

New England
DISCIPLE-MAKERS WEEKEND

The Process of
Disciple-Making

October 15-17, 2021
Camp Spofford, New Hampshire

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<http://disciplemakersnetwork.org>

Objectives of The Weekend

- Encourage and equip men to become disciple-makers of Jesus through fellowship with like-hearted men of God, centered around the written word of God and prayer.
- Help disciple-makers by providing a setting that will reinforce the things they are teaching their disciples.

Our Theme

Process: *a systematic series of actions to some end; a continuous action, operation, or series of changes taking place in a definite manner.*

When Jesus chose twelve men to follow Him as disciples, Jesus intentionally led them into a process to the end that they would become progressively more like Himself and one day make other disciples like themselves.

This weekend, we will interact with a team of men to help one another understand the process Jesus put His disciples through so that we will be able to do the same for other men where God has placed us.

Get ready to be encouraged, challenged, and changed!

Schedule

- Friday, October 15
 - 7:00-8:00 - Arrive at Camp Spofford
 - 8:00 – ***The Process of Disciple-Making***
 - 8:30 – Meeting Your Team

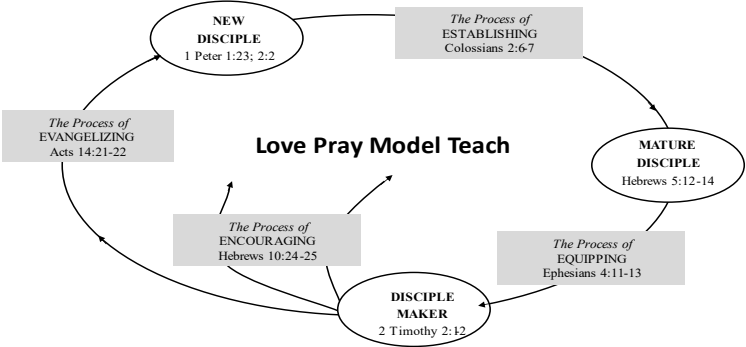
- Saturday, October 16
 - 7:00 – Prayer Ministry
 - 8:00 – Breakfast
 - 9:00 – ***The Process of Establishing***
 - 10:30 – ***The Process of Equipping***
 - 12:00 – Lunch
 - 1:00 – Workshops
 - 2:30 – Relational / Rest Time
 - 5:00 – Dinner
 - 6:30 – ***Key Points to Remember***
 - 7:30 – Worship/Prayer/Interaction

- Sunday, October 17
 - 7:00 – Prayer Ministry
 - 8:00 – Breakfast
 - 9:00 – ***Praying for the Process***
 - 11:15 – ***The Process of Encouraging***
 - 12:00 – Lunch
 - 1:00 – Depart

Friday Evening 8:00

The Process of Disciple-Making

“Churches attempting to disciple well understand discipleship as **a pathway** leading to a deeper and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. Several pastors described in detail how every aspect of their discipleship process has ‘next steps’ for the disciple as he/she becomes ever more transformed into the image of Jesus. Along the pathway, lessons are learned through intentional life-on-life relationships with more mature believers acting as mentors and coaches to encourage growth and transformation.”
(Transformational Discipleship by The Cecil B. Day Foundation, Inc.)



Definitions

- **Disciple** – someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus (Matt. 4:19).
- **Disciple-Maker** – a disciple of Jesus who enters into relationships with people to intentionally help them follow Jesus, be changed by Jesus, and join the mission of Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20).

Your Team

List the names of the men on your team. Leave space below each name to write prayer requests throughout the weekend.

Review “*The Process of Making Disciples*” diagram (page 3) and place an “X” where you are in the process of disciple-making right now. (We’ll go back to this on Sunday morning.)

Close your time together in prayer, asking God to use this weekend.

The Process of Establishing

READ together:

Through the process of **evangelizing**, we help a person respond to the message of Jesus. At that moment, God begins to change that person, he begins to follow Jesus, and from that point, he is a disciple of Jesus.

- **Disciple** – someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus (Matt. 4:19).

However, at the start, this person is only a **new disciple**. He may have totally committed himself to all that he knows about Jesus, but there is still a lot more to know about Jesus and many ways to respond to Him in faith and obedience. So, there is still a maturing process that must take place.

Through the process of **establishing**, we help new disciples develop the knowledge, skills, convictions, and godly character that will help them walk with Jesus over the long haul **on their own**. A **mature disciple** is one who has grown to the point where he accepts the responsibility for his own personal spiritual growth. He is **a self-feeding Christian**. This does not mean this person lives independently of other believers. Quite to the contrary, he depends on other believers in many ways. But it does mean that he is responding personally to God's word and the work that God is doing in him.

Colossians 2:6-7 describes the outcome of the process of **establishing** in a person's life this way:

“Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

DISCUSS the characteristics of the person Paul describes in these verses.

How Jesus Established His Disciples

Have someone in your team read each passage below one at a time. In each instance, **record** what Jesus wanted His disciples to **understand, do, or become** so they would be rooted, built up, and established in Him.

Matthew 16:13-17

Matthew 4:19

Luke 6:40

John 8:31-32

John 16:23-24

Matthew 8:23-27

Luke 6:46

John 13:34-35

Matthew 9:10-13

John 5:24

John 14:15-17

Trained and Capable Disciples of Jesus

READ together:

As we think about the specific things Jesus wanted His disciples to ***understand, do,*** and ***become,*** notice what Jesus said the night before He went to the cross. (***READ John 17:4-8***)

Jesus' disciples were not perfect, but Jesus believed ***they were adequately trained*** and ***capable*** to undertake the mission which Jesus was about to give them.

Capable – *having the necessary and sufficient skill, knowledge, attributes, and experience to perform critical tasks in a defined setting; properly qualified.*

And so, with the addition of the resurrection and the indwelling Holy Spirit, Jesus believed His disciples would be ready to live out what Jesus established them to understand, do, and be.

This is what it means to be a mature disciple of Jesus.

DISCUSS the implications of what you just read above:

DISCUSS with one man in your group:

How has God rooted, built up, and established you in some of the same ways that Jesus did with His disciples?

How might God use you to do the same things for another man?

Best Thought from This Session

Review your notes from this session. Mark, highlight, or record the **best thought** that stood out to you from this session.

Possible Training Objectives to Establish New Disciples

These are some of the specific things a disciple-maker can help a disciple to understand, do, and become during the establishing phase of disciple-making. (2-3 years)

- Knowing God, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Loving God and loving people
- Understanding your salvation
- Repentance and victory over sin
- How to read, study, memorize, meditate on, and apply the Bible
- How to pray
- The habit of daily time with God
- Fellowship with the body of Christ
- Witnessing for Christ
- The Lordship of Christ
- Faith and the promises of God
- Knowing and doing God's will
- Living as a servant
- Doing your daily work for God
- Developing Christian Character
- Understanding Jesus' mission

Tools for establishing:

Navigators: Design for Discipleship; Every Man a Warrior; The 2-7 Series

InterVarsity Press: Discipleship Essentials

Saturday Morning, Session II – 10:30

The Process of Equipping

READ together:

In the establishing phase of making disciples, a disciple-maker helps the new disciple to become rooted, built up, and established in the core areas of discipleship in his own life so that he can walk with Christ on his own (***a self-feeding Christian***).

Then as this new disciple matures, a disciple-maker leads this maturing disciple through ***the process of equipping*** so that he will become a disciple-maker (***an other-feeding Christian***).

- **Disciple-Maker** – a disciple of Jesus who enters into relationships with people to intentionally help them follow Jesus, be changed by Jesus, and join the mission of Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20).

Disciple-making should be both intentional and personal/relational.

Disciple-Making is Intentional

Define “intentional”:

What are some characteristics of intentional disciple-making?

What are some benefits of intentional disciple-making for disciple-makers, disciples, and the Church?

Observation: Both Jesus and Paul intentionally invited men to be trained by them. Intentional disciple-making often starts when a mature disciple asks God to give him a person to disciple.

READ and DISCUSS step-by-step.

“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 person. I am praying that God will show me someone He wants me to disciple. I begin to ‘see’ him. He grows aware of his need for growth. God leads us to meet together. We agree upon why and for what aspect of his growth God has brought us together.”

Believe God - John 15:16

When we embark on the adventure of disciple-making, ***we must believe*** that God plans to use us in the life of another man.

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?”

Watch - Colossians 4:2-4

“When you begin to desire more from your life’s pilgrimage than merely personal blessing, He will open doors of ministry to others.”

Receive Those God Sends - John 17:6

God gives men for us to minister to.

Agree together - Colossians 1:28-29

“Accountability is a good thing, and few men walk with God for a lifetime without it.”

(See Appendix A for sample commitment covenants.)

DISCUSS how you have experienced this invitation process at work. (Share both successes and failures.)

Disciple-Making is Personal/Relational

READ together:

“A ministry that seeks to make disciples must support the personal responsibility and accountability required in developing individual discipleship. It can use a variety of methods, but it must always bring discipleship to the personal level of each individual.”

Every disciple of Jesus is an ***individual*** whom God draws to Himself personally. As a result, the ***equipping phase*** of disciple-making must be ***tailor-made*** to the needs of the individual disciple.

Use the following verses to DISCUSS the personal nature of Paul’s training of Timothy.

Acts 16:1-5

2 Timothy 3:10-11

1 Corinthians 4:15-17

Philippians 2:19-24

1 Timothy 4:11-16

2 Timothy 2:1-2

DISCUSS the following questions:

Paul modeled personal, life-on-life disciple-making. Paul modeled his life for Timothy and he expected Timothy to model his life for others.

Why do we ***shy away*** from creating this ***same expectation*** for ourselves and others? (i.e., Christ -> Paul -> Timothy -> Others -> Me -> Others also)

What is ***lost*** if we fail to follow Paul’s model?

Best Thought from This Session

Review your notes from this session. Mark, highlight, or record the **best thought** that stood out to you from this session.

Possible Training Objectives to Equip Mature Disciples

These are some of the specific things a disciple-maker can help a disciple to understand, do, and become during the equipping phase of disciple-making. (2-3 years)

- The Lordship of Christ
- Leading with love, wisdom, and discernment
- Becoming a man of God's word
- Becoming a man of prayer
- The worth of the individual
- Bible Study Methods
- Teaching/Preaching the Bible
- Leading Bible Study discussions
- Understanding Christian Beliefs (Doctrines)
- Trusting God's promises for you
- Stretching faith
- Communication skills
- Developing depth of character
- Building on God's gifts
- Fruitfulness in ministry
- Cultivating creativity

Because training mature disciples to become disciple-makers must be tailor-made for each individual, it is difficult to find equipping tools which cover several topics like the establishing tools on page 8. Instead, a disciple-maker who is training a mature disciple usually uses a specific tool for each growth area and often the disciple-maker develops his own discipleship tools.

Saturday Afternoon 1:00

WORKSHOPS

Becoming a Contagious Christian

“There is one thing nonChristians and Christians can agree on. They both hate evangelism!” If that describes you and your nonbelieving friends, then consider becoming a contagious Christian.

This workshop will help you understand and apply an effective philosophy of evangelism that both you and your nonbelieving friends will appreciate.

Establishing Trained and Capable Disciples

When Jesus went to the cross, He left trained and capable disciples who were able to undertake Jesus’ mission through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This workshop will help you use the principles of the “**Every Man A Warrior**” discipleship process to help men understand the foundational elements of the establishing phase of disciple-making so they can also become trained and capable disciples for our generation.

Equipping Doctrinally Motivated Disciples

Today, many Christians don’t know basic Bible doctrines. That’s a problem because doctrineless disciples cannot love or serve God in His fullness. The heart cannot love what the mind does not know. As a result, maturing disciples must become theologians.

This workshop will give you some tools to help your disciples understand and teach Christian doctrine.

Saturday Evening 6:30

Key Points to Remember

INTENTIONAL and PERSONAL/RELATIONAL

LOVE-PRAY-MODEL-TEACH-REPEAT

LOVE THEM ALL; HELP MANY; TRAIN A FEW

Meet with your team and share your “best thoughts” from the sessions and workshops from the day.

Sunday Morning 9:00

PRAYING FOR THE PROCESS

Sunday morning, we will pray for the process of disciple-making for ourselves and others. After breakfast ...

- Choose a partner from your team.
- Find a place where you can each pray alone.
- 9:10-9:15 - Pray together for the time.
- 9:15-10:10 - Pray alone.
- 10:10-10:20 - Check-in with your partner and pray together.
- 10:20-11:15 – Pray alone.
- 11:15 – Join the large group.

Suggestions for how to use this prayer time:

As you pray this morning, write down what God is saying to you.

Read and pray through Matthew 9:36-38. Ask God to help you see the people in your sphere who need more of Jesus, and ask God to use you and others to help them.

Review the diagram on page 3 as well as the characteristics of a disciple and a disciple-maker that we have discussed this weekend. Revisit where you placed the **X** in the diagram on Friday night. Ask God to help you determine where you are in the process of disciple-making and what your next steps might be.

Beginning with the year before you became a believer, thank God for the people (by name) who have helped disciple you over the years. If you can, thank God for the specific parts they played in your growth in Christ.

Pray for those whom you are now discipling or pray for someone whom God might use you to help disciple (see page 10).

Pray through specific verses (promises, challenges, encouragements, etc.) that relate to your process of disciple-making.

Ask God to give you the vision to see, and the faith to be available for, what God wants to do with your life.

Sunday Morning 11:15

THE PROCESS OF ENCOURAGING

Hebrews 10:19-25

The Need for a Disciple-Making Team

Consider the impact on your church if you had a team of ...

- **Models** who illustrate and demonstrate what a disciple of Jesus is through their lives.
- **Advocates** who speak and write to urge people to live as disciple-makers.
- **Catalysts** who invite people to begin their own journey into disciple-making.

Feed the vision ... until the vision consumes you.

Appendix A

Every Man A Warrior commitment:

My Commitment

In order to become more the man that God wants me to be, I commit myself to the following:

1. I will make weekly attendance at the meeting a priority.
2. I will complete the assignment for the week and be willing to share my thoughts with the group.
3. I will hold in confidence any personal matter shared in the group.
4. I will encourage my brothers to be courageous, do the work, and become the men that God wants them to be.
5. I will not be defensive if my brothers challenge me if I do not fulfill my commitment. I will welcome their challenge and seek greater faithfulness.
6. I will pray for the men in our group.

Signed _____

Date _____

Discipleship Essentials Covenant

In order to grow toward maturity in Christ and complete *Discipleship Essentials*, I commit myself to the following standards:

1. Complete all assignments on a weekly basis prior to my discipleship appointment in order to contribute fully.
2. Meet weekly with my discipleship partners for approximately one and one-half hours to dialogue over the content of the assignments.
3. Offer myself fully to the Lord with the anticipation that I am entering a time of accelerated transformation during this discipleship period.
4. Contribute to a climate of honesty, trust and personal vulnerability in a spirit of mutual upbuilding.
5. Give serious consideration to continuing the discipling chain by committing myself to invest in at least two other people for the year following the initial completion of *Discipleship Essentials*.

Signed _____

Dated _____

New England Disciple-Makers Weekend

Our region is a mission field. Spiritually lost people are everywhere. We need more spiritually mature laborers who will live for Jesus in a redemptive way where they live and work. For many years, the Church in New England has been experiencing a disciple-making deficit:

“Churches today are full of people who haven’t been invited to become disciples. Being a Christian has come to mean going to church and being saved when you die. The ministry of the church is given over to ‘making the final cut’ and solving problems (marital problems, pain, and suffering), not to discipleship.” - Dallas Willard

WE ARE a network of disciple-makers living in New England who are training men and women to live intentionally, and personally, as disciple-makers of Jesus Christ wherever we are. We minister in a variety of churches throughout New England.

OUR VISION is to help create an identifiable culture of intentional, personal disciple-making throughout the Church of New England.

OUR PURPOSE is to train men and women to live intentionally, and personally, as disciple-makers of Jesus Christ so we will be models, advocates, and catalysts who reproduce other disciple-makers wherever God has placed us.

<http://disciplemakersnetwork.org>

“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 observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:18-20