

Welcome to Digging Deeper

We've launched this weekly blog series designed to help you engage more deeply with Sunday's message. Whether you're new to church or have been following Jesus for decades, these discussion questions are meant to help you reflect, apply, and talk through the truths we explore together each week. You can use them on your own, with your family, or in a group setting.

Let's dig into this week's message:

Discipleship Requires Proximity: Lessons from Paul & Timothy

[Philippians 2:19–22](#)

Pastor John Weiland

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This week, Pastor John reminded us that following Jesus is deeply relational. Paul and Timothy show us what discipleship looks like when it's rooted in closeness, consistency, and shared life. Jesus modeled the same kind of closeness, and through the Holy Spirit, He still invites us into that kind of intimacy today.

Discipleship Is Never Distant

- Discipleship does not happen at a distance.
- The closer you are to the target, the more likely you are to hit it, and the same is true of following Christ.
- Jesus modeled proximity by coming to earth, walking with humanity, and giving the Holy Spirit so God could remain with us.

Paul & Timothy: A Model of Close Discipleship

- Paul meets Timothy in Acts 16 and immediately invites him to travel with him. Their deep relationship forms through shared life, trust, and ministry.
- Paul calls Timothy his “beloved son” and highlights Timothy’s genuine concern for others.
- Philippians 2:19–22 reveals the depth of their bond: Timothy serves “as a son with his father in the work of the gospel.”

Community Matters: Discipleship Requires Proximity to Others

- We need more than Sunday mornings. True growth happens in close, consistent relationships.
- We encourage you to join a group, participate in a Bible study, or get involved with mid-week ministries.
- Jesus is near, and we grow when we draw near to Him and to His people.

Lectio Divina

- The four steps of Lectio Divina are: Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest.
- As you reflect, take your time. Slow down. Let God speak as you consider these questions:

Reflecting on the Passage

- Why do you think Paul describes Timothy as serving “as a son with his father”? What does this reveal about their relationship?
- How does genuine concern for others reflect the character of Jesus in this passage?

Personal Application

- Pastor John taught the four steps of Lectio Divina: Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest. Which step is most challenging for you, and why?
- What might change in your spiritual life if you slowed down instead of rushing through Scripture?

Exploring Faith

- Pastor said, “If you want to be conformed to the image of Christ, the closer you are, the better.” How does this resonate with your current walk?
- Reflect on the statement, “Sunday morning is not enough.” What does that say about how God designed spiritual formation?

Community Impact

- How might God be calling you to draw nearer to others in our church family?
- What would it look like for you to invest in someone the way Paul invested in Timothy?
- How might joining (or starting) a small group help you practice discipleship in community?

Discipleship grows in the soil of shared life. Jesus invites us to walk closely with Him and with one another. May this week’s reflections draw you deeper into that life-changing proximity.

Join us again next week for more ways to dig deeper into God’s Word and grow in faith together.

Grace and peace,

The Belle Isle Community Church Team