

# TRUE VINE TIMES

## “Making Disciples” Small Group

*-Thoughts by Paul Lehman*

The small group made up of Jerry and Verna Mae Boshart, Lori Brown, Dave and Judy Herring, Jack Keough, Paul Lehman and Ron and Cheryl Snyder, has been meeting virtually every other Sunday evening to discuss Ralph Moore's "Making Disciples." The 18 chapters of the paperback are expected to take at least 40 weeks (20 sessions) of 1-hour meetings with a rather casual, not-too-structured approach by leader Dave Herring that allows all members of the group to speak when moved to do so, and to share anecdotes and other life experiences.

People tend to look for a prescriptive "how to" set of answers to disciple making. Moore argues that we need to be clear on the "why" of disciple making first. That "why" is a response to Christ's command to "Go and make disciples of all nations." This does not mean that you have to be cut out to be foreign nor domestic missionary, rather, Moore's simple plan for disciple making is a very personal process rooted in face-to-face relationships. We can learn to prioritize our lives to find time and the relationships where we can say, "Follow me while I follow Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

We know there are still challenges with the pandemic in meeting others but goodness knows, people are looking for loving and trusting relationships as we carry out our daily lives. Moore makes disciple making comfortable for the reader and is growing onto members of this small group as an author. We encourage others at Clarence Center Akron Mennonite Church to consider this topic and even continuing to use the Zoom meeting as an alternate way of doing church that doesn't involve a lot of preparation nor travel time. The outcome goes beyond getting people to come to 11500 Clarence Center Road on Sunday mornings.



### Building on a Solid Foundation

<sup>24</sup> "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. <sup>25</sup> Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. <sup>26</sup> But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. <sup>27</sup> When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."  
~Matthew 7: 24-27

**Worship Medley - In Christ Alone / Cornerstone / The Solid Rock | Caleb + Kelsey Mashup**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oHN1-ifsT8>

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**Update on Rachel's brother, Dan Schmidt & family:** Dan was given the release from doctors to return to missionary work in Kenya, Africa at the end of March. He flew back in early April and is back teaching students until mid July 2021. Thank you for praying for Dan and his family as they endured unexpected cancer treatments and surgeries.



## A BIT OF HUMOR...

A woman on the phone to her friend; I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising... I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

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A man buys a parrot and brings him home. But the parrot starts insulting him and gets really nasty, so the man picks up the parrot and tosses him into the freezer to teach him a lesson. He hears the bird squawking for a few minutes, but all of a sudden the parrot is quiet. The man opens the freezer door, the parrot walks out, looks up at him and says, "I apologize for offending you, and I humbly ask your forgiveness."

The man says, "Well, thank you. I forgive you."

The parrot then says, "If you don't mind my asking, what did the chicken do?"

April 30, 2021

## LOVE FOR ENEMIES

"It could not have been many seconds that he stood there, hand held out; but to me it seemed hours as I wrestled with the most difficult thing I had ever had to do." These are the words of Corrie ten Boom as she recalled the day a former guard at Ravensbruck concentration camp, where she and her family were imprisoned during World War II for hiding Jews and members of the Dutch resistance movement, approached her to seek her forgiveness. Remembering Jesus' teaching from today's passage, Corrie extended her hand in love. Corrie wrote: "You never so touch the ocean of God's love as when you forgive and love your enemies." Let's consider the words and love of Jesus that moved Corrie ten Boom to do the impossible. ~From Today in The Word

Matthew 6:27-36

*27 "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. 28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. 30 Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. 31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you.*

*32 "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! 34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.*

*35 "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate."*

