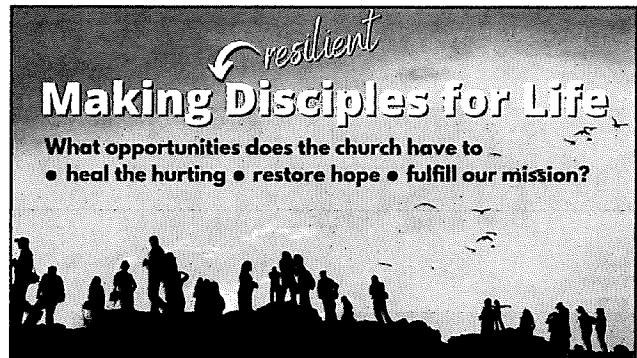
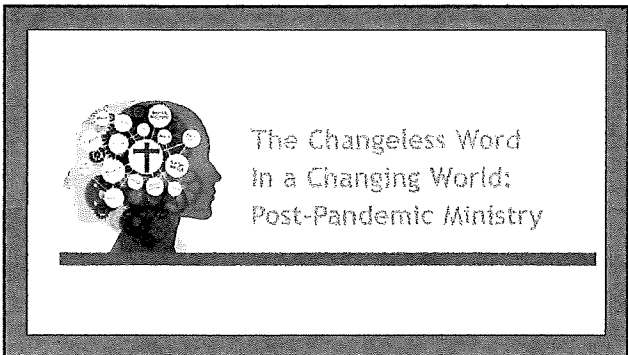


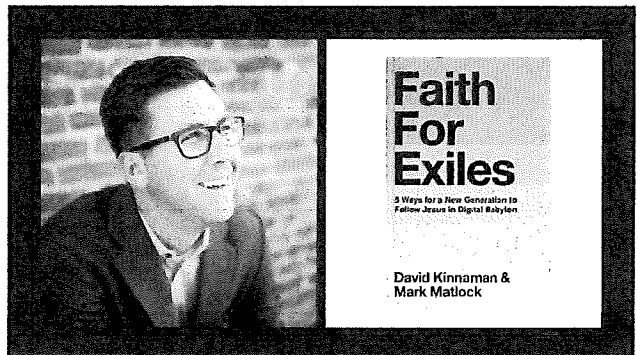
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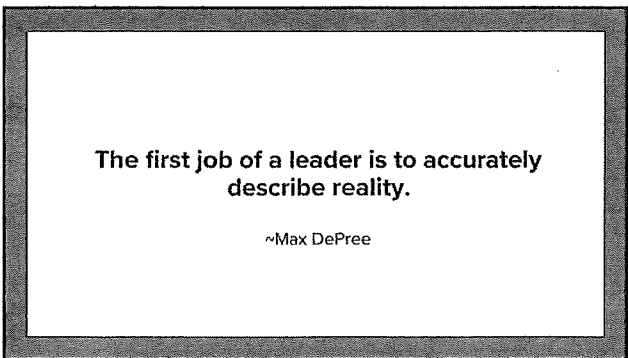
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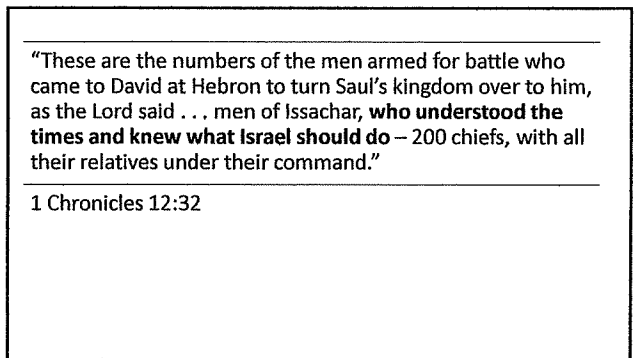
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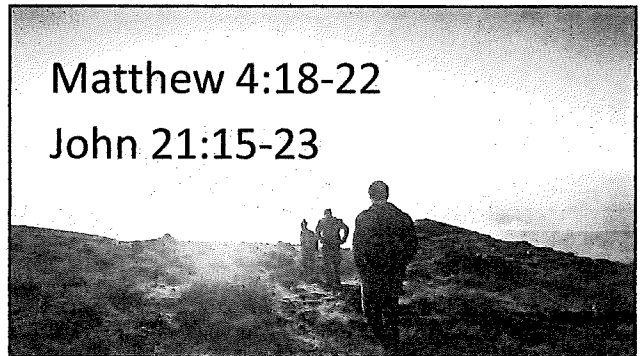


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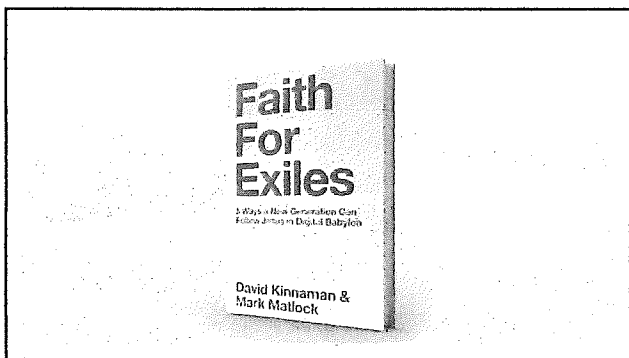
# What is a **DISCIPLE?**

7

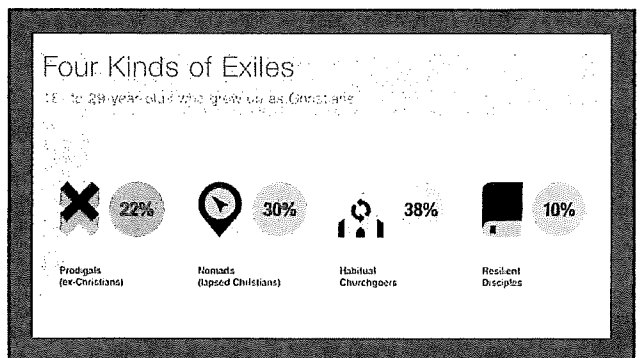
Matthew 4:18-22  
John 21:15-23



8



9



10

- ### What Practices Distinguish Resilient Disciples?
- + Experiencing Jesus
  - Cultural Discernment
  - Meaningful Relationships
  - ⚙ Vocational Discipleship
  - Countercultural Mission

11

# Faith For Exiles

Experiencing Jesus means clearing the religious clutter for closeness with and joy in Christ.

12

**Experiencing Jesus . . .**

1. I believe living in a relationship with Jesus is the only way to find fulfillment in life. (90%)
2. My relationship with Jesus brings me deep joy and satisfaction. (89%)
3. Following Jesus shapes my whole life: body, mind, heart and soul (88%)
4. My relationship with Jesus impacts the way I live my life everyday. (85%)
5. Worship is a lifestyle, not just an event. (91%)
6. Jesus has deeply transformed my life. (87%)
7. Reading the Bible makes me feel closer to God. (87%)
8. Regularly experience at church the reality of God's presence. (75%)

13

**Pressures Facing Today's Exiles**

- Searching for Identity: *Who am I, really?*
- Fighting Anxiety: *How should I live in today's world?*
- Experiencing Loneliness: *Am I loved?*
- Harnessing Ambition: *What's my purpose?*
- Feeling Entitled: *What matters beyond me?*

14

# Faith For Exiles

Cultural Discernment means taking part in a robust learning community that is under the authority of the Bible in order to wisely navigate an accelerated complex culture.

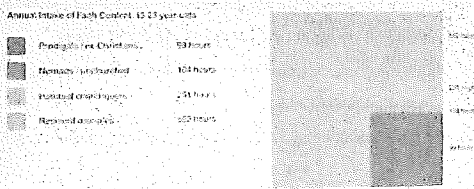
15

**Here's what was asked . . .**

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God and contains truth about the world.
2. Reading the Bible makes me feel closer to God.
3. The Bible teaching I receive in my church is relevant to my life.
4. At church I get wisdom as to how the Bible applies to my life.
5. At church I gain a greater love for the Bible.
6. The Bible is the foundation for all teaching at my church.
7. The Bible is totally accurate in all the principles it teaches.
8. The Bible contains everything I need to live a meaningful life.

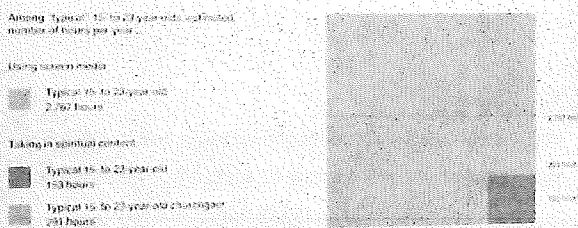
16

**Habits Matter: Resilient Disciples Digest Nearly Double the Hours of Christian Content Annually**



17

**Weight of Digital Babylon v. Spiritual Input**



18

# Faith For Exiles

**Meaningful Relationships** means being devoted to fellow believers we want to be around and become.  
(isolation and mistrust)

19

# Faith For Exiles

**Meaningful Relationships**

"When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So, Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord." (Acts 9:26-28)

"... For a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people." (Acts 11:26)

20

**Meaningful relationships . . .**

1. The church is a place I feel like I belong. (88%)
2. There is someone in my life who encourages me to grow spiritually. (85%)
3. I am connected to a community of Christians. (82%)
4. When growing up, I had close personal friends who were adults from my church. (77%)
5. I admire the faith of my parents. (72%)
6. I feel emotionally close to someone at my church. (64%)

21

**The Emotional Climate of Church . . .**

1. I feel loved and valued. (83%)
2. I feel like I am part of a family. (78%)
3. Connected with those older than me. (65%)
4. Relief from the anxiety of daily life. (63%)
5. Understood for who I really am. (54%)
6. Judged by others. (9%)

22

# Faith For Exiles

**Vocational Discipleship** means knowing and living God's calling, especially in the arena of work, and right-sizing our ambitions to God's purposes.

23

**Vocational Discipleship . . .**

1. I want to use my unique talents and gifts to honor God. (94%)
2. I believe that all the work I do is important to God. (82%)
3. My church does a good job of helping me understand how to live out my faith in the workplace. (72%)
4. I do not have to work in a ministry to work in God's kingdom. (69%)

24

# Faith For Exiles

Countercultural Mission means serving as a faithful presence by trusting in God's power and living differently from cultural norms.

25

## Resilient Disciples Have a Deep Sense of Mission . . .

- 1. I want others to see Jesus reflected in me through my words and actions. (90%)
- 2. I personally have a responsibility to tell others about my religious beliefs. (76%)
- 3. I am excited by the mission of the church in today's world. (67%)
- 4. A major part of my purpose in life is to serve others. (66%)

26

## How Churches Contribute to Countercultural Mission . . . (Building Courage and Readiness)

- 1. Courage to live my faith in public. (73%)
- 2. Courage to tell others about what I believe. (64%)
- 3. Wisdom for living with people who believe differently from me. (56%)
- 4. Prayer specifically for the challenges of living faithfully in a post-Christian culture. (55%)
- 5. Preparation for having difficult conversations with others. (49%)

27

## How Churches Contribute to Countercultural Mission . . . (Building Compassion)

- 1. I better understand the needs of the poor. (65%)
- 2. I have found a cause or issue that I'm passionate about. (53%)
- 3. I better understand social justice. (44%)
- 4. I better understand the needs of marginalized people. (37%)

28

**What Kind of Churches?**  
Help to Shape Resilient Disciples

29

**What Kind of Spiritual Practices?**

Help to Shape Resilient Disciples

30

### Digital and hybrid ministry is here to stay

- 63% of churched adults believe churches should use digital resources for spiritual formation and discipleship
- 87% of churched participants of digital discipleship feel that digital forms of discipleship provide a safe space to speak openly

31

### • “Making Sense of Ministry in a Digital World”

- Digital world versus the analog world
- Evangelism and engagement
- Teaching and Bible study
- Pastoral care and relationships
- Worship and proclamation
- Community and congregation

32

### • Encouraging open conversations

- 2 in 5 non-Christians say they would be open to participating in a spiritual conversation about Christianity if the experience felt friendly
- Majority of Christian Gen Z are having faith conversations with non-Christians
- Gen Z say the best outcome of a spiritual conversation is to better understand one another

33

### • More opportunities to engage people in prayer to experience God

- Whole life discipleship
  - Spiritual growth and development
  - Financial well-being
  - Mental and emotional well-being (an emotionally connected church)
  - Vocational/career well-being
  - Relational well-being

34

Behold, I will do a new thing. It springs out now. Don't you know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.  
-Isaiah 43:19 WEB



35