

RESILIENT DISCIPLES



Resilient Disciples: Practice 1 - Experience Intimacy with Jesus

GETTING STARTED

At a time where it becomes increasingly easy to avoid or abandon the church, the importance of training Resilient Disciples is necessary. The first, and arguably the most important, practice of a Resilient Disciple is experiencing intimacy with Jesus. More than just knowing a few facts about Jesus, but genuinely coming to know Jesus and experiencing a relationship with Him. If we want to be Resilient Disciples and lead others to do the same, it begins by forming our identity around Jesus and rejoicing in Him.

READ THE TEXT: 1 Peter 1:6-9

⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. What informed the early believer's identity (vv.3-5)? What informs your identity? Is your experience with Jesus one of deep satisfaction & joy?
2. How can a holistic approach to life and faith (a past, present & future perspective) help you maintain resiliency in a hostile culture?



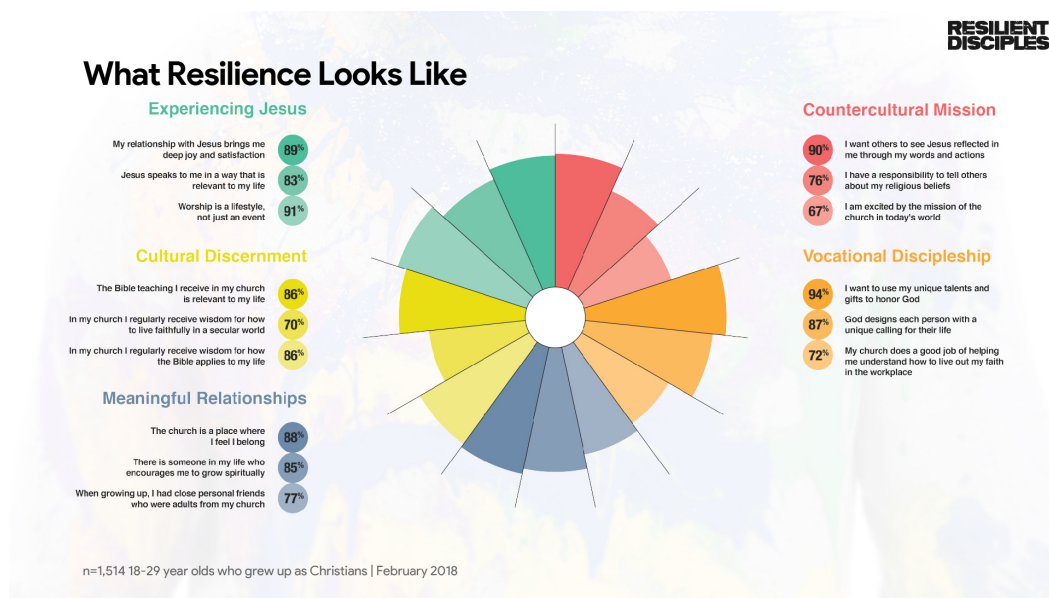
3. What will result in “praise, honour and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (v.7)?
How genuine is your faith?

APPLY THE TEXT

1. How can the church create effective partnerships and strategies for Jesus-centered ministry across developmental ages in a way that helps people discover and maintain a resilient Christian identity that finds its true source in intimacy with Christ?
2. How have you developed a deep-rooted faith and resiliency in times of personal trial and tribulation? How can you help others? Is there someone you know who needs help right now?
3. Read Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23. Use it as a time to interact with the sermon content and then spend time in prayer together using these verses.

SHARE & PRAY

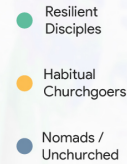
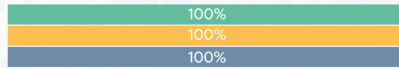
1. In light of 1 Peter 1:6-9, pray for each other as it pertains to pursuing a genuine faith that has been tested by trials and is rooted in what Jesus has done in the past, what he is doing in our lives now and the salvation that will come in the future.
2. Identify 1-3 people in your life that you could disciple, or identify those that you are discipling — disciples of Jesus make disciples of Jesus — and pray for them. Pray for each other also as you seek to be used by God as resilient disciple-makers.



It's Easy To Say You're A Christian

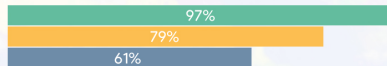
Identifying as Christian

Right now, what religious faith do you consider yourself to be? Christian*

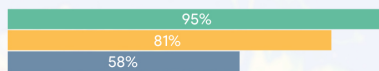


Which of the following phrases best fits how you would describe your faith to others? (completely or mostly)

A follower of Jesus



A Christian

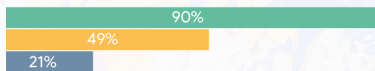


*This question was used in part to define prodigals from the other three segments n=1,514 18-29 year old who grew up as Christians | February 2018

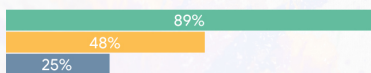
...But Less Common To Find Joy In Jesus

Finding Identity in Jesus

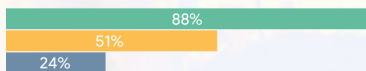
I believe living in relationship with Jesus is the only way to find fulfillment in life



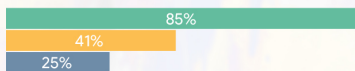
My relationship with Jesus brings me deep joy and satisfaction



Following Jesus shapes my whole life: body, mind, heart, and soul



My relationship with Jesus impacts the way I live my life every day



n=1,514 18-29 year old who grew up as Christians | February 2018

