

A close-up photograph of a pair of hands, likely belonging to an older person, gently cupping a small, dark brown mound of soil. A small green plant with two leaves is growing out of the soil. The background is dark and out of focus.

# DISCIPLESHIP

## A Foundation Model

**New Mercies Christian  
Evening Bible Study**

Wednesday, May 17, 2023  
Elder Karl Humphrey

# The Original Design

The universe \_\_\_\_\_

- A. was created from a cosmic explosion.
- B. was intelligently designed.
- C. came into existence by random chance.



# The Original Design

## Intelligent Design

<sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John 1:3

<sup>3</sup> When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,  
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

<sup>4</sup> What is man that You are mindful of him,  
And the son of man that You visit him?

Psalm 8:3-4

# The Original Design

## Intelligent Design: Genesis 1: 1-31

In the beginning God created...	V. 1
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Then God said:

“Let there be light”	V. 3
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“Let there be a firmament...”	V. 6
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“Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together...”	V. 9
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“Let the earth bring forth grass...”	V. 11
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“Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens...”	V. 14
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“Let the waters abound...”	V. 20
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“Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind...”	V. 24
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“Let Us make man in Our image...”	V. 26
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“And God said, “See, I have given you...”	V. 29
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“Then God saw everything that He had made...”	V. 31
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# The Original Design

## Intelligent Design:

### It Was Good, Very Good!

Six times in Genesis 1-30, the word 'good' is used to characterize God's creation in v. 31, the phrase 'very good' is used to characterize the whole of God's creation.

### It is Not Good!

<sup>18</sup> And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Genesis 2:18

# The Design of Discipleship

## Community is foundational to Discipleship

<sup>18</sup> And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

Genesis 2:18

## Discipleship Defined

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Matthew 28:19-20

# The Design of Discipleship

## Discipleship Defined

Christian discipleship is developing a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Jesus Christ in which He transforms your character into Christlikeness; changes your values into Kingdom values; and involves you in His mission in the home, the church, and the world.

# The Design of Discipleship

## A Disciple is a Follower

<sup>23</sup> Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Luke 9:23



**A  
Disciple of  
Jesus  
Christ**

- is a follower of Jesus Christ
- desires to be Christ's disciple
- denies himself or herself
- carries his or her burdens daily striving to make Christ primary in all things
- Continuously grows in following Christ's example in word and deed

# The Design of Discipleship

## A Disciple Abides in God's Word

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

John 8:31

In the Greek, to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry

## A Disciple Operates in the Image of His Master

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift<sup>[a]</sup> up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

John 8:28

# The Design of Discipleship

## A Disciple Operates in the Image of His Master

<sup>51</sup> Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 2:51-52

<sup>16</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

John 13:16

<sup>40</sup> A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

Luke 6:40

# The Design of Discipleship

## Discipling Others for Christ

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

### Matthew 28:19-20

Go:	be the initiator, take the first step, take decisive action
Therefore:	reference to Christ's authority as the basis upon which to act
Make Disciples:	baptize, teach to observe all that has been commanded to the teacher
In the Name:	under the authority of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit
All Nations:	all people groups, Jews and Gentiles, throughout the world



# The Design of Discipleship

## Discipling Others for Christ

<sup>5</sup> For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you— <sup>6</sup> if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. <sup>7</sup> For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, <sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, <sup>9</sup> holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Titus 1:5-9

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

# The Design of Discipleship

Discipling Others for Christ

## A Design for the Age

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Ephesians 4:11-13

# The Design of Discipleship

## Recapping The Model

Christ's Disciple	Discipling for Christ
A self-denying, cross-bearing follower of Christ	Go's, baptizes & teaches as Christ did
Lives in community	Executes Christ's model under Christ's authority
Abides in God's Word	Strives to imitate Christ
Strives to imitate Christ	Commits to faithful servants
Strives to disciple others	

# The Design of Discipleship

## Get Involved

Legacy Builders Adult Sunday School:

- Sundays, 9:30-10:20 – Fitness Center & Virtual

MasterLife Foundations Discipleship Class:

- Tuesdays, 7pm – 8:30pm, In-Person & Virtual

Women of Wisdom (WOW) Bible Study:

- Mondays, 7:00pm – 8:30pm, Resumes Aug 2023

Noble Warriors Men's Bible Study:

- Tuesday, 7:00pm – 8:30pm via Zoom

Summer Bible Series '23:

- Wednesdays, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
- June 7<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> & July 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

- 7:00pm – 8:15pm, In-Person and Virtual

New Mercersburg Community Church  
Evening Bible Study

Choir, Usher/Greeters, Outreach, Mercy Seed, et. al