



a little book of BIG

The Stewards' Trust

“Only a disciple can make a disciple”

A. W. TOZER

THE MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP

**Disciples, helping to make disciples,
who transform the world!**

Hello!



How can little be BIG?

Your smartphone is millions of times more powerful than the computers NASA used to put a man on the moon!

That's the big power of little.

“Tiny tweaks lead to big changes”

AMY CUDDY: TED TALK



This booklet is little in terms of length but what it represents has the power to transform lives and even the world.

A big claim from a little book!

Vision, Mission, Strategy, Values and even some of Jesus' teaching are all packed into these pages. For those who prefer a more concise message you might prefer 'a little page of BIG' opposite.

Whether you're a lifelong champion of the Stewards' Trust, or just starting out with us, we hope these pages will inspire each of us to think how our collective 'littles' can be BIG.

a little page of BIG

Vision = to see our world transformed through the expansion of God's family and the building of His Kingdom, here on earth.

Mission = to equip, nurture, grow and connect a broad family from all walks of life, who will be known by its faithful demonstration of God's love in action through all we do.

Discipleship - Mentoring - Leadership Development

the
stewards'
TRUST

Events

Mentoring

Schools work



Loving



Family



Open



True



Stewards



Joyful



Empowering

Jesus sought, called, walked with, taught and empowered

Discipleship matters



Discipleship
makes a difference



Discipleship multiplies



**We are disciples, helping to make disciples,
who transform the world !**

Dear friends

These are exciting times for all involved with the Stewards' Trust; God is blessing us with a season of growth. He is on the move, but how do we respond?

“Aslan is on the move”

C.S. LEWIS: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

I believe reconnection and connection are key words for the Stewards' Trust 'family' right now.

Reconnection: People are coming home to the Stewards' Trust. They are driven by a desire to go deeper with God and deeper in Christian community. This desire is satisfied by the intimacy of relationship found on our events. The 're-connectors' are also drawing in new people as they return. The result is growth!

Connection: Establishing more and stronger connections within the Stewards' Trust is key to helping us respond to growth. It starts with each of us understanding and embracing our vision and mission. That's why we have been focused on communicating vision this year: through talks, film and now in writing.

As we seek to communicate a vision for our future, we are rediscovering our history and what I see as our core purpose:

We are a community of disciples, helping to make disciples, who transform the world!

Go deeper. Get involved. It makes all the difference.

Jimi Gale

Chief Executive

Dictionary corner

▶ **disciple(s)**

/di'sʌp(ə)l/

noun

a personal follower of Christ during his life, especially one of the twelve Apostles

a follower or pupil of a teacher, leader, or philosopher

Dallas Willard said that discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be **if he were you**. The goal is to grow ever more Christ-like in every aspect of life.

Discipleship is therefore **a journey not a course** – the idea is one of becoming a disciple rather than having been made a disciple.

▶ **steward(s)**

/ˈstju:əd/

noun

a person employed to look after people on a journey or at an event

a person responsible for another's property or resources

verb

supervise people on a journey or at an event

manage or look after (another's property or resources)

The Stewards' Trust helps to look after the people and the resources God has entrusted to us as we gather and 'journey' together.

Why?

To see our world transformed through the expansion of God's family and the building of His Kingdom, here on earth (The Stewards' Trust vision statement).

What?

To **equip, nurture, grow and connect** a broad Christian family from all walks of life, who will be known by its faithful demonstration of God's love in action through all we do.

Equip: through discipleship, mentoring and leadership development.

Nurture: through the fellowship and pastoral support that flows from all our activities.

Grow: through evangelism and the invitation to others to join us. Single, married, young or old, all are invited.

Connect: through the networks of people within the Stewards' Trust.

How?

We fulfil our vision and mission by:

- Providing **Christian teaching events** for all ages and stages of life
- **Mentoring** young people at schools and universities in their faith
- **Developing** Christian leaders of today and the future

Discipleship – Mentoring – Leadership development

“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

Making BIG bite-sized

Our vision statement is BIG; we want to ‘see our world transformed’. This could be seen as intimidating, impenetrable or even impossible.

Let’s dig deeper in hope of making it less intimidating, more accessible, and easier to articulate and engage with on a personal level.

Without an inspiring core vision, we are simply a collection of individuals and unconnected events. We know the Stewards’ Trust is way more than that.

To fully understand our vision, let’s go back to the start:

In 1953 four friends graduated from university and moved to London to live and work.

They wanted to continue meeting, as they had at university, for Bible study, prayer and to encourage one another in faith by having time away with God and with each other. They also decided to organise events aimed at helping their friends establish or deepen their relationship with Jesus. This was the birth of the Stewards’ Trust.

From the outset, friendship and relationship were at our heart: relationship with God and relationship with each other; **love for God and love for people.**

This remains the case today, with many people referring to Stewards’ Trust as a ‘family’. Relationships are part of the reason people come back to Stewards’ Trust events year after year.

*“Christianity is all about relationships:
our relationship with God and our
relationship with others”*

DAVID WATSON

However, what we do is about much more than simply relationship. There is a vital purpose behind it.

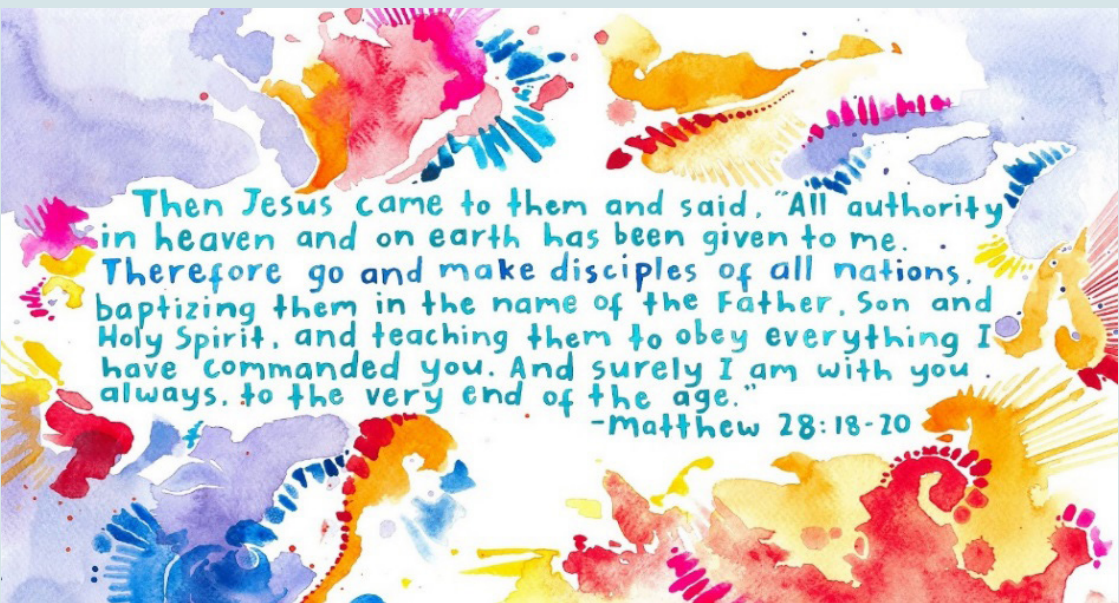
Our vision, our core purpose, has always been discipleship. Look at anything we do and you will find discipleship. If the Stewards' Trust was a stick of rock, the word 'discipleship' would run right through it.

Why should we care about discipleship? Why be committed to discipleship? Why prioritise discipleship? **Why?**

*“People don’t buy what you do;
they buy why you do it”*

SIMON SINEK: TED TALK

Jesus' last words to his disciples on earth can be found in the Great Commission. He knew these were going to be his last words. He would have weighed each word so carefully, chosen each one with absolute precision. He chose to talk to the disciples about making disciples.



That's how much discipleship matters to Jesus! It must matter to us. This is our first 'why'. **Discipleship matters.**

Secondly, **discipleship is a multiplier.**

David Watson's book *Discipleship* includes the following passage:

'If you were an outstandingly gifted evangelist with an international reputation, and if, under God, you could win 1,000 people for Christ every night of every year, how long would it take you to win the whole world for Christ? Answer, over 10,000 years. But if you are a true disciple for Christ, and if you are able under God to win just one person to Christ each year; and if you could train that person to win one other person for Christ each year, how long would it take to win the whole world for Christ? Answer, just 32 years!!'

Finally, **discipleship makes a difference.**

Think about some of the people you know who have benefitted from the work of the Stewards' Trust and what they are doing. They are living out their faith in a really meaningful and authentic way. Wherever God has placed them – in the workplace, in their families, in their churches, at school and university – they are making a difference!

Discipleship matters, multiplies & makes a difference

Discipleship is how, under God, we can transform the world; one person at a time, one disciple at a time.

Hopefully, our big vision now looks less intimidating, more manageable, and easier to engage with personally; big turned into bite-sized!

**We are disciples, helping to make disciples,
who transform the world!**

“If we were willing to learn the meaning of real discipleship and actually to become disciples, the church in the West would be transformed, and the resultant impact on society would be staggering”

DAVID WATSON

The BIG question

How do we make a difference? This is a question all charities must ask themselves regularly. ‘Theory of change’ is a useful tool when considering this. Essentially, it entails identifying and articulating:

- the problem(s) we seek to solve, and
- our approach to providing a solution.

Two BIG problems

1 75% of churches in the UK do not have a youth group

2 Only 50% of the children of Christian parents grow up with a personal faith of their own as adults

Think about the medium- to long-term ramifications of these statistics. We are not to be fearful, but we must take these challenges seriously and act. We believe discipleship lies at the heart of solving these problems (and many more), but what specifically are we doing?

Youth work: Through events, mentoring and schools works we are stepping into the gap that exists in youth ministry. Our events are more popular than ever, and we are engaging with more young people.

There is strong evidence to show that attending Christian residential camps has a very significant impact on young people’s faith.

- **50% said they felt closer to Jesus after a Christian residential event**
- **The proportion reading the Bible at least weekly rises from 38% to 60% for those who had been on five or more holidays**

(‘Not Run of the Mill’ – Study of Christian Residential Events by Christian Research)

Family work: This ministry is also growing rapidly, with demand currently outstripping our capacity. Our events equip and support parents as they seek to nurture their children’s faith.

Although parents are their children’s biggest influencers, we believe in 360° support. Therefore, our events also engage grandparents, provide young role-models and strong peer to peer relationships. Together these things make a vital difference.

Jesus' BIG discipleship plan

If discipleship is our core purpose; how do we approach it? There is no better model for discipleship than the one Jesus gave us. As best we can, we specifically try to replicate five characteristics of Jesus' approach to discipleship.

Jesus sought - Discipleship under God

In everything Jesus did, he sought the will of God.

Everything we do must be under God, rooted in prayer, and guided by Spirit and Truth. We seek guidance from the Holy Spirit and look to biblical truths when seeking to establish routes to discipleship.

Jesus called - Discipleship through time away

Jesus called people to him for time away to learn and grow.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed.' Matthew 4.19-20

Something significant happens when we prioritise intentional time away with God. It is transformational; it is like hitting a faith fast-forward button. It is why we run Christian teaching events away from the distractions of everyday life. We become more aware of Him in every part of it when we return.

Jesus walked with – Discipleship through community

Jesus developed his disciples in a loving community. He taught the masses but 'walked with' a few (72 – 12 – 3). Our events and mentoring focus on quality of relationship, not the quantity of relationships.

“He calls us into common discipleship. He calls us to share our lives both with Him and with one another in love. Indeed it is by this love that we shall be known to be his disciples”

DAVID WATSON

Deep inter-generational and peer-to-peer relationships are seen as two of the most important aspects of what we do. The size of our events and their structure both aim to foster intimacy and community.

Jesus taught - Discipleship through teaching

‘Discipleship’ and ‘learning’ have the same root in Greek. It can hardly come as a surprise, then, that Jesus spent time teaching his disciples.

Whether it is via a speaker on one of our events or through a youth worker reading the Bible with someone at school, faithful Bible-based teaching is always at the centre of what we do.

BUT . . . Jesus didn’t just teach his disciples . . .

Jesus empowered - Discipleship through doing

It can be helpful to use the word ‘apprentice’ instead of disciple.

“A disciple, or apprentice, is simply someone who has decided to be with another person, in order to become capable of doing what that person does or to become what that person is”

DALLAS WILLARD

Discipleship is not simply a theoretical or an academic process. It comes, in part, through doing; it requires some participation on the part of the would-be disciple.

Jesus went about teaching people the good news of the Kingdom of God and healing the sick. His disciples went with him and not only observed but also participated in His ministry.

‘These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions....’proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven has come near. Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give’’. Matthew 10.5-8

Most of our events are volunteer-led and many contribute to them in all sorts of ways. Empowering people to lead and participate helps them to grow in faith and relationship with God.

Discipleship is through doing!

A wonderful benefit of empowering others is that it helps what we do to become a virtuous circle.

We positively affirm young people as they step into leadership and service at an early age. Those attending our events have a safe place to learn and grow. The relationship with their leaders is key: they value them hugely. Having good leadership modelled so brilliantly means the young people are equipped to lead at an early age. They then go on to inspire and encourage the next generation of disciples, while continuing to develop their own leadership skills.

“All the young children in the focus groups wanted to be leaders when they were old enough”

**‘NOT RUN OF THE MILL’: STUDY OF CHRISTIAN RESIDENTIAL
EVENTS BY CHRISTIAN RESEARCH**

The BIG finish

Christian discipleship has a key role to play in many areas of society.

More than ever, the church needs to partner with organisations to provide ‘whole of life’ discipleship.

We are passionate about helping people on their journey of discipleship, who can then go on to transform the world.

We have a long established and proven approach that equips, nurtures, grows and connects Christian disciples of all ages.

“Discipleship is not an option. Jesus says that if anyone would come after me, he must follow me”

TIM KELLER

BIG values

LOVING • FAMILY • OPEN • TRUE STEWARDS • EMPOWERING • JOYFUL

LOVING - above all things, we are called to love God and people

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. Mark 12.30-31

FAMILY - part of God's family, open to everyone, all ages, all stages of life and faith, enabling whole of life discipleship.

And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Matthew 5.47

OPEN - to the guiding power of the Holy Spirit and to pioneering new things.

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. John 16.13

TRUE - committed to sound biblical teaching and discipleship.

All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal. Psalm 119.16

STEWARDS – taking good care of the people and the resources God has entrusted to us.

Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. 1 Corinthians 4.2

EMPOWERING - fully equipping and nurturing current and future leaders by our commitment to releasing them in their ministries.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5.11

JOYFUL - we have 'good news' to share and we enjoy doing it!

If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15.9



Disciples,
helping to make
disciples,
who **transform the world !**



How can I help?



Pray

"When we work, we work. When we pray, God works" (James Hudson Taylor).

We hugely value your prayers, which we know make a difference.



Volunteer

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Stewards' Trust, and it's great fun!

There are so many different roles.

Please contact the office if you would like to join our 'volunteer army'

office@stewardstrust.org.uk



Give

We are funded almost entirely by donations. We're already doing a lot, but there is so much more. With your financial support we can continue to grow this exciting work.

For details on how to support us, please visit our website **www.stewardstrust.org.uk**