

Sermon-Series Launch Kit

Five sermon outlines to introduce discipleship to a congregation before launching groups

Groups launch best when the congregation has already heard the vision from the pulpit. Preach these five weeks, then hold a sign-up Sunday. Pair this kit with the Church Leaders Guide, available at essentialcall.net.

Timeline

8 weeks before	Form a pilot triad of future leaders. Walk them through the First-Meeting Kit, Socratic Leader's Card, and Discippler's Guide.
4 weeks before	Order books and print the Four Questions Worksheet and covenant sheets.
Weeks 1–5	Preach the series below. Mention the coming groups every week.
Week 6	Sign-up Sunday: collect commitment cards and form groups.
Weeks 7–8	First meetings. Leaders follow up with anyone who signed up but wasn't placed.

Week 1: Disciples, Not Converts

Text	Matthew 28:16-20
Big idea	Christ gave one command, "make disciples." Going, baptizing, and teaching describe how it is done.
Outline	1. The authority behind the mission (v. 18) 2. The assignment: one imperative, three participles (vv. 19-20a) 3. The assurance: "I am with you always" (v. 20b)
From the book	Ch. 1: "Christian" appears 3 times in the New Testament; "disciple" more than 260 times in the Gospels and Acts.
Response	Am I a convert or a disciple? Introduce the coming groups.

Week 2: Count the Cost

Text	Luke 14:25-33
Big idea	Jesus thinned an eager crowd. He wants disciples who follow with open eyes and total allegiance.
Outline	1. The demand: love Him above all and carry the cross (vv. 25-27) 2. The deliberation: the builder and the king (vv. 28-32) 3. The decision: renounce all (v. 33)
From the book	Ch. 2: "hate" as a Semitic idiom of priority (compare Matthew 10:37).
Response	Hand out the Four Questions Worksheet; ask people to complete Question 1 this week.

Week 3: Abide

Text	John 15:1-11
Big idea	Fruit is the evidence of abiding, not the product of effort.
Outline	1. The Vine and the Vinedresser (vv. 1-3) 2. What abiding means: the ordinary means of grace (vv. 4-7) 3. Fruit that proves we are His disciples (vv. 8-11)
From the book	Chs. 2 and 7: "A grapevine does not strain to produce grapes."
Response	Worksheet Question 2: abiding or performing?

Week 4: That They Might Be With Him

Text	Mark 3:13-15; 4:33-34
Big idea	Jesus formed disciples by presence and by question, in small rooms, not only from the hillside.
Outline	1. Called to be with Him before being sent (3:14) 2. Taught privately: "he explained everything" (4:34) 3. Sent out to do the same (3:14-15)
From the book	Ch. 6: the trades still train apprentices beside a master; Ch. 8: monologue for crowds, dialogue for disciples.
Response	What would it take for you to sit in a small room with two other believers every week?

Week 5: Faithful Men Who Teach Others

Text	2 Timothy 2:1-7
Big idea	Discipleship multiplies. What we have received is meant to be passed on.
Outline	1. Strengthened by grace (v. 1) 2. Entrusted: four generations in one verse (v. 2) 3. Enduring like a soldier, athlete, and farmer (vv. 3-7)
From the book	Ch. 10: the machinist, the teacher, and the graduate, eighteen months later.
Response	Worksheet Question 3: Who is my Paul? Who is my Timothy? Next week is sign-up Sunday.

Sign-Up Sunday: Commitment Card

Print and cut four to a page, or put it in the bulletin.

The Essential Call: My Next Step

Name: _____ Phone/Email: _____

- ☐ I want to be discipled in a small group or triad.
- ☐ I am willing to disciple someone.
- ☐ I would like help starting family worship at home.
- ☐ I have questions. Please contact me.

Best days/times to meet: _____

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