same**
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- **Matt 20:28 – Not to be served, but to serve**
- Rom 15:8-9

# Supporting Verses / Discovery Questions

4. What aspect of God's image does He most want reflected in us?

- Phil 2:5-8 - Our attitude should be the same
- Matt 20:28 – Not to be served, but to serve
- **Rom 15:8-9 – Christ has become a servant**

# Supporting Verses / Discovery Questions

**5. What is the relationship between service and love?**

- **1 John 3:16-18**

# Supporting Verses / Discovery Questions

**5. What is the relationship between service and love?**

- **1 John 3:16-18 - Let us not love with words…but with actions**

# Key Ideas

- **Discipline is necessary for growth**

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- **Servanthood is the highest reflection of the image of God**

# Key Ideas

- Discipline is necessary for growth
- Discipline requires exercise of our will
  – even when we don't feel like it
- Spiritual discipline requires the indwelling of God's Spirit
- Servanthood is the highest reflection of the image of God
- **Christian love is demonstrated through service**

# Reinforcement

1. **Name Christians from history or the present who reflect Christ-like servanthood.**

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2. How did they express it?

3. **Did/do they have an impact on their culture? How?**

# Reinforcement

4. What is the connection between servanthood and the coming of the Kingdom of God?

# Application – The Discipline of Love/Service Matrix

| Category → / Level ↓ | Wisdom | Physical | Spiritual | Social |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Family | | | | |
| Church | | | | |
| Community<br>Your World or a Culturally Different World | | | | |

# Application – Sample

| Category → / Level ↓ | Wisdom | Physical | Spiritual | Social |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Family | 1. Discuss how to apply Proverb during family devotions | 2. Wash dishes after evening meal three times this week | 3. Ask different child to lead family prayer each day this week | 4. Go with my spouse on a date without the children |

# Application – Sample

| Category → / Level ↓ | Wisdom | Physical | Spiritual | Social |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Church | 5. Help youth ministry learn better ways to serve | 6. Volunteer to help in the church office this weekend | 7. Spend 15 min. a day this week to pray for our pastor & elders | 8. Take a child of one of our single parents on an outing |

# Application – Sample

| Category → / Level ↓ | Wisdom | Physical | Spiritual | Social |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| COMMUNITY | 9. Visit with a local leader to learn about our community needs and ask how I can help | 10. Pick up trash on the street each day this week as I walk | 11. Ask my neighbor what needs they have for which I can pray and then intercede | 12. Go to a culturally different place and play soccer with neighbor-hood kids |

# In the following weeks:

A. Do 1 - 4 <u>Disciplines of Love</u> per week until you complete one discipline in each of the 12 levels and categories.

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B. **Meet weekly with a group to share, help, encourage, and pray for each other.**

# Small Group Schedule

| **Existing** | **Existing** | | **New** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fellowship/Food | 30 min | 33% | 20 min | 22% |
| Worship | 10 min | 11% | 10 min | 11% |
| Study | 40 min | 44% | 15 min | 17% |
| Prayer | 10 min | 11% | 10 min | 11% |
| | | **100%** | | **61% (60)** |
| **New** | | | | |
| Accountability | | | 20 min | 22% |
| Planning | | | 15 min | 17% |
| | | | | **39% (40)** |

# The Plan

**Entry No:** *1* **Date:** *July 5*

**Category/Level:** *Family - Wisdom*

**1. What is the need and what will I do?**

*I need to lead my family in regular devotions. I will begin Monday with a devotion on a verse in Proverbs.*

**2. With or for who?** *My family*

**3. When?** *Monday*

**4. Where?** *At home at dinner*

# The Journal

**Entry No:** *1* **Date:** *July 5*

**Category/Level:** *Family - Wisdom*

**1. What was the need that you met?**

*The need for daily family devotions*

**2. How did you meet the need?**

*Read and discussed Psalm 119:100 at dinner*

**3. What did God teach you from this D of L?**

*I need to lead the spiritual growth of my family*

# Application – The Discipline of Love Matrix

| Category → / Level ↓ | Wisdom | Physical | Spiritual | Social |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Family** | *July 5* *Discussed Ps. 119:100 with my kids* | *July 7* *Washed dinner dishes* | *July 9* *Prayed 10 minutes for each child* | |
| **Church** | | | | |
| **Community** Your World or a Culturally Different World | | | | |

# Application – Commitment

- Plan your first Discipline of Love
  - New
  - Specific: What; With Who; Where; When
- Share
- Pray

# Essential Follow Through

Meet weekly for

- **Accountability**
- **Help and encouragement**
- **Prayer support**

# For More Information

**Links on:** www.harvestfoundation.org

**Stories**

**Discipline of Love**

**Matrix**

**Journals**

# The Discipline of Love Review

- Why is discipline necessary for growth?
- Why do we need discipline even when we don't feel like being obedient?
- What is our part in becoming like Christ?
- What is God's part in our becoming like Christ?
- What is the highest reflection of the image of God in man?
- How is love demonstrated?