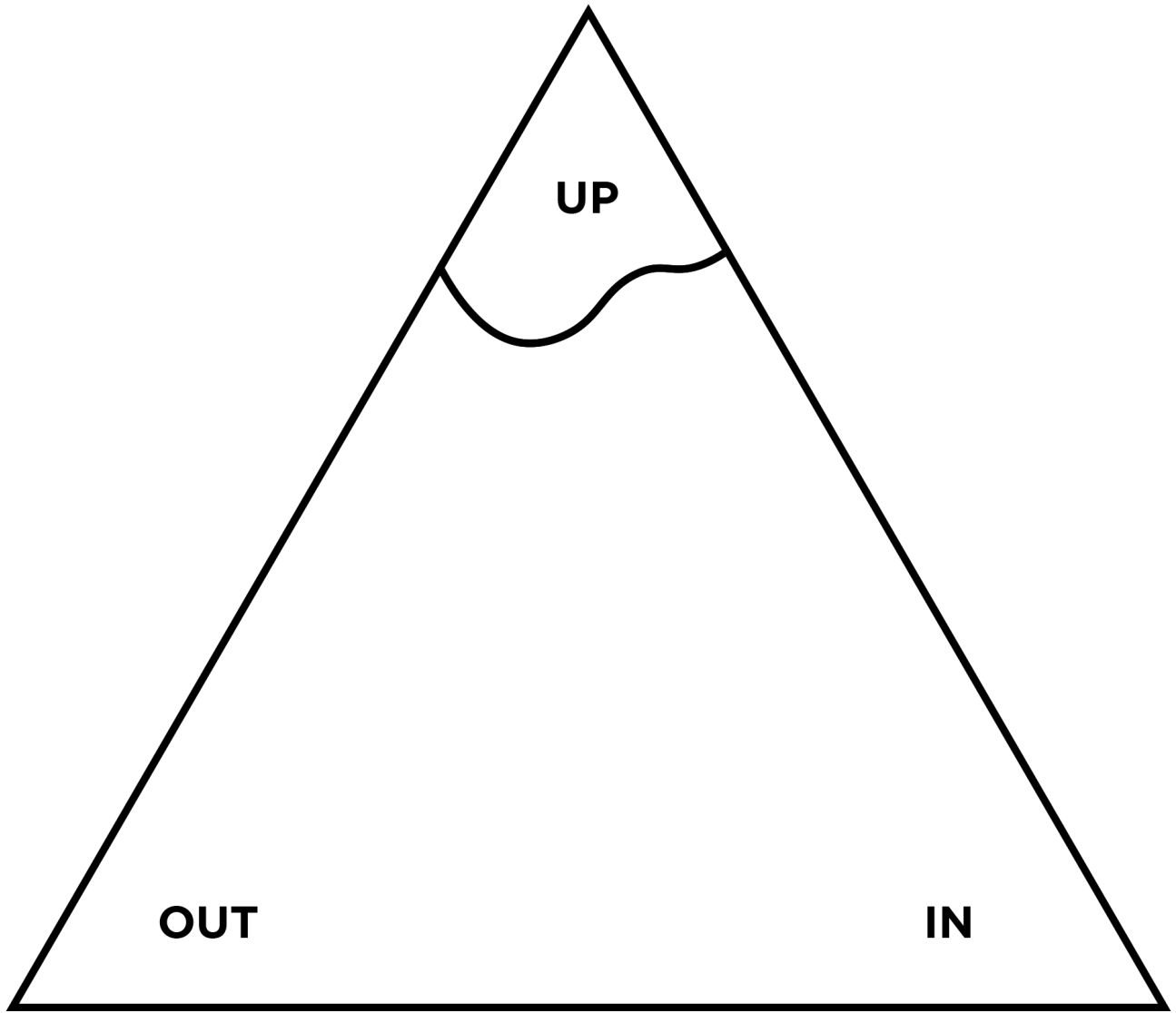


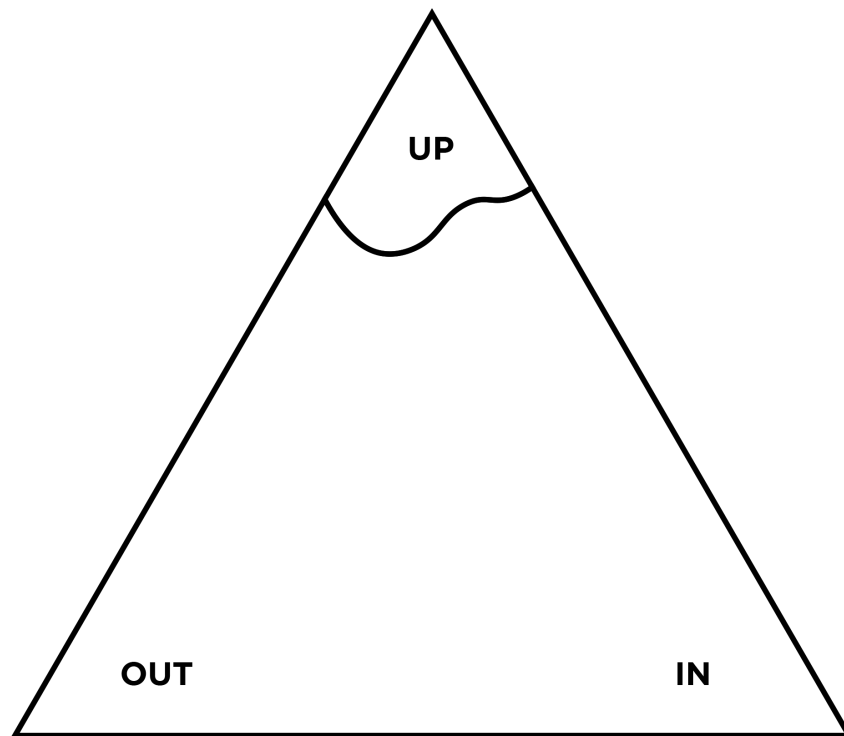
THE JESUS PATTERN TOOL



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HOW DO I LIVE LIKE JESUS LIVED?

“But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” - 1 John 2:5-6



Being a disciple means learning to be like Jesus (Character) and learning to do the things He could do (Competency). We could also say it like this: Discipleship is doing the things Jesus did while increasingly doing them for the same reasons Jesus did them.

We are learning daily to pattern our lives after Jesus.

So what we have to ask ourselves is this: How would Jesus pattern his life if He had my job, my personality type, my family situation, lived where I live and made the same amount of money I make? Those are questions we should always be considering as we follow Jesus.

When we examine the life of Jesus as found in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, we see that Jesus had a particular way of relating to the world around him. He was very intentional in how He used His time to invest in certain kinds of relationships. It was the pattern of His whole life and ministry.

Mark 9 gives us the three-fold pattern of relationships in which Jesus invested Himself:

1. He was deeply connected to his Father. (**UP**)
2. He was constantly investing in those His Father had given Him to disciple and to be His spiritual family. (**IN**)
3. He entered into the brokenness of the world with good news and asked for a response individually and communally. (**OUT**)

UP.

IN.

OUT.

"And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5 And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." 6 For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." 8 And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. 9 And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead." - Mark 9:2-9

In Mark 9:2-29, we see a picture of UP/IN/OUT at work in one simple story. Even within the 12 disciples that Jesus called to follow him, there were three that received more time with him than any of the others: Peter, James and John. This story begins with Jesus, once again, giving a little bit more time and attention to these three guys. In fact, what happens to them had to make the other disciples' jaws drop, wondering why in the world they didn't get to be part of it.

We'll pause there in the story because we have to get inside the minds of Peter, James and John for a second. They've been following Jesus for a while now and are constantly seeing Jesus go off by himself to pray. Here are a few other examples from scripture:

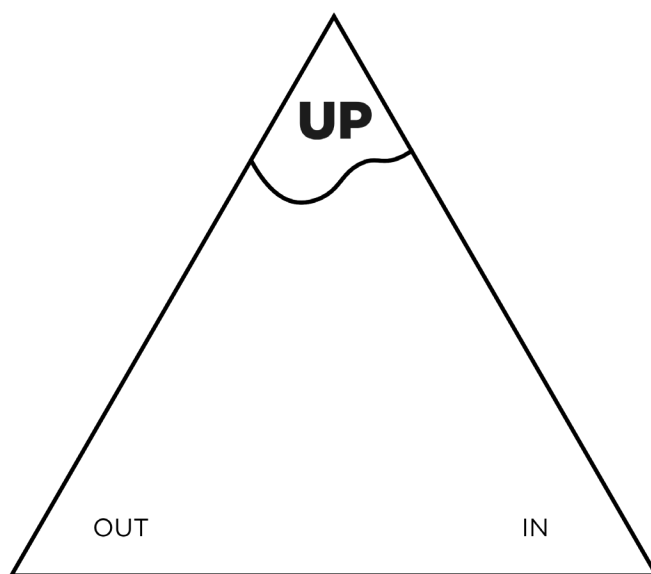
"And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed." - Mark 1:35

"But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. But he would often withdraw to desolate places and pray." - Luke 5:15-16

“And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.” - Mark 6:46

UP

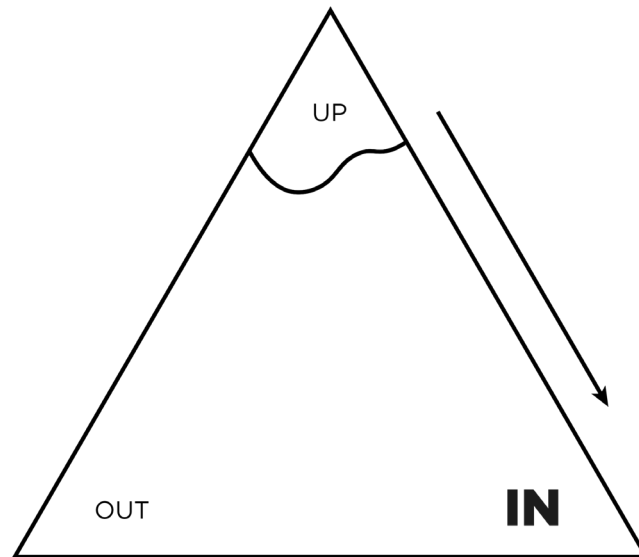
Clearly this was a pattern the disciples had seen in Jesus’ life. He often got up early to pray. He sometimes sent them ahead of him and he stayed up late to pray. He went to lonely and desolate places to pray. This pattern of going to pray is the first example of one of the key relationships Jesus invested in: His relationship with His father. Here we see Jesus, God-incarnate, making an intentional choice to be with His father. This was a regular, cherished part of His regular routine. The Son of God, the one who already knew God the Father the best, made this a priority in His day.



This particular time going up the mountain was a little different though, Jesus also brought a few of His closest disciples along. This seems to be their first invitation to one of these prayer times, and for their first VIP invite, they get this experience? We can imagine one of the big questions running through their minds watching this was, “Jesus...when you go off by yourself to pray...does this happen every time? What have we been missing?!” How mind-blowing is this?

IN

This is where we get further insight in this passage regarding Jesus’ intentionality. As Jesus goes UP the mountain, who is he taking with him? The people he is IN-vesting in. The people who are his closest community. The people who have become his family. It’s not by accident that Peter, James and John are there. Jesus wanted them in on that experience. Nothing about Jesus’ actions here are accidental. It’s all incredibly intentional.

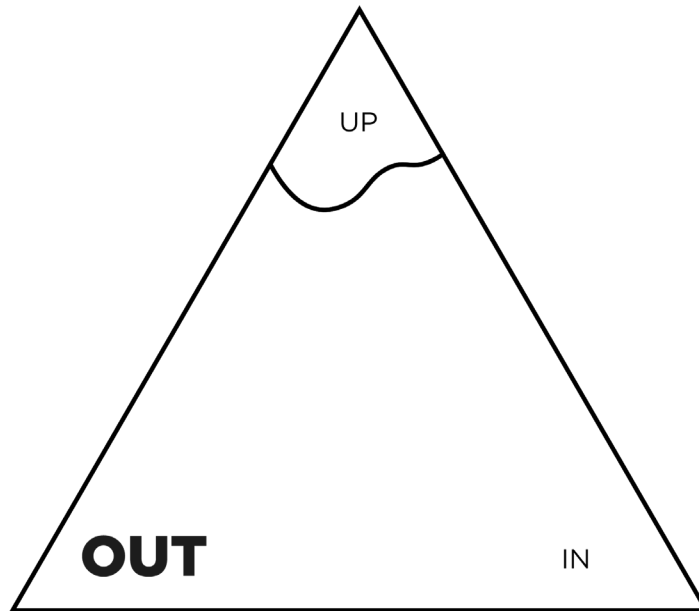


Now let's look at what happens next when they come down the mountain and meet up with the rest of the disciples after what can only be described as a jarring experience for Peter, James and John who are, undoubtedly, on a spiritual high right now.

“And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. 15 And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. 16 And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” 17 And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. 18 And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” 19 And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” 20 And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. 21 And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” 23 And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” 25 And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” 26 And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. 28 And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” 29 And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.” - Mark 9:14-29

OUT

Jesus is thrust fully into the brokenness of the world. A shattered world of evil and unbelief. A world that still doesn't trust him. And what does Jesus do? He steps OUT, right into the midst of the brokenness. He shows compassion to the man and meets his need where he is. He jumps right into the man's story, invites him to believe, and brings healing and restoration even as He rebukes the enemy.



Later, after this crazy set of events, the disciples pull Jesus aside, still trying to work out what's happened. You can almost see Jesus smile, mildly amused at the disciples failing to cast out the spirit, shrug his shoulders and say, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

After all, just like everyone else, the disciples were learning to be like Jesus and learning to do the things Jesus could do. You kind of expect failure along the way, right? That is just another reason that his grace abounds. He's not expecting us to hit home runs out of the gate. He's looking for obedience.

UP. IN. OUT.

The fact of the matter is that most people are naturally good at one of these three things. Very few people are naturally good at and inclined towards two. We've never met someone who is naturally good at all three. Not one person.

The thing we have to confront in Western culture is this idea: Only play to your strengths. Our culture tells us only to focus on the one thing you're good at and don't worry about the other two. "So what if you're not really good at IN or OUT? You're really good at UP! Just do what you do well."

Unfortunately, that's not the way of Jesus. You see, in the New Testament, the Greek word for salvation is the word "sozo" and it means, "to make whole." In other words,

as the Holy Spirit is at work in you as Christian, He is slowly maturing you and bringing wholeness in you...even in the things you're not good at.

What Jesus asks of us is not that we be "great" at all three things. What He asks for is obedience as we recognize that He controls outcomes. We are going to be weaker at one or two of them. That's OK. Let's become learners in that area and live in God's grace for that. Being good at all three doesn't mean God loves us anymore or that we've earned anything. It means we're living into the identity he's already given us as his children.

HOW DO I USE THIS TOOL IN MY DISCIPLESHIP?

As you may have perceived, the Jesus Pattern Tool is designed to be more of a diagnostic tool that you revisit periodically to evaluate your current investment in these three kinds of relationships. To assist you in diagnosing where your relational priorities currently lie, consider using the diagnostic questions below. It may be helpful to share your answers with a close friend or mentor who can confirm your self-evaluation and help you identify next steps to pattern your relationship after Jesus'.

UP DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

- ▶ In thinking about the 1st Commandment, where's my intimacy with God right now? (Matthew 22:37-40, Deuteronomy 6:5, Luke 10:25-28)
- ▶ How am I intentionally spending time in the Word? Making space for prayer? (Mark 6:46, Luke 22:41, Luke 6:12)
- ▶ Am I experiencing God's Word as living and active or distant and dull? (Hebrews 4:12, 2nd Timothy 3:16-17, Jeremiah 23:29)
- ▶ Do I notice myself regularly burdened for others during my time of prayer and responding? (Romans 8:26, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 1:15-17)
- ▶ Am I noticing God's strength and power more and more in my life? (Colossians 1:29, Ephesians 5:18, 1 Timothy 1:12)
- ▶ Am I intentionally choosing to rest? (Mark 6:30-32, Exodus 31:15, Hebrews 4:9-10)
- ▶ Am I experiencing life to the full? (John 15:10-11, John 10:10, John 16:24)
- ▶ Are there places where fear is ruling me? (1 John 4:18, Romans 8:15, 2 Timothy 1:7)
- ▶ Am I anxious about anything? (Philippians 4:5-7, Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Peter 5:6-7)
- ▶ Am I keeping in step with the Spirit and obedient to his promptings? (Galatians 5:25, John 15:4, John 5:19)

IN DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

- ▶ Am I keeping the 2nd Commandment by truly loving the people in my spiritual family? (Matthew 22:37-40, 1 John 3:16-18, John 15:12-13)
- ▶ Is there any friction in the relationships with my friends right now? (Matthew 18:15, Luke 17:3-4, Matthew 6:14-15)
- ▶ Is my family at peace? (1 Corinthians 12:22-26, Eph 4:1-3, Deuteronomy 6:4-9)
- ▶ Am I experiencing close relationships/intimacy with at least a few fellow believers where I'm transparent? (Ephesians 5:19-21, Colossians 3:16, Proverbs 27:17)
- ▶ Do I keep my word? (Colossians 3:9, Ephesians 4:25, Zechariah 8:16)
- ▶ Am I finding it difficult to trust people? (John 17:20-21, Hebrews 12:14-15, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
- ▶ Who am I intentionally discipling right now? (Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 4:14-17, Philippians 4:9)
- ▶ Do I open my home and welcome people in? (1 Peter 4:8-9, Hebrews 13:2, Matthew 25:35)

OUT DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

- ▶ Is it my heart's desire that all who are lost would come to know Jesus? (Romans 10:1, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:3-4)
- ▶ Do I boldly share my Grace Story? (Romans 10:14-15, 1 Peter 3:15, 2 Timothy 4:2, Mark 16:15)
- ▶ Do I intentionally have relationships with and spend time with unbelievers? (Mark 2:17, 1 Peter 2:12, Matthew 5:14-16)
- ▶ Am I keeping the 2nd Commandment by truly engaging with and loving people I've been shaped to dislike or who have become my enemy? (Luke 10:25-37, Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 12:20-21)
- ▶ Do I know what specific good work the Spirit is sending me to walk in during this season of time? (Ephesians 2:10, Acts 16:6-10, Colossians 1:10)
- ▶ Do I regularly and boldly pray for God's supernatural activity in the lives of people around me? (John 14:12-14, 1 Tim. 2:1, Philippians 4:6-7)
- ▶ Am I dying to 'success' as this world has defined it? (Philippians 4:12-13, Philippians 3:7-8, Hebrews 11:24-26)
- ▶ Am I proud or ashamed of the Gospel? (Romans 1:16-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18) Do I have the heart of a servant? (Philippians 2:4-8, Matthew 20:25-28, 1 Corinthians 9:19)
- ▶ Do I intentionally engage with and care for vulnerable people? (James 1:27, Isaiah 1:17, Luke 10:25-37)
- ▶ Am I generous with my finances? (Deuteronomy 15:10-11, Proverbs 28:27, 2 Corinthians 9:7)



SALEM CHAPEL