

**Sermon:** Making Disciples in Difficult Times  
**Series:** *Turning the World Upside Down*

**Scripture:** 1 Thess. 2:1-12  
**Date:** August 9, 2020

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1) What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) Read Romans 1:16 and 1 Thess. 1:5. What does it mean that the gospel of God is the power of God?

b) According to 1 Thess. 2:12 what is the goal of disciple making? Why must God's glory be our ultimate motivation for disciple making? (Think: how would any other motivation be unable to sustain you?)

**2) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?**

a) 2:7. Paul calls himself gentle (literally "child-like") and he compares himself to a mother. How is disciple making like being both a child and a parent at the same time?

b) Disciple making requires both intimacy (1 Thess. 2:7-8) and impact (2:11-12). We must share the gospel and our own lives (2:8). Do you tend to thrive more on gospel sharing or life sharing? Does your small group balance out gospel sharing and life sharing? How can you trust God to help you grow in either/both of these areas?

**3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) How does the gospel empower us to make disciples? (Think: how does it overcome our fear, apathy, and pride?). What happens when we try to make disciples from our own power?

**APPLICATION**

a) What disciple making opportunities has this difficult time we are living in opened up for you? What step toward disciple making might you take this week?

b) 2:8. Paul calls his disciples "very dear to us." Is there someone dear to you that you could disciple?

**PRAYER**

Thank God for those who have disciplined you over the years.

Confess the sin of omission – failure to go and make disciples.

Ask God to move you into disciple making friendships/relationships.