

“I have a dream ...
I dream of a world where
disciple-making is a reality
and not just an ideal; where
disciples make disciples,
who make disciples, and
unleash the explosive
power of spiritual
multiplication.”

Disciple Making

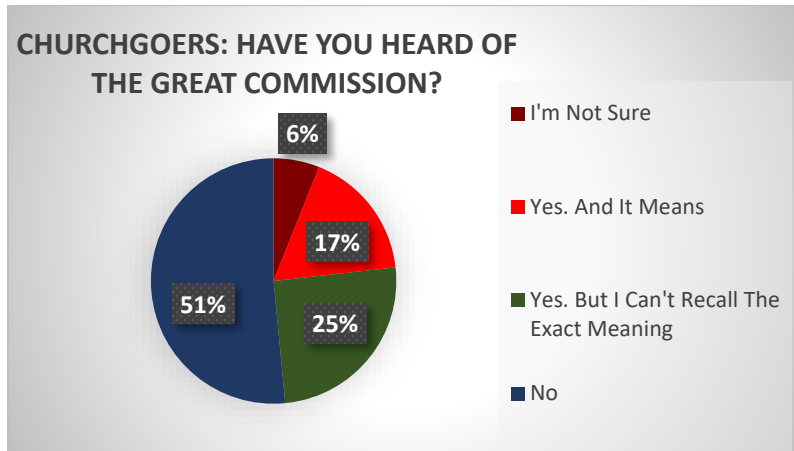
For Ordinary People

DISCIPLE MAKING FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE

Ray and Laurel Bandi

<https://disciplemakersnetwork.org>

A 2018 report on “*Translating the Great Commission*,” by The Barna Group and Seed Company, revealed that “more than half of U.S. churchgoers have not heard of *The Great Commission*.” In addition, 25 percent who have heard of *The Great Commission* don’t know what it means.



One conclusion of the *Barna / Seed Company* report was this: “***Ignorance of this term can be attributed to churches not teaching this concept enough anymore.***” But ... ***what kind of teaching*** will be most effective to correct the widespread ignorance of the implications and applications of The Great Commission?

THIS IS A WORKSHOP

Workshop: a meeting at which a group of people engage in intensive discussion and activity on a particular subject or project.

What follows is not a talk or a lecture. This is an opportunity to ***engage with others on the most critical issue facing the Church of Jesus Christ today.***

This workshop involves six interactive sessions.

Session 1 – ***Jesus’ Mission***

Session 2 – ***The Disciple’s DNA***

Session 3 – ***The Disciple’s Growth***

Session 4 – ***Spiritual Parenting***

Session 5 – ***The Disciple’s Toolbox***

Session 6 – ***Taking the Plunge***

OUR INVITATION

Jesus has invited us to become His disciples ... but not just discipleship for ourselves. Discipleship ***is*** for us, but never ***just*** for us. Whatever good gifts God gives us are never just for us. God’s gifts are always for someone else as well. That’s why Jesus invited us to “Go ... ***make*** disciples.” This workshop is your invitation to ***grow together as disciple-makers of Jesus.***

JESUS' MISSION

A PARABLE

Once upon a time there was a group of men who owned some land outside of town. Each spring these men went out to work their land. The first week they would till the ground in one of their fields. The next week, the men fertilized in a second field, but a different field from the first field. The third week, they planted seed in a third field, different from the first two. Then the fourth week, they watered in a fourth field, still different from the other three.

One day a traveler happened along, and he saw the men working. As the traveler watched, the traveler asked the men, "What are you doing?" The men replied, "We're farming; we're farmers." The traveler was interested in what grew in that area, and so the traveler asked them, "What are you growing?" But the men seemed confused by the question: "Growing? What do you mean growing?" So, the traveler said, "You know; farmers grow crops. What kind of crops are you growing?" But the men replied, "Oh no, we don't grow crops. We till and plant and fertilize and water. That's what farmers do."

As the traveler continued along, he wondered, "Are farmers really farmers if they never grow any crops?"

WHAT DOES THIS ILLUSTRATION SAY TO YOU AND YOUR CHURCH?

WHAT ARE WE PRODUCING?

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I commanded you; and surely, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" Matthew 28:18-20

WHAT ARE SOME IMPLICATIONS OF WHAT JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 28:18-20?

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Go therefore

and make disciples

of all the nations

baptizing them

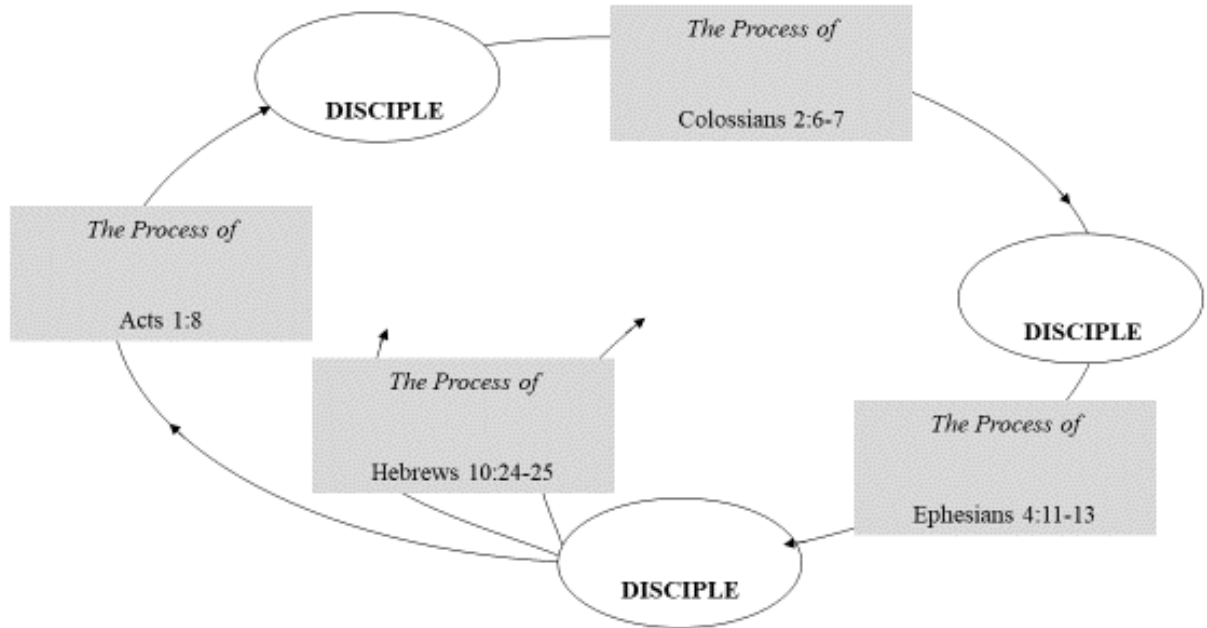
in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

teaching them to obey all that I commanded you

and surely, I am with you always even to the end of the age.

ONE IMPORTANT IMPLICATION: *Jesus commands every disciple in His Church today to reproduce other obedient disciples who will in turn make other disciples.*

The Process of Making Disciples



ASSIGNMENT

- Review the card **HOW TO MEMORIZE THE BIBLE**.
- During the following week, memorize Matthew 28:18-20 using the suggestions on the card.
- Review **The Process of Making Disciples** diagram above and read the verses.

THE DISCIPLE'S DNA

“It is unlikely that we can make disciples unless we can describe what a disciple looks like and the process of how a disciple is made.”

– Andrew Tay, Intentional Disciple Making Network, Singapore

The word “*disciple*” (Greek - μαθητής, mathetes) basically means a learner, a pupil, or a follower. It is used widely in the New Testament to refer to those who followed Jesus.

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES AND SUMMARIZE WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT BEING HIS DISCIPLE.

(A few of the passages do not use the word “*disciple*”, but it is clear from the context that a disciple is in view.)

Luke 6:40

John 15:1-12

John 13:34-35

John 8:31-32

Luke 6:46

Matthew 4:19

Luke 11:1-4

John 14:25-26

BASED ON OUR DISCUSSION OF THE VERSES ABOVE, LIST SOME KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST.

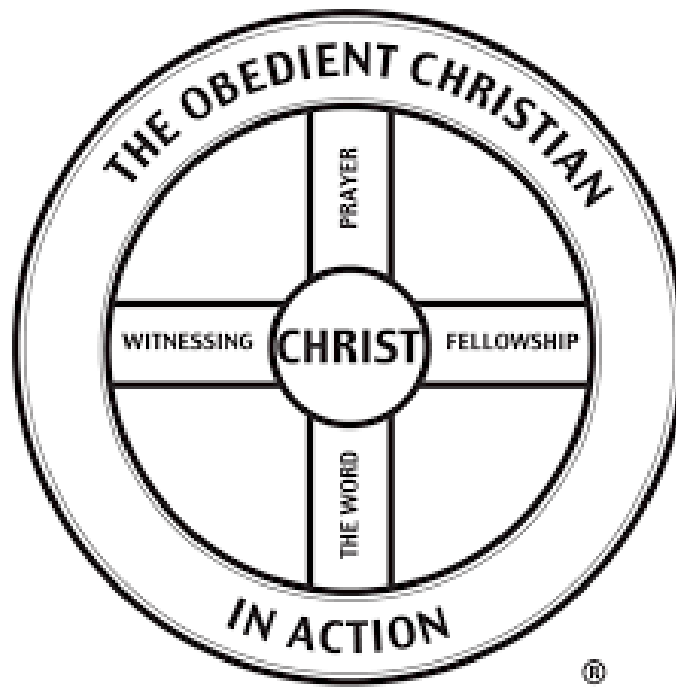
“Who among Christians today is a disciple of Jesus in any substantive sense of the word ‘disciple’? A disciple is a learner, a student, an apprentice – a practitioner, even if only a beginner.” Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*

“What is a disciple of Jesus but one who is self-initiating, reproducing, and fully devoted to him?” Greg Ogden, *Transforming Discipleship*

“A disciple is one who is learning to live and love like Jesus and helps others to do the same.” Dale Losch, Crossworld.com

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

Our DNA is the source of what we pass on to our offspring.



[navigators-the-wheel.pdf](#)

ASSIGNMENT

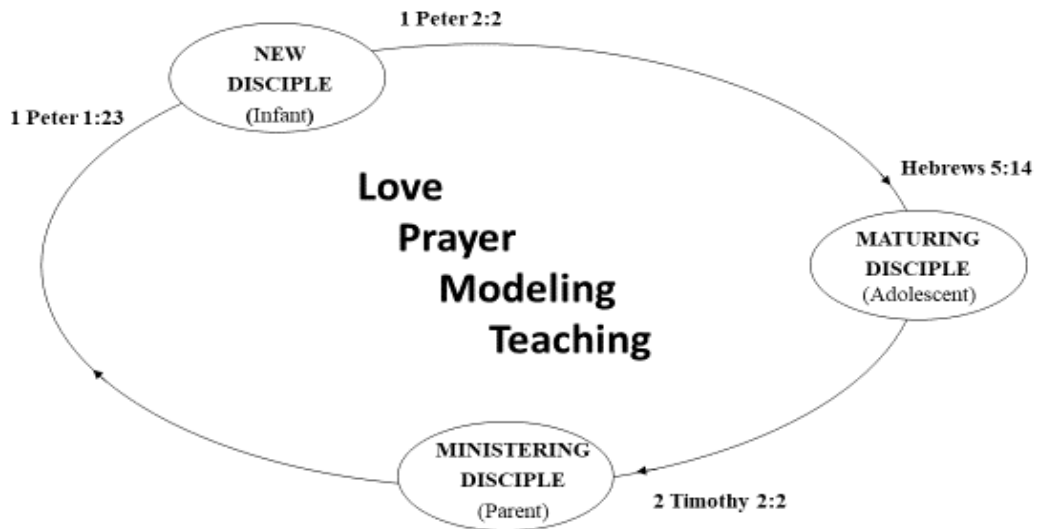
- Review Matthew 28:18-20 from memory.
- Review *The Wheel Illustration* and match the verses on page 4 to the corresponding parts of the illustration.
- List the strengths and weaknesses of your own personal wheel below.

- Describe one growth area in your wheel that you want to work on. (i.e. what are you asking God to help you to do? What is your part? Who could help you? What promises can we apply from God's Word?)

THE DISCIPLE'S GROWTH

Disciple-makers are the catalysts for the various dimensions of a disciple's growth – things like, growing people in their understanding and application of God's word, prayer, submitting to Christ's lordship, faith, learning to witness for Christ, loving like Jesus loves, etc.

For example:



Just like Jesus was the disciple-maker for His disciples, those disciples became disciple-makers for others moving forward, and then eventually for our own generation. In other words, The Great Commission is about extending disciple-making to future generations.

So, how can we be part of what Jesus started?

THE KEYS TO GROWTH

Disciple-makers **love, pray, model,** and **teach** the elements of discipleship through the intentional relationships which God gives us. These are the **means** by which disciples grow.

For example, observe those four keys in the ministries of Jesus and Paul.

	Jesus	Paul
Love	John 13:1,34-35	Philippians 1:8
Prayer	John 17:6-26	Colossians 1:3-12
Modeling	Mark 3:14-15	2 Timothy 3:10-11
Teaching	Matthew 7:28-29	2 Timothy 1:13; 2:2

ESSENTIAL: A FAITHFUL PERSON

Because love, prayer, modeling, and teaching are the keys to a disciples' growth, **every disciple needs at least one faithful person** who will consistently love them, pray for them, model the Christian life for them, and teach them the truths of the Bible in a practical and relevant way ... so that they can grow personally and eventually help someone else become a disciple of Jesus.

As is the case with biological children, if spiritual children don't have spiritual parents who are **personally involved** and **intentionally instructing** them, they won't mature into healthy adults spiritually. Instead, they will remain dependent all their lives, perpetually babies who will have difficulty reproducing spiritually.

Because this is the case, **Christian discipleship is not just a self-help program**. We don't just give a new disciple a Bible and expect them to figure it out on their own. Instead, we give a new disciple **a real person** (or persons) who will **intentionally** and **personally** help them grow.

JESUS' CHALLENGE

Most Christians get teaching, but they rarely get **a person(s)** who will personally **love** them, **pray** for them, **model** the Christian life for them, and **teach** them the Bible in a way that is relevant to them.

Jesus wants each of **us** to be such a person **for someone**. He wants you to be a disciple who makes other disciples.

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR YOU TO BECOME THAT KIND OF DISCIPLE?

ASSIGNMENT

- Review Matthew 28:18-20 from memory.
- Place an **X** on the oval of the diagram (page 6) that represents your current **level of growth** as a disciple of Jesus.
- Describe why you placed the **X** as you did.

- What **is one next step** that you can take toward becoming a disciple who makes other disciples?

SPIRITUAL PARENTING

“The defining, though not exclusive, metaphor that shapes Paul’s understanding of the goal and the process of disciple making is spiritual parenting.”

Greg Ogden, Transforming Discipleship

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 2:5-12 BELOW AND MARK/UNDERLINE/HIGHLIGHT THE OBSERVATIONS THAT STANDOUT TO YOU. THEN WE WILL DISCUSS THEM TOGETHER.

2:5 For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness — 6 nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority. 7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. 8 Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. 9 For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; 11 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, 12 so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUOTES TOGETHER.

“Discipleship demands intentionality and relationship – by which each person is invested in specifically.”

Jim Putman, Real-Life Discipleship

“In today’s church we have replaced person-centered growth with programs as the means of making disciples. ... All these programs can contribute to discipleship development, but they miss the central ingredient in discipleship. Each disciple is a unique individual who grows at a rate peculiar to him or her. Unless disciples receive personal attention so that their particular growth needs are addressed in a way that calls them to die to self and live fully to Christ, a disciple will not be made.”

Greg Ogden, Transforming Discipleship

“Few churches intentionally guide their people through a strategic learning and development process that has been customized for the student. ... Few churches have systems by which they measure what is happening in the life of church adherents. Few believers have lined up a trustworthy and competent partner who will hold them accountable to specific and measurable goals.”

George Barna, Making True Disciples

Spiritual Parenting

by Jim and Beth Luebe

For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers.

For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:15; ESV

Countless people are willing to come into and out of a person's life on a short-term basis. These may include wonderful speakers, teachers, and leaders. The apostle Paul sees such people as "guides." While guides serve important functions, their influence is appropriately limited. Guides may be many and valuable, and they may even be able to say they touched more people, but they don't compare to a spiritual parent.

The difference between being a guide and a spiritual parent is at the heart of what it means to "disciple" someone – that is, to help them grow as a follower of Christ. While a guide is present for a short time and in many cases is some distance removed, a parent is intimately involved in the lives of their sons or daughters. While a parent may not have the capacity to have as many "children" as a guide, a good parent is engaged, consistent, and faithful over time. Their love is sacrificial and unconditional.

The nature of spiritual parenting goes beyond sharing the truths of God's Word. Spiritual parents invest deeply, consistently, relationally, and with love in the people they are helping to follow Christ. It's this kind of relationship, this spiritual parenting, that is at the heart of disciple making."

*(from **five traits of a Christ-follower**,” Doug Nuenke General Editor, NavPress)*

DISCUSS THE KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF A SPIRITUAL PARENT

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

Are we willing to sacrifice to help our spiritual children grow to maturity in the same way that we sacrifice to help our biological children grow to maturity?

ASSIGNMENT

- Review Matthew 28:18-20 from memory.
- What questions do you have about ***spiritual parenting*** from our last discussion?
- What fears do you have about the possibility of **you** being a spiritual parent for someone else?
- What blessings does a person experience as a spiritual parent?

THE DISCIPLE'S TOOLBOX

“According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.” 1 Corinthians 3:10

Any craftsman who is skilled at his trade has a well-developed set of tools and knows how to use them. However, most craftsmen didn't start out with all the tools they would eventually need. Most began with a starter set of tools appropriate for their trade, and they learned to use those tools well. Then as they learned from others and gained experience, they added the tools they needed to develop greater skill. The same is true for disciple-making. Over time, we need to build a set of tools and learn how to use them.

So, what are a disciple-makers tools? They are the examples, methods, and practices that disciple-makers use to help disciples understand and apply God's word so that they will learn to live and love like Jesus does.

A STARTER SET OF TOOLS

- A tool for developing the discipline of ***Daily Time with God***.

Daily Conversation with God

7 Minutes with God (Robert Foster, NavPress)

Feeding Your Soul (Jean Fleming, NavPress)

- A tool for learning to ***Pray***.

PRAYER: Lord, teach us to pray ...

- A tool for ***Memorizing Verses of the Bible***.

How to Memorize the Bible

Beginning with Christ (NavPress)

The Topical Memory System (NavPress)

- A tool for ***Sharing Your Story***.

Testimony Workshop (Nick Guiliani)

- A tool to explain the basic ***Gospel Message***.

The Bridge to Life (booklet, NavPress)

The One Verse Bridge Illustration

- A ***Bible Study*** on the basics of the Christian life.

Lessons on Assurance (NavPress)

Design for Discipleship / Design for Discipleship 2.0 (young adults, NavPress)

Bridges on the Journey / Crossroads on the Journey/Friends on the Journey (women, NavPress)

Every Man A Warrior (men, Lonnie Berger, everymanawarrior.com, Amazon)

BUILDING YOUR TOOLBOX

One of a disciple's key roles is to teach others the truths of the Christian life: "... teaching them to obey all that I commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). Over time, other people will teach you from the Scriptures in a way that connects with your life. It may be a particular explanation of a passage of the Bible ... a specific application ... an illustration that *sticks* ... something that makes a truth of Scripture work for you. **Put those things in your toolbox** so you can use them to help someone else.

ASSIGNMENT

- Review Matthew 28:18-20 from memory.
- Using the headings below, list some of the ministry tools that **others have used to help you grow** as a Christian.
 - A tool for developing the discipline of **Daily Time with God**.
 - A tool for learning to **Pray**.
 - A tool for **Memorizing Verses of the Bible**.
 - A tool for **Sharing Your Story**.
 - A tool to explain the basic **Gospel Message**.
 - A **Bible Study** on the basics of the Christian life.
 - Other tools that have been helpful for you.

TAKING THE PLUNGE

“Maturity starts with the willingness to give oneself. God draws us into His heart for the world and gives us the privilege of collaborating with Him by bringing others to Christ and building them up as laborers.”

Dana Yeakley, *The Gentle Art of Discipling Women*

READ THE FOLLOWING STORY:

(The following is a letter to Ray Bandi from his friend Rick Bereit, the first man to intentionally disciple Ray when Ray was a freshman in college.)

“A few days ago, I was buying some epoxy glue to use on a project in the house. The instructions leapt off the bottle and made me think about the process of disciple making. The instructions read, ‘Mix **EQUAL** parts of resin and accelerator’. Equal parts.... Your note, thanking me for time invested in your life popped back on to the front burner at that moment. Over the years of working at disciple making I have realized that the key to success in that pursuit can be summarized by the epoxy glue instructions. There must be *equal parts* (time, commitment, transparency and action) on the part of the disciple maker and the disciple. What I remember about you from those AFA days was that you were present for Bible study, always. You went beyond that and often initiated conversations about the Christian life and what it means to be a disciple. I am delighted to say that over my 30 years in the military, I was able to meet with several men in a deeper, more meaningful way...you were the first. All of those men (that are still alive on earth) are walking with God and having an impact on the life of others in a way that looks much like the time I spent with them. And here is where the "equal parts" instructions come in... I was privileged to be the accelerator, but every one of those men (and one woman) were the resin...pure, ready, potentially strong and beneficial. There was an equal responsibility for their growth that depended partially on my investment and heavily on their response.”

“Pick up a bottle of resin at Home Depot, sometime. Reflect that under the right conditions that resin can be transformed into an incredibly strong material that performs beneficial work and lasts for a long time.... If mixed in equal parts with the accelerator in the other bottle. Then, and only then, its benefit is magnificent. ... If there is one verse that points to this ‘equal parts’ idea in the NT, it is 2 Tim 2:2 (ironic in its numeric designation, all those ‘two’s’, equal parts). You know that verse and the major idea...choose reliable men who will be capable of teaching others. Mix your life, ideas and motivations in equal parts with your disciple’s and it will count for much. I learned, while spending time with you, that your rapidly advancing spiritual life was greater than the sum of the parts. My time and conversations and your responses and time spent were becoming much more than the sum of our own efforts...God blessed and brought continual fruitfulness to that conglomerate life that was created in the process of discipleship. The act and process of choosing the men we meet with is as important as all of the great materials, verses and personal insights we intend to share with them. Consequently, we need to be on the lookout for the high-quality resin (lives) that are willing to be mixed in equal parts with a high-quality (accelerator), so that they might become the durable and effective disciples Jesus would like them to be.”

DISCUSS TOGETHER:

What part (resin or accelerator) illustrates your current role in your journey into disciple-making?

Based on what you read above, what encourages you to play your part now?

We hope the things we have discussed and practiced the past six weeks have helped you gain a better understanding of what Jesus meant when He said, "Go make disciples." But as important as it is to understand these things, that is not the same as ***us being part of the process of making a disciple of another person***. One of the dangers of a workshop like ours is that classroom learning *could* only focus on the realm of ideas rather than the realm of actions (deeds). In light of this danger, the apostle John reminds us, "***Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.***" (1 John 3:18).

So, where and how can ***I/we/you*** start making disciples? What are ***our*** next steps?

BELIEVE GOD

When we embark on the adventure of disciple-making, there are some things ***we must continue to believe***.

John 3:16

Matthew 4:19

Matthew 28:18-20

John 15:16

PRAY

Matthew 9:36-38

"Don't miss this: Jesus taught His men to look to God for such workers. Doesn't that mean that God will raise up such men as we ask Him for them?" Ken G. Smith, *With Him, a biblical model discipleship for men*

WATCH

"When you begin to desire more from your life's pilgrimage than merely personal blessing, He will open doors of ministry to others ..." Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, *The First Songs of Christmas*

Colossians 4:2-6

Watch what God is doing.

Watch who God is bringing into your life.

Watch for someone who ...

- has a heart for God
- is hungry to grow
- is available for help
- has a heart for people

RECEIVE THOSE GOD SENDS

John 17:6

“God usually brings two people together in a discipling relationship for a particular season. What happens is this: I am present and in the same location as a certain woman. I am praying that God will show me someone He wants me to meet with. I begin to ‘see’ her. She grows aware of her need for growth. God leads us to meet together. We agree upon why and for what aspect of her growth God has brought us together. Then after a season of meeting together, we naturally transition away from the relationship as we move to different locations or arenas of life.” Dana Yeakley, *The Gentle Art of Discipling Women*

So, **walk** with God yourself ... **believe** God ... **pray** ... **watch** ... **receive** those God sends your way ... and **He will use you** to help make disciples.

OUR OFFER TO YOU

This workshop began with an invitation. Jesus invited us to “Go ... **make disciples**,” and we have taken steps to **grow together as His disciple-makers** during these six weeks.

Through these six lessons, we have touched on some of the key elements of disciple-making:

“Disciple-making is pouring our lives into intentional, Christ-centered, Scripture-based, prayer-covered, Spirit-directed relationships with others, helping them know Christ, teaching them obedience to what he has commanded, and growing together in Christ-likeness.”

Disciple-making is a journey with a goal. The above sentence is a good summary of this goal. But the goal is one that we will never totally achieve because there are always “next steps” until we see Jesus face-to-face. However, as we discussed throughout these sessions, **we are not alone in the journey of discipleship and disciple-making.**

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?

We have also included additional resources for you in our website: <https://disciplemakersnetwork.org>

ADDITIONAL HELPS

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Daily Conversation with God</i></p> <p>“Making space in your life every day to promote a deepening bond with Jesus ... mingling Life to life ... fellowship ... interchange ... communion ... friendship with God.” - <i>Feeding Your Soul</i></p> <p>READY YOURSELF TO MEET GOD “Be ready by the morning and come ... and present yourself to Me.” Exodus 34:2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Time • A Place • A Plan <p>READ “Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.” Psalms 119:18</p> <p>Pick a passage of Scripture to read.</p> <p>REFLECT “... his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.” Psalms 1:2</p> <p>What caught your attention as you read? What does it say? What does it mean? Do I understand?</p>	<p>RESPOND “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22</p> <p><i>Is there ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Something to learn about God? Something to learn about me? Something to ask God to do? Something to thank God for? A reason to worship? A command to obey? A sin to avoid or forsake? A promise to trust? An example to follow? An action to take? A verse to memorize? <p><i>Pray for your day</i></p> <p>RECORD Write down your thoughts, insights, and responses.</p> <p>“Pale ink is better than the most retentive mind.” Chinese Proverb</p>
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<p>HOW TO MEMORIZE THE BIBLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray • Choose a passage that is important to you now. Motivation is key. • Do the work. Everything that is of spiritual value takes work, but God will help you. (Philippians 2:12-13) • Read/study/think about the passage in its context. • <u>Write the verse on a card and memorize it one phrase at a time.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Write out and memorize the reference first. ○ Add the first phrase to the reference. ○ Add each subsequent phrase, starting at the beginning. ○ After you memorize the whole passage, write out the reference once more at the end of the passage. ○ Practice reciting the whole passage several times. • Review-Review-Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review the passage several times a day during the next few weeks. ○ Ask a friend to help you review your verses. ○ Use the passages you memorize to minister to someone else. ○ Pray the passage.

PRAYER

“Lord, teach us to pray ...”

What the Bible Teaches

The Lord’s invitation to pray: John 16:24

The Lord’s instruction on prayer: Luke 11:1-4

- God’s honor
- God’s reign over His kingdom
- God’s provision
- God’s forgiveness
- God’s help to face temptation

Conditions for answered prayer:

- Jesus’ name - John 16:24
- God’s will – 1 John 5:14-15
- Remain in Jesus and His word – John 15:7
- Confess sin – Psalm 66:18
- Believe God – Matthew 21:21-22
- Don’t give up – Luke 18:1-8

A Simple Prayer Outline

A – Adoration (1 Chronicles 29:11-13)

C – Confession (Psalm 66:18)

T – Thanksgiving (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

S – Supplication (earnest, humble asking) – John 16:24

"The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those who take time and pray. They have not time. It must be taken from something else. This something else is important. Very important and pressing, but still less important and less pressing than prayer." - S.D. Gordon

Testimony Workshop

Objective: To help you feel better equipped to share the story of God's work in your life with others.

What is a Personal Testimony

It is a 3 part story

1. Your life before Christ
2. How you came to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior
3. Your life since knowing Jesus

What Is Its Purpose

The purpose of your testimony is to use it as an evangelistic tool. It's a tool that is useful in opening up dialogue about Jesus in a way that doesn't feel forced. **Disclaimer...** You are not telling your life story. You are not the hero of this story **Jesus** is.

Why Is It A BIG DEAL!

Your personal testimony is a **BIG DEAL** because it is the single most important moment of one's life. It tells of the transformation and the point at which you realized Life is not worth living without the presence of God. The understanding of what **Jesus** did for you on the cross and how because of **His** sacrifice you now have a new life. (**Gal 2:20**)

Biblical Example

Acts 26 is one of the most popular examples of someone sharing their testimony in the bible. It is the apostle Paul telling King Agrippa how he went from being Saul to Paul and where he is now. **John 4** has another popular testimonial story of the woman at the well. **v39** lets us see just how powerful a testimony can be. That almost an entire village of unbelievers came to know who **Jesus** was because of this woman's testimony.

How Do I Write A Personal Testimony

Part 1: Who were you before Christ? Briefly describe your life before you accepted Christ. I.E. what was most important to you, what were your views on church or God, or just anything that helps people see who you were.

This should be the smallest portion of the testimony. Remember you are not sharing this so that people see you but you want them to be directed toward God in the later parts of your story. Easy way to avoid this is do not feel you have to be specific about things. Leave it general as this will allow for follow up questions after if people wish to know and think they can relate on a deeper level.

Part 2: Tell how God revealed himself to you or circumstances that lead you to start to consider Jesus. Briefly explain the steps that you took in order to follow through with this new direction you wish to go in life.

*This is the Gospel-center portion of your story. This is where you really get to show the realization of what a life with Christ means. The sacrifice on the cross and the redemptive value of it. You can use scripture to help outline this, a song, or a parable. **Jesus** is the hero of the story and this is his big entrance into your story.*

Part 3: Tell what has changed since allowing Jesus to become Lord of your life. Review the needs or life patterns that you used to live and have now changed due to convictions of the new life you have been reborn into. Express the new meaning, purpose or direction of your life.

*This is where you can start to really showcase what living with **Christ** has looked like in your life. This section should be the largest of the 3 as this is that part that the people get to witness currently. This is where the exciting new direction in life comes through or the new you starts to live. In this you want to be specific. Talk about each step that you have taken and the growth that you have seen from it. As a closer for this section you can bring it back to one major topic. That one thing that God has really helped with, or revealed to you. Lastly you want to make sure you bring it full circle so recap in 3 sentences tops your Before, Middle, and After to help people clearly see that it is only because of **Jesus** that you are where you are now.*

Quick Tips

1. Make it sound conversational....(Nobody likes talking with a robot)
2. Avoid religious words and phrases...(most unbelievers are intimidated by them)
3. Generalize to help identify with your story...(Cater to your audience)
4. Include some humor or human interest...(have an attention grabber)
5. Avoid implying that life became perfect at after...(It's not a Chris Tomlin song)
6. Be mature..(Even if converted young you can look back with mature eyes)
7. Avoid mystical statements that skeptics will question...(God showed me)
8. Simplify...(There is not a quiz, only mention the important people and places)
9. Who is mentioned more You or **Jesus**...(Remember you are not the focus)
10. Share, don't preach...(keep it personal with I's and Me's)

My Personal Testimony

Before:

1. **Who was I before Christ? What was most important to me?**

2. **What did you try to fulfill yourself but it did not work?**

Middle:

1. **What caused you to start considering Christ as an answer?**

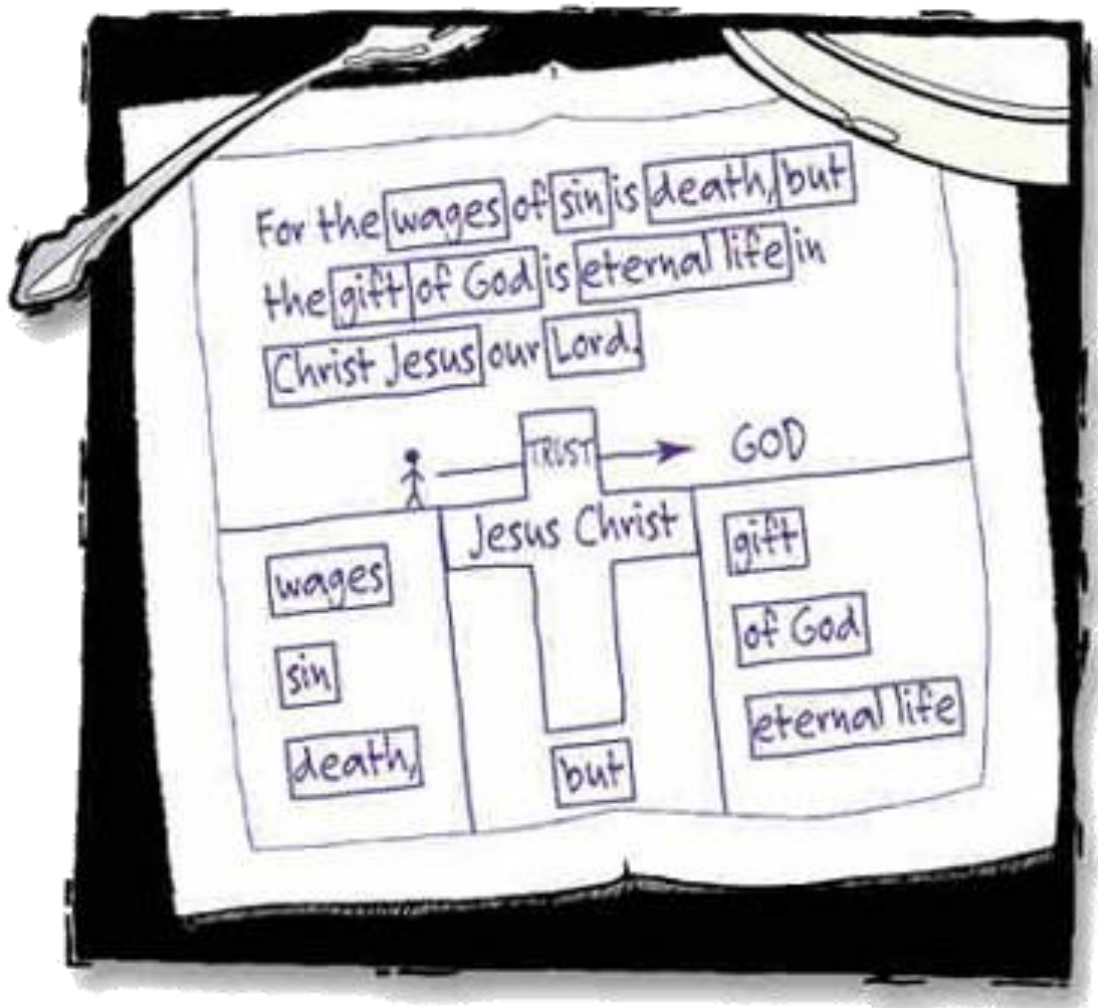
2. **What steps did you take in order to commit to trusting in Christ?**

After:

1. **Tell how Christ has met your needs, or how He has been a part of your new life.**

2. **Bring it full circle with your closing sentences.**

THE ONE VERSE BRIDGE



*We have also included additional resources for you in our website:
<https://disciplemakersnetwork.org>*