

Session Four - Introducing Safar - A Discipleship tool

13th February

1. Reflect back

- Have we been able to support someone suffering this week?
- Do we have testimonies about hope that we can share?
- What one thing stood out from this week's talk?

2. Review the teaching

Pete Grieg introduced David Yeghnazar, an Elder of Emmaus Road, saying that Discipleship is becoming like Jesus. Making disciples is a command from Jesus, so who am I discipling? Can we learn from the church in Iran, which is the fastest growing church in the world at present? David is CEO of Elam Ministries which supports discipleship in Iran and the western church can humbly learn how discipleship works even though there is persecution with church leaders being imprisoned.

David referenced Matt 4v18-20 and Matt 28v19 but shared about Sara a new Christian in her 20s who was discipling Anita. Over time Anita's family came to Jesus, even her father who was a senior police officer and ardent Muslim. This shows that young, ordinary Christians can disciple others.

There is so much potential at Emmaus - we should never underestimate God! Don't be self deprecating by "leaving it the Leaders". Their job is to equip us for service. We are The Plan - God wants to use us!

Discipleship is easier said than done but Matt 4v18-20 defines 3 steps:

- *"Follow me"* - Be an apprentice, watch Jesus, put into practice what he does, mimic him.
- *"I will make you"* - Jesus forms, shapes, builds us. Grudges become forgiveness; self-absorption becomes outward looking; fear becomes courage.
- *"Fishers of mankind"* - A new mission. It's about others. Not "more faith to bless my plans" but passion to follow Jesus' plan. Involves denying self but leads to life in all its fullness.

Introducing "Safar" (Persian/Farsi) means "journey" (think "safari").

Aim is for every Christian to have someone to walk alongside and journey into discipleship. Principle is same gender, relationship based, committed engagement.

Safar has 3 "legs" - Walk with God; Live Free; Stand Strong. Each leg has 10 components.

Find details on www.emmausrd.com/safar It's free, simple, clear and fun. Find someone and go for it!

- Karim was in Kabul being disciplined by Ali in Turkey. Lacking electricity, Karim ran for 40mins to find a place to charge his phone so the conversation could continue.
- Mahor, a student in Yazd, Iran was being disciplined by Elham but was afraid of family finding out. After 6 weeks Mahor led family to Jesus and church met in family home despite parents not being Christians.
- Abazur, 40, had been, when younger, abused by older brothers. After the session on forgiveness he chose to forgive his brothers and is now discipling two of them using Safar.

What can God do through you? The key is to do something for someone else. How to begin?

Find someone to walk alongside, commit together and be cheered on by others.

3. Realise the value

- Who is God asking me to disciple?
- Do I need to find someone to disciple me?
- Who will cheer me on as I start this journey?
- Try it.... What will God do?