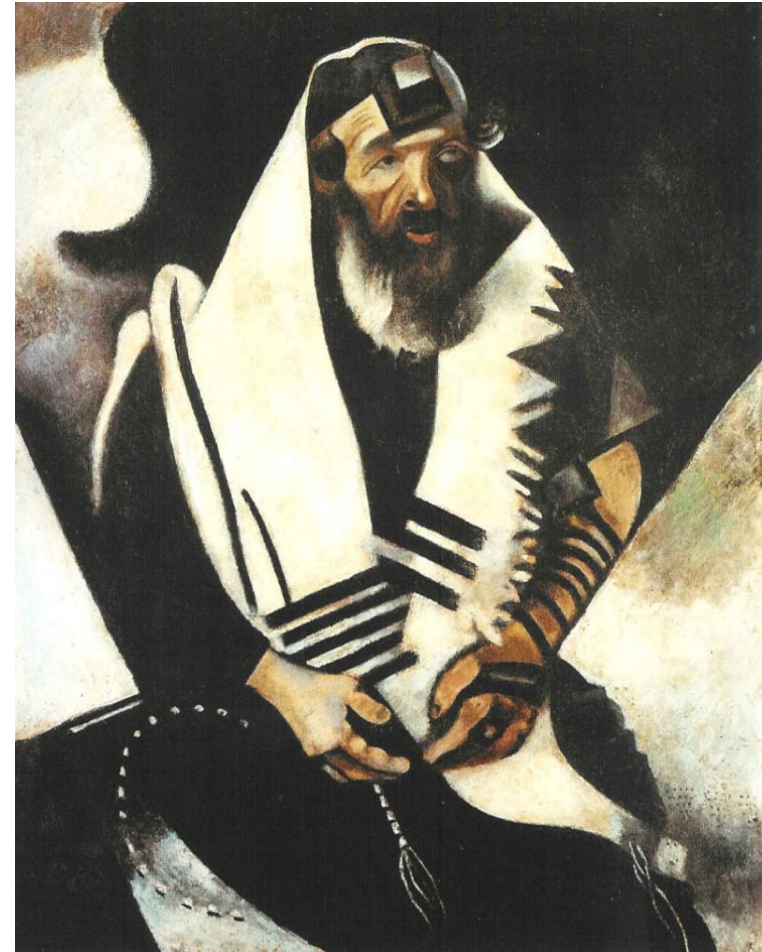


Discipleship – A Messianic Jewish Perspective

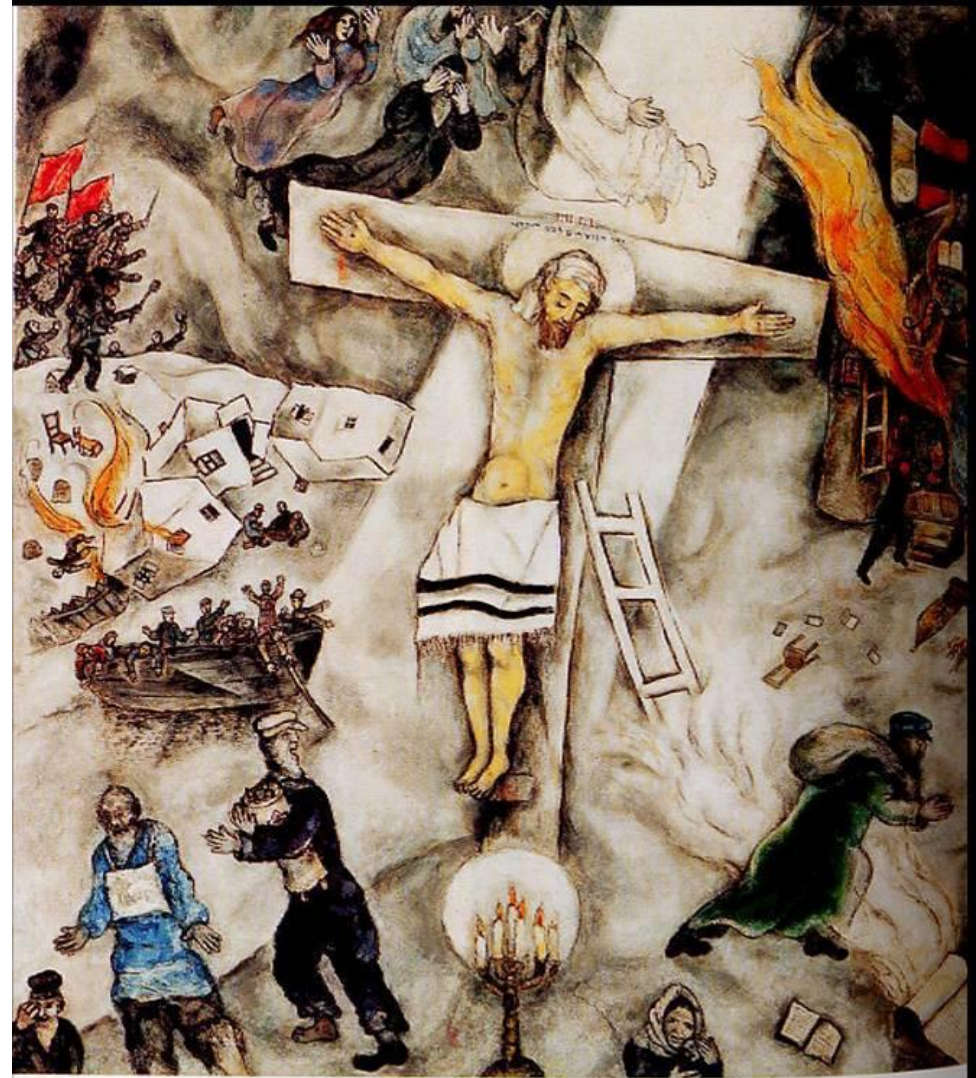
Richard Harvey

Thesis

Discipleship is the lifelong process of following Rabbi Yeshua, learning his ways, becoming like him, and helping others do the same. Messianic Jewish discipleship offers Finnish Christians a perspective rooted in the Jewish world of Jesus and the apostles, while speaking directly to contemporary Finnish concerns about community, meaning, identity, and mission.



Being a Disciple of Rabbi Yeshua





STORY OF GOD

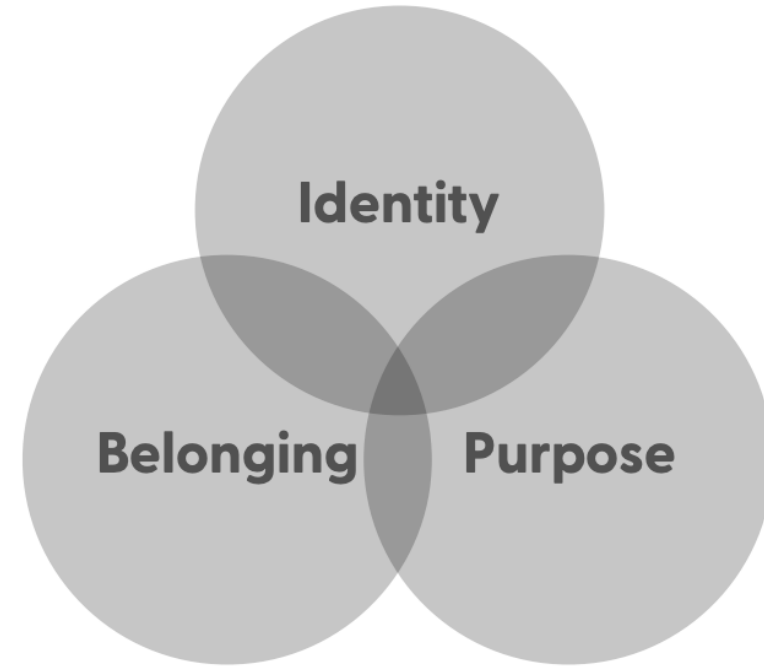
Mission as Overlapping Stories

**Meet people where they are,
overlapping your story
and my story
within God's story**





**QUESTIONS
BEGGING
FOR BETTER
ANSWERS**



Big Question	Focus	Description
Who am I?	Identity	Our view of ourselves
Where do I fit?	Belonging	Our connection with others
What difference can I make?	Purpose	Our contribution to the world

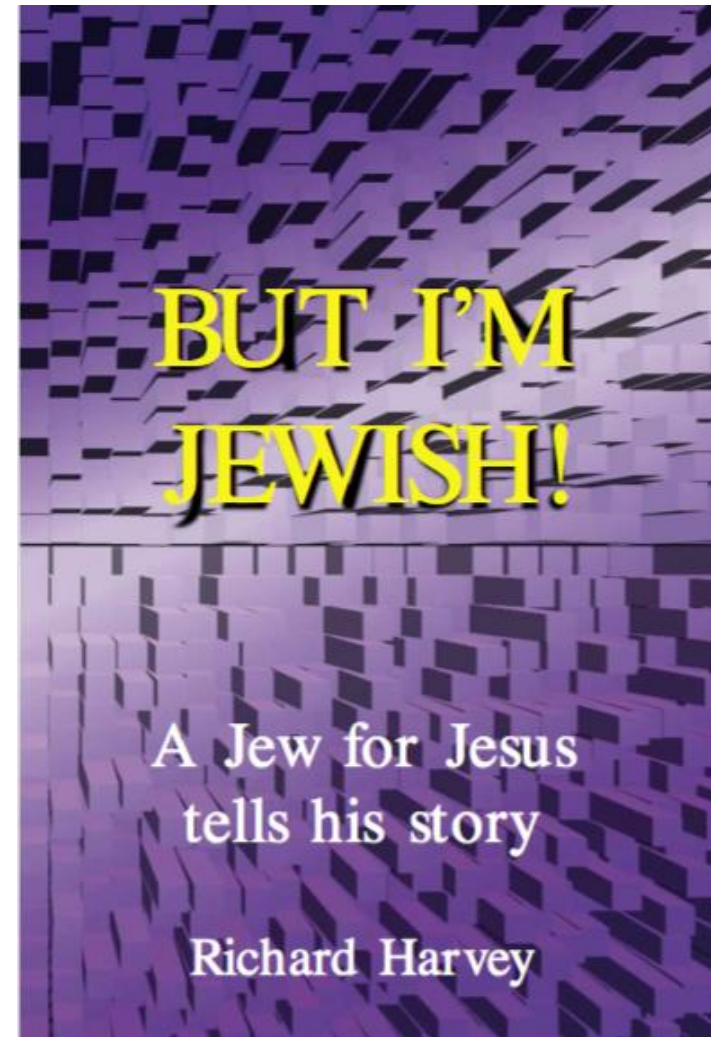
Outline

- What does it mean for a Jewish people to be disciples of the Messiah Yeshua
- What does this mean for us and others today?
 - 1. To think theologically
 - 2. To grow spiritually
 - 3. To develop personally
- How do we do this?
 - Yeshua is our Rabbi
 - In communities
 - With self-understanding



My path of discipleship

- German-Jewish family (Hirschland)
- Liberal (Reform) Synagogue in London
- Became a disciple of Yeshua (1974)
- London Messianic Congregation (1979-97)
- All Nations Christian College (1997-2012)
- Messianic Jewish Theology



What is Messianic Judaism?

- A Jewish form of Christianity
- A Christian form of Judaism
- 150,000 worldwide of 14m Jewish people
- 300 Messianic Congregations
- Jewish identity, faith and practice in light of Messiah



Messianic Jewish Life

- Sabbath and Festivals
- Life-cycle
 - Bris
 - Bar Mitzvah
 - Betrothal
 - Burial
- Home life
- Synagogue
- Israel and Jewish identity



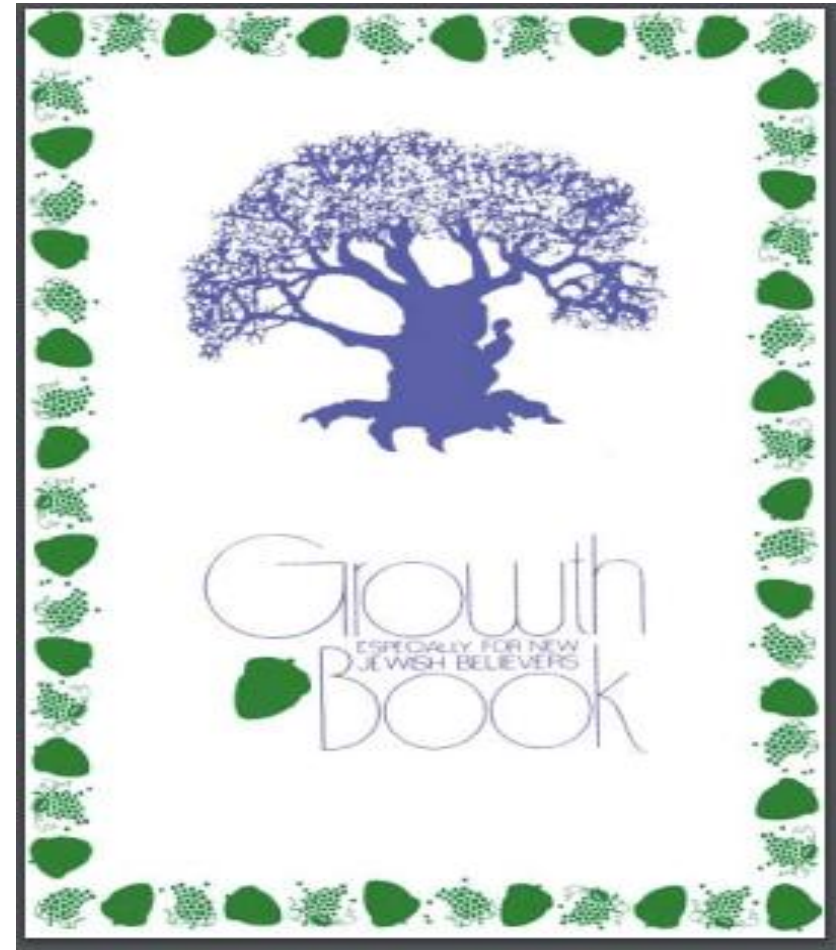
What is Messianic Jewish Discipleship?

The process of following after, learning from, witnessing to, and making disciples of Yeshua the Messiah, Rabbi and divine Saviour, in the company of Israel and all nations as members of the reconciled and restored Messianic community for the renewal of all creation.



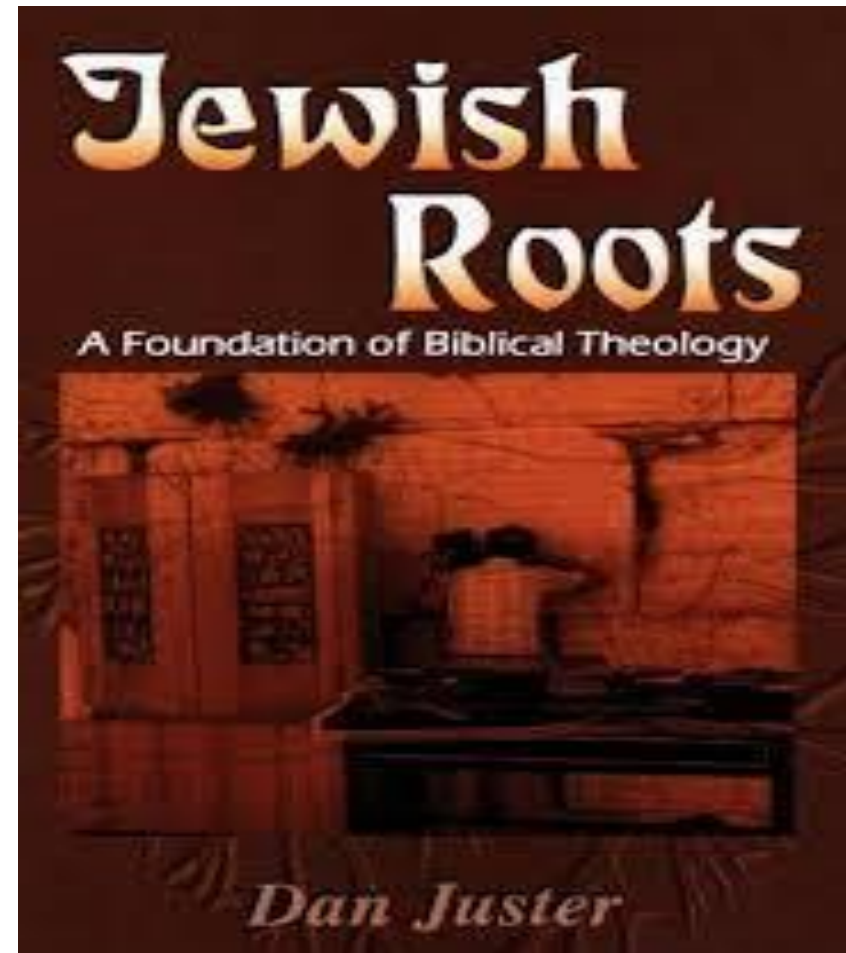
Discipleship Materials for Messianic Jews

- Personal Growth
- Relating to Family
- Relating to Other Believers
- The Jewish Believer and Opposition



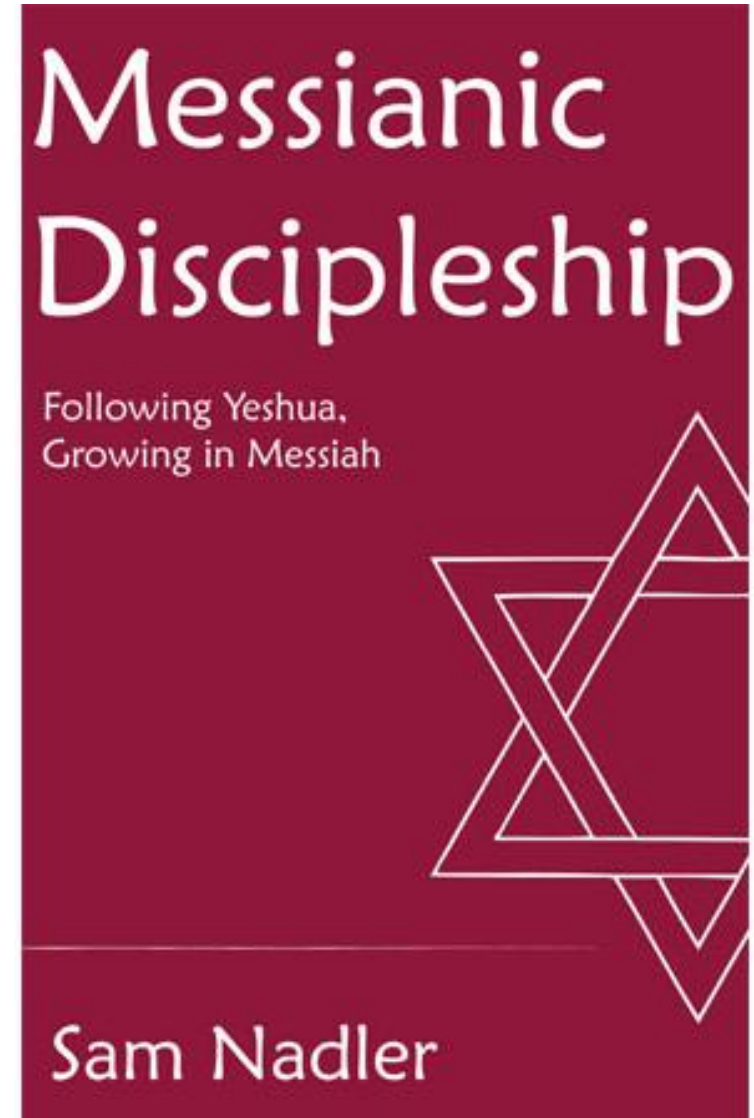
Jewish Roots – Danel Juster

- The Biblical Meaning of Israel
- Israel's Call and the New Testament
- Messianic Judaism - Difficult Passages
- History of Judaism and Christianity
- Faith and Life of Messianic Jews
- Paul, Israel and the Law
- Messianic Jewish Practice
- Jewish and Biblical Worship
- Dangers to be Faced
- A Messianic Vision.



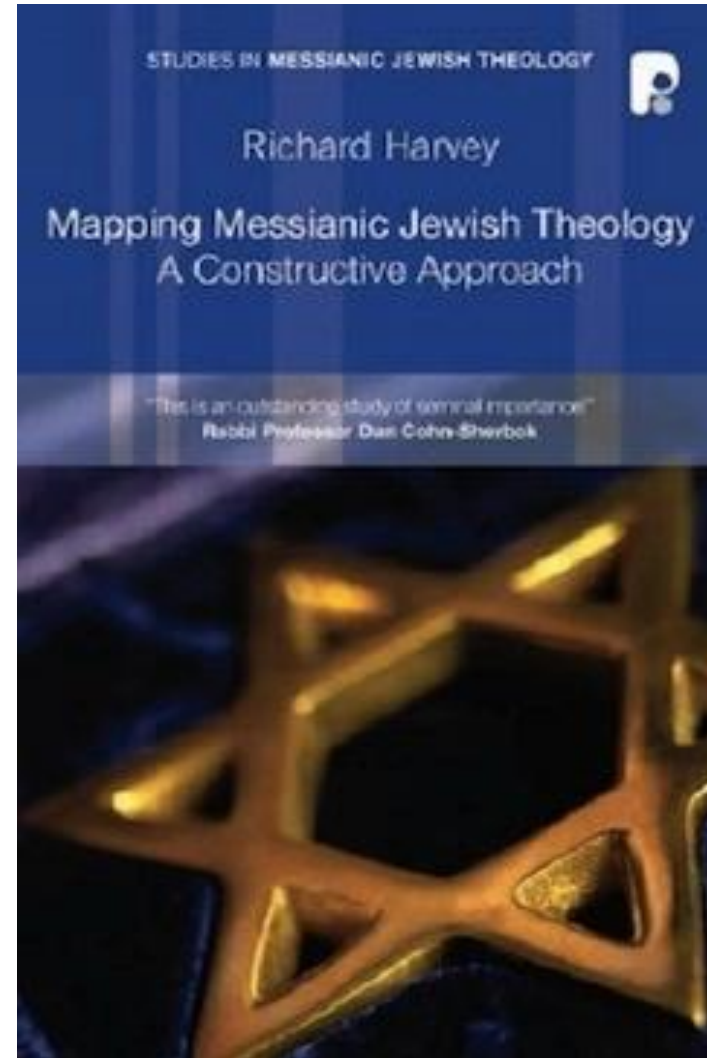
Urgency of Messianic Jewish Discipleship

Without question, we need to bring the Good News to our people that they may believe in Yeshua and have eternal life. But, if we do not make disciples, the wisdom will die with us. Discipleship is the means by which new believers are enabled to grow in their relationship with God, to develop spiritual understanding of the truths of God's Word, and to gain wisdom for living faithfully for the Lord. Faith in Yeshua makes you a child of God, discipleship is God's way for you to mature as His child. As there is no salvation without faith in Yeshua, so there is no spiritual growth without discipleship. (Sam Nadler)



A Discipling Curriculum

1. God – Unity/Triunity
 - Yeshua – Messiah (Jewish and Christian)
 - Divinity/Humanity
2. Torah – in theory
 - In practice
3. Israel – calling, identity, membership
 - Israel – politics, land, peace, destiny



The Challenge

- "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 18:19,20)

The Great Commission and Discipleship (Matt. 28:18-20)

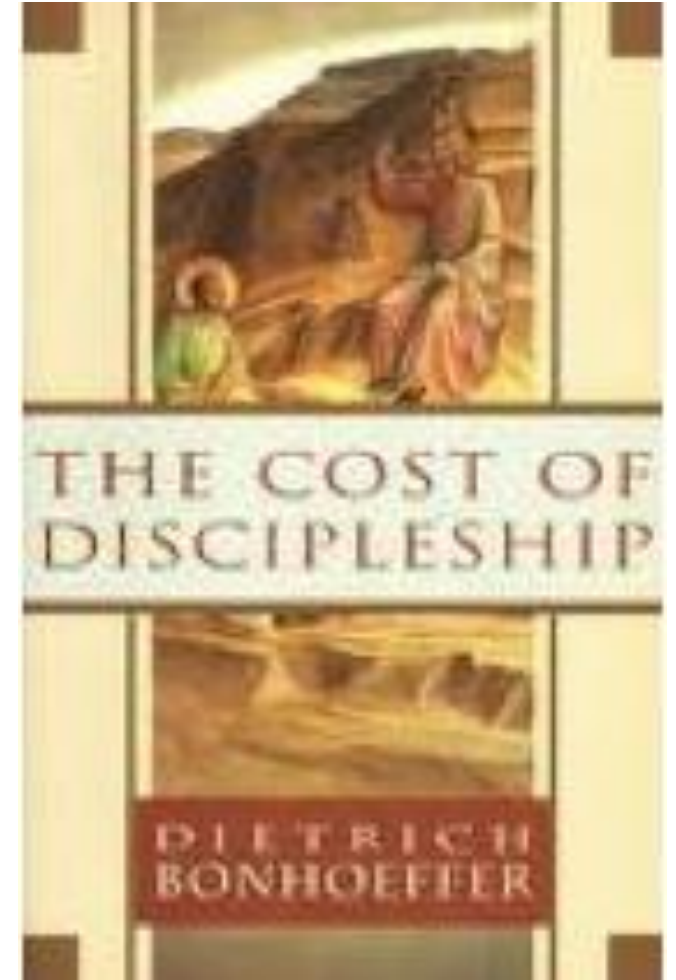
- The main imperatives of Matthew – go, make, baptise, teach
- ‘The followers of Jesus have to make others into what they themselves are: disciples’ (Bosch, *Transforming Mission*, 74)
- Discipleship is the main element of Mission
- Discipleship is costly
- Discipleship is global and local

What is Christian Discipleship?

...Discipling is an intentional, largely informal learning activity. It involves two or a small group of individuals who typically function within a larger nurturing community and hold to the same religious beliefs. Each makes a voluntary commitment to the other/s to form close, personal relationships for an extended period of time in order that those who at a particular time are perceived as having superior knowledge and/or skills will attempt to cause learning to take place in the lives of those others who seek their help. Christian discipling is intended to result in each becoming an active follower of Jesus and a participant in his mission to the world. (Collinson, *Ev. Rev. Theol.*, 2005:250)

Nature of Discipleship

- Informal -
 - *life-related, needs modelling, practice, in addition to formal teaching*
- Communal
 - *The regular, committed gathering together of individuals and small groups into a larger nurturing community*
 - *Differences in age, gender, ethnicity, etc enriches learning dimension of community*
- Reciprocal -
 - *Learning is a mutual, collaborative, shared responsibility*
- Missional - personal growth > outward effect



What is a Disciple?

- Learner – *mathetes* – *matheteuo* (261x, Gospels/Acts)
- Follower – *akolouthein* – *walk behind* (90x, 79 in Gospels) – *halach/halachah* -walk
- HB/Jewish roots – Rabbi and Disciples (*Talmidim* – *Lamad* – *teach*)
- *Torah* - Instruction, Revelation, Wisdom, (Law?)



Who?

“But the schools of Shammai and Hillel disagreed over this. The school of Shammai said- one should teach only someone who is smart, unassuming, of good lineage and wealthy. But the school of Hillel – one should teach anyone, for there were many sinners in Israel who were brought close to the Torah”



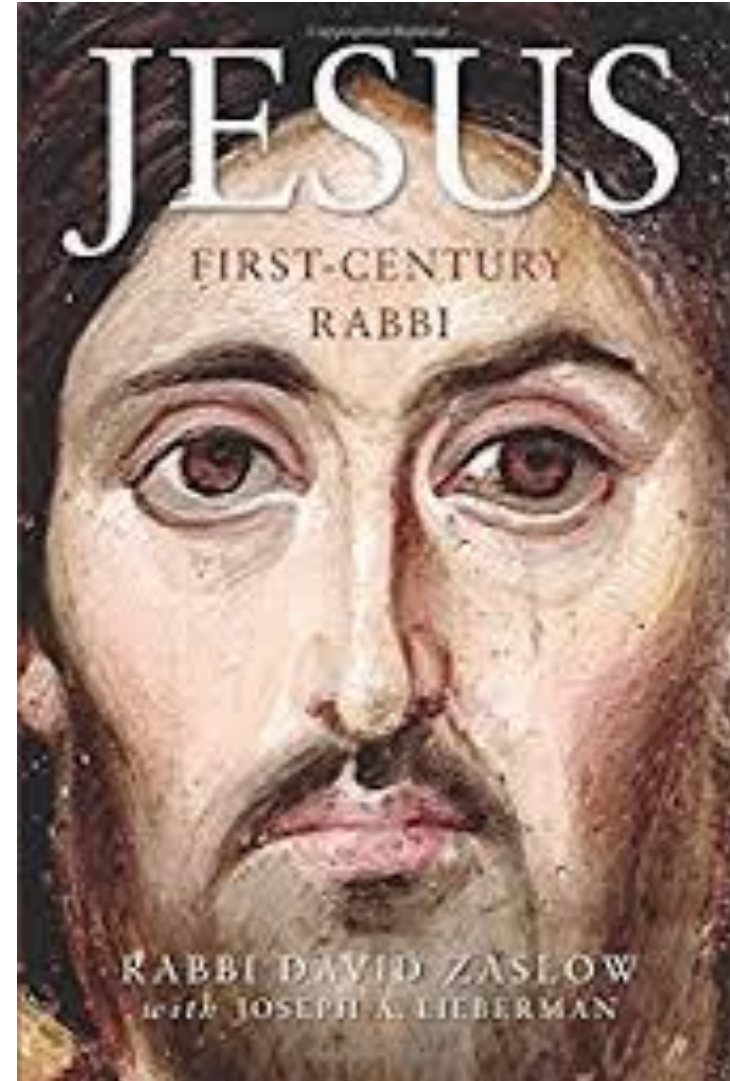
Study to Do!

- "Rabbi Yishmael bar (son of) Rabbi Yossi said, one who studies Torah in order to teach is granted the ability to study and to teach. One who studies in order to do is granted the ability to study, to teach, to observe, and to do." (Avot 4:6)

רַבִּי יִשְׁמָעֵאל בֶּר רַבִּי יוֹסִי אָמַר:
הַלּוֹמֵד עַל מְנַת לְלַמֵּד, מִסְפִּיקִין בְּיָדוֹ לְלַמּוֹד וּלְלַמֵּד,
וְהַלּוֹמֵד עַל מְנַת לַעֲשׂוֹת, מִסְפִּיקִין בְּיָדוֹ לְלַמּוֹד וּלְלַמֵּד,
לְשִׁמּוֹר וּלְעֲשׂוֹת.

Yeshua as Rabbi in John's Gospel

- Eight times Yeshua addressed as Rabbi (1:38, 49; 3:2; 4:31; 6:25; 9:2; 11:8; and 20:16 (*Rabbouni*)).
- By first followers (1:38), Nathanael (1:49), Nicodemus (3:2), disciples (4:31; 9:2; 11:8), multitudes (6:25), and Mary Magdalene (20:16).
- John unmatched in the range of individuals and the consistency with which rabbi is the chosen address of Jesus.
- Andreas J. Köstenberger, "Jesus as Rabbi in the Fourth Gospel", *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 8 (1998): 97-128.



The Difference Yeshua Makes

- "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called 'teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Messiah."
- Matthew 23:8-10

Teacher and Disciple

And the two **disciples** heard him speak, and **they followed Jesus**. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, **Rabbi**, (which is to say, being interpreted, **Master** (Didaskalos), where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see.

John 1:38



	Hebrew	Greek
Master	רַבִּי Rabbi	διδασκάλος Didaskalos
Disciple	תַּלְמִיד Talmid	μαθητής Mathetes

DISCIPLESHIP



Three Aspects of Messianic Jewish Discipleship

- Encouraging a particular lifestyle
- Referring to the relationships between Yeshua and his disciples and their relevance today
- Establishing new believers by teaching them the fundamentals of faith and grounding them in spritual 'disciplines'



WHAT MY
FAVOURITE
TEACHER
TAUGHT ME

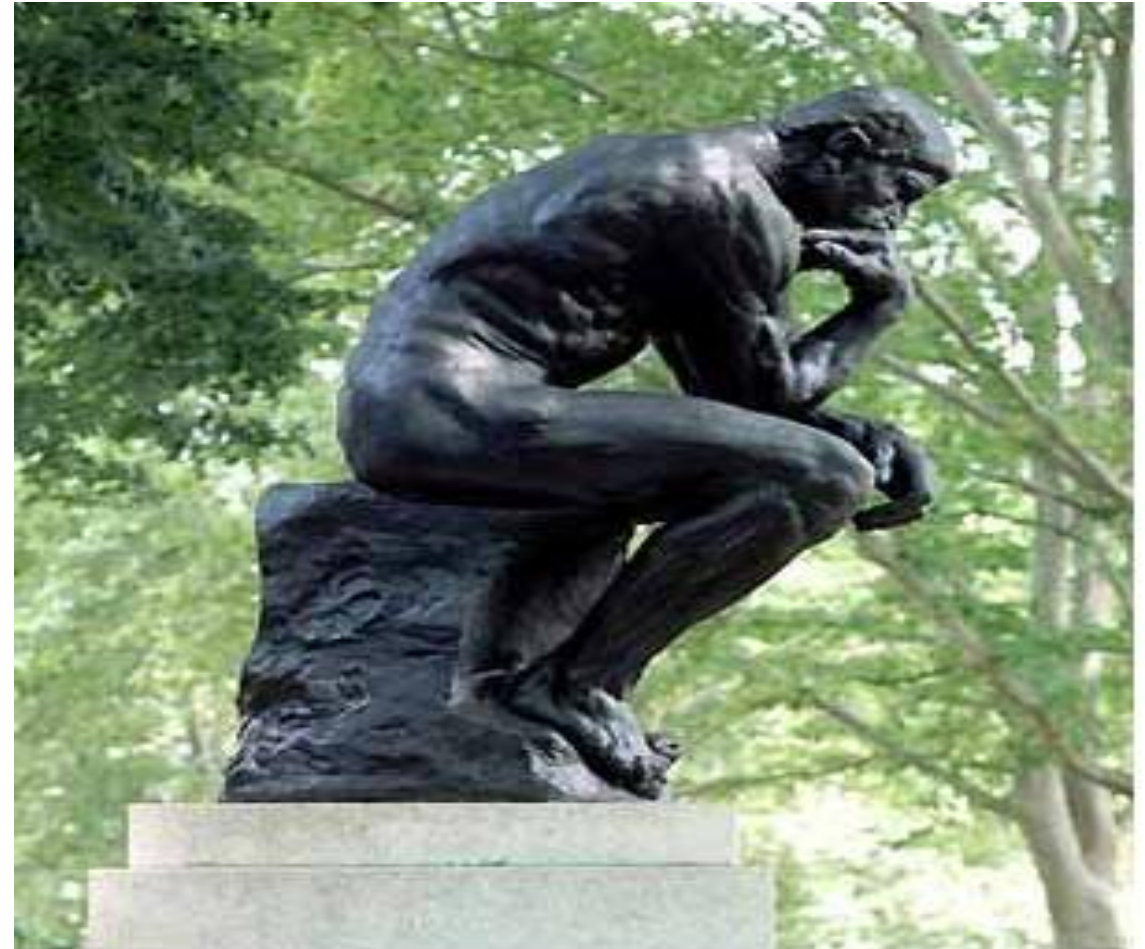
Activist

- Jumps in at the deep end
- Enthusiastic
- Looks for new experiences
- Flexible and open-minded
- Happy to "have a go"
- Enjoys new situations
- Optimistic about anything new
- therefore unlikely to resist change



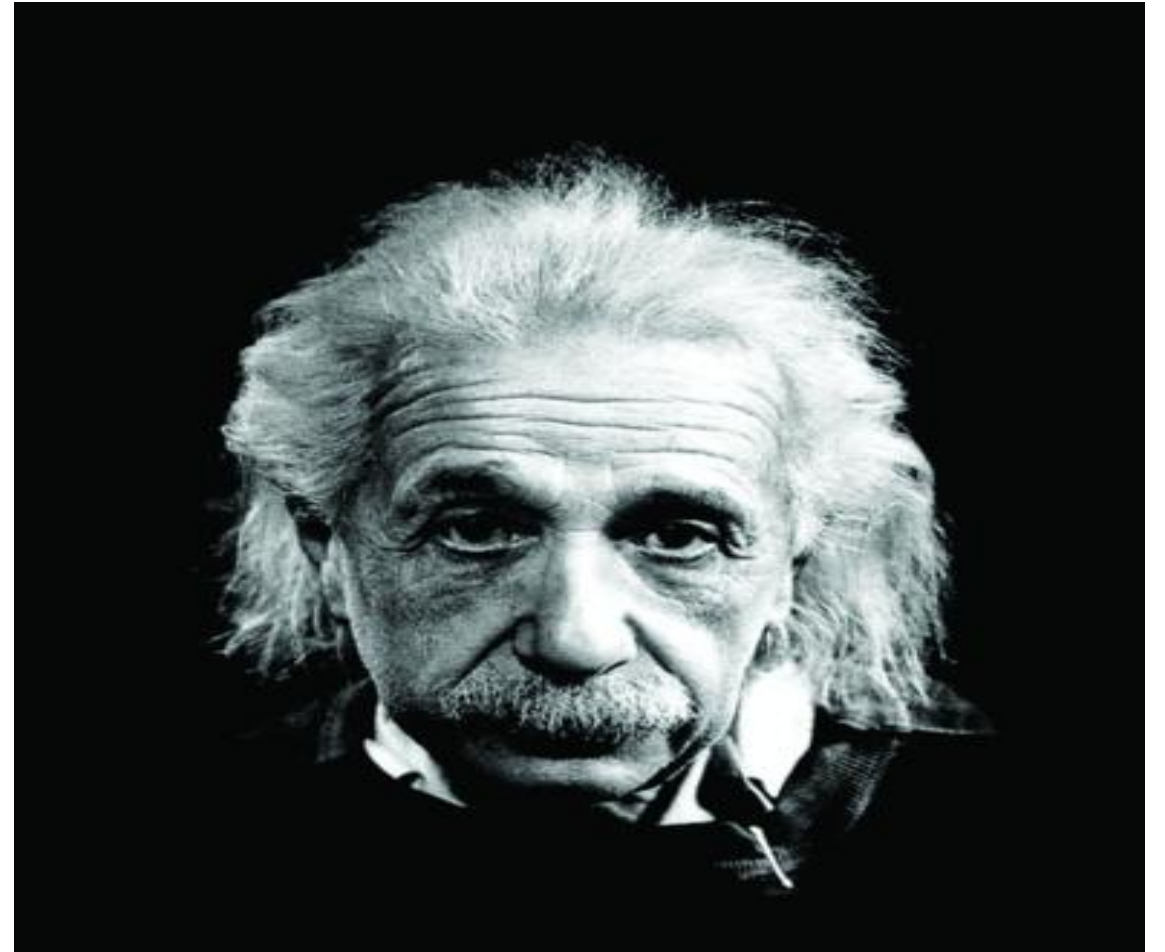
Reflector

- Chews things over
- Thoughtful and analytical
- Good listener
- Adopts low profile
- Likely to procrastinate



Theorist

- Logical and objective
- Systematic and analytical
- Thinks things through
- Perfectionist

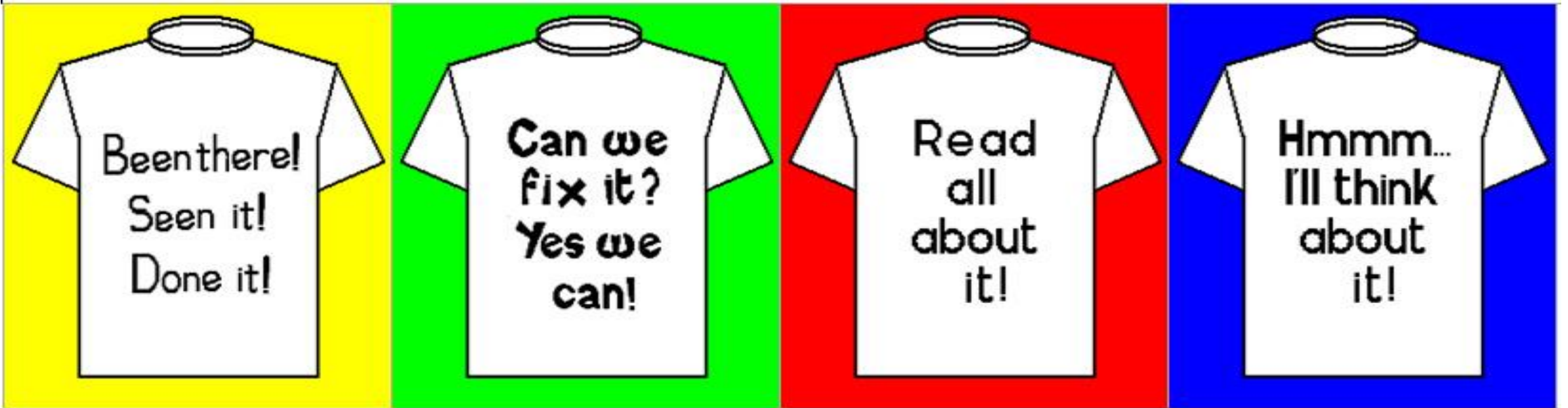


Pragmatist

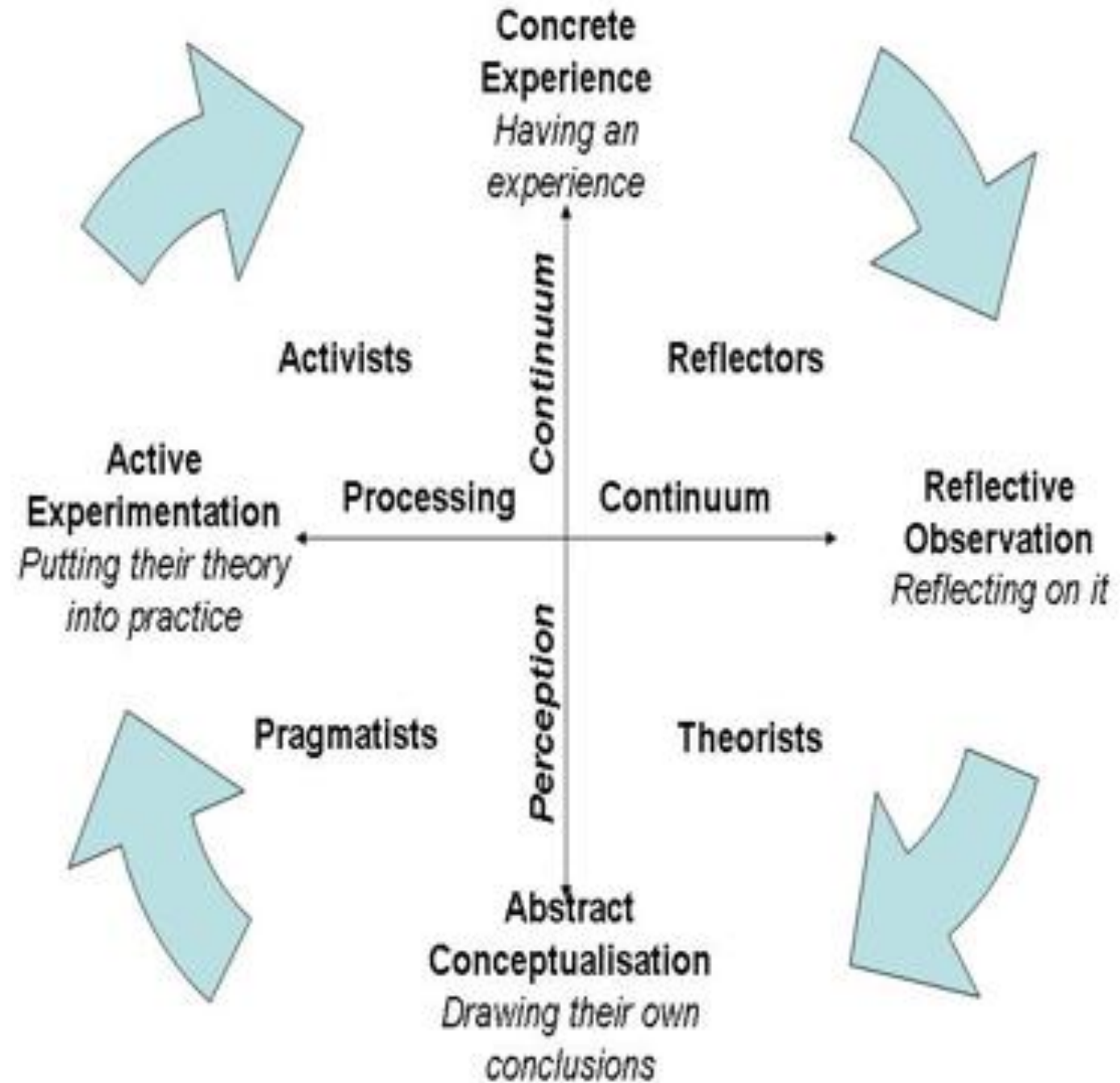
- Experiments with new ideas
- Looks for practical application
- Down-to-earth
- Problem-solver



How do you like to learn?



How
do you
like to
LEARN
?



Jewish Patterns

“At five years old one is ready for the scripture, at ten years for the Mishnah, at thirteen for the commandments, at fifteen for the Talmud, at eighteen for marriage, at twenty for pursuit (of righteousness), at thirty for full strength, at forty for discernment, at fifty for counsel, at sixty for old age, at seventy for grey hairs, at eighty for labour and sorrow (Ps. 90:10), at ninety for decrepitude, at one hundred he is as though he were dead, and had passed away, and faded from the world.”



The Task of a Disciple

- The teacher taught his disciples everything he could.
- After a disciple was fully trained, he would become a teacher and teach disciples of his own.
- A disciple's job was to become like his or her teacher.
- "Every disciple fully trained will be like his teacher." (Luke 6:40).



Four Tasks



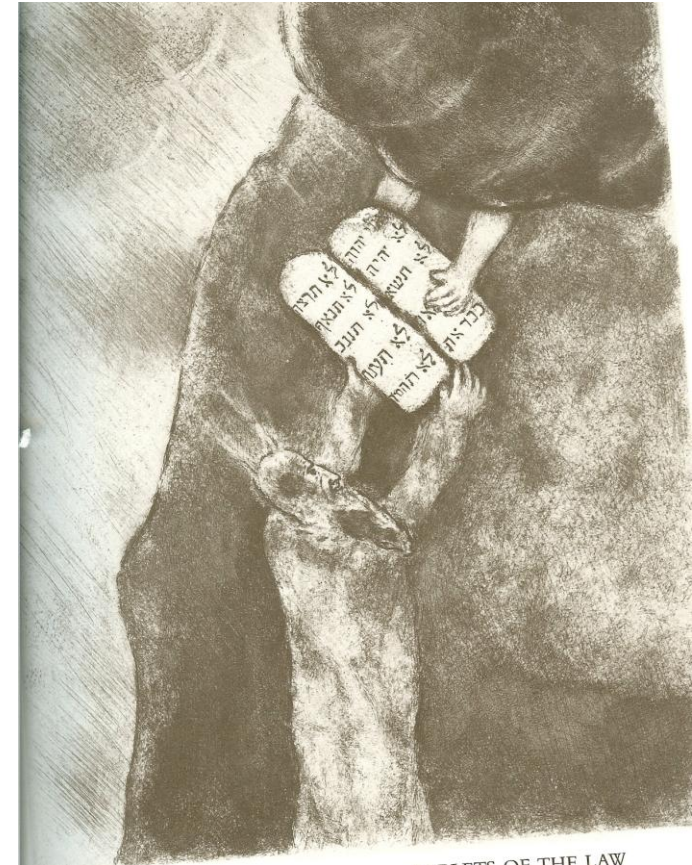
1. To memorize the teacher's words
2. To learn the teacher's traditions and interpretations.
3. To imitate the teacher's actions.

"Every disciple, fully trained will be like his master."
(Luke 6:40)

4. To raise up disciples.

God is Israel's Rabbi!

- He gives the *Torah* – *Wisdom, instruction, teaching, law.*
- Israel is to learn and practice *Torah*
- Israel is to model *Torah*
- Israel is to live *Torah*
- *Torah* is to be incarnated in Israel – a *living Torah*



... OF THE LAW

Rabbi and Talmid

- They learned
- stories the teacher told
- lessons their teacher taught
- to eat the foods their teacher ate
- the way their teacher ate them
- to keep the Sabbath the way their teacher kept Sabbath



Rabbi and Student

- to give charity the way their teacher gave charity
- They learned to pray the way their teacher prayed
- To fast the way their teacher fasted
- To keep God's commands the way their teacher kept them
- They followed their teacher everywhere he went



When the disciple is fully trained, he

- becomes the teacher
- raises up disciples of his own
- who in turn, when fully trained become teachers and raise up disciples of their own.
- 2 Tim. 2:2 ‘The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.’”



Content of Discipleship

- The Study of the *Torah*
- The Fear of Heaven
- The Love of God
- The Sanctification of the name of God
- Trust in God
- Holiness
- Humility
- The Love of Neighbour
- Compassion
- Truth
- Peace

The Goal of Discipleship

- Maturity - to glorify God more fully and to participate more fully in the life, service and mission of the people of God
- Implies autonomy
- Wholeness
- Stability
- Understanding
- Effectiveness
- To follow Y' shua and be like him

The Great Commission and Discipleship (Matt. 28:18-20)

- The main imperatives of Matthew – go, make, baptise, teach
- ‘The followers of Jesus have to make others into what they themselves are: disciples’ (Bosch, *Transforming Mission*, 74)
- Discipleship is the main element of Mission
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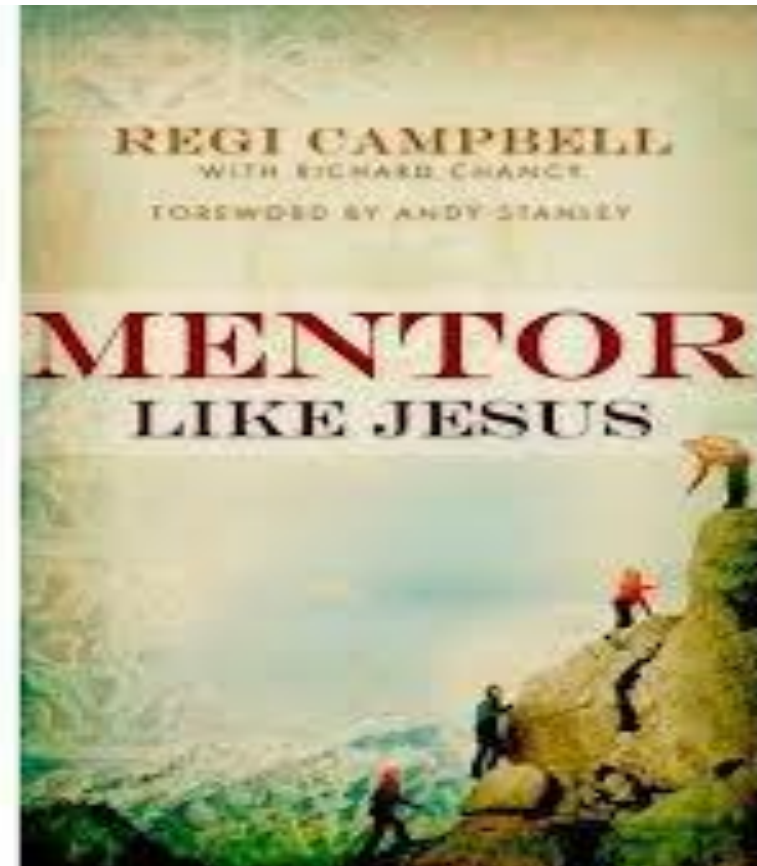
Discipleship in Practice

- Set goals and format
- Use a discipleship inventory
- Decide method of delivery
- Look for transparency
- Share your life!

		0= does not apply		1-3=applies somewhat			4-5 = applies strongly	
No.	Question	0	1	2	3	4	5	
CHRISTIAN BELIEFS								
<i>The Triune God</i>								
1.	I believe that the God of the Bible is the only true God.							
2.	Knowing, loving and serving God is central to all the various parts of my life.							
3.	I believe that the God of the Bible is one in essence, but distinct in persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.							
4.	I believe that when I try to do what God wants but fail, God still loves me.							
5.	I have come to know and love God as my dear heavenly Father.							
6.	I believe that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh – who died for my sins and rose bodily from the dead.							
7.	My life is united by faith with Jesus Christ, my Lord, my Saviour, my Brother, who loves me and helps me.							
8.	I believe that the Holy Spirit is God and dwells in Christians to empower them to live the Christian life.							
9.	I experience communion with God the Holy Spirit in my life, bringing me joy, peace, assurance and renewal of my heart and actions.							
<i>Subtotal for The Triune God = (Max. 45)</i>								
<i>Entering God's Kingdom</i>								
10.	I believe that God offers forgiveness and acceptance to those who repent of their sins and put their trust in Jesus Christ's saving work.							
11.	I believe that people are saved not by their own good works, but by their union with Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.							

Discipleship and Mentoring

- How to be discipled as a leader
- How to disciple leaders
- Qualities of a mentor (G.O.A.L.S)
- Qualities of a mentee (F.A.I.T.H)



Aspect	Jewish / Messianic Jewish Discipleship	Finnish Christian Discipleship
Core identity	Covenant peoplehood; belonging to Israel; discipleship as walking with Yeshua within Jewish life	Baptismal identity; belonging to Christ and the Church; discipleship often quiet, personal, and communal
Key question	How do I follow Yeshua while remaining faithful to Israel's calling?	How do I follow Christ faithfully in a secular, reserved, high-trust society?
Strengths	Memory, festivals, family table, Torah, peoplehood, embodied practices, survival through suffering	Honesty, reliability, humility, social trust, service, simplicity, resilience, silence
Risks	Ethnic defensiveness, communal pressure, trauma, boundary anxiety, political over-identification	Individualism, emotional silence, cultural Christianity without discipleship, loneliness, hidden despair
Practices	Shabbat, festivals, Shema, Torah study, table fellowship, Hebrew prayer, remembering God's acts	Prayer, Scripture, confirmation, worship, nature, silence, service, honesty, communal responsibility

Needed growth

Deeper Yeshua-centred discipleship, reconciliation with the wider Church, humility toward Gentile believers

More explicit discipleship, biblical imagination, joy, witness, spiritual friendship, rootedness in Israel's story

Mission

Witness to Yeshua within Israel and to the nations without erasure

Witness through word, service, integrity, hospitality, and public humility

Healing need

Healing from antisemitism, assimilation, exile, and rejection by Church and synagogue

Healing from loneliness, depression, emotional reserve, secular emptiness, and performance pressure

Shared goal

Faithful covenantal life in Messiah

Faithful baptismal life in Messiah

Common calling

Jews and Finns learn to follow Yeshua together: memory and silence,



Conclusion and Application



Signature

Date

Final Challenge

- "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 18:19,20)

If so, so what

- Test your discipleship –
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/bpndbeojvi424b2/Messianic%20Jewish%20Discipleship%20Inventory%20110619.doc?dl=0>
- Who are you discipling?
- What is your purpose and mission?
- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ubypd7at2h79r0s/Purposeful%20vision%20mission%20Living%20core%20values.pdf?dl=0>

Purposeful Living

