



LIFE • FREEDOM • PURPOSE

Disciple: Your Unwritten Autobiography

Date: Sunday 5th January

Speakers: Andrew & Rosie McNeil

Key Verses: Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 16:25-27, Luke 15

Talk Summary:

- While we were still being formed in our mother's womb, God already had plans for us to do here on earth.
- We start this year reminding ourselves that God has a good plan for our life.
- God has plans but you have a choice. So every decision we take does have consequences. One choice will take us along the path God has planned for us. Another choice might take us further away from them.
- Ephesians 2:10 says that we are God's handiwork. We are not a mistake, we're not defined by our past and our mistakes, and were not meant to be drifting through life or working things out on our own. Jesus wants to be actively involved. Leading us and guiding us.
- *"Sometimes we stop dreaming with God. We're too busy. We're too fearful to hurt and disappointed to think that God has a good purpose. Purpose is a gift from our creator. You could say that our purpose is God's dream for our lives".* Stephen De Silva
- No one sets out with a desire to live an insignificant life! We had this desire to make our lives count for something, to make a real difference. Disciple is about agreeing with God that our lives are significant. It's an invitation into the life we were created for.
- We are seeking to be disciples of Jesus at an unusual point in history. According to sociologists our generation is more self-obsessed, than any generation that has ever come before us. So if this is the

sea we are swimming in we have to work out how to go against the flow.

- *"You were made for God, not vice versa, and life is about letting God use you for His purposes, not your using Him for your own purpose"* Rick Warren
- No one is too messed up to fulfil the plans God has for them. There are always new beginnings with God. This feels especially relevant for the start of a new year and a new decade. Luke 15 shows two sons and a wonderful father.
- It's not about how hard you try but what flows from your relationship with Jesus. The point that Jesus is making in this story is that God doesn't love us because of the good things we do and He doesn't stop loving us because of the bad things we do.
- There are things that will hold you back if you let them.

Small Group Discussion

Small Groups will be digging deeper into weekly Disciple topics through the participant's guide and video resources.

The participant's guide is designed as a journal, with plenty of space for notes, key teaching points for each session, and Chat and Reflect questions. Our small groups will be using this guide during discussions. If you'd like a copy of the guide, simply go to your favourite book distributor and search "**Disciple Participants Guide**".

If regular reminders and short devotionals would be helpful to you, then check out the Disciple app! It contains daily devotionals for free, plus access to each week's starter film and daily content related to the course. More information on the app can be found at <http://www.ficm.org.uk/disciple-app>