

PRAISE FOR *4 CHAIR DISCIPLING*

Of all the disciplers I know, my friend Dann Spader is at the top of the list. He disciplines with his life, through his seminars and workshops, and now, thankfully, through this powerful book. Highly recommended!

JOE STOWELL | President, Cornerstone University | Grand Rapids, Michigan

Few people have the reputation of Dann Spader—with a life's passion for making disciples. Now in *4 Chair Discipling*, Dann challenges us to walk more faithfully in Jesus' calling. Read and dwell on this helpful book.

ED STETZER | President | Lifeway Research

Dann Spader's giftedness and knowledge have been a huge help to Southeast Christian Church. His *4 Chair Discipling* can be an enormous benefit to your church as well. Learn to make disciples who make disciples by studying how Jesus modeled it for all of us. It's a journey you'll want to take!

DAVE STONE | Senior Pastor of Southeast Christian Church | Louisville, Kentucky

Dann Spader and Sonlife played a part in our journey here at Real Life to discover a reproducible discipleship model that would work in a church. Dann has been committed to doing discipleship Jesus' way, and he has inspired many to follow suit. For those who have listened it has been life and ministry changing. He is one of the voices that should be heard in a church culture badly in need of Jesus and His methods for discipleship. I encourage you to read what he has to write.

JIM PUTMAN | Senior Pastor | Real Life Ministries | Post Falls, Idaho

Who could deny that the responsibility to make disciples would be at the top of the list of what Jesus wants/commands His people to do?

Yet, who would deny that most of us don't know quite what that is or how to do it? Dann Spader's *4 Chair Discipling* blends rich biblical instruction and insight along with skilled and fruitful experience to help Christians understand and embrace the call to make disciples.

Following Jesus requires this of us, and Spader's work provides hope and confidence in understanding how Jesus would have us to proceed.

BRUCE A. WARE | Professor of Christian Theology | Southern Seminary | Louisville, Kentucky |
Author of *The Man Christ Jesus: Theological Reflections on the Humanity of Christ*

Dann Spader has taken the popular concept of "servant leadership" and created a very practical and sustainable method for discipling people to actually BECOME servant leaders. Spader's *4 Chair Discipling* is a highly effective way to model and implement Jesus' approach and command for making disciples. This work is much needed, long overdue, and could serve as a core approach for discipling and apprenticing in any growing ministry or church.

JON FERGUSON | Community Christian Church | Naperville, Illinois | New Thing Network

My friend Dann Spader, is passionate about making disciples. And his latest book, *4 Chair Discipling*, captures a simple and powerful way to become more effective in making this happen. I highly commend it to you.

JOSH MCDOWELL | Author of more than eighty books including
More Than a Carpenter and *New Evidence that Demands a Verdict*

Dann Spader has spent a lifetime studying, coaching, and carrying out Jesus's call to make disciples. In *4 Chair Discipling*, he explores the disciple-making methods Jesus used and shows how they are still the prototype for today. With powerful *aha* analogies and illustrations, he presents a biblical and practical pathway and template for making disciples. If you want to become a better disciple maker, this book is a must-read.

LARRY OSBORNE | Author and pastor | North Coast Church | Vista, CA

For over 30 years, Dann Spader has been a bold and clear voice calling the church to a disciple-making movement and not just programmatically producing disciples. The *4 Chair Discipling* book is refreshing, informative, and practical in helping us see disciple-making in the simple genius of Jesus and His way of life in making disciples who make disciples. This is a must-read for pastors, church leaders, and families.

FRITZ DALE | Executive Director of Reach National | Evangelical Free Church

Dann Spader is passionate about walking as Jesus walked! In *4 Chair Discipling* you will be encouraged and inspired to do what Jesus did. This is one of the most practical books I've read on how to multiply disciples. It will instruct and inspire you to walk like Christ!

KEN ADAMS | Senior Pastor of Crossroads Church and President of Impact Ministries | Newnan, Georgia

Through a careful study of the life of Christ over the past 40 years, Dann Spader has captured Jesus' strategy of making disciples. *4 Chair Discipling* is not theory, it is what Dann has been living for over 30 years of ministry. Drawing a distinction between disciple-making and discipleship, this book is a must-read for any pastor, youth pastor, small group leader or Christian leader serious about fulfilling the Great Commission.

DR. BOB MACRAE | Professor of Youth Ministry | Moody Bible Institute

I happen to believe the church in North America has grown increasingly inward, often untethering our spiritual life from our mission. As I read my friend Dann's book, I found myself praying: "God, give me and us this vision, passion, and clarity for making disciples who make disciples." Dann is spot on and prescribes exactly what we need. Thanks, Dann, for putting your finger on first things and arguing biblically and specifically about what making disciples looks like in practice.

ROB BUGH | Senior Pastor Wheaton Bible Church | Wheaton, Illinois

As a pastor of a lifegroup church in Atlanta, I look forward to all my leaders going through Dann Spader's new book *4 Chair Discipling*. It's a winner! Just what I've been waiting for—practical, fast-moving, biblical, interactive, missional, and life-giving.

FRED HARTLEY | Lead Pastor and author of *God on Fire* | Tucker, Georgia

Dann's passion for growing a disciple-making movement comes through loud and clear in his book *4 Chair Discipling*. His passion for people to know the real Jesus compels the reader to want to be a part of a disciple-making community. If you take the Great Commission seriously, then read the book.

DR. MARK A. HOEFFNER | Executive Director, CB Northwest | Teaching Pastor, Grace Baptist Church | White Salmon, Washington

Nothing has shaped my ministry philosophy more than Dann Spader's profound teaching on the life of Jesus. If you desire to bear lasting fruit, read this book as soon as possible! With

deep insight and practical examples, Dann shows us how to make disciples like Jesus did. More than just a theorist, he personally lives out these principles in daily life, with amazing results. A must-read, *4 Chair Discipling* could well be the most important ministry book you encounter this year.

DAVE PATTY | President of Josiah Venture | Eastern Europe

Making disciples can get confusing and complicated. So many books, theories, and programs can leave people wondering where to start. But Dann has articulated in a simple way how every person and every church can begin to make disciples like Jesus made disciples. With just four chairs, you will be equipped to move people along their way to walking as Jesus walked.

We use the four-chair strategy in our church, and it has given us a new language to talk about disciple-making and a simple tool to cast vision. I highly recommend this resource to any leader who wants to ignite movements by making disciples.

CRAIG ETHERIDGE | Senior Pastor | First Baptist Church | Colleyville, Texas

Dr. Dann Spader has been a global force for the cause of Christian disciple-making. *4 Chair Discipling* provides a simple, easily transferable, and proven method for discipling that can be used by pastors, youth workers, and volunteers in a wide range of cultural contexts. This book will help Christian leaders succeed in the primary purpose of their work: to make disciples of Christ.

TERRY LINHART, PHD | Author, educator | Bethel College, Indiana

This book deeply impacted my life and in turn the ministry I lead.

We all live in houses but few know how to actually construct one. As Christian leaders we exist in the church but few know how to make disciples.

Out of years of experience, Dann teaches us how to make disciples following the pattern of Jesus. He shows us how to practically "swing a hammer."

DEAN PLUMLEE | National Director | Christian Surfers USA

What the church needs now is a fresh understanding of an old truth. How do we grow up as believers and become the disciple-makers that Jesus intended for us to be? And how do we help others do the same? Dann has spent a lifetime casting vision on this subject and on the life of Christ. Filled with great stories and personal insight, *4 Chair Discipling* is an essential read for everyone who wants to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus. It digs deep and yet provides a simple and clear demonstration of how we can walk others through the phases of spiritual development.

DALE EDWARDSON | National Church Health Director | C&MA

I have interacted with Dann Spader. I have listened to his heart and mind, and I know him as an undisputed leader in disciple-making. He is a disciple who lives what he preaches. His teaching on the humanity of Christ and its implications has totally changed my reading of the gospels.

Dann's book is an exceptionally practical guide to disciple-making. The *4 Chairs* speak to every culture and language. It is especially welcome in my continent, Africa, a continent with huge numbers of daily conversions but very few models of effective disciple-making. It is a tool for pastors and marketplace leaders across the globe that I highly recommend.

Since I first heard it from Dann, I have used this model with the men we minister to in different churches in Kenya with awesome results. Thanks Dann and thanks to God, for a book so simple yet so profound. May God use it to prepare the bride for the Groom!

The book is easy to read, a needed challenge to the casual reader of the gospels, and a model and guide for the Christ-follower. Awesome work indeed!

SIMON MBEVI | Pastor and Executive Director of Transform Kenya Initiative

For thirty years I have watched Dann go deeper into his study of the life and methods of Jesus. Now, in this book, he takes the fruit of that lifelong journey and translates it into a highly reproducible strategy for making disciples. His “four chairs” paradigm frees us from the box of programmatic thinking and gives us an easily accessible process that could fit any church or ministry environment. The renewed global attention on disciple-making might be the most important conversation of the decade. *4 Chair Discipling* couldn't come at a better time.

DR. GARY MAYES | VP Church Resource Ministries | Author, *DNA of a Revolution: 1st Century Breakthroughs That Will Transform the Church*

Disciple-making is the primary mission of the church. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He commanded His followers to make disciples of all nations. Yet some well-meaning churches neglect, if not miss out on this Great Commission.

In his book *4 Chair Discipling*, Dann unearths timeless discipleship treasures from the ultimate model of disciple-making—Jesus, the Master Discipulator. Knowing Dann personally, he is a practitioner of what he is writing. I highly recommend this book not just to pastors and church leaders, but also to all laymen and laywomen who want to take the call to make disciples of prime importance in their lives and in their churches!

DR. PETER F. TAN-CHI | Senior Pastor | Christ's Commission Fellowship | Manila, Philippines

It is unlikely that we can make disciples unless we can describe what a disciple looks like and the process of how a disciple is made. Dann's life and ministry have been devoted to exemplifying this process.

In this book he has given a simple description of the process that is rooted in the life of Christ using the four chairs. This book will help you return to the disciple-making process that Jesus modeled. It is a must-read!

ANDREW TAY | President, Intentional Disciple Making Network | Singapore

Dann Spader is not just a recognized leader rich with insights from the study of Jesus life and leadership; he is a practitioner, disciple-maker, and movement builder.

This practical book will extend his contribution to the fruitfulness of other leaders globally as they seek to coach people through the Four Chair process of becoming disciple-makers bearing much fruit.

BILL HODGSON | Campus Crusade for Christ Australia

In a world saturated with leadership models, there is a scarcity of attention and examination given to the life and methods of Jesus. Spader leads us to a clear understanding of Christ's methods. I am indebted to Spader for the ways in which his life and leadership have shaped me and countless others.

STEVE FRENCH | President | Lifework Leadership | Orlando

4 CHAIR DISCIPLING

—
WHAT HE CALLS US TO DO

DANN SPADER

MOODY PUBLISHERS
CHICAGO

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*Dedicated to the 1000s of young leaders
around the globe involved with Global Youth Initiative.
Your passion and fruitfulness in making disciples has truly shaped
my life and inspired our family.*

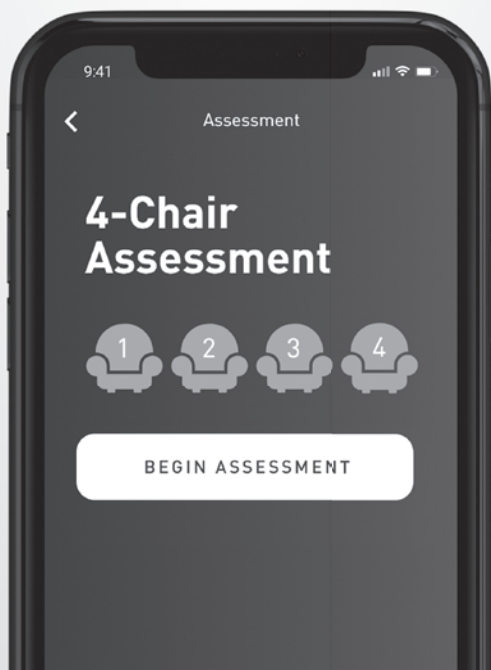
*Especially to my dear friend Mark Edwards,
who first introduced me to using four chairs to explain the Life of Christ.
From the days of being your youth pastor to watching you lead your own
movement of disciple-makers, you have been used by God to
impact my life. I'm indebted to you.*

*To my supporters who have made it possible for me to lock myself in a room
and write. You know who you are, and God knows. May your eternal
rewards surpass your greatest dreams. You give so sacrificially.
Without you, I could not be leading GYI.*

*And finally, to our new friends at Southeast Christian Church.
You have modeled a passion to know Jesus that is contagious. Char and I
have felt truly loved and welcomed. It has been a joy working with your
gifted staff and leaders in teaching the Life of Christ
and disciple-making.*

I'm excited about what the Lord has in store.

Learn more about the Like Jesus initiative for your church or ministry and access videos and assessment tools at:
www.LikeJesus.church/4chair



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CHAPTER ONE



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

I grew up in a large family. When I say, “large,” I mean *very* large. My parents had sixteen children. I was number fifteen of sixteen, so I’m glad that my parents had so many children, or I would not be here! All of my brothers and sisters, except for the oldest three, have first names that begin with the letter “D.” We always joked that we wanted the last child to be called “Done.”

When child number sixteen was born, my mom went off to the hospital (only the last few were born in the hospital) and we heard through the grapevine that it was a boy. Everyone was excited! This is “Done”!

By the time my mom and dad arrived home, the whole family was eagerly waiting to see if our new brother was named Done. Dad delivered the news sheepishly: “We named him Dallas.”

Everyone was disappointed. “Why didn’t you call him Done?” they asked.

Dad looked up with a twinkle in his eye and said, “Well, to be honest, we aren’t sure we are done yet!”

Even though I was the next-to-last child born, as far as I know, I was the first in my family to come to a clear understanding of what it means to become a Christ-follower. It happened while I was attending an engineering school in South Dakota. In order to catch a free ride to his hometown to see his girlfriend, my roommate, also named Dann, decided it was worth it to tolerate seven hours in a car with a bunch of “Jesus freaks.” During the weekend, Dann and his girlfriend couldn’t find anything fun to do, so they

attended the very first Campus Crusade for Christ conference (CRU) in the state. Dann accepted Christ that night, and it changed his life! Immediately when he returned to our fraternity house, I noticed a change in his life. One night after a keg party, I came back to our room and found him reading a Bible.

“What happened to you?” I asked. “Why are you reading that?”

With trembling hands, he pulled out a Four Spiritual Laws tract and began to read it to me. He was so nervous that I had to hold the booklet so he could read it.

The Holy Spirit moved that night. On December 17, 1970, at 9:43 p.m., I bowed my head with my roommate, repented of my sin, and asked Christ to take control of my life.

My roommate and I began reading the Bible together, and we were thrilled by what we found. One evening we got so excited when we discovered that the story of Noah and the ark was a true story in the Bible! And because of the Spirit’s work in our lives, we saw that story in a totally new way. We wept for joy because we had been rescued from the judgment of sin.

We went up and down the halls in our fraternity house and read the Four Spiritual Laws booklet to anyone who would listen. Several prayed to receive Christ and—because we had been Christians and studying the Scriptures just a few weeks longer than they had—we led the Bible studies.

It didn’t take me long to realize that I needed some training, both in ministry and understanding the Scriptures. I hardly knew the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament, much less how to interpret them. So I left engineering school and headed to Bible school. Much to my surprise, a small church on the north side of Chicago offered to pay me money to minister to their youth! *I should be paying you*, I thought. *But if you want to pay me to practice on your kids, I’ll take it.*

One day in a class on the gospel of John, my professor, Stan Gundry, made a statement in passing that changed my life. “Some of Christ’s first disciples could have been teenagers,” he said.

This totally changed my perception of Jesus! I thought Jesus was an old guy (I was only twenty at the time) and that His disciples were old guys. But when I realized that John could have been in his late teens, and several of the other disciples could have been in their late teens or early twenties, I was amazed! I was working with students the same age. Maybe I could learn to lead my youth group by exploring how Jesus worked with His youth group!

After class I rushed up to my professor and asked how I could learn more. He encouraged me to study the life of Christ chronologically. Dr. Gundry had just compiled a harmony of the Gospels, which looks at Christ’s life chronologically, and he encouraged me to get a copy.¹ Study what Jesus did the first year, he advised. Where did He go? What did He say? Why did He do the things He did? Then do the same with the second year and the third year. He encouraged me, in short, to study the Son’s life.

This set me on a journey that became my life passion. We named our youth group Sonlife—we were just trying to live out the Son’s life. For twenty-five years I led a ministry called Sonlife, through which we trained countless numbers of youth pastors and pastors in the Son’s life. Over the years I’ve discovered that Jesus modeled a very simple pattern for disciple-making, a pattern every Christian can easily imitate. Jesus’s disciple-making strategy follows four challenges He posed to His followers: “come and see” (John 1:39), “follow me” (John 1:43), “follow me and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19), and “go and bear fruit” (John 15:16). With this simple pattern, Jesus led His disciples through the natural growth process from children, to young men, and to spiritual fathers. This book is dedicated to explaining this simple process. In chapter 4 we will introduce four chairs as a simple metaphor to explain this disciple-making process. These four chairs will reflect the four challenges of Jesus, a simple transferable metaphor of how Jesus developed “fully trained disciples” (Luke 6:40).

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

Unfortunately, it took me many years to discern this very simple pattern. For the first ten years I studied the life of Christ, I focused mainly upon His message—the words of Jesus. Twenty percent of the words in the

New Testament are the words of Jesus. One in every four verses in the New Testament is quoting the sayings of Jesus. That's a lot of material!

Jesus's message is profound. He spoke in simple terms. He spoke, for example, of the "lilies of the field," the "birds of the air," and "the sowers and the seed." But His simple words carried profound weight. People were "amazed" at Jesus's words, for "he spoke with authority," unlike the other teachers of the Law (Mark 1:22). But I would argue that if you completely understand the message of Christ but fail to understand His methods, you won't truly know the Jesus of the Scriptures. Jesus was much more than just His words and message.

THE METHODS OF JESUS

For the next ten years of my Christian life, I focused on the methods of Jesus. I studied to identify His major priorities and analyze them in His life and ministry. I wrote a Harmony self-study, which explained what I consider the strategy of Jesus.² We trained tens of thousands of youth pastors, pastors, and church leaders in the methods of Christ. Some of those methods included:

Jesus was deeply committed to relational ministry. John 3:22 tells us that Jesus "spent time with his disciples." The Greek word translated "spent time with" here is *diatribo*. It means "getting under the skin of." Jesus gave His disciples time to get to know Him and took time to invest in them.

Jesus invested early in a few. Within eighteen months of beginning His ministry, Jesus identified five individuals (James and John, Simon and Andrew, and Matthew) and challenged them to go deeper with Him. Even before He chose His twelve disciples, Jesus deepened His investment in these few, teaching them how to be "fishers of men."

Jesus often slipped away to pray. More than forty-five times in the Gospels, Jesus escaped the crowds to pray. The busier He became the more He prayed. His ministry began with prayer and ended with prayer. Before every major turning point in Jesus's life, He spent focused time in prayer.

Jesus loved sinners profoundly. Jesus was described as a "friend of sinners." His opponents used that title to condemn Him, but Jesus wore

it as a badge of honor. He associated with those others condemned. He befriended those others despised. He was always drawn to the neediest, not to the sharpest.

Jesus balanced His efforts to win the lost, build believers, and equip a few workers. Jesus understood that His mandate was to "make disciples." Disciple-making for Jesus meant meeting the needs of people where they were spiritually and then challenging them to the next level. His goal was multiplication, and with laser focus He trained His few disciples to multiply their lives in others. And in the Great Commission, which is a great summary of His life, He told His disciples to go and repeat the process with others.

JESUS'S MODEL FOR DISCIPLE-MAKING

Jesus, as the perfecter of our faith, develops us to become "fully trained disciples," reflecting His character and priorities completely (Luke 6:40). In order to perfect the faith of His disciples, over a period of more than three years, Jesus modeled a pattern for us to study and follow. Unfortunately, it has been my experience in training leaders in disciple-making that very few look to Jesus as the model of how to do this! There are several reasons for this.

Many people fail to recognize Jesus's intentional disciple-making process because they don't expect to find a pattern in Jesus's ministry. Few have analyzed what He did with His disciples the first year, the second year, and then the third year. More than 80 percent of the books I've read about Jesus in the last forty years talk about the message of Jesus. The rest of them may also allude to some of the methods of Jesus. But I can only identify four major books that look deeply at Christ's life as the pattern for disciple-making.³

Others are resistant to the very idea that the Gospels contain a pattern for disciple-making. They argue the Gospels were never intended to be studied that way. "If God wanted us to study Jesus's life chronologically," I've heard many people object, "He would have given us a chronological record of the life of Jesus." There is a simple response to this objection: He has! Luke begins his gospel with this explanation: "Therefore, since I myself

have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus” (Luke 1:3). Luke researched the life of Christ by consulting eyewitnesses and weighing their testimony (1:2) and studying historical documents comprehensively. Once he compiled his information, he made an orderly account of Jesus’s life. The Greek word *kathexes*, translated “orderly account,” indicates a successive, or chronological, record.

Chronology is important because it gives us insight we could not gain in any other way. For example, without a chronological understanding of Jesus’s life, few realize that Mark 1:17, where Jesus tells His disciples “follow me and I will make you fishers of men,” is not His first connection with these disciples. At that point, they had been with Jesus for at least eighteen months, and now He is calling them to a new level of involvement and development. When Jesus chose the twelve apostles (Luke 6:12–16), He had been investing in them for two and a half years. Understanding the chronology of Jesus’s life helps us to understand how He developed His disciples. This book explores this chronology to identify disciple-making Jesus style.

But perhaps the greatest roadblock that keeps people from studying the life of Christ as their model for disciple-making is an underlying assumption that few people will openly state. It goes like this: *I really can’t do what Jesus did. He was God. I can’t do what God does!* One young man said to me after a recent training event, “Dr. Spader, you state over and over again that we should ‘do what Jesus did.’ While I like what you are saying, my problem is simply this: He was God and I’m not!”

I appreciated this young man’s honesty. His concern is one I’ve heard before. However, his objection is rooted in a faulty view of the real Jesus. It has been my experience in North America (not so much in other parts of the world) that many Christians imagine Jesus to be some sort of Superman. He may *appear* to be a human—a Clark Kent by day—but this humanity is a disguise. In actual fact, Jesus is a caped wonder, a superhero with superpowers. This is poor theology! Jesus was no super man. He was *fully* human. And that distinction is critical. If we believe that Jesus was

superhuman, we may likewise conclude that it is therefore impossible to do what He did.

Paul did not view Jesus in this way. He understood Jesus as a very real person, set in time and space. He understood both His humanity and deity and told us that this Jesus, the real Jesus of the Bible, is the Jesus that we are commanded to imitate. We are commanded to “walk as He walked” (1 John 2:6). We are to follow the very pattern of His life that He so powerfully modeled to the first-century disciples, the pattern they so clearly recorded in the Gospels, under the influence of the Holy Spirit. “That which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched,” John wrote, “this we proclaim” (1 John 1:1). I love how Philippians 2:5 says it: “think the same way that Christ Jesus thought” (CEV) or “think and act like Christ Jesus” (EXB).

In the next chapter, I want to begin to explore a critical aspect of the “real Jesus.” It’s important that we discuss this aspect before we move on to talk about Jesus’s model for disciple-making, because a wrong view of Jesus will lead to a misunderstanding of disciple-making. I’m convinced that you can’t get to know that real Jesus until you understand both His deity and His humanity. His deity is profound. Jesus *is* God Himself. But the reality that Jesus “became flesh and made his dwelling among us,” adding humanity to His deity, adds a whole new dimension to the real Jesus (John 1:14). We cannot possibly “think and act” just like Jesus if we only understand the message of Jesus. We cannot even “think and act” just like Jesus if we understand both the message and methods of Jesus. In order to “walk *as* He walked” (1 John 2:6) and “do what Jesus did” (John 14:12) we must understand the real Jesus who walked on this planet over 2,000 years ago. To “think and act” like the real Jesus, we must clearly understand His full humanity. In the next chapter we will begin to explore that profound mystery.

PONDERINGS

1. How do you react to the author’s personal journey of moving from the message to the methods to the very model of Jesus’s life? Have you found

anything similar in your own Christian journey? How has your understanding of Jesus developed as you've matured as a Christian?

2. Look up Philippians 2:5 in several different translations (the simplest way to do this is on a website such as BibleGateway.com). In the space below, write out two or three translations of this verse that impact you especially. What do you find interesting or challenging about this verse of Scripture?

3. What could happen in a person's life if she fully lived out this verse? What does the context of Philippians 2 tell us about how to do this?

Visit www.LikeJesus.church/4chair for more resources.

CHAPTER TWO



THE FULL HUMANITY OF JESUS

What if it were possible to do what Jesus did? What if, like Jesus, we could make a major impact on our world without ever traveling more than a hundred miles from home? What if we could take a group of “unschooled and ordinary men” and equip them to turn the world upside down (Acts 4:13)? What if in just four short years we could create a movement of disciple-makers, just like Jesus? If I told you all this is possible, would you do it?

These may sound like extraordinary claims. But Scripture makes some extraordinary claims, too. In John 14:12, for example, Jesus explains that “whoever believes” in Him will do the works He did during His earthly ministry. But Jesus doesn't stop there. In the second half of John 14:12, He goes on to say that His disciples will do “even greater things” than He did!

You may find this hard to believe. Jesus did some incredible works, beyond just His miracles. He took ordinary men and transformed them into world changers. So even if you believe that the Bible is true—even if you take Jesus at His word—you may imagine you could never do the things Jesus did, not to mention doing *greater* things. For many years of my Christian walk, I knew I was supposed to imitate Jesus, but deep inside I believed that Jesus did what He did because He was God. Obviously, I am not! So I worked hard with very little confidence that I would ever succeed. What I know now is that my mistaken view of Jesus was crippling my disciple-making.