

# Belonging, Believing, Becoming

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November 15, 2020

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Luke 10:1, Matthew 10:1, Mark 5:37

Introduction: What would happen to most churches in America today if people could meet only in houses, not publicly?

I. Jesus calls us to “make disciples.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

- Does discipleship = Sunday morning attendance?
- What does a devoted disciple look like in the future?

II. Jesus calls pastors to “equip God’s people.” (Ephesians 4:12)

- NOT: “We do church and you watch.”
- INSTEAD: “We equip you to do church where you are.”

III. Where did Jesus make disciples?

IV. Where did the Apostles make disciples?

V. What are the relational spaces we seek to ‘belong’ in?

Conclusion: “Crisis precedes renewal.”

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## **'Connecting' Questions:**

- 1) Randy Frazee said: "The development of meaningful relationships where every member carries a significant sense of belonging is central to what it means to be a church." Discuss why a "significant sense of belonging" is so important to your experience of church.
- 2) Have you experienced a "significant sense of belonging" in any of the churches you have attended? What were the factors that fostered your sense of belonging?

## **'Applying the Word' Questions:**

- 1) Dan opened with the question: "What would happen to most churches in America today if people could meet only in houses, not publicly?" Discuss what you think would happen. What does that reveal about the church in America today?
- 2) Read Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) together. Discuss how our church's worship services and other Sunday morning activities contribute to the fulfillment of the Great Commission. If we could not worship together on Sunday mornings, where and how could we devote ourselves to discipleship?
- 3) Read Ephesians 4:11-16 together. Discuss how our church's worship services and other Sunday morning activities equip us for the work of ministry. Discuss how this "equipping" ministry could be done more outside the walls of the church.
- 4) Discuss the comparison Dan made to between the four relational environments where Jesus made disciples (the crowds, the 70, the 12, the 3) and what we can experience in our church involvement (congregation, large groups, small groups, quads/triads). Which of these relational environments has been most conducive to your spiritual growth? Why?
- 5) Discuss Dan's closing point that Covid-19 could be a crisis that precedes renewal. How could it lead to a renewal of how we worship? How could it lead to a renewal of how the church equips us? How could it lead to a renewal of devotion to discipleship?