

Teaching/Discipling - Scripture Discovery

Why Make Disciples?

Matthew 28:19-20	Jesus commands us, everywhere, baptize, teaching EVERYTHING Jesus commanded
Colossians 1:28-29	Warn, teach, in order to present mature in Christ
1 Peter 2:21	We are called, Christ is an example to be followed
Matthew 4:19-20	Disciples are fishers of men
John 14:21	We keep commands out of love!
John 15:10-11	We keep his commands because of joy!
John 12:26	We follow and serve Christ. We receive honor
2 Timothy 2:20-21	We are holy and useful
Ephesians 4:11-17	Disciples are part of a church body. Equipped for ministry
1 Thessalonians 2:19-20	Disciples bring us glory and joy

What is discipling exactly?

- In other words, Discipling is “**Helping others follow Jesus**”. ^(a)
- “Discipleship [Being a disciple] is more of **an identity** than an activity.” ^(b)
- Mentoring (just having someone to call with your problems) is not the same as intentional discipleship. Teachers set the track for direction, not students.

How Hard is this?

- “The discipling life is an **others oriented life**. It labors in the power of God to proclaim Christ and present others to mature in Christ”. ^(c)
- **THE COST:** time, study, prayer, love, money, rejection, sacrifice of self-interest. Often butchering your own agenda to make last-minute room for others, being late to work or events you’ve already committed to, waking up VERY early, doing overtime to make up, and a massive sacrifice to your entertainment time.

Examples of discipleship in the Bible:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jethro mentored Moses - Moses mentored Joshua and the elders of Israel - Joshua mentored the remaining leaders of his army - Eli mentored Samuel - Samuel mentored Saul and David - David mentored Solomon - Solomon mentored his sons - Elijah mentored Elisha - Jesus mentored the twelve apostles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priscilla & Aquila mentored Apollos - The apostles mentored hundreds of other leaders, including Paul - Paul mentored Titus, Timothy, and many others - Timothy mentored "faithful men" such as Epaphras - Epaphras and the other faithful men mentored others, which led to a chain reaction that resulted in dozens of new churches in Asia |
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Who Do We Disciple?

Luke 14:26-33	Those who have given all, and counted the cost
Luke 9:23, (Gal 2:20)	Those who “pick up the cross daily” or deny themselves daily
2 Timothy 2:2	Faithful, teachable teachers of others
Matthew 9:9-13	Obedient sinners
Matthew 10:24	Teachable, humble, respectful, willing to be persecuted
1 Peter 5: 1-5	Humble, subject to elders
Titus 2:6-8	Younger in faith and age
Titus 2:3-5	Older women teach younger women, older men teach younger men
Proverbs 22:6	Teach kids

Finding the Right Person

- **Only 1 in 5** Christians are involved in some sort of discipleship activity.^(d) So it should be easy to find someone to disciple!
- 29% of un-discipled have simply ‘not thought about it. 25% don’t think they need to be disciplined by someone else.^(e)
- **Clearly define discipleship and your intentions!** Chances are very high that most people don’t know what discipleship is. So you’ll need to explain it to them first.
- **Find someone who’s F.A.T.**^(f)
 1. **FAITHFUL:** A dedicated, trustworthy and committed person (2 Tim. 2:2).
 2. **AVAILABLE.** It is hard to train someone who is not around. A potential disciple must show a willingness to be around you. He or she must show commitment.
 3. **TEACHABLE.** It is impossible to teach someone who thinks they know everything and are not receptive to instruction or rebuke. Jesus modeled for us, we are not to waste the stewardship of our lives with know-it-alls. **HUMILITY IS A MUST.** People who know they need help and are willing to learn like the ‘son’ in proverbs. They welcome council and instruction.
- **Stronger teaches the spiritually weaker.** This can be tough to admit with peers or in a small group.
- **Age typically reflects wisdom.** It’s much more inviting to be disciplined by someone older, and to disciple someone yourself who is younger. This isn’t mandatory, but typically easier and more common.
- **KEEP THE RELATIONSHIP SAME GENDER.** Avoid moral failure by not sharing intimate confessions and doing life with the opposite sex.
- **Don’t have more disciples than Jesus.** You’re no super hero. Even the best discipler can’t effectively lead more than seven people.

Where to find a new disciple

- **Primarily utilize your church.** It’s unwise to do discipling without a church, it’s worse to do church without discipling.^(g) Always try to connect disciples to leaders in their own churches first.
- **Parenting Children is disciple making!** “Having children is not an excuse to avoid making disciples but rather a model for disciples making disciples.”^(g)

d, e - The Barna Group, “*The State of Discipleship*”, f - Howard Hendricks, “*Teaching to change lives*”, g - T. E. Koshy “*The Invested Life*”

How Do We Disciple?

John 8:31-32	Abide in my word
John 14:15	Keeping God's commandments
John 13:34-35	Love each other
Luke 9:23	Denial of sin/rulership/reliance of self, daily sacrifice towards following Christ
John 15:8	Bear fruit!
Acts 2:42	Devoting to the Bible, fellowship (prayer/communion or eating)
Ephesians 5:1-2	Imitate God in love as a sacrifice to God
1 Corinthians 11:1	Imitate Christ in order to set an example
John 13:15	Imitate Christ as a servant
Luke 6:40	Imitate your teacher, and show respect
Philippians 4:9	Imitate
Matthew 5:14-16	Be an example
Philippians 3:17	Join in imitating and be an example
1 Timothy 4:12	Set an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, purity
2 Timothy 3:14	Continue in what you have learned & believed
Hebrews 13:7	Imitate/reflect your leaders and what they taught
Proverbs 27:17	You need two
1 Peter 5:1-5	Exercise oversight, don't domineer
Acts 8: 27-31	Help others in understanding reading the Bible
Acts 8: 27-31	Be accurate in your teaching

First things first

- **FIRST, get your own mentor!** You're not going to be able to do this all on your own. You know the importance of having someone more wise than you pour into you, so find someone as you lead others!
- **You don't need to be perfect to disciple**, but you do need to be a disciple yourself. Otherwise, how will you demonstrate what it looks like to follow Christ?
- Discipling can take place in a small group, but is most effective in a **one on one relationship**.
- **Is your disciple a real believer?** Assume not and have them convince you of their faith. If not, explore the gospel together by reading Mark (the shortest gospel) then explain trust in Christ and repentance. Don't skip this step! It's actually a pretty common occurrence. Help them where they're at.
- Begin by **writing down goals** and even an estimated timeline and end date.
- **Have fun together!** Get to know your new disciple by hanging out and asking questions.

Model Discipleship

- “Discipling is **inviting someone to imitate you**, making your trust in Christ an example to be followed.” ^(h) Is your life an example you’d want others to follow? Hopefully so! Now, maybe you can now see the value of reading Christian biographies. They are ongoing discipleship from faith heroes of the past! “So much of discipling is doing what you ordinarily do but bringing people along with you and having meaningful conversations, like Jesus did.” ⁽ⁱ⁾
- **Do life together.** Eat, then snack, then drink, then eat some more! Sounds crazy? Look at Jesus’ ministry! Find consistency in the time and places that you meet. This will keep momentum in achieving your goals.
- **Teach teach teach, correct, model, and love.** “The vast majority of correction in a church should occur in the private context of discipling relationships.” ^(j)
- **Teach & demonstrate spiritual disciplines**
 - Study the Bible together and share in reading accountability. Make sure they have a reading plan and have intentions to read the whole Bible cover to cover. Memorize scripture together.
 - Pray together and in group settings. Also pray for your disciple weekly (if not daily)
 - Fast together
 - Worship together and discuss the significance of glorifying God
- **Memorize the 30+ commands of Christ** together.
- **Display community.** Teach the value of belonging to a church body and commit together.
- **Model serving and love.** Teaching to love others, and demonstrating love are radically different. Serve the church or the needy together! These may be some of the most impactful moments.
- **Use your spiritual gifts!** You are gifted not for yourself, but for the health of others. “Churches don’t need programs so much as they need cultures of discipling, cultures where each member prioritizes the spiritual health of others. Each has been given a gift for the common good, and each should use whatever gift he or she has been given to build up the body.” ^(k)
- **Be a good listener.** If you plan to lecture and ignore your disciple’s questions, struggles, or opinions, you will probably lose them fast. Show them that questions are good!
- **Be Vulnerable.** “Christian discipleship isn’t just about displaying your strengths; it’s about displaying your weakness too. Sometimes you lead the way in confessing weakness or sin. This shows a dependency on the gospel, not your perfection.” ^(l)
- **Recognize and celebrate growth.** Encourage with gifts (New study Bible, books, sermons) or kind words.
- **Teach and train to share their faith.** Use a tool like the three circles to build confidence in sharing their faith. Challenge each other to have gospel conversations throughout the week. This may have to start with grabbing them by the hand and doing some uncomfortable street evangelism together.
- **DISCIPLES MAKE DISCIPLES.** You should have a desire to send your disciples out to make more disciples! Share with them from the beginning your expectation for them to mimic disciple making & multiply.

Hang in there!

- **Have patience!** We don’t always see immediate fruit (maybe not even in our lifetime).
- **Don’t be afraid to say, ‘I don’t know’.** Instead of guessing answers or pretending to be a know it all, show your disciple how to look things up in scripture or get counsel. This is critical to their faith journey.
- **Pray pray pray,** and then pray more! You can’t force them to be a disciple. This is the Holy Spirit’s job.
- **Don’t exhaust yourself.** Make sure you both get weekly sabbath rest of some kind.
- **Don’t neglect your own personal relationship with God.** Keep your time with God in prayer and reading.
- **The biggest barriers to discipleship:** general busyness of life, lack of commitment, screen time, too many things to do with free time, selfishness, and apathy. ^(m)
- **You get out what you put in** (Speaking of the disciple in training). You can’t MAKE them become a disciple. Don’t be frustrated if they don’t grow due to inactivity or a lack of listening to your instruction. Ultimately, all you can do is pray and rely on the Holy Spirit’s work!
- **Discipling relationships typically end early.** Things happen. People move, get jobs, or just give up. Try not to take it personal and move on to your next disciple! This isn’t friend making 101.