



AUTHENTIC SPACE

Making Rooted Disciples: Discussion Guide Questions

Searching for Space: Prior to the gathering, instruct participants to go online to view Pastor Luke Harbaugh's portion of the panel discussion *"Engaging with Young Adults in Ministry"* presentation at the 2014 Susquehanna Annual Conference.

- 1) As you watch Luke's presentation, consider the role of a Christian mentor.
 - Reflect on faith veterans who have mentored you.
 - What stories did they share?
 - What questions did they ask?
 - How did they live out their faith in ways that you could see?

Find Some Space: Start each gathering by asking everyone to share their thoughts with the group.

- 1) Over the last 5 sessions there's been a few themes that have emerged. These themes surfaced some way in every conversation and play a central role in understanding young adults and being in ministry with them. We are going to take some time now to consider a few of those themes and how they might influence young adult ministry in our congregation.
- 2) Divide the group into three smaller teams. Assign each group one of the "Authentic Space Buzz Words": relationship, authentic, and community. Ask each group to:
 - Define the word from the perspective of a young adult
 - List three (3) ways developing this theme could help grow a young adult's faith
 - Suggest one way your congregation can work on developing these themes with young adults

Give time for each team to share the results of their conversation with the entire group.

If your group has additional themes they would like to consider, divide into smaller teams and continue the exercise as laid out.

Open with the prayer written by your group during the first session of the series.

Measure The Space: Participants will receive an overview of the subject and create a baseline for discussion.

1) Watch Chapter 1 of "Making Rooted Disciples"

- Ask for a volunteer to read Deuteronomy 5:1-5.

- How does the covenantal prelude to the Ten Commandments shape discipleship?
- How does this recounting of the Ten Commandments explain God's desire to be a part of your life?
- Have you ever thought about how your life intersects the contours of the biblical story?

- Ask for another volunteer to read the a portion of the traditional United Methodist Baptismal Liturgy.

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

Congregation: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

- How well do we follow through with this promise?
- How do we help EVERYONE in the congregation remember and uphold this commitment?
- How could being intentional about integrating generations together in ministry help us to live this promise?
- What will you, personally, do to remember and keep this promise?

Furnish the Space: Participants will more deeply consider the dynamics of young adult ministry, especially its variable nature.

1) Watch Chapter 2 of "Making Rooted Disciples"

- Ask each participant to share a story of a great moment in his or her life that was a result of his or her relationship with Jesus Christ. Or how his or her faith impacts daily life.

- Why might having these types of stories ready better equip you for ministry with young adults?
- Why is it important to reflect on our relationship with God?
- How can living our lives according to the example of Christ lead to discipleship of "nominal" Christians?
- Why might asking Christ-like questions build cross-generational relationships AND deepen faith walks?

Use The Space: Participants are invited to take some form of action regarding young adult ministry.

1) Watch Chapter 3 of "Making Rooted Disciples"

- Luke's closing statement was, "If you start with, 'we want to fill up the pews,' they'll probably stay empty. But if you start with, 'I want to make disciples of Jesus Christ,' then chances are they'll probably fill up."

- What is your reaction to that statement?
- Where are we starting?
- What opportunities are we providing to help disciples deepen their faith?
- How are we encouraging our young disciples to deepen their faith?
- What more could the disciples in our congregation be doing to help each other deepen their faith?

2) *As a conclusion to the series, ask each participant to come up with an individual action plan.*

Ask them to write down the answers to the following questions.

- In the next month how will you:
 - share with someone not in this study what you have learned
 - begin a relationship with someone new (preferably a young adult)
 - deepen your relationship with God

- In the next six months how will you:
 - assist the congregation in developing a new ministry or creatively inserting a new idea into an existing ministry
 - encourage a young adult to be more committed to a life with Jesus Christ
 - influence a peer to develop a relationship with a young adult

- In the next year how will you:
 - support ministries in your congregation that are focused on making disciples
 - listen for new ways God is calling you to be in ministry