



SHIFT | From Dabbling to Discipleship | Week 1 | Sept 7 & 8

John 10:10; Matthew 7:24-29; 13:44-46; Luke 14:25-33

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Opening: Pastor Dan Meyer makes this statement when talking about our need to “SHIFT” our focus in life, “Because God made us, God understands the essential shifts human beings need to make in order to live into life’s full potential. Do we? What are those transitions? How do we go about making them?” This provocative series will center on the Parables of Jesus and reveal the crucial changes that lead to a greater life.

Setting: Read John 10:10.

- How do you describe “abundant life”? Share what comes up for you when you consider those words.
- Would you describe your life right now as living abundantly in the terms Jesus is using? Why or why not?

The “SHIFT”: Pastor Dan reminds us “You purposefully SHIFT your time and energy from trivial pursuits to transforming ones.” It does not happen without a purposeful decision.

- When you think of your life, what shifts have you made that made you better? Share your experience.
- Now share or journal with a focus on areas in your life where you might need to shift to obtain the results, lifestyle or attitude you want. What tends to hold you back from making the shift?

Dabbling vs. Discipleship: How would you define “dabbling”? Pastor Dan said, “Don’t let things stay the way they are today. Move from dithering to devoting yourself, from dabbling to discipleship, and you will find your greater potential.”

- How do you respond to this statement? What words stand out to you? Why?
- Journal or share where this difference has been clear to you in yourself or in someone else. What did you (or they) do? What was the result?
- Have you ever considered this idea of “dabbling” applying to forgiveness, intimacy, generosity, the abundant life, etc? What comes to mind when you hear that?

Discipleship V.I.M.: Pastor Dan quotes Dallas Willard, “A disciple is someone who catches a VISION of something better, develops an INTENTION to pursue that vision, and exercises the MEANS necessary to achieving it. People who pursue VIM with vigor grow to their full potential.”

- Journal or share what these three words mean to you. Try to describe them in terms of your relationship with Jesus in the everyday moments of your life.



VISION: Read Matthew 13:44-46. Pastor Dan introduces Vision with this scripture and says, “Open your eyes. Catch a vision for what is valuable (like a treasure), beautiful (like a pearl), important (like relationships). Don’t just drift or stumble through life; set your sights on the great things God has given you or wants for you.”

- Do you drift past great things that God has given you? How did it happen?
- How can we develop and use better “vision” in our lives?
- How does this passage address your “vision”, how you see things?
- What is your vision right now for your life with Jesus?

INTENTION: Read Luke 14:25-33. Once we have a VISION we develop an INTENTION to pursue it. Pastor Dan says, “It requires an intentional commitment that will involve paying some costs.”

- Where have you made a commitment to change in the past? Was it easy? What was the personal cost? Journal or share the story centering on your intention, your “change goal”.
- What are you willing to sacrifice, pay, change to achieve the vision for your life with Jesus?

MEANS: Read Matthew 7:24-29. Pastor Dan emphasizes in this passage “everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice”. We see something new—vision. We intend to pursue changes—intention. Then we can put that change into practice with action—means.

- Describe an example of these three aspects as a group. Try to make the words “live” in a common life example.
- Then, journal or share how you might use V.I.M. in the near future to live into the life you desire to have with Jesus.

Practice of the Week: Intentionally live out Pastor Dan’s closing challenge, “Pick one of the historic means of growing as a disciple of Jesus and truly commit to it for these next three months.”

- Come worship with your church family every week you are in town.
- Join a Christian small group or a midweek Bible study. (Need help? Let us know: christchurch.us/smallgroups.)
- Start using a Christian devotional daily. (Want recommendations? Contact Pastor Eric Haskins: ehaskins@christchurch.us.)
- Serve on one of the ministry teams that make this church go. (We can help you get started: ChristChurch.us/bestfit.)

Additional Resources happening THIS MONTH that can help towards a V.I.M. way of life:

- Slowing to Hear Spiritual Retreat: ChristChurch.us/slowng
- Soul Training 101: ChristChurch.us/soultraining101