

## Discipleship Talk – 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024

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### Slide 1 Title

Welcome

### Slide 2 – Introduction

#### **Three strands**

The first of those is Missional Communities

The second area is children's and families

The third area is discipleship

I want to split this into two parts.

**First**, briefly look at what discipleship is.

**Second**, look at what we are doing at St Mary's

### Slide 3

#### Part 1: What is discipleship?

#### 1 Difference between being a Christian and a Disciple.

But Jesus calls us to be more than just believers.

We are called to give our whole life to Him and put our complete faith in Him

### Slide 4

#### 2 So what does this passage teach us about being a disciple?

##### A. Listen, hear, and respond.

- Listen out for Jesus's voice,
- Hear what He has to say,
- Respond to what He is calling us to do.

Peter Walks on water

- Disciples fear a ghost
- They cry out
- Jesus responds "It is I"
- Peter responds – 'if its you call me out on the water'
- Jesus says 'come'

Peter then does an amazing thing.

He walks on water. Because of the faith he has in Jesus.

Peter struggles – his faith wains

- Jesus is there to save him

Key point here:

- But if we do not hear what Jesus says and if we do not listen and then respond,
- we will never be water walkers we will never do amazing things for Him.

## **Slide 5**

### **B The difficulty of faith**

#### **Slides 6 - 10**

The difficulty of faith

1. **Clinging to the mast in fear.** Slide 6
2. **Reads the manual.** Slide 7
3. **Toe in the water.** Slide 8
4. **Holding on the side.** Slide 9
5. **Do you walk on water.** Slide 10

We have all been there

But, if you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat.

## **Slide 11**

### **C To be a disciple means we must change**

This is a life long journey

Promises made at our baptism are only the beginning

We are called not just to be believers but to be Christlike.

We need to take action and change

Or we will stay still, not grow, or even your faith may even die

## **Slide 12**

### **D Cost of being a disciple**

This is where many people fail.

Because after they have heard the call,

they realise that to follow Jesus and do what they have been called to do is hard.

It means giving up:

- views
- attitudes
- change of friendships that are not good
- work
- affects family
- leisure time

## **Slide 13**

Rich Young Ruler Mark 10: 17-22

- The cost of giving up his wealth

#### **Slide 14**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24

It’s about putting Jesus first. – That’s what being a disciple is about.

**END OF PART 1**

## **Slide 15**

### **Part 2: Our response at St Mary's**

## **Slide 16**

### **1 What does discipleship look like?**

- a. Worship
- b. Personal bible study
- c. Life Groups
- d. Pastoral
- e. Courses
- f. Stewardship
- g. Formation

## **Slide 17**

### **2 How can we do this?**

A - Willow Creek 2005

– found that one of the keys is spiritual growth

Because if you don't start to grow or keep growing, you could stall and your faith could even die.

## **Slide 18**

### **B How can we do this here?**

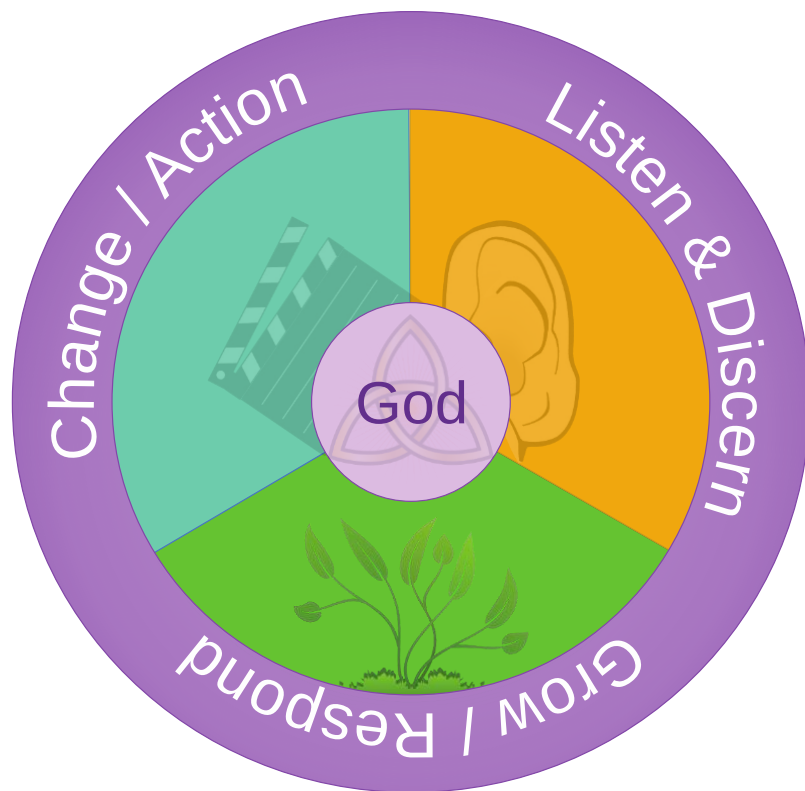
Like the athlete or sportsperson, we need to keep going back over the basics

Form the habit, so we can grow

## Slide 19

Simple discipleship model

1. **First, Listen and discern**
2. **Second, respond and grow**
3. **Third, we need to put things into action**



## Slide 20

### C Listen and Discern

The first thing is to Listen and Discern.

St Benedict, the 6th Century monk, says this

*'Listen with the ear of your heart.'*

Not just head, but the heart

## Slide 21

### 1. Take time out - be still

- Jesus took time out to be with God.
  - Jesus knew He needed to take time out to speak with God.
- Rowan Williams, 'Being Disciples'
  - **Self awareness**
    - Stand back (p.78) give yourself room to breathe.
    - So you can become more self aware of what is going on so you can develop a sense of freedom from life that tries to hem you in.
    - Be still enough to allow God to speak your name (Isaiah 43.1), praying so that we can hear God
    - [That takes discipline. We need to be strict about this otherwise we never will]
  - **Stillness**
    - (Psalm 46.10) be still and know that I am God
    - Still body and mind and heart. P.79
    - Then we can become more aware of God's voice.
  - **Silence**

Blaise Pascal (1623–1662) said, *“All of humanity’s problems stem from man’s [a persons] inability to sit quietly in a room alone.”*

### 2. Work out your time.

### 3. Discern your skills and Gifts

### 4. Get Help

## Slide 22

### Discipleship Leaflet

21<sup>st</sup> Feb – discover sessions



Pray