

The background is a watercolor illustration of olive branches and olives. The branches are thin and brown, with small, elongated green leaves. Several olives are depicted, some in shades of green and others in shades of yellow and orange, suggesting ripeness. The overall style is soft and artistic, with visible brushstrokes and a muted color palette.

Discipling Handbook

NEW DAY
RESOURCES



**Growing
disciples.**

**Planting
churches.**



What's Inside

Alignment	1
A Disciple is	2
Making Disciples	3
The Discipleship Lifestyle	4
Discipleship Contexts	5
How a Disciple Grows	7
How to Disciple	9
A Mature Disciple	11
Person of Peace	12
Group Covenant	13
Discipling Practices	14
Group Guidelines	15
A Successful Leader	16
Discovery Bible Study	17
Praying Together	19

Alignment

What is the mission of the Church?

On the night before he was crucified, Jesus prayed;

*"I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do."
- John 17:4, NIV*

What was the work Jesus had completed prior to going to the cross? Jesus made disciples who could make other disciples.

In Matthew 28:19-20, His last words to His disciples were to go and make disciples. They would instantly know that He meant for them to do what He did with them. His last words give us our mission.

Who are the ministers or workers of the body of Christ?

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." - 1 Peter 2:9, NIV

Everyone who belongs to Christ is called to be a minister and take part in the mission. Our purpose is to be the hands of Jesus and reach out to all people and tell them what He has done.

"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." - John 14:12-14, NIV

Jesus expects us to do what He did and promises that we will do even greater things than He did. Everything Jesus had is available to us if we are aligned with His will of making disciples.

It is important to align our definitions and understanding of a discipleship process.

Alignment of definitions helps everyone speak the same language so we can understand each other while we are on our mission.

Knowing and having a discipleship process helps us understand our mission, execute our mission and evaluate our progress.

Having a picture of what a mature disciple looks like helps us evaluate ourselves first, and understand where those we are growing with are.

A Disciple Is...

A disciple is an apprentice, someone who learns how to do something from someone else.

A disciple is someone committed to following Jesus and becoming like Him. Being a disciple is more than merely going to church or being religious. It is a commitment to being transformed to be like Jesus.

Head. Heart. Hands.

We frame our definition of a disciple around Matthew 4:19. It makes it easy to reference and memorize:



And He said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

- Matthew 4:19, ESV

You can easily divide this verse so that it becomes a framework for the three key parts we find in the rest of the of the New Testament on what it means to be a disciple.

These three parts include:

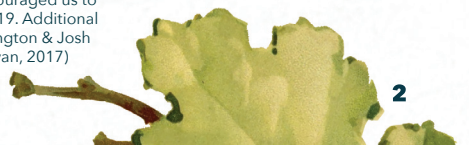
1. Following Jesus (Head)
2. Being changed by Jesus through the Holy Spirit (Heart)
3. Being committed to the mission of Christ (Hands)

Based on those three parts, our definition of a disciple is:

**A disciple is following Jesus,
being changed by Jesus, and
committed to the mission of Jesus.**



Pages 2-3: We are indebted to Jim Putman who encouraged us to frame our definition of a disciple around Matthew 4:19. Additional information from Discipleship.org and Bobby Harrington & Josh Patrick, *The Disciple Maker's Handbook* (Zondervan, 2017)



Making Disciples



How do we make disciples? Like Jesus did!

Jesus entered into the lives of a handful of people, spent several years training and mentoring them, then sent them out to make more disciples. Programs, ministries, worship services, sermons, books, etc., can all help. But Jesus' method was one-on-one, and there is no substitute for this. Disciples can only be hand-crafted. The expression "making disciples" closely reflects the final command of Jesus:



Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

-Matthew 28:19-20, NIV

These verses provide clarity on disciple-making. Within the Greek text of these verses, there is one imperative command – make disciples – and three participles describing how we do it – go, baptize, and teach. With this scripture in mind, we define disciple-making this way:

1. **Helping people.** We have to initiate and be intentional because we are to "go" and "make" disciples.
2. **Trust.** Disciple-making is about repentance and conversion with the accent on grace – "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
3. **Follow.** Disciple-making is about obedience and sanctification (increasing holiness) – "teaching them to obey everything I commanded you."
4. **Jesus.** Jesus is the object and focus in discipleship. He does not leave us on our own trying to accomplish all of this by ourselves, because He promises to be "with" us for the entire process until the end.

**Disciple-making means helping people
trust and follow Jesus.**



The Discipleship Lifestyle

Disciple-making is not an event or an activity. It is a lifestyle of helping people trust and follow Jesus. The discipleship lifestyle is characterized by these six elements:

Father, Son, & Spirit

Disciple-makers uphold the God as presented in the Bible and revealed through Jesus Christ in the Gospels. Jesus is the Savior and rightful King of humanity. Disciples are careful to uphold Jesus as Lord in all of His grace and truth. The Holy Spirit fuels the disciple-making process, pointing to Jesus and leading His followers into all truth. The Holy Spirit reveals the reality of Jesus' presence. The Spirit gives disciples access to the same eternal quality of life that Jesus lived on earth.

Relationships

Genuine life-on-life connections grounded in Christ-like love are the environment for discipleship. Disciple-makers enter into other people's lives to love them and lead them to maturity in Christ.

Intentionality

Discipleship requires us to have strategy, direction, and specific steps for those we are discipling.

Bible

The Word of God is living and active. By it, we encounter Jesus and learn to form our lives around Him. We use the Bible as a primary source for disciple-making.


Journey

There is a traceable (but sometimes disjointed) growth story from the new birth to spiritual parenthood where the Holy Spirit leads us on a shared, formative journey.

Multiply

Authentic discipleship repeats itself, where the disciple becomes a disciple-maker; reproducing the discipleship process.

Taken from Bobby Harrington & Josh Patrick,
The Disciple Maker's Handbook (Zondervan, 2017)



Discipleship Contexts

The smaller the setting, the deeper the transformation.

Jesus made disciples in different relational contexts and settings. He spent a lot of time with few, and less time with larger crowds.

Public

Public - The total church assembly and beyond - city, nation, world.
~70+ people

Social

Social - Class, ministry, or missional community.
~20-70 people

Personal

Personal - LIFEgroups. A gathering connecting believers who know each other and live life together.
~6-20 people

Transparent

Transparent - Discipling Groups, or Dgroups. Small, single-gendered groups where real vulnerability and deep accountability can thrive.
~2-5 people

Divine

Divine - God disciplines you alone through His Word and in prayer.
~1 person



Connect and Grow

We are committed to helping people grow to become mature disciples of Jesus. We believe that everyone needs multiple relationships that form a spiritual foundation. All members are encouraged to develop a rhythm of life that helps you connect and grow by being involved in the following areas of relationship.

Community

A church home is where you gather with a community of people to help each other live life. Our relationship with our community provides a place for us to immerse ourselves in the life of Christ's church. The assemblies encourage love for Christ and allow us to celebrate regularly in worship and to give to God's work.

Family

It is important to build relationships with a few people who can serve as a spiritual family. There are multiple types of groups where you can find the connections that will give the fellowship, support and love you need. Your spiritual family is the place where you serve, grow, and support others in the body of Christ.

Mentor

Everyone is encouraged to be in mentoring relationships; to have a spiritual mentor and to be mentoring someone else. These discipling relationships provide the place for spiritual guidance and growth through transparency and accountability. Through mentoring, you express your love for other people and carry out our mission to help others to trust and follow Jesus and share Christ with those who do not know Him.

The transformational power of Jesus is realized as we interact with God and others within these relationships. Within them we express North Boulevard's values - Love Christ, Love Scripture, Love People.



We proclaim [Christ], admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." - Colossians 1:28 NIV

How a Disciple Grows

What does maturity as a disciple of Jesus Christ look like? Scripture often uses the language of physical growth and development as a metaphor for our spiritual growth. This tool developed by Real Life Ministries is a great place to begin some self-assessment as a disciple of Jesus.

5. Parent - People in this stage have a solid understanding of God's Word and a deep, abiding relationship with the Father. They are living out God's Word in their daily lives. They are others-centered and God-dependent. They are able to reproduce mature disciples of Jesus by inviting others to follow them as they follow Christ.

"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

~ 2 Timothy 2:1-2, NIV

4. Young Adult - People in this stage are making a big shift from being self-centered to more others-centered. They're beginning to understand their role as a giver, rather than a taker. They're ministering to others and putting others first. They are being doers of the Word.

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

~ 1 Corinthians 13:11 -13, NIV

PARENT

"A guy at work asked me to explain the Bible to him. Please pray for me."

"We get to baptize someone from our group tonight! Where can we get her plugged in?"

"I love what God has been doing with me lately! Let me tell you about it..."

"I love my small group, but there are others who need a group like this."

"In my devotions, I came across something I have a question about..."

"I think I could lead a group with a little help."

YOUNG ADULT

1. Dead - People in this stage have not yet accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. They may completely reject God or they may be seeking God. They may be "spiritual," and may even claim to know God or be a Christian. In reality, they are their own god.

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

~ John 3:3, NIV

2. Infant - People in this stage have accepted Christ, but have not moved much past that point. They can be new believers, or they might be stagnant, long-time Christians. Life is generally all about them and their needs.

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

~ 1 Peter 2:2-3, NIV

3. Child - People in this stage are growing in their relationship with God, and are also beginning to grow in their relationship with other Christians. They are applying God's Word in their lives and allowing others to walk beside them in their journey following Christ. However, it's still mostly about them – their needs, comfort, etc.

"I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one."

~ 1 John 2:14, NIV



How to Disciple

Jesus is the greatest disciple-maker in history. He intentionally met people where they were in their spiritual growth and poured His life into His disciples. As disciple-makers, we can do the same, utilizing a methodology we call Share, Connect, Minister, and Disciple – or SCMD.

4. Release to DISCIPLE

Finally, after He rose from the dead, Jesus deployed His followers to disciple others.

Paul uses his last words to encourage Timothy to remain passionate for Christ and remain firm in sound doctrine.

And, when they are ready, we release those we've disciplined to disciple others.

Matt 28:19-20
2 Timothy 1:13
2 Timothy 2:2

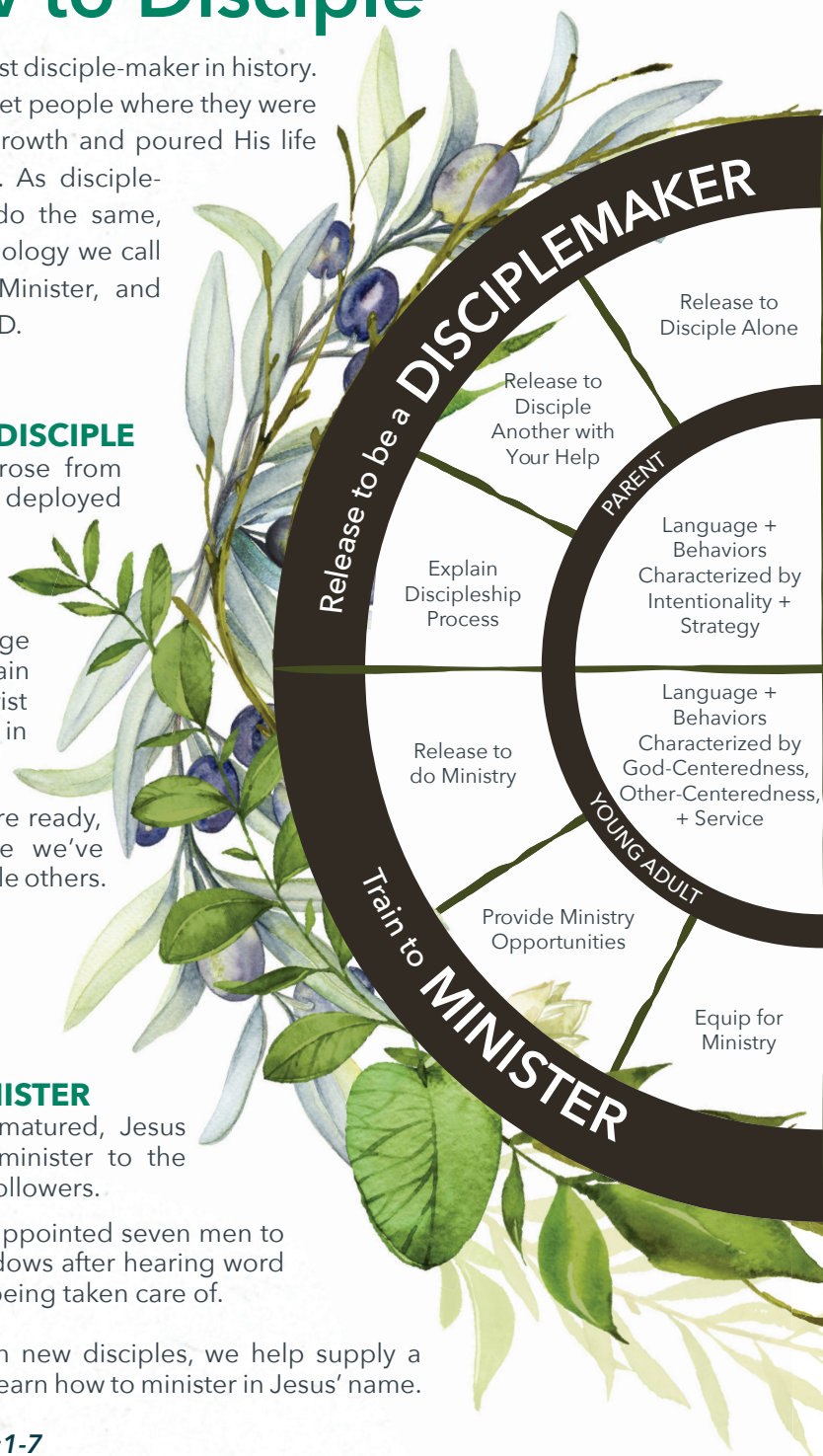
3. Train to MINISTER

As His disciples matured, Jesus trained them to minister to the lost and to other followers.

The early church appointed seven men to minister to the widows after hearing word that they weren't being taken care of.

As we do life with new disciples, we help supply a place for them to learn how to minister in Jesus' name.

Luke 9:1-6, Acts 6:1-7





1. Share

Jesus shared with people who He was through words and deeds.

Peter shared with the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

We also share our lives with people. As we do, we share the Gospel with them.

Luke 5:1-3, Matt 4:19, Acts 2:1-41

2. Connect

When people accepted His message, Jesus invited them to connect with Him in relationship. During that time of sharing life together, He taught them the truth about God.

The first believers were together and had everything in common and connected by devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, prayer, and sharing everything.

We connect with those who accept Christ's message. As we do, we help them connect with Christ and with other believers.

**Mark 9:30-31, John 3:22
Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37**

Pages 7-10 taken from *Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual* Jim Putman // Avery T. Willis, Jr. // Brandon Guindon // Bill Krause | Used with permission.



A Mature Disciple

How will I know a disciple is maturing in Christ?

You can identify at least five benchmarks that indicate a mature disciple. Your job as a discipler is to help them grow through every one of these benchmarks. Unlike the growth stages of the wheel, these qualities are nurtured daily in the life of a mature disciple.

Surrender to Christ

Be Born Into a New Life

They will have an authentic conversion experience where they abandon a life without Christ, put their trust in and confess Christ, are baptized, and make a commitment to live faithful to Him from that point forward.

Submit to Christ's teaching

Live Right With God and People

They will commit to righteous and holy living – a holy life committed to Christ rather than the desires of the world – and they will seek to practice Jesus' ethics of love, mercy, and justice in all their relationships. They will develop a rich prayer life, a lifestyle of repentance and confession, and a love for the world.

Support Christ's People

Grow With Other Believers

They will be immersed in the life of the church, living in covenant with other believers, worshiping with them, serving with them, loving them, supporting them, and being accountable to them.

Serve Christ's Ministry

Do Good Works

They will be active in ministry, finding passion and joy through serving others as Jesus did, cultivating a life of service.

Share Christ

Make Disciples

They will disciple – bring others to Jesus. A mature disciple of Jesus is bringing others to Him. Following Jesus means doing what Jesus did, and He made disciples. They will be finding others who need to be discipled and committing themselves to the life-long process of making disciples through relationship with others.



Person of Peace

In Luke 10:1-12, Jesus sends His disciples out as workers into the harvest. He gives them special instructions about the type of people to look for on their mission – persons of peace who will receive His disciples and welcome their message.

God has given each soul a great spiritual hunger, even if someone who hasn't come to know Jesus yet might not recognize it or may describe it differently. God also will open doors for a soul that has a heart for helping people trust and follow Jesus.

In Chapter 5 of his book, *Miraculous Movements*, disciple-maker Jerry Trousdale describes a modern Person of Peace as:

1. Someone God is preparing to receive you – God has already been at work in their life before you get there.
2. Someone who has a need you can meet – it could be a material, physical, or emotional need.

Everywhere disciple-makers go, opportunities to help people trust and follow Jesus are all around. A disciple-maker enters into relationships intentionally to help others grow in maturity in Christ. Those whom you disciple can be anywhere spiritually – from lost all the way to a long-time church member or anywhere in between. **You can disciple your children, your colleagues, neighbors, coffee shop acquaintances. Even church leaders need discipling relationships to learn to trust and follow Jesus.**

How do I go about it?

Pray. Luke 6:12 tells us that before Jesus chose the few He would disciple closely, He prayed all night. Pray for the Lord to keep your heart and your eyes open for Persons of Peace around you.

Extend the invitation. Take the initiative. Being intentional means being proactive. It may be uncomfortable at first, but you may soon find that many people are actually starved for real relationships. Because of this, people are often more open than you might think.

Show them the study. Simply saying, "Can we read together sometime?" is a low-stress way of inviting someone into a study. Not many people want to be taught, but many love to discuss something together with someone.

Consider a covenant. Setting some boundaries and expectations up front will set you up for success. A "sunset" date allows someone to commit to a series of readings without the pressure of a life-long commitment.

Give them time. Let the person have time to consider the commitment, and leave room for them to say no. Better for them to say no than to say yes only to remain elusive when it comes time to get together.

Begin with the end in mind. From the beginning, plant the seed of multiplication. When groups multiply, it can often feel like division and loss within a group rather than growth. You commit to them for life, but your journey with them may only last a year or two before you take up another group of disciples. Establishing the goal of multiplication up front gives all involved the expectation that meeting together won't last forever, though the friendships often do!

Meet! It's hard to hit a moving target, so set a time and place and stick with it. Even if this means you're the only person at the meeting for a while, it will establish a rhythm that others can count on and join in.

Participate. Disciples should be peers, no matter where they are in their maturity. This will also model for a new disciple the character of someone who follows Jesus. Trust is often earned, sometimes slowly. When you're able to be transparent, an atmosphere of safety is created. Then others will feel comfortable opening up as well.

Group Covenant

Our Discipleship Group glorifies God when we mature spiritually and equip each other to share Christ. Through prayer, study, and confession, we grow up into Christ by holding each other accountable with humility, grace, and love.

With God's help, we covenant together and commit to the following for the next ____ weeks:

- **Priority:** We will give meetings priority. If we're unable to attend or are running late, we will call ahead.
- **Personal Worship:** We will individually spend time, daily, in prayer and scripture reading.
- **Participation:** We will share about our spiritual growth with one another.
- **Privacy:** We will keep all discussions shared in this group confidential.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Signature

Date



Discipling Practices

Growing with others

Consistency and constant practice are keys to growing disciples. Plants need to be watered. Our job is to get them connected to the “living water” that will sustain them for life, but we must model consistency.

We do this by living life with them, loving them, spending deliberate time with them, encouraging them to mature, helping them when they are falling, partnering with them in ministry, and commissioning them to go make other disciples. This involves spending time with them, communicating regularly, and sharing your spiritual walk with them. It also involves the following deliberate activities:

- **Discovery Bible Study (DBS)** or something like it. Opening the Word of God with the disciple, listening to the Word, and asking the hard questions of how to live out Christ’s teaching.
- **Prayer.** Praying constantly with the disciple over your needs and theirs, teaching them to pray, asking for the work of the Spirit in your life and in their lives, confessing with them before God, praising God together, etc.
- **Confession and accountability.** Learning to be honest about our struggles in a safe and confidential way, supporting and loving one another through those struggles, and helping one another overcome our struggles.
- **Encouragement and support.** Finding ways to encourage disciples to continue moving towards maturity. Encourage them to commit to Christ, to live holy and just lives, to immerse themselves in the life of the church, to become active in ministry, and to disciple others.



“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

~ Matthew 7:24, NIV

Growing with God

We practice His way of life by seeking to put His words into action.

Today I will...

Surrender

To the Father’s sovereignty and will. *Matthew 6:10, James 4:7, Proverbs 3:5-6*

To Christ’s teachings and principles. *Matthew 5:19, John 14:12-18, 1 Peter 1:13-16*

To the Spirit’s direction and guidance. *John 16:3, Matthew 6:13, Romans 8:14*

Seek

Him through prayer & meditation. *Matthew 7:7-8, Psalm 5:3, Joshua 1:8*

Him through study of scripture. *Matthew 5:6, Psalm 119:105, Luke 24:45*

Him through holy living and self-reflection. *Matthew 6:33, Matthew 7:4-5, Colossians 3:1-17*

Serve

God. *Matthew 28:19-20, Deuteronomy 10:12, Joshua 24:15*

The Church. *Ephesians 4:11-14, 1 Corinthians 14:12, Romans 12:1-8*

The World. *Matthew 5:14-16, Matthew 5:7-9, Matthew 7:12*

Group Guidelines

In the group setting, it's important to honor every member of the group. Having some agreed-upon guidelines provides boundaries, sets a pace and flow, respects the value of each person, and helps everyone feel comfortable sharing transparently.

Confidentiality. What is said in the group stays in the group.

Respect. We keep our sharing focused on your own thoughts and feelings. Limit sharing to allow for others to share. No one is required to share.

Silence. Silence is okay. We allow silence in the group, as it provides an opportunity for someone to share or for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

No "cross talk." We avoid speaking out of turn, interrupting someone while they are speaking, or giving direct advice to someone in a meeting. We do not have side conversations or lecture the group or an individual.

No fixing. We are not here support each other, not "fix" each other. Don't try to give advice or solutions during the meeting.

No rescuing. When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences, such as placing a comforting hand on them or offering a tissue. These well-intended gestures will often cause them to stop sharing. For this reason, it's important we resist the temptation to rescue people.

"I" statements. It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but the goal of our group is personal reflection, assessment, and growth. When sharing, use "I" statements rather than "them," "the church," "we," "you," etc.

No hyperlinking: The question "Where is that in this passage?" prevents hyperlinking – taking the discussion away toward other texts or ideas. This will keep the group on track and disciple them to depend on Scripture as their source of spiritual authority. It also helps those who are new to the Bible, as they may not be familiar with those other passages or ideas.



Adapted from Real-Life Ministries

A Successful Leader

The health and vitality of any Discipleship Group depends upon God working through a successful leader. People, however, are not quick to follow. They are watching closely to see if we will lead them with Godliness and integrity. How do you become a leader worth following?

Examine yourself. Make an honest appraisal of your spiritual health. Use the wheel on pages 7 & 8 to help.

Discipline yourself. Pay attention to the spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, and intellectual dimensions of your life. Are you living a life of balance? Do you have a plan to grow in Christ? Are you working the plan?

Practice vulnerability. Good leaders are good followers. Walk with someone who is mentoring and coaching you. Speak honestly about your failures and struggles. Be quick to admit when you need forgiveness. Acknowledge the territories of your heart that remain un-surrendered to God. Dethrone your idols.

Remember the vision. Vision leaks over time, so you'll need to return to it again and again. The why fuels the what. A purposeless leader usually leads a directionless and lackluster group.

Make people the priority. The group needs careful organization, but what it needs most is for you to connect with the people in meaningful ways. Carve out time to meet one-on-one with them. Call to check on them and pray with them. Take the men (or women) out for a fun night or weekend retreat.

Keep growing. Pursue God through the spiritual disciplines. Read books that sharpen your thinking and stir your soul. Make goals and track your progress.

Be humble. Remember that the group belongs to God, not you. All leaders are criticized. When it comes your way, ask yourself: Is this true? Is the person reliable? Allow criticism to make you stronger.

Pray earnestly. Ask God for wisdom, compassion, and His perfect will. Prayer may not change our circumstances, but it changes how we view God, others, and ourselves.

Lead with passion. Go all in with your love for others. Be excited about what God is up to in your own life. Your enthusiasm is contagious.

Get an apprentice. The long-term viability of our Discipleship Groups ministry hinges on our ability to select, train, and release apprentices with new groups. Having an apprentice will also challenge you to model healthy living and leadership.

Discovery Bible Study

The following format should be followed each meeting. It may seem too simplistic or redundant, but if repeated, it becomes something the group knows to do without thinking about it.

Discipling praise

- **Ask: "What happened last week for which you are thankful?"**
- Encourage everyone to answer briefly.

Discipling intercession

- **Ask: "What challenges do you see in your life? family? world?"**
- After the study there will be a follow-up question.

Discipling accountability (not done the first week)

- **Ask: "How did you obey, share, and meet the needs from last week's meeting?"**

Discipling obedience

- Have the text read or told well (If any of the group is illiterate, it must be told well.)
- Ask for a volunteer to re-tell the passage in their own words.
- Ask the rest of the group to fill in any details that were overlooked.
- **Ask: "What do we learn about God?"** Answers begin with "He is..."
- **Ask: "What do we learn about people?"** Answers begin with "we are..."
- **Ask: "How will you put this passage into practice?" or "What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you in this passage, and how will you obey it in your life this week?"** Answers begin with "I will..." The "I will" statement is the hinge of the DBS. It's where the disciple commits to live out the challenges presented in the text. Remember that the "I will" only has power if followed up with the "did you?" of accountability. Ideally, "I wills" should be SMART – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-specific.
- **Ask: "Who do you know who needs to hear this?"** Answers begin with "you can..." In other words, who is a specific person you intend to encourage or challenge this week with this passage?

Discipling service

- Re-visit the needs mentioned earlier in the meeting.
- **Ask: "How can we help with a challenge you're facing?"**

The Call of Jesus

Discovery Bible Study

Gratitude

What happened last week which you are thankful for?

Intercession

What challenges do you face in your life? family? work?

Accountability

How did you obey, share, or serve the needs from last week?

Read the Passage

Re-Read, Re-Tell, & Consider

He is...

What do we learn about Jesus?

We are...

What do we learn about ourselves?

I will...

What has the Holy Spirit said to you in this passage? How will you obey it in your life?

You...

What do you know about Jesus?

How can I...

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The Call of Jesus

Part One

Matthew 4:13-25

Jesus calls us to follow him

John 3:1-23

Jesus Calls us to be born again

Luke 15:11-24

Jesus calls us wherever we are

John 20:19-31

Jesus calls us to make the decision of faith

Acts 2:14-47

Jesus calls us to believe, repent, and receive baptism

Mark 4:1-20

Jesus calls us to listen and bear fruit

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The Call of Jesus

Part Two

Ephesians 2:1-10

Jesus calls us to grace-filled life

Galatians 5:16-25

Jesus calls us to walk in the Spirit

Matthew 5:17-20

Jesus teaches us to obey Scripture

Luke 11:1-13

Jesus teaches us to pray

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus teaches us to make disciples

John 14:1-6

Jesus teaches us that He is coming back for us

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Praying Together

What happens when we commit to praying with each other?

- Your relationship with Jesus and each other will deepen.
- You will experience spiritual growth in Christ
- There is less chance of burnout as you put problems in His hands and trust members to His care. You allow the Holy Spirit to work in your group so your time is filling and refreshing.

Suggestions for prayer in small groups

- **Be conversational.** A group is not a place for impressive theological prayers. Keep them relaxed and relational.
- **Be courteous.** Keep requests personal and as brief as possible so that others have time to share.
- **Be sensitive.** Prayer request time is not the time to cross-talk, counsel, or try to fix another person.
- **Be real.** You should be honest with God about what He needs to do in your life or those that you are praying for. You are not there to impress anyone. God knows your heart.
- **Be listening.** Don't be afraid of silence. As we communicate with God in our heart, we are praying.
- **Be praying!** Don't explain or make lists. Just pray.

Ideas for group prayer

- Pray through a Psalm out loud together.
- Pray the prayer requests of the person to your right, either aloud or silently.
- Pick a portion of scripture to pray for one another during the week (Colossians 1:9, Ephesians 3:14-19, e.g.).
- Try short, one-sentence prayers.
- Pray for the church, a country, a family in need, specific ministries or initiatives, or any area for which your group has a passion.
- Ask members to write out prayer requests and exchange them with another member to pray aloud. Agree to pray for and encourage the other person throughout the week.

Special Thanks

Alex Absalom

Jeremie Benzinger

Emma Goodwyn

Brandon Guindon

Bobby Harrington

John King

Bill Krause

Wyatt Lampley

Thad McKellar

Greg Ogden

Josh Patrick

Emma Petrochko

Jim Putman

Paul Skidmore

Avery T. Willis Jr.

David Young

Jonathan Young

Final Command Ministries

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and more...

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NEW DAY
RESOURCES

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rev March 14, 2022 11:07 AM



Read the Passage

Re-Read, Re-Tell, & Consider the Details

He is...

What do we learn about God?

We are...

What do we learn about people?

I will...

What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you in this passage, and how will you obey it in your life this week?

You can...

Who do you know who needs to hear this?

