

# all in

## Week 2: Identify Your People

### Gather Differently

It seems there is both a believing and obeying factor that coincides with the Jesus following life. We experience both harmony and tension as we believe and obey. Often, in an effort to resolve this personal tension, we oversimplify by majoring in one or the other. For some, it is much easier to spend all our time learning about and studying Jesus. For others, it seems easier to focus all our efforts on loving and helping others. One approach bolsters our faith (the believing factor) and one bolsters our works (the obedience factor). Limiting our faith response just to belief or just to obedience keeps us from living out the fullness of the Great Commission, found in Matthew 28 where Jesus asks us to “go” (into the world) and “teach” (the faith we profess). Belief and obedience.

### Grow Intentionally

Considering the tension that belief and obedience are both required of us, spend some time reading and respond to the following scripture passages:

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Matthew 12:46-50 (take particular note of verse 50)
- Mark 8:34-38 (emphasis on verse 38)
- How do you see the harmony of faith/belief and obedience in these passages?
- How do you sense the tension of faith/belief and obedience in these passages?
- Which way do you typically resolve this tension? Do you swing to the faith/belief side or the obedience side?
- True Jesus followers balance believing and obeying. Reflect on the following Douglas O'Donnell quotation, “This going (how can I say this strongly?) is why the church exists. . . You can't make disciples unless you go (move out to mission), and you can't go unless you know why you are going. “Go” and “Make” go together.

To be specific, one of the main obstacles we see in ourselves and in our church community is that often our walk with Jesus is mistakenly exemplify only or

primarily by personal faith growth. We've gotten good at "gathering and spending time growing," which means that we study and expand our knowledge of Jesus in our small groups. But in doing this we directly sacrifice or downplay the importance of daily, and practical demonstrations of love and good deeds that we are also called to do in the name of Jesus. Without action, we are in danger of missing the Great Commandment.

Josh Jacobs, our Young Adult Pastor, says it well, *"In order to 'Move,' we need to fall in love with Him, and our personal growth needs to be marked by tangible changes to our rhythms and patterns of life that are consistent demonstrations of love and good deeds."*

### **Read Mark 12:28-34.**

- How do faith and obedience interact in Jesus's response to the scribe's question?
- Wrestle with this phrase, "You cannot truly love God without also truly loving people"

James has a lot to say about this holy tension of belief and obedience. He frames this paradigm within the context of faith and works. As you read the following passage, don't skim over these words. James shares a stern warning for all of us who want to oversimplify the Jesus following life by believing that faith or works can stand alone.

### **Read James 2:14 - 26**

- Summarize James 2:17, 20, & 26 in your own words
- How might you compartmentalize your faith and your works?

## **Go Missionally**

**This entire series is about getting you to **MOVE** into action with your witness.**

1. What needs to move in your head (faith) to ignite your passion for the Great Commandment and Great Commission?
2. What needs to move in your heart to enable you to truly "Love God AND Love People?"
3. What needs to move in your hands (works) to prompt you to demonstrate God's love to all people around you?

Here's an exercise to help you identify your three specific people within your greater community. Using the following 3 circle diagram, complete the following prompts:

- a. Write down 2-3 people you interact with daily or multiple times a week
- b. Write down 2-3 people you interact with occasionally or weekly
- c. Write down 2-3 people you interact with monthly
- d. Finally, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you circle the names of 3 people you will focus on praying and intentionally interacting with over the next 6 months