

THE TRELLIS AND THE VINE

Chapter 4 Study Guide

1. What does it mean to be a disciple? How many types of disciples are there?
2. Choose one of the following passages and discuss what it teaches about the role of all Christians speaking the word of God to others (Matt 28:16-20, Rom 15:14, 1 Cor 10:31-11:1, Eph 4:15-16, Heb 3:12-13, Heb 10:24-25)?
3. What should be the goal of every member of the church regardless of their gifting?
4. Why do you think it is that there are very few commands in the New Testament to speak the gospel to others?
5. Do you agree with the author that, “A Christian without a missionary heart is an anomaly?” Why or why not?
6. In what ways are disciples called to be distinctive?
7. Explain how the quotation of Penn Jillette (the avowed atheist) impacted your thinking.
8. According to the definition on page 39, ‘vine work’ is when “a Christian brings a truth from God’s word to someone else, praying that God would make that word bear fruit through the inward working of his Spirit”. Pages 54-56 list a variety of different ways in which all Christians can be involved in vine work. Spend a few minutes coming up with your own list of vine-working possibilities—of different ways and contexts in which a Christian could speak the truth of God to other people (whether to other Christians or to non-Christians).
9. What do you think is wrong in the heart of a believer who does not speak about the gospel with others?
10. How do you think Harvest would change if every person in the church got ‘caught up in a web of regular Bible reading?’ Is this prospect exciting to you? What could you do to help encourage this?