

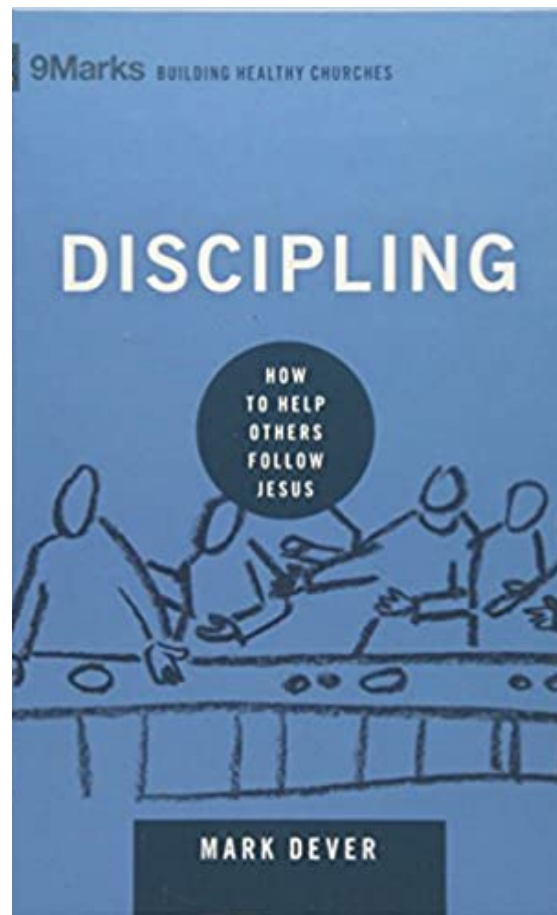
book of the month

Discipling – Mark Dever

Discipling is one installment in the “Building Healthy Churches” series. The few books that I have read from this series have been very encouraging and helpful. What I appreciate most about Dever’s book is its emphasis on the centrality and sufficiency of the local church. We live in a time when Christians seem to believe that they can pick their favorite discipler abroad, largely due to the ease of access that we have to such gifted people and their body of work. But discipleship cannot be, primarily, a long distance endeavor. Christ entrusted the authority to disciple and the task of discipleship into the hands of local churches and their shepherds (Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 15:14; II Tim. 2:2; Ti. 2:1-8).

This book should be an encouragement to our members on several levels. God has been kind to Grace Bible Church in that we currently have a culture of discipling in our body. We have been gifted with humble, faithful leaders who model discipling others well in their intentionality and accessibility. For a long time, our leaders have emphasized personal, private godliness and not just increasing in knowledge for knowledge’s sake. And yet, we must excel still more as a church. May this book aid us to that wonderful, God-glorifying end.

— Omri Miles, *Elder Intern and Deacon of the booktable*



Suggested One-Month Reading Plan

(less than 3.5 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday, January 4th – Sunday, the 10th

Preface

Introduction

Part 1: What is Discipling?

1. The Inevitability of Influence
2. Oriented Toward Others
3. The Work of Discipling

Week 2: Monday, the 11th – Sunday, the 17th

4. Objections to Discipling

Part 2: Where Should We Disciple?

5. The Local Church
6. Pastors and Members

Week 3: Monday, the 18th – Sunday, the 24th

Part 3: How Should We Disciple?

7. Choose Someone
8. Have Clear Aims
9. Pay the Cost

Week 4: Monday, the 25th – Sunday, the 31st

10. Raise Up Leaders

Conclusion

Appendix

QUOTES

“Local churches exist to display God’s glory to the nations.” (9)

“Discipling is deliberately doing spiritual good to someone so that he or she will be more like Christ.” (13)

“The work of discipling occurs in the present, but it has its eyes set on the Last Day. It requires long-term thinking. It requires an investor’s mentality, knowing that the return is eternal.” (32)

“The New Testament ultimately charges the gathered congregation with responsibility for ensuring that members live up to their professions of faith and covenants with each other.” (65)

“The local church is where to look for encouragement and counsel. It’s where we receive instruction and give it, as we disciple each other.” (67)

“If a friend of yours attends an unhealthy church, you might be doing damage to their spiritual life by discipling them. How? Your spiritual support, ironically, enables him or her to remain in a church that does not teach the Bible. This is not an absolute rule, but it may be better just to encourage your friend to join a healthy church. Christians need the whole body, not just you.” (76)

booktable