

Information Vs. Inspiration with Joshua Verwers

Season 2 Episode009

Opening:

Wayne: Welcome friends to the everyday disciple makers podcast. This week, we have a conversation with Joshua verwers talking about kind of preaching styles and inspiration versus information, but Josh recently, you had a chance to hang out with ministry leaders up at Mount hood.

Why don't you tell me some more about that.

Josh Yates: yeah, Wayne. It's been an idea of mine for a number of years inspired by my good friend, Joel Vermilion for Wilderness Ministry Institute, and we interviewed him earlier in the show. Just thinking through how did Jesus intentionally invest into his, his disciples and using our outdoors, using the wilderness to to spend time and to use that as a training tool.

So we grabbed a handful of, of ministry leaders on mountain bikes, and we went up to the top of Mount hood and went down it's called Timberline to town. It's 15, almost 16 miles. And it's. Well, 200 feet uphill, but 4,387 feet, no, one's counting all downhill. But along the way, we stopped and paused and trained the five phases of ministry. And took a, a bandana and screened the five phases on that bandanas ever.

Every rider got one of those and both Eric and I, our regional director here, we just paused along the way as we caught our breath. No, grab some, some water refresh ourselves, and then just talk through for five to eight minutes along the way on the trail of what it means to actually make disciples like Jesus looking at the five phase ministry of Jesus.

And so Wayne, you're one of those participants. And you also, your kind of first experience with this kind of a training. Give me some of your thoughts and impressions of that.

Wayne: Yeah, I had a blast. I was able to bring a ministry friend, the worship pastor from our church. And we got to, got to ride the mountain. So it was, it was great to just have that experience with guys.

I think that that just creates some bonding. So when we have the conversations about the ministry of Christ and that those bits of training, they, they mean more. Cause we're not just sitting in a classroom and learning the information, but we're out on the trail.

Having that experience together, I think it was just a great introduction to, to the five phases of ministry.

So I thought that was really cool. It was, it was a challenging trail. It's not, it's not a super easy thing. So you're, for me when I'm mountain biking, it's, it's one of the few times where I am not worrying about other things, because I have to spend my time worrying about keeping the the bike from being laying on the ground with me on the ground as well.

So, so to ride for 45 minutes an hour and a half or so, and just, just be where you're riding and then to take that break and have those conversations, I think it just helps to, to really think through things in a way that we're not used to doing it slows down that time when we're not hurried throughout that process.

Josh Yates: Yeah, absolutely. You're connecting kind of what you're you're experiencing physically and connecting that to maybe how you're leading and how you intentionally investing into ministry leaders. So we talked through just, yeah. Hey, what happens when you fall? What happens when you you're tired.

You have exhaustion. What happens when When you're just so focused that you forget about everything else. And so it really opens up, it lends itself to some incredible just leadership lessons and the way of life. And so, yeah, , it was, it was a great experience and looking forward to experimenting more with how we intentionally develop a ministry leaders. And so I hope that our listeners too, that you're taking it to heart, the things that we're talking about here, that you're applying it. You're not just listening to these things, but you're actually taking maybe a principle or two and applying it to your own ministry.

And so that's, that's really what I'm excited about, about today's interview.

Wayne: Yeah. So let's check out this conversation with Joshua Verwers

Interview:

Wayne: Hey there Josh, thank you so much for taking some time to join me on the podcast today.

Joshua Verwers: My pleasure. I enjoy being here.

Wayne: So why don't you start off just by telling us a little bit about like who you are, what you do in ministry?

Joshua Verwers: My name is Joshua . I'm a pastor, small church in Southern Iowa called Full Faith Church. I have been at that church since 2007, I think is when I started as like

an assistant pastor started getting into ministry. However, I have been at that church. Pretty much my entire life, because my grandparents actually founded that.

I think it was the year that I was born. So it's, it's been around for about 40 years now. So I've been pastoring there. Like I said, live in Iowa, my parents their jobs as I was growing up. Barbers. And then my dad went into as an accountant and then my mom was kind of like home health care.

So that's kind of where they were at. Both of them were kind of an off and on have been involved in ministry, never in what we would consider five-fold ministry capacity. But even at the church I still have my mom doing as much as humanly possible, so I can do little as humanly possible. No, I have her take care of all of like the organization and a lot of that you know, bookkeeping stuff that is not in my wheelhouse at all.

So I can just kind of focus on, you know, prayer, ministering the word and ministering to people.

Wayne: awesome. And I know that I've, I've connected with you because in addition to pastoring your local church in Iowa, you have a, a online ministry presence, your, your YouTube channel, your podcast. How long have you been doing this, this vlog pastor, this YouTube ministry stuff.

Joshua Verwers: Yeah. So that started in May of 2018. So about what is that three years now? And that was, it came out of a, you know, just kind of talking, praying to God. I'd been seeing other itinerant ministers traveling ministers that I knew that we're trying to figure out how to expand their reach. So I'm always trying to help them out.

And I was like, Hey, there's, there's this like digital realm out there. You should really be trying to leverage some stuff, you know, so you can reach more people and really kind of encouraging them to do that. And then at the same time, it was like, I was learning more about it. God was kind of working on my heart with it.

And then at one point I'm walking around the house, asking my wife where the kids were. I start walking, looking, I there's my son, he's in his room. Hey, what are you doing? He's on YouTube. Go into my daughter's room. whatcha doing, she's watching YouTube go into my little girl's room. What you girls doing?

They're on YouTube. And so for me, it was thinking, you know, Hey, if I'm going to be trying to minister, you know, God's word, if I'm really going to be trying to, you know, do what I believe God has called me to do and encourage people to live by faith. I've got to go where the people are at. I mean, that's essentially the great commission, you know, that we read in a, what is it, mark 16, you know, or Matthew 28.

I get them both come, you know, can, are mixed up, but, you know, go into all the world and preach the gospel. And so if I'm going to go into the world, the simplest definition for me is you gotta be where the people are at. And so that was the step I made. I was like there, you know, people are on YouTube, I need to reach out.

I thought I was going to be reaching, you know, teens. That was kind of my goal. Or at least I thought that was my goal. And I quickly realized, Nope, that's not the audience God wants me to reach. And I mean, I've been able to reach an audience across those generations. You know, now getting into doing a little bit of stuff on Tik TOK.

I am reaching more of that that youth age, but on YouTube is the where the primary ministry is at. And like you said, vlog pastors. So. I'm just vlogging walking around kind of showing my life, showing some behind the scenes of what it is as a pastor and as a Christian, as a husband, as a father to live a life by faith in Christ.

So showing that stuff and trying to just encourage people,

Wayne: Yeah, well, I was definitely a few years outside of your original target on YouTube, then being a nearly 40 year old and a 40 year old. Now you had, you missed a little bit, I know I've enjoyed your content and just enjoyed Yeah.

Enjoyed being able to see people live their lives. Because I think a lot of times we look at as a pastor, especially maybe 20 years ago, like he was the pastor and we came to church.

I was like, yes, Pastor Josh. And, and like, He was something other than what we could be. So I love that. You're like, Hey, a pastor. And like, I'm a human and I'm following Jesus and leading my family. And why don't I show you a little bit about that?

Joshua Verwers: Right. Yeah. And that was the goal because I, you know, kind of growing up in the church, I've gone through those movements. I've seen different people in ministry and this isn't to knock any of them by any means. But like you're saying, there was this almost a mystique that kind of followed around a lot of those in ministry.

A lot of the pastors, the, the evangelists, the, the teachers, you know, the apostles and prophets. If we go through the whole five fold, there was this mystique around them. Like they weren't really approachable. You know, like, I, I remember the first time I went to meet the president of our ministerial association and I had seen him on stage a couple of times, but I was like, I mean, I'm gonna go talk to him.

Like that just seemed odd. Like, I, you get a politician in front of me or a celebrity. I don't care. But you know, a man of God, it was like, I'm should I even be going up and talking

to him? And he went the first time. It was just like, Hey Josh, how you doing I'm Jim? You know? And just, oh, just having a conversation with me.

And that kind of set me back on my heels. And I was like, man, what would it have been like, you know, 2000 years ago, if we were walking around with Jesus, yes. They called him his disciples called him teacher. They called him rabbi. They, you know, they called him that because they had a, like an honor that they were showing him.

But. He was with them and they were just living life with them. I mean, the good, the bad, the ugly, all of it, they were in. And that was the thing where it was like, if I'm going to get on here and try to show that those in ministry, we are still walking out this Christ-like life. Just like you guys are like, everybody is, we're all dealing with the same struggles.

Jesus dealt with the same struggles that we are. And I don't want people to look at me and sit there and say, oh, I could never do or, or have a faith like he has. I couldn't be like that. It's like, no, actually you can. I mean, it's, I'm, I'm still just, just a man. So all I'm doing is I'm just a man. That's trying to live a life that's sold out for Jesus.

You know, including him in every aspect of the life. So it's that, it's that relate-ability that I really think that the vlog style, it, it exposes really fast. It makes people more relatable because it doesn't have that, you know, that pristine, polished look to it that I think the church has been so used to, you know, conveying and portraying.

Wayne: Right. Yeah.

that's good. And maybe, maybe sometime I'll talk to you for an episode where we just talk about why ministers and ministry leaders should have an online presence. But today I wanted to talk to you. Cause I, I said I watched your videos and recently you posted a video about deleting all of your sermons off of YouTube.

Like most YouTube titles, it was hyperbole. Cause you left a few. It wasn't all of them. So, so we'll call you out on that, but what, what led to you deleting most of your sermons off of I'm guessing it was mostly your, your church's YouTube and your YouTube channels.

Joshua Verwers: I didn't have any on my YouTube channel actually. I had no sermons on my own YouTube channel. These were all on the church's YouTube channel, and I think we had about 40 of them. On there. Some of them had even been unlisted for a while, but they were just setting there. Because years ago we were recording and then just uploading them.

And I think we had them as like a unlisted, so we could share them with, you know, the members in the congregation, but didn't want them to be really public. And but then we had, well over a hundred, maybe 200 messages that were on Facebook and I deleted all,

but the same, I think three or four that we left on. And the main reason behind that, and it's why I left those three or four is because the type of preaching that I was doing then was more teaching style.

And it's taken this YouTube journey that has really pulled out the type of pastor that I am the type of preacher that I am. And it's not so much about, you know, giving people that information, you know, just to kind of gain that knowledge, but I'm trying to really give them like an inspiration to have them actually do something.

I want them to be more doers than hearers, we need to be here is we need to hear the word. We need to learn the word, but that's not my gifting. That's not my skillset. I can do it, but it doesn't, it's not me operating out of, you know that like, for lack of a better term using Christianese that grace zone, you know, where God is uniquely equipped me.

And I, I'm really just more of a you know, kind of kick in the pants, try to encourage you to actually do something thing. It's that it's really more of an encourager and exhorter in my preaching style and that was the thing. All those sermons, they just weren't reflective of who God is really crafted me to be as a minister.

And because it wasn't there, I didn't want people to discover those, to find those and look at it and then come find my stuff now what happened? Or like a lot of YouTubers will face this where people are saying so used to one type of content that, that YouTuber were makes that when they deviate and go to something else, they're always saying, well, I wish you would do more of that.

And I don't want people to sit there and find my old sermons, you know, and say, Hey, I want you to do more teaching. No, I'm, I'm, I'm not a teacher. You know, I do still teach, you know, what are like midweek groups and a lot of small group discipleships I do a lot of teaching in those scenarios, but for most of my sermons, it's, it's more of that encouraging exhorting type of preaching that I do.

And all those messages, they just weren't really representative of me. And so it was like, well, let's just scrap them.

Wayne: Right. And I, I love that of that. You're willing to, to look at that and see that about yourself. And because I feel like for some ministry leaders that might be hard to be like, well, this is what I learned in Bible college. This is what I've been doing for this set of time. So this is, this is how I do things.

So I love that you're able to kind of be willing to. I don't like the word because the last year and a half, but we were willing to pivot and be like, this is, this is what I feel God calling me to do now. And regardless of what I've done, this is, this is why I feel him

leading me to. And you mentioned in your video also being able to meaning and help the folks in your congregation live a life and be more like Christ.

So what do you see as some of the benefits of your more, more encouraging more exhortation preaching style in your local church.

Joshua Verwers: Yeah. So, and, and I come back to the, you know, the the alliterative, you know, terms of information or inspiration. And I really believe that's the two main preaching styles that are out there. One is either going to be more information heavier. One's going to be inspiration heavy. One is either about.

You know, trying to help teach you the Bible or the other one is just trying to get you to do what the Bible says. And it, I believe it's firmly possible to do both. It takes more time to do both. And I think that both can kind of lead to one another, but it's where the main goal is. So for me and our church, because I want them to live by faith, it's a lot of action-based things.

So, you know, I kind of go in with my, it's crazy when I'm crafting out a sermon, it's really how I would craft out a story for a vlog, you know? So I will begin with the end in mind. So it's like, here's the end. For my sermons, like what do I want them to walk away with? Like when, when I dismiss it, What is it?

I want them to actually do what change do I want them to take away? So when I'm starting with there that change, it requires them to actually do something, to apply God's word, to apply a principle. And so I can't just teach the principal. I have to show them the need for them applying the principle. So that's where, you know, going through this more of an inspiration style, I mean, just to inspire us to really do encourage them into action.

And that's what I'm trying to do. It's like, I, I want you to actually do something. You know, when we look at the disciples to me, the, how many of them were untrained, uneducated, didn't know anything. But they were willing to step out in faith and just trust what their savior was telling him. He said to go, they went and that's kind of where the preaching style that I'm coming in.

It's like, I don't, I don't care as much about them knowing the Bible as I do about them just living a life like Christ lived. And it's like, even if they don't know why they're doing it apart from Jesus says to do it, God's word says to do it. And that's like, why question beyond that? For some people they need it and that's fine.

And in those cases, that's where, you know, we can have the discipleship, we can have the one-on-ones. So I think the big reason, the big way that this has helped my, my local

congregation is it does really, I believe inspire them to actually do things to be more active in their faith. And not just, you know, big things, but just little things everyday life.

That's what I want. I don't, I'm not concerned about the one or two big times, you know, a month or a year that they may do something, you know, go on a missions trip that. I'm more concerned about. What are they doing the 167 hours a week that they're not with me on a Sunday. You know, like how are they treating their, their spouse?

How are they treating their kids? How are they treating their coworkers and their friends, their neighbors, the people that, you know, the gas station or the grocery store. Those are the moments that I'm really passionate about with, with my people. So that's where this type of preaching style, it really does help them because it gives them the why they need to do it and then shows them through, here's how you actually do it.

Wayne: Right. I love that there's like, there's still room. There's still other avenues. Obviously people can study scripture for themselves. I mean, we have fairly easy access to Scriptures in north America these days.

Joshua Verwers: Absolutely.

Wayne: Probably 10 years ago, I was watching a video training series with the leadership at a church that I was volunteering at.

And it's the first time I think I ever heard Francis Chan speak. And I'm sure that was great. Cause I've never heard Francis Chan speak and not be pretty great. But also heard Mark Batterson speak. And for some reason I remember something mark said, he said that we are so far educated beyond our obedience, Right?

Joshua Verwers: True.

Wayne: So I think in a lot of our churches and a lot of our ministries, there are people who, who know quite a bit of Scripture, but might not know, or might not just be choosing to live that out. So like when you, when you finish your sermon, are there, are there generally like one action step, a couple of action steps?

Like how do you, how do you really help your congregation take that next step?

Joshua Verwers: Yeah. So I I'm typically trying to give them just one main action. You know, one main thing that they need to they need to actually do. So like currently I'm going through this you know, a series on the beatitudes. So I'm, you know, I'm breaking that all down, you know, the blessed, blessed, or blessed.

Wayne: Yes.

Joshua Verwers: Exactly. Do we even know? You know, but the, the blessed are those who are poor in spirit, blessed are those who you know, mourn. And like I released you know, a vlog sermon the other day and it had the same kind of call to action in it that I did with our sermon. Cause that's all, it was, it was the sermon that I preached in front of our local congregation in our church.

And then I just reformatted my sermon notes to fit a, you know, an optimized YouTube outline. And so there was still the same call to action that YouTube tries to get you to put in there that, all right, I'm going to do this same thing for the church. And the main thing when I was talking about that, you know, that the poor in spirit, it's about having this awareness and this admittance that without God we're all bankrupt.

Like we're nothing without him, he's our everything. And so that was the thing for me. It was to really help my church. Just remember, like when, when you start to feel like, you know what, I think I've got this, I think I can handle this when you start to say a lot of those I-statements remember that on your own, you're nothing.

But with him, what can't we do? I mean what Paul tells us all things are possible through Christ who gives us strength. And so that was the thing that it was showing them that really to be poor in spirit is to be rich in faith. And so just acknowledge that, Hey, I can't do this on my own.

I'm nothing on my own, but with God I can accomplish anything. And that's where we step into that rich kind of faith. And so it was really to encourage them that, you know, don't, don't get haughty, don't get arrogant, don't get proud. Don't think you've got this, that you can handle it. No, you need him always every day in everything that you do.

So that was kind of that call to action that I really do. And, and what was surprising to me when I do stuff like that, you know, here's hours, days, weeks later, That my church will remember that. You know, when I started doing this style of preaching it's the one sermon I can't find anywhere. I know I've got it somewhere.

Cause we pretty much record everything and have since 2007. But I, I can't find it. I don't know where it's at. And it was just a series on the goodness of God. And you know, I try to put a sticky statement in there, something they can walk away with and remember. And that will lead to either them acting on, you know, in an actual physically kind of doing something or more of a remembrance type of principle.

And that one, it was a sticky statement that God is good. And I think I said those three words, I don't know, 50 times during the message. And it was like, and just hammered it over and over again. But still today, several members of the church, remember. And they'll they understand not just that he is good, they understand the context of that whole

message was even when life is rough, even when we're being dealt, you know, curve balls.

And it just feels miserable. Never forget that God is good. The bad things will happen, that's just a fact of living in a fallen world, but God is still good. And so to hear them, you know, they're going through those things and I see, you know, occasionally they'll post something on Facebook or an Instagram where, you know, they got this big struggle.

And then they'll comment, but God's still good. And it's like, those are the moments that it's like, yes, that's, that's what God has called me to do. So that's where that is helping my church. And I'm prayerful in believing that it's going to help, you know, those that are watching this stuff through YouTube as well.

Wayne: right. I, I like it. I think sometimes I know sometimes when I've been speaking or preaching you know, you end up with your, your three points in all of your points of sub points and A lot of times when I, when I attended church and, and a pastor has like four things that I'm supposed to remember, three things I'm supposed, I usually do about zero of them.

Joshua Verwers: Yeah.

Wayne: But man, if you leave me, if you leave me in and say, Hey, this is what I want you to remember, or this is what I want you to dwell on or meditate on, or this is an action step. Like an action step. I've actually done some of those because it, it doesn't feel overwhelming. I, you know, if, if you give me too many things to do, like I said, it's going to be zero that I get done, because it was like, well, that's a lot.

I can't do that.

Joshua Verwers: right?

Wayne: But,

Joshua Verwers: Yep, absolutely.

Wayne: but if my pastor's call is, Hey, this week, whatever you're facing, remember that God is good. You know what? That that's going to stick with me.

Joshua Verwers: Yeah.

Wayne: That's going to make a difference in how I'm actually living my life life with Christ,

Joshua Verwers: Yep.

Wayne: where you could

Joshua Verwers: And that's, and that's kind of where a lot of this has come from. It was from. You know, I, again, studying different preaching styles, looking at how different ministers do it that are now not even ministers that are kind of in my vein of Christianity and my, you know, denomination. If we want to call it that I like looking outside the box, what are others doing?

And how are they preaching? You know, if they're capturing the attention of people. And then they're actually getting them to be more like Christ in some fashion, I'm interested in how they're doing that. I want to know if they've got something that they're doing, that I can then apply to how God has wired me.

And that was, yeah, I did most of mine. And most of them that I deleted were, you know, either a three-point message or like an 18 point message, you know? And it was like all of those, like the last time I preached on the beatitudes. It was an eight point message because they're eight beatitudes there this time around, I was like, no, I'm going to make this an eight series message.

Like it's each point is going to be a separate message because I would rather each week they just focus on one thing then to try to remember three. And I think I even heard Andy Stanley in that Communicating For Change book where he had kind of posed the question of how many points. Can you remember from your own sermon last week?

And like, when I heard that I was like what were my points? It's like, you know, and if I can't even remember my own points and I was the one who not only preached the message, but spent all week preparing it.

If I can't remember those points, how can I expect anybody else to remember them? But if I can remember one,

Wayne: right.

Joshua Verwers: you know, maybe they will.

Wayne: I'm not sure how most people's brains work. But if I can't remember something, I can't apply it. I can't live it out.

Joshua Verwers: Yep. Yep. For sure.

Wayne: Even, even looking, looking at Jesus in the temptation, because like, I, I think it's important that we know the scripture, I think is important that we know the word of God, but like we see, we see in Jesus' temptation, like he knew scripture and he knew how to apply it to what he was doing there. You know, he could, he could combat those

temptations with scripture because he knew the scripture and he knew what it meant and he knew how it affected his life.

So I love your focus on, on that. Is there anything that you do in. And either one-on-one or small groups that, that helps you really help people to live out what they're learning.

Joshua Verwers: Yeah. So I would say that kind of, I mean, being in a small church, it really helps because everybody in our church does feel like they can approach me at any point in time. And you know, we've got others that are very knowledgeable and trained in or ordained in ministry. And so we've got several I guess.

Maybe we'll say mature resources available for our people. I don't know how to put it elsewhere, but you know, we've got opportunities for people to reach out and just ask more questions. But a lot of what I'll do is just trying to kind of be involved in their lives. Maybe not everybody in the church, but at least, those in our church leadership.

One of us is involved in the lives of everybody in our church. And so we're trying to stay connected and in contact with them. You know, it doesn't necessarily need to be every day or sometimes every week, but you know, we're going to stay in contact on a regular basis to know what's going on with them.

And to know that they can reach out to us, but as far as helping with that, you know, that practical application, it's it's, I think it surprises all of us when we learn a principle that has an application to it, how fast life hits us. And we're forced to address that and confront them. And so it, it never fails within, you know, a few days.

It's usually before the following Sunday that most of those that I'm in personal contact with they've reached out and they've sent a message and be like, Hey, I just faced this today. And then, you know, it's either a good Hey, I made it or a bad, I kinda missed the mark any suggestions on what to do next time.

And that's where I think because I've made myself very approachable, and relatable. You know, I'm quick to, to let the church know that, Hey, I'm I make mistakes. I've preached sermons over again because you know, six months ago, this is what I read. And this is what I believe the word says. And all of a sudden God kind of smacked me upside the back of the head and he's like, Josh, you were wrong and now you need to go fix it.

And so, because they've seen me, you know, confront those mistakes in those issues, it gives a lot of access and opportunity for them to come to me and just say you know, I was wondering about this or I faced this, or I'm kind of struggling with this. That's typically what happens. Are like in my hometown, our home group that we do and for contexts

where our church is at let's see, I think all, but one or two of us travel at least 20 minutes away.

And from the outskirts of where our church members are, it's over an hour away from each other. And so we all just kind of traveled to the central location and it's how the church has always been formatted. But we've got in one city on one edge, that's where we kind of do one of our midweek home groups.

And then on the other one on the other edge, which is where I live, we have another one. And at that one, we try to, you know, spend some time learning the word and what we can do. And, but it often just turns into, Hey, this is what's happening in life. This is what I wound up saying. And that gives me a ton of opportunity to then refer back to last week's message or that message we had three weeks ago.

Or do you remember when we covered that series last year about this. Lots of opportunities to do that, and then those that we haven't addressed, you know, it's like, they'll ask me a question. Hey, what does the Bible say about this? Yeah, I have no clue. Let's figure it

Wayne: Right.

Joshua Verwers: then.

Wayne: We've all got our

Joshua Verwers: jump in. Yeah. So yeah, that's, that's kind of where the, like that small group, you know, aspect that we do. I think it does help. It, it feels to me very much like what I expected it to be like with Jesus and his disciples, you know, not just the big teaching sermons that he did, but just walking through life. And it was like, Hey so can you tell me about this and then, all right.

Let's, let's teach on it.

Wayne: Yeah,

he was, he was just with them living life in, in my five guys group. I do with some young adult guys we were reading about when Jesus calmed him the storm, him being asleep in the boat and kind of like, what does that teach us about God? And we had those questions, like, like, man, It'd be impressed that like, there was all these people.

And then like, after that, like, because you were chosen, you're part of that group, like you were with Jesus, like he was in your boat, he was asleep, but like he was there for you to cry out to because, because he was there, he was just going through life with these, with these young men and pouring into them.

And I love that and I love that. Yeah.

You're valuing that above maybe. Cause cause it's tempting to be like, I want it to be Bible smart you know, and teach people the Bible. But I just, I love your willingness to say, I want to walk with people to encourage people, to, to really, to live by faith.

In this following Christ. So that's your, you've been an encouragement to me through that through your YouTube ministry. Cause I don't live in Iowa. And if you gave me an unlabeled map, I couldn't point to Iowa.

Joshua Verwers: Yeah,

Wayne: but.

Joshua Verwers: I could without the labels. And I say that because I actually tried it the other day on some little game, my kids found on the internet and it was, you know, finding the U S states without a border. It was like, oh, I could find Washington real easy. I could get Oregon in California, Florida, but Iowa.

I was like, man, how, how do I live there? And I missed it. I wound up in Kansas.

Wayne: Well, well you win some, you don't win others.

Joshua Verwers: Yeah. But no, like, like what you're saying? I think for me it was, it's really one of those that I do want people to live by faith and, and I I'm a faith guy, you know, that's, that's who I am. My favorite chapter in the Bible is Hebrews 11. And I call it the hall of faith. You see all of these men and women who by faith were able to do amazing things and obtain amazing things.

And to me, it's, I like it. I don't read, you know, by faith, Moses was the most intelligent man. And it was like, no by faith, Moses led people, you know, by faith, Abraham was making offerings. You know, it's like, it's all of these things that they were, they were doing and they were showing, but it was all by faith, you know?

And even Jesus says, you know, it, Jesus, didn't say by our smarts, by our intelligent, by our knowledge, the people know where his disciples it's by our love for one another. And that's, that's an action that requires us to do something. So for me, that's kind of where it's been at.

It's like, I, I mean, I really believe that that God is more concerned. With like, like you said, in that Mark Batterson quote, I think he's more concerned with our obedience than our knowledge. He just, he wants us to trust him and obey. And so that's, you know, that's the essence of faith to trust and obey. So it was like, yeah, I'm going to do that. And if that's what I'm going to do, what's the best way to lead people.

Follow me as I follow Christ and I'm following Christ by faith. So that's the thing.

Wayne: So good. So good. So thanks Josh for your time. Where can people connect with you? Where can we find you online? If we, if we want to follow everything that you do.

Joshua Verwers: Yeah. If you want to check me out, you can always go to Joshua dot com. That's joshuaverwers.com. Or you can just find me at Joshua. pretty much everywhere.

Wayne: so you've, you've got that last name that will make it so you can have your domain and your name on Tik TOK and your name on clubhouse and your name on whatever comes next.

Joshua Verwers: Yep. As soon as a new platform jumps up, I sign up as soon as possible just to make sure I got my name and then half the time I never actually do anything on them.

Wayne: Well, thank you so much for your time today, Josh. And we'll talk soon.

Joshua Verwers: All right. Thank you.

Closing:

Josh Yates: Wayne, thank you for that great interview with Josh. And one of the things I love about the opportunity that we get is we get to sit across the table from everyday disciple makers, people who are in their sphere of influence, just trying to help people follow Jesus.

And there's a couple of things he said that for me was, it was a good reminder and a good, just kind of redirect thinking through okay. Educated beyond. Our obedience. And how often do we try to just communicate all the information or just maybe communicate, Hey, I want to get into the weeds of this really cool text, and I want to show you all the intricacies of it and that's beautiful and there's a place for that.

But sometimes we, we almost data dump so much information. That the listeners can they process really, what's been communicated on a Sunday sermon the last, you know, 30, 40 minutes. And, and I, and I love the idea of, of moving to the irreducible minimum that what I'm communicating, can people walk away with, with a big idea.

And I have a friend who, who is, who's an incredible communicator. And one of the things he does as terms of his. Preparing for when he's going to present something. He, he, he says it this way. You got to tell them what you're going to tell them. So that's in the first,

like, minute, if you get up and bring anything and you're not going to listen to anything more.

So you got, tell him what you gonna tell him. And then you tell them, and then you tell them what you told them. And so it's just like, if you can't keep right in front of you, what is the, what is the main idea? And then people are going to walk away just confused and not knowing what to do. And it's particularly when it comes to our faith.

Sometimes we can have all these great content, but what are we actually doing about it for transformation? Or is it just more information? So I love that reminder. That was a great that was a great moment in that part.

Wayne: Yeah. And I think sometimes we, when we hear about like inspirational preaching, there's this. Uncertainty there's this there's this something maybe rubs us the wrong way. Cause we don't, we don't want to not preach the Bible. We don't want to not have that information. One of the things for me, I know in Luke 11:28, where Jesus says blessed are those who hear and, and do the, the word of the Lord.

So often for me, I'm like, man, I gotta do it. But, but you have to hear it before you can do it. So there's, I think there's, there's a balance there there's there's that tension between we, obey what God's calling us to do without knowing what God's calling us to do. But if all we focus on is, is learning, then, then we're not going to apply it.

We're not going to obey. So just finding that, really being able to live in that intention of, of how can I, as, as someone who's communicating truth from scripture, how can I really share the truth of God's word, but also share in a way that you can apply it to your life. That will make that difference. Like, like, like Josh said, you know, if, if, if they can remember it a month from now, six weeks from now, either because they're doing it or because they failed.

But like they, they know what you're talking about. So, so having the information, but also being able to take that information and live a life more like Christ because of that. That's something that I've really tried to walk away with there.

Josh Yates: Yeah, I think, I think it's easy to try to try to try to give the information, but when you start talking about inspiration, sometimes there's, there's a sense in, in maybe in my own heart. I'm like, man, am I the one supposed to muster up the motivation? Am I the one I might have just a cheerleader? And so, but that's not what he was saying.

And I don't think he was saying that, Hey, somehow we need us to inspire them more with some kind of great motivational talk. No, I think he's actually pointing to the model of

Jesus because Jesus was a master communicator. He told stories. He evoked the emotion. He helped you connect to, to really the heart of what is the root issue.

And I think sometimes we can get caught with if you will, the commentaries rather than actually what it means to apply it. So man, a great reminder.

And, and to all of our listeners out there we really want to engage in a conversation with you. We want to continue this. So drop us an email at, at podcast at Sonlife dot com and Wayne what's.

Some other ways people can get connected to us.

Wayne: Yeah. If, if you're listening to more than our podcasts, you have probably heard people ask for a rating or review that helps people to find our podcast. Also, if you enjoy it just share, share the podcast page, share a link with some of the people that you do ministry with and say, Hey, I am. I thought you might like it.

Cause we just really want to be, be a resource, be a tool for ministry leaders to make disciples like Jesus did.

So thank you so much for checking out the episode this week and stay tuned for our disciple making moment.

Disciple Making Moment:

Val O'Brien: Hi everyone. I'm Val O'Brien area coordinator in Cleveland, Ohio. And this is my disciple-making moment.

You know, as disciple makers, part of just the dynamic of that relationship is that people we are discipling are going to come to us with their problems, with their issues, with their decisions. And ask our advice on them and that's what we want, right?

Like we want that type of openness in each other's lives. We want to be able to deal with the real issues and integrate Jesus into them. But there is a danger for us as disciple makers in that. We can get used to being the wise Sage or are someone valuing our opinion or even just this idea that somebody needs us as a part of their relationship with Jesus.

And that's dangerous. And we're the only ones that know when that, that switch is flipping in our own heart. And we need to be careful to avoid that. You know, the other day I found myself saying to somebody that, you know, that I, that I disciple, if I could, I would fix that for you. But I can't. And you need to figure that out with Jesus.

What they needed was not my advice or my personal experience or a story about how, you know, I had to sort out something similar in my own heart, what I knew to be true, even though I didn't like it was that this person had all the tools they needed already.

They just needed to get alone with God and sort through it for themselves. And then we could follow up on it and say, Hey, why don't you really do that? Why don't you take some time to do that in the next couple of days? And then why don't we talk about it after that, see, see how the Lord kind of stirs your heart and what happens?

You know, another way we can do that. Is to teach them to go right to scripture with those, with those problems. To look for the answers to look for a next step or the next, the next area of guidance or wisdom to really push them to God's word, you know, that we can say even things like that is a really great question, or that's a really hard situation.

Why don't you study this passage or this passage? Why don't you look hard at those and try to study them. And then let's talk about that in the next couple of days and see how that might apply to what we're talking about today.

Or maybe even more in account in that type of conversation right away to say, Hey, what do you think Jesus would about this. What do we see in the gospels that could give us some sort of indicator about how Jesus thinks about this? What does he value and how could that apply to this situation? And then working through that stuff together, you might be able to to jump right to what the answer is, but we need to push these young people, these young hearts, back to scripture, back to the Holy Spirit, back to prayer. And help them be able to find some of those answers on ourselves to make them less dependent on us and more dependent on Jesus.

The last quick thing that sometimes we just hesitate to do, but we need to do is sometimes push them even to other people. You know, there are some people, you know, on the church staff that I worked with, or just godly people who were in the congregation, who I knew were really wise and had great things to say on certain topics.

And I needed to be the one to say, hey, I love you. I care about you. This is important, but I can only take you so far with this topic. This person has such insightful things to say about it. I think they might be able to really help you. Why don't, why don't you set up a meeting with them? Why don't you call them up or I can introduce you.

But to push them also to look not just to you for every single answer. And to give them the answers for them, but teach them what it means to be a member of the body of Christ and to lean on each other also. So as, as much as we signed up for it, yes, to be involved in this, the problems and the issues and how we want to be in people's lives and we want

to stir them up then that way we also first and foremost, need to make sure that we are pointing them to Jesus and teaching them by example, how to pursue him on their own.

And it's just one of the most joyous and strategic things that we can do for the people that we are discipling.