

WELCOME

Our Mission is to . . .

- Connect you to Jesus
- Connect you to His community for discipleship
- Connect you to your mission and purpose in life

We are not here to tell you what to wear, eat, listen to, vote for, or even believe. These are things you must determine for yourself if you want to have real faith.

Life is too short to be shallow. In fact, you can't really do life without developing a strong foundation and becoming a person of substance. This is your journey, your discovery, and you will reap the benefit of the work you do.

FHNew - Our mission as a church is to do everything we can to help you grow your faith. If you would like to get to know us a little better, or begin or continue your journey of faith, text **FHNew** to **53123** and we will send you a link to a few short videos about Foothills Church, or stop by the Connection booth.

FHBaptism - One important step in your faith journey is being baptized. To learn more about baptism, text **FHBaptism** to **53123** and we will send you the teaching on Believers' Baptism.

INTRODUCTION

According to some historians, there have only been **238 years of peace** on earth in the last 7,000 years of recorded human history. That is just 3.4% of time; the other 96% of the time, people, countries or nations have been at war.

Why are human beings always involved in war?

- In the Book of Genesis, Adam and Eve introduced sin into the world -- the knowledge of evil
- The first consequence of this evil is Cain killing his own brother Abel

Major Civilizations throughout history

- The Sumerians
- Akkadians
- Ancient Egyptians
- Xai and Shang Dynasties
- Assyrians and Babylonians
- Greeks
- Romans
- Charlemagne's Holy Roman Empire
- The Umayyads and Abbasids
- The Mongols
- Ottomans
- Third Reich
- Communists: Bolsheviks, China's Cultural Revolution

- Islam: Dar al-Islam (Land under Islamic control) dar al-sulh (land under treaty w/Dar al-Islam) or dar al-harb (territory of war, denoting adjoining non-Islamic lands whose rulers are "called upon" to accept Islam)

All have all employed one approach: **conquer**. They all grew their empires and expanded their economies through conquering.

Main Question: If we are in a spiritual war that is playing out on the battlefield of the earth, how do we see the kingdom of God expand? What is the strategy? Jesus gave it to us.

Bible Study (NASB)

Matthew 28:16-20 *But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated to them. 17 And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Acts 1:6-8 *So, when they had come together, they began asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 But He said to them, "It is not for you to know periods of time or appointed times which the Father has set by His own authority; 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth."*

The primary strategy to expand the kingdom of God is through DISCIPLESHIP.

Definition: Discipleship is a one-to-one personal relationship through which a person discovers Jesus.

Top Reasons Why This Is Brilliant!

1. The kingdom of God is love -- it can only expand through acceptance, not force

- **John 13:34-35** *"I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another."*
- Discipleship is an act of love: I will give my time, energy, attention to you in order to grow your faith
- How can you force someone to have faith or to believe? It must be a willing embracing of the **truth** of life
- Islam is the opposite: Dar al-Harb in the doctrine of holy war. The expressed purpose is to war with nations that do not accept Islam as the one true religion, then to execute anyone who converts away from Islam. According to PEW research 56% of Muslims worldwide believe this

2. Discipleship is personal

- **John 10:26-28** *"But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. 27 My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."*

- The kingdom grows when a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ, when they meet Him personally: It's personal and discipleship is always personal
- 3. Discipleship is incredibly flexible: It takes the unchanging gospel, the immutable God, Jesus Christ himself, and allows people to meet him in all different ways**
- There has never been, in the church, a cookie cutter approach to producing fully devoted followers of Christ
 - All successful approaches have the same core ingredients: commitment to the word of God, commitment, prayer, a commitment to stewardship (meaning giving), using your spiritual gift
- 4. Discipleship is coaching**
- **Romans 10:1-4** *"Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. 2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. 3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes."*
 - Love the LDS -- they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge
 - Love Muslims -- they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge
- 5. Discipleship keeps the main thing the main thing**
- Jesus said: *"Go and make disciples"*
 - The quality of your spiritual growth -- the depth and strength of your spiritual growth -- is directly related to your discipleship
 - When you grow, the kingdom of God grows
 - This is the main battle strategy: We have to win the spiritual battle before we can win the ideological battle. We have to win the ideological battle before we can win the physical battle.

Final Challenge: PURSUE DISCIPLESHIP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who has personally helped you grow in your faith?
2. Why is personal discipleship so important to spiritual growth?
3. What 5 people in your life are you trying to disciple?