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*Designed to keep the word of God fresh in our hearts and minds, please enjoy the following summary of the 10:45am service on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2021. If you would like to listen to the full sermon visit [stnics.org/talks](https://stnics.org/talks) or search 'St Nic's Nottingham' on Spotify.*

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## Theme: Making disciples

Speaker: Frances Finn

Continuing the 'Refreshing the vision' sermon series, our main readings were:

**2 Timothy 2:1-10**

**1 Corinthians 4:14-17**

The simple truth over each one of us: "Jesus is passionate about you". God has chosen us as His treasured possession. He has filled us with everything we need by the power of the Holy Spirit to change the world. He has put very special gifts within us and He is delighted when we express and share them.

*"Our Lord's conception of discipleship is not that we work for God, but that God works through us."*  
— Oswald Chambers

The apprenticeship we see take place between Paul and Timothy is one of the Bible's examples of discipleship.

### 4 Key Principles of Making Disciples

1. You have to see it to be it

**1 Corinthians 4:16-17**

*"Talking about God like it's normal" - Kadeena Cox*

How visible is your faith? - do we speak about our church and faith experiences in everyday life?

*"You teach what you know, but you reproduce what you are."*  
— Howard G. Hendricks

2. Grow as you go

Invite others to take part in what you are doing, especially if you are leading something. We learn by doing and inviting others can help their gifts grow and learning from others can help us grow our gifts. The more you do it the better you get at it - simply ask if you can tag along! Personally, when I feel shy to just ask I'll find someone I know to help me start the conversation!

**Christianity is not an ideology** - Jesus gave us a *practical faith* which involves feeding the poor, forgiving others and practicing faith. Growing as you go is a discipline in obedience. Faith is practical and requires doing and obedience.

### 3. Risk brings reward

Sometimes growing isn't easy but risk brings reward. Risk means expanding our comfort zone in faith. When we're comfortable we're often not growing. Following Jesus isn't easy. Effort and obedience are required (**2 Timothy 2:3-6**). We are not required to get it right every time, but there are rewards for obedience. I can't help but think of **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**.

### 4. It's a family business

#### **1 Corinthians 4:14-15**

Making disciples is a love thing. There is no hierarchy, it's about loving each other and sharing with each other. Be inclusive - have a chat on the playground, in the office, at the park and invite people to grow in Christ. Invite others in enthusiastically and with love.

We disciple openly, and as a family. Doing family together looks like enjoying the love within our different communities at St. Nic's, inviting others to meals, and sharing in the love and joy of God.

Finally, Jesus Christ gave us His Holy Spirit and it is the Holy Spirit who builds disciples, He does the heavy lifting and we get to embrace the joy of letting the Holy Spirit help us grow in love with God and others. The Holy Spirit wants our gifts to flourish in the lives of others.

***N.B. Following any of the services, if you would like to share a personal reflection, encouragement or any way God is moving in your life in relation to the sermon, please get in touch with [realeboga@stnics.org](mailto:realeboga@stnics.org)!***