

How do you know if you have accomplished something? Typically, you have a goal in mind or some defined reality of what needs to get done. If my goal is to get rid of all the leaves in my yard, and I only remove half the leaves, my goal hasn't been accomplished, even though I have made progress. When I finish getting rid of all the leaves, I know I have accomplished what I set out to accomplish.

As Christians and as a church, we have a goal. We have something we are supposed to accomplish. This isn't any goal. It is the goal that Jesus gives us. We are supposed to make disciples of Jesus who make a difference for Jesus.

How do we know if we are accomplishing the mission Jesus gave us? How do we know if we are *making* disciples?

To make disciples, ***we invite people to explore and follow Jesus, to be transformed by Jesus, and to participate in the mission of Jesus.***

I covered inviting people to explore and follow Jesus in the last two newsletters. This month I want us to think about being transformed by Jesus. As we follow Jesus, we are to be renewed...we are to look more and more like Jesus so we can reflect Jesus to the world and become who God created us to be.

How does this happen? Through personal spiritual disciplines like prayer and Bible reading? Of course. But I want us to focus on the *main* event — our Sunday morning worship gathering.

I believe coming together for worship weekly is the catalyst for you to be transformed by Jesus. The author of Hebrews tells us not to forsake coming together to worship. But why?

When we come together regularly to worship through the liturgy, sacraments, and God's word, we acknowledge that God is our life's purpose. Winfield Bevins said this: "Liturgy prepares us for how we live in the world and ends with the command to go into the world. Week after week, the prayers and words of the liturgy and the tangible elements of the sacraments ready us for our work and witness."

This means to be obedient to Jesus —being disciples of Jesus who make disciples of Jesus; we regularly worship with our church family. For us, as a church, to become who God wants us to be, we must be people who worship together. As we worship, we invite others into the family — the life of the Gospel. Only when we worship together can we transform the world together.

Praying for you,
Pastor Zac