Liberty University

Reflection Paper on Selected Micro-project Assignment

A Paper Submitted to

Submitted to Dr. James Zabloski,

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of

Micro-Project I: Biblical Precedence

DSMN 851 – D01

by

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Father, thank you for teaching me more about myself through those you have brought into my life. I am honored to work with a group of people who have heard you call to them to serve your people and they responded. I value that they engage each day to try to build up the body of Christ and to serve you well. Our love for you motivates us to invest ourselves into the work that we perform, yet we are not as effective as we wish to be because of the many issues that each of us are challenged to overcome. Collectively, we have not seen clear modeling from those who have gone before us of what it means to be a disciple. We have read about amazing men and women who have ministered to thousands, led reformations, and struggled mightily to bring the Word to the masses; yet we are not able to find the information of how they developed their faith and move to a place of such amazing impact that we can understand. Our culture seems different than the years where these amazing saints worked. So, we work as best we can, seeking the mysterious something that will bring back the explosive growth of the early church.

As I worked on my portfolio, I could easily see how I was very much like the interviewees. We simply don't know experientially how to make disciples. We want to do so and we will attempt to do a good job with our children, but we feel like we are guessing about what it should look like in your eyes. My project reminds me that You have made it plain. It looks like it requires a high priority in our lives and an intense focus. It looks like it takes a lot of work, not just a little. Those observations inform me that we have moved away from this kind of discipleship because it takes strength and courage to pursue such a goal. To make a difference with the people you have placed in my path, I will have to build my strength and use it to serve them. I will have to exhibit courage to "go against the flow" and struggle to find those who wish more in their walk with You.

Father, thank you for teaching me the value of exploration. You have given me a curious mind and a personality that does not simply accept the first answer I am given or seek to rely upon the method that has been used before. I learned the value of seeking solutions in doing things that I have never done before and allowing myself to have the permission to learn something new. I pray that you will continue to breathe strength into me to pursue new things and seek to fully understand the questions that I wish to investigate. I marvel at Your creativeness and the ways that You have created each man. We have so many unique characteristics and I believe I need to learn to value those in others more than I do today. Please continue to expand my thinking and shape my thoughts in a new way. Thank You for your continual shaping of my character as You work to sanctify me.

Father, thank you for teaching me that I can do more than I often limit myself to do. This project was a large amount of work. It required that I manage my time well and work hard to get things done when they had to be done, no matter the other things that were going on in my personal or professional life. As I reflect upon what I have done, I can see that my capacity is greater than I often believe it to be. I pray that You will remind me of this when I fall into seasons of believing less of myself and prod me to engage and make a difference each day. I am especially mindful of my predisposition to seek isolation from others to recharge. Lord, I know that is necessary, but I pray You will prompt me to set boundaries on that rest and encourage me to move out and spend time with people, who You love and have set before me to serve.