



# Gospel for Life

Sept-Oct 2021

## Men's Retreat in Washington Cascades, a Time of Equipping

**Gospel for Life provided the instruction at a three-day retreat for the men of First Baptist Church of Arlington, Washington.**

The focus was on our Lord's command to make disciples. After each of the four talks by Jay, the men broke into groups for a time of intense discussion and application. A number of the men shared that as a result of the conference, they intend to be far more deliberate in pursuing one-on-one disciple relationships. The topics covered by Jay at the Sept.

17-19 retreat were: ***Who is a true disciple of Christ? Why are we to disciple in the gospel? How does a disciple make another disciple? How do we fulfill the great commission?***

***Here are points men discussed in relation to the development of Christian character:***

- 1) The development of Christian character ought to be **the goal of every believing man, not just elders.**
- 2) Growth in Christian character is not merely to achieve personal sanctification, but to **more effectively serve Christ by diligently serving the growth of other believers in the Body of Christ.**
- 3) What are the many advantages of a church having **a well-marked path to eldership?**



*Joel and Ian helping out with the discipleship discussions.*

- 4) Christian character is to accompany the role of **spiritual influencer**—so that by one's life, character, words, and service, each believer is to be **intentional in nurturing the growth** of the disciples around him.
- 5) Christian character is **a life-direction based upon the resolve to follow Jesus as His learner and disciple.** Becoming a man of Christian character flows from our self-denial as one who is loyal to Christ.
- 6) Christian character is joined to **holy boldness.** By contrast, hypocrites (men without Christian character) will not possess the **'moral authority'** which accompanies a holy life. **A clear conscience** is needed to expose the sin around us so that it might be resolved by the gospel (**Eph 5:8-11**).
- 7) Growth in Christian character includes: **a) Our resources in the Word and the Spirit. b) Our resources found in close relationships in the body. c) Our resources in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, etc.). d) Our resources that are found in co-crucifixion with Christ. e) Our resources found in caring disciple-makers.**
- 8) The cultivation of Christian character is tied strongly to intentionality—that is **a resolute heart that has prepared itself to resist temptation.** **1 Peter 1:13-19** summarizes this needed preparation:

***“Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ . . .***



*... As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.' If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."*



Jay and Stephen Duwe at Stonewater Camp, WA

The stunning setting in God's creation for the retreat was the richly forested Cascade Mountain Range of Washington.

The men who attended the retreat were from many vocational callings, yet their oneness in Christ was evident in their fellowship. **Pastor Stephen Duwe is a man I disciplined over a decade ago. He is Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington.** It has been a great joy to reconnect with him and witness his growth in the Lord, and his abundant blessings as a husband, and father of three.

**At GFL we are actively training Christ-followers to be disciple-makers.** The blessed result is that the local church can become a disciple-making community. If you'd like Jay to present a seminar on **Discipleship, Evangelism, or Christian Worldview** at your church or school, please contact him at [jaywegter@gmail.com](mailto:jaywegter@gmail.com)

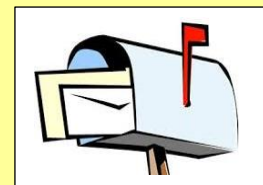
### **Please pray for:**

- Please continue to pray for Michele as she battles stage four cancer. Donations for her medical care can be sent to 3675 Marlesta Dr, San Diego, CA 92111.
- Please pray for Jay as he prepares to provide a pastors' discipleship conference with James Moore in Playa Azul, Costa Rica (Sept. 28-Oct. 4).

*Our mission at GFL is to help equip individuals and churches to more fully embrace The Great Commission.* The training we offer in evangelism and discipleship is 'hands-on' equipping. Instead of training in theory alone, we demonstrate how these Biblical commands can immediately be put to use.

### **NEW ADDRESS for those who wish to mail DONATIONS:**

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We are grateful for your support in prayer and gifts to help fulfill our mission to raise up disciple-makers. [www.gospelforlife.org](http://www.gospelforlife.org)

*Jay, Michele and the GFL Team*