

Wayne Rickerson

FOOTPRINTS

Following Jesus – Leading Others

THE DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY
STAGE 5: THE COMMISSIONING “...go and make disciples...” *Matthew 28:18-20*

FOOTPRINTS



Copyright © 2015 Wayne Rickerson. Published by Anchors of God Publications

All rights reserved

ISBN 978-0-9846702-4-6

Anchoring by Wayne Rickerson is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>).



You are free to:

Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format

Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially.

Under the following terms:

Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

What is mine is yours. Pass it on to others as though it was theirs. All is for the glory of God.

Acts 4:32, 34

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. There were no needy persons among them...

Use this book as though it was yours. You may reproduce it and use it freely, as outlined in the Creative Commons license listed above. The reason for the free and unrestricted use of Anchors of God discipleship resources is so that all nations, especially the poorest third world countries, have equal, free, and unrestricted access to discipleship materials. Copyright laws make it virtually impossible for millions to have access to resources they desperately need to make disciples. However, under this license, any person with a mobile phone in any country can download this material, translate it, produce it, and even sell it if they so desire, provided they use the same license.

To download the PDF document go to our website at www.AnchorsofGod.com. To obtain a Microsoft® Word version of this book for easier translation or customization, please contact the author at wjrickerson@aol.com. You can also purchase a bound version of this book for under \$7 on Lulu.com.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984, by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved

Contents

MORE THAN A FEW WORDS FROM THE AUTHOR

SESSION 1: LIFE ON THE DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY

SESSION 2: ESSENTIALS OF DISCIPLE MAKING

SESSION 3: SITUATIONAL DISCIPLE MAKING

SESSION 4: THE INVITATION STAGE

SESSION 5: THE CALLING STAGE

SESSION 6: THE CHOOSING STAGE

SESSION 7: THE SENDING STAGE

SESSION 8: THE COMMISSIONING STAGE: REPRODUCTION

SESSION 9: FOOTPRINTS: FOLLOWING JESUS-LEADING OTHERS

APPENDIX A: THE DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

APPENDIX B: BORN TO REPRODUCE

APPENDIX C: THE OASIS DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY

MORE THAN A FEW WORDS FROM THE AUTHOR

I did not start out with a plan to write a series of four training manuals that I would call “The Disciple’s Journey.” It was something God put in my heart to do for Him when I was in the process of writing a couple of books on spiritual growth. I had just retired after 35 years of rewarding service in a variety of staff positions in churches and teaching in a Christian college. I decided to continue my pattern of writing because of my passion for developing resources to help people apply God’s Word to their lives in a practical way.

It was after I finished one book and started a second book for new believers that God impressed on my heart that I was to write a series of discipleship resources that would lead people on a journey from spiritual infants to reproducing spiritual adults. As I continued to study and write I discovered that Jesus led His disciples on a journey that covered five identifiable stages. These stages provided the structure for the four books.

That was ten years ago. I am now “ancient of days.” If someone had told me ten years ago that it would take this long to complete the project I would have told them they were crazy. I would never have the patience to work on a single project for that long. But here I am, ten years to the month, finishing the final words of The Disciple’s Journey. It has been a journey with ups and downs, obstacles and detours. Often I have said to myself such things as, “What in the world do you think you are doing?” “There is no way to get this stuff edited let alone published.” “And who would use it anyway?” After times of doubting, God always impressed on my heart, “Just do it. Trust me for the rest!” And I would forge ahead with renewed focus and confidence.

Now I see the finish line. I have learned that God’s timing is perfect. If there is a delay it’s God’s delay. Our sovereign God prepares the circumstances. He sets the clock and agenda. He prepares us, using the time to align us with His purposes, rearrange our priorities and shape our character. Then to strengthen our faith He comes through at His designated time. It often seems like a last-second score in a basketball game or a last minute drive in a football game. God always comes through with His perfect timing. God taught Habakkuk this lesson when he thought God had deserted Him in a time of crisis. But God said,

Habakkuk 2:3

³ For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

What has God been doing during the last ten years? He has been bringing all the elements together to accomplish His will. The editing that I often doubted would get done was accomplished through my family and a friend. My long-suffering wife served as the first level of editing my messy manuscripts. My daughter Heidi and son-in-law Peyt stepped in and helped at just the right time. Joyce Clasen, my friend from college days at Puget Sound College of the Bible in Seattle, has been a God-send. An excellent author in her own right she edited the four books not only finding grammatical errors but several mistakes that would cause readers to question my biblical competency. She diplomatically pointed out that I had somehow made a villain out of the Good Samaritan; and had added a third spy to those who brought back a positive report from the Promised Land! Our friends Mark and Mary Smith who were there to encourage and help me in

the beginning were there again when I needed them at the end. My Oasis Community brother Bryan Payne stepped in at just the right time to format the books.

At the “*appointed time*” God also provided a way for the books to be published and distributed in ways that I would have never thought possible. Through POD (print on demand) I am able to publish the books in an economical way and put them on my website so that people have free and unrestricted access to them. (for more details see the copyright page).

What you will be exposed to in The Disciple’s Journey books is a travelogue of my own spiritual journey. Most of what I am passing on in these resources is biblical knowledge that has impacted me and spiritual skills that have equipped me for ministry. Almost all of the memory assignments are verses and principles that I have memorized and review regularly. I trust what God has taught me on my journey will be helpful to you on your journey.

While my journey has been primarily to follow in the footprints of Jesus, there have been many fellow travelers who have helped me on the way. Many people have invested in me. Some I have never met because they have included me on their spiritual journey through their books. What I have written is permeated with principles, thoughts and ideas that I have learned from others. There are some to whom I have given credit but I ‘m sure much of what you will read has come from others and has become part of my thinking over the years. I feel a great debt of gratitude to all of these people who have been willing to share their pilgrimage with me. I conclude this brief introduction with a personal vision statement that has been the driving force in all that I have written.

My vision is to develop, use, and distribute free and unrestricted resources that bring people into the presence of God so they can experience the Father in intimate fellowship, be transformed into the image of the Son through The Word, and become reproducing disciples glorifying God in all they say and do.

INTRODUCTION TO *FOOTPRINTS*

Some of you are embarking on the final stage of The Disciple's Journey while others are using this resource to discover what it is all about. Following is how each of the 9 sessions is structured and the assignments each person is to complete.

STUDY QUESTIONS

There are study questions at the end of each teachings session that you are to complete. Be sure to write all of your answers in the space provided. These questions will be the basis for your group discussion time.

MEMORY AND MEDITATION PROJECT

In each session there is a "Memory and meditation project." You are to memorize and meditate on the passage and be ready to recite it during group time. You will be asked to share some of your answers to the questions associated with the Scripture.

SEARCH THE WORD STUDY GUIDE

Also in each session there is a "Search the Word Study Guide." Here you will study a major passage of Scripture using the tools of observation, interpretation and application. (See "Growing Through the Word" of *Spiritual Boot Camp* on how to use these tools of study). Set aside quality time for this project as it is time intensive. You will discuss the passage during group time.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Each week you will have an accountability time using the same accountability questions from the *Anchoring* study. If you have a group of men and women make sure you separate them for the accountability time.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

Following are some areas for which you will be accountable during weekly group session:

- Have you been faithful this week to your *Disciple's Journey* Covenant?
- Do you have any sins or shortcomings to confess?
- Have you been a humble servant to your spouse and children?
- Have you been a godly example to non-believers and looked for opportunities to share your faith?
- Have you been pure and holy in all your relationships?
- Is there a specific area in which you would like prayer and encouragement?
- Is there an area of your life for which you would like specific accountability for next week's session?

PLANNING FOR DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

During this final course those who are completing The Disciple's Journey will be making plans to start their own groups. Who people will disciple and what resources they will use will be discussed during the 9 weeks (Refer to Session 3).

THE DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY COVENANT

People signed a *Disciple's Journey Covenant* when you entered "The Calling Stage," so for them this is more like a covenant renewal. This covenant is a reminder of your commitment to faithfully complete all assignments and other related commitments so you will continue to grow in the character of Christ. First read the covenant and Scriptures. Pray and sign the covenant.

1. I will faithfully complete all assignments each week and be ready to participate fully in my group (*2 Timothy 4:2*).
2. I will deny myself, taking up my cross daily and following in the footsteps of Jesus (*Luke 9:23*).
3. I will make becoming a fully devoted disciple of Jesus a priority and not allow distractions of this world to keep me from time in the Word, prayer, and my group. (*Mark 1:35; Luke 9:57-62*).
4. I will be accountable to others in the group, always being completely honest and open about my weaknesses as well as my strengths (*James 5:16-20; Hebrews 3:13*).
5. I am willing to pass on the discipleship baton and reproduce myself in others by leading them through the five stages of discipleship (*Matthew 28:28-30; 2 Timothy 2:1-2*).

Signed _____

Date _____

SESSION 1

LIFE ON THE DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY

“The disciples were commissioned to go make other disciples. They were to reproduce what Jesus had produced in them. It was a mandate not an option.”

WELCOME TO THE DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY

Those of you who have been on *The Disciple's Journey* since *Spiritual Boot Camp* are about to be commissioned. You have proven faithful and will soon be launching a Disciple's Journey group of your own starting with *Spiritual Boot Camp*. To you I say, congratulations! To get this far on the journey puts you on a short list. You are as the marines say, one of “the few.” You are a member of a select group of servant/leaders who are ready to reproduce as you follow Jesus' command to “make disciples.” For you this book will be a review and a leadership guide.

There are others who are using this book to learn more about *The Disciple's Journey* and this approach to disciple making. This resource is an overview of the entire disciple making process as I see it. You will be deciding whether or not to use these resources as an aid to following Jesus' command to “make disciples.” This also places you in a select group who desire to follow Jesus' mandate of discipleship. To you I say welcome! In the first three sessions I will give an overview of the complete journey. The other sessions will serve as a guide to assist you in leading others through that journey.

THE JOURNEY

Jesus called His disciples to join him on a journey when He said, “Come follow me.” He has called all of us to be on that same journey as we are all disciples. Disciple making is much more than a program or a curriculum. It is not an event but a process—a journey. This journey requires that we become a certain kind of disciple. It is not for everyone. There is a significant cost to following Jesus. To make an informed decision before you decide whether or not you want to participate in intentional and intensive disciple making it is important to know what to expect from life on the road. Before we delve into *The Disciple's Journey* resources and strategy I would like us to take a close look at some characteristics of the journey to which Jesus called His disciples.

A long walk with a real person

Above all, the disciple's journey is a long walk with a real person. We are first and foremost following in the footprints of Jesus. This makes the journey unique. Imagine for a moment that you lived in the time of Jesus. You had heard stories about this miracle worker Jesus. There were rumors that He was the long waited for Messiah. You had a deep hunger to be close to God. You were religious—devout but wanted more. There was an empty spot that you couldn't seem to fill no matter how diligently you followed the law.

Then you saw Him. You heard Him speak. You observed how He loved people—how He healed the sick and cast out demons. At every opportunity you joined the crowd and followed Jesus. Then one day He singled you out of the crowd, called your name and said, “Follow me.” That invitation, my fellow travelers, Jesus has extended to each one of us. He has invited us on a journey to be with Him. How incredible!

This journey with a real person is not just about learning doctrine. It is much more than learning spiritual disciplines or how to share the gospel. It goes beyond learning to become a disciple maker and leading others. The journey is about being invited to develop an intimate relationship with the Son of God. It is about Him personally investing His life in ours and us investing our lives in others. It is about Jesus lovingly and purposefully directing our steps. It is about Jesus being with us every step of the way. It is, above all, a long walk with a real person—Jesus Christ who redeemed us by His blood so He could live within us. And yes, it is about us learning to walk as Jesus walked. The Apostle John said,

1 John 2:6

⁶ *Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*

A journey characterized by travel

When Jesus called His disciples He was always on the road to somewhere. We see this in the first stage of the disciple's journey. John the Baptist first introduced two of his disciples to Jesus. Andrew introduced Peter to Jesus and Jesus asked Philip to travel with Him to Galilee.

John 1:43

⁴³ *The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."*

This was typical of the way Jesus trained His disciples. He trained them on the road. This was not merely a study group meeting in a room. Jesus taught these men as they traveled. Their training involved observing Jesus, helping with outreach and learning the truth of the kingdom at strategic times.

Shortly after Jesus called His first disciples to become fishers of men in stage two of the journey they traveled with Him through Galilee where they observed Him teaching, preaching and healing (*Matt. 4:19, 23-25*). It was in the midst of ministry that we see group study happening. Jesus sat His disciples down for an extended teaching session that is often referred to as "The Sermon on the Mount."

Matthew 5:1-2

¹*Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them, saying:*

A journey of uncertainty

Above all Jesus wanted His disciples to learn to live by faith. One of the most important things they would learn was to trust their heavenly Father. In many ways the disciple's journey was a walk of faith. On one occasion Jesus left His disciples in a boat while He went up on a mountainside to pray. It was a stormy night when Jesus decided to walk out to the boat on the water. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water they were terrified. Here is how the scene played out:

Matthew 14:31

²⁷ *But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."* ²⁸ *"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."* ²⁹ *"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.*

We get a little amused at what happens next but in reality it will happen to all of us on the disciple's journey at some point. When Peter saw the wind he cried, "Lord save me!" (v. 30). Then Jesus went into action.

Matthew 14:31

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Jesus used this occasion to teach His disciples that the circumstances of life are uncertain but faith in God is certain. It is a lesson we all must learn. Jesus will always be there for us. You can trust Him with your life. But If you want a road map with every detail you are on the wrong journey. If you want to know what's next you have the wrong travel agent. Life on the road following Jesus means not having all the answers. It means trusting God when nothing seems to be happening or when all hell seems to be breaking loose. This is what Abraham had to do when he went on a journey with God. The writer of Hebrews reports:

Hebrews 11:8

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Life on the road requires patience during frustrating delays. It involves staying on course no matter what happens. There are always peaks and valleys on our spiritual pilgrimage. I have had a lot of ups and downs, starts and stops and restarts. There are mountaintop experiences and times in the desert. The road leads through unfamiliar territory full of hardships, risks and surprises. There will be times when we call out "Lord save me." All this is because God is more interested in your character than your security or comfort. God wants you to be certain about Him, not your circumstances.

A journey of hardship

Once when Jesus was walking along a road He met some interesting characters who thought they had what it took to be in His inner circle. They seemed to have been part of a group traveling with Jesus. Here is what went down:

Luke 9:57

⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus burst the man's bubble very quickly with His answer:

Luke 9:58

⁵⁸ "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Jesus wanted them to know that there was a cost to following Him. True discipleship is not easy. Jesus gave up human comforts so He could focus on proclaiming the Kingdom and disciple making. Jesus always confronted those who thought they wanted to be His disciples with the cost. Jesus reminded His disciples,

Luke 9:23

²³ "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me".

Jesus wanted all those who would follow Him to understand the complete cost. Following Jesus requires self-denial, complete dedication and total obedience. This was not an easy road but a road of hardship.

A journey of sorrow

When you are in the people business you will experience sorrow. I guarantee it. Some of my greatest sorrows have come after spending months or sometimes years discipling someone only to be disappointed with the outcome. But we are not alone in our sorrows for Scripture tells us that Jesus was “*a man of sorrows, and familiar with afflictions...*” (Isaiah 53: 3). The Hebrew word used here refers to both mental and physical pain. Jesus was overcome with sorrow as He faced death and wanted His disciples to support Him during this time. They did not (Matt. 26: 45). Jesus was disappointed with His disciples. They abandoned Him at His time of greatest need.

We have to be ready to face the fact that the people we disciple will not always meet our expectations. In fact life often disappoints. We are disappointed in ourselves at times. We are all imperfect and live in an imperfect world where we will face sorrows. Our journey is like the pilgrimage described in *Psalms 84*.

Psalm 84:5-7

⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. ⁶As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. ⁷ They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. (Bold added)

The pilgrimage of which the Psalmist speaks was neither easy nor romantic. It was a rugged journey set in the Middle East desert where the pilgrim faced heat, sand storms, thirst, hunger, and danger from bandits. Certainly there are blessings for those of us who set our hearts on pilgrimage--on the disciple's journey. But we will also experience sadness and sorrow because we live in a broken world. The Psalmist warned, “*As they pass through the Valle of Baca...*” (v. 6) “*Baca*” means “weeping” or “the Valley of Weeping.”

Notice this passage says “*as*” we pass through the Valley of Baca, not if. As I write this I am passing through this valley of tears. It is not the first time and it will not be the last time. I am determined to not allow this time of trials destroy my joy. I claim the promises that God will make it “*...a place of springs*” (v. 6). I am confident that God will enable me to go “*from strength to strength*” (v. 7).

A journey of joy

The disciple making journey is also a journey of joy. As the Psalmist says, we will be blessed on our pilgrimage. One of my greatest joys over the years has been seeing new believers grow into reproducers. I have experienced great joy in spending time with people who have become fully devoted followers of Jesus. I don't even regret the time I invested with people and I was disappointed in the outcome. No time we spend with people as Christ's ambassadors is wasted. We are only to sow the seed and trust Him for His outcome. In Isaiah God promises,

Isaiah 55:11-12

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. ¹²You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

A journey of well ordered priorities

How do you know if you are ready to pay the cost of following Jesus on the disciple's journey? Jesus presented a series of conditions that would point out a person's priorities and therefore their readiness for the journey.

Luke 14:25-28, 33

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he **cannot be my disciple**. ²⁷ And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ³³ In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has **cannot be my disciple**. (Bold added)

In each condition Jesus mentions He emphasizes priority. To be a follower of Jesus He must come first before our parents, spouse, siblings, and yes even ourselves. We must be willing to give up everything to be His disciple. Three times Jesus said to the crowd ...*"cannot be my disciple"*...*"cannot be my disciple"*...*"cannot be my disciple"*. How clearer could He be? Count the cost, Jesus said. Make sure you are willing to do what it takes to be in my inner circle.

A journey not alone

So far we have seen a difficult journey. It is not one we would want to attempt alone. What makes the journey possible is the One who will be with us all the way. When Jesus commissioned His disciples He began and concluded His instruction with the key to successful disciple making.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me**. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**" (Bold added)

We go in the power and authority of Jesus Himself. We are not expected to make the journey on our own. The journey can only be completed in the name and by the power of Jesus. Every step of the way He has promised to be with us. With His presence we cannot fail.

The disciple's journey is not a solitary effort. We are never alone because we have other disciples on the journey with us to support, encourage, and hold us accountable. Disciple making, above all, is a relational process. First there is an accountable relationship with Jesus and then an accountable relationship with others. We should never underestimate the power of two or more who gather in the name of Jesus. The twelve disciples were a team. They needed one another. They were there for one another after Jesus ascended to heaven. The book of Hebrews speaks about the importance of encouragement and support:

Hebrews 3:12-14

¹² See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

If disciple making is looked at as a program it will always come up short. Programs end but relationships do not. The ultimate goal of discipleship is a transformed life that glorifies God. God has designed for that to happen through a relationship with Him first and then through committed, intimate human relationships where disciples are accountable to one another.

A JOURNEY OF STAGES

For you who are completing this *The Disciple's Journey* this will be a review. You are entering the final stage of the journey. For those who are considering the journey I will give you a brief overview of the five stages. Jesus did not call His disciples to take a class or series of classes but to join him on a journey. From the first stage of discipleship until they were commissioned to go and make disciples, their training included instruction, observation, imitation and action. They learned by following in the footprints of Jesus.

The Gospels give five clear stages through which Jesus took His disciples on the discipleship journey. He did not immediately call His disciples to be fully committed. He first invited them to have faith in Him as the Messiah and Son of God. He spent a number of months mentoring these new believers before He called them to the next stage. Jesus brought the disciples to full maturity in carefully planned stages. I do not mean to suggest that the discipleship process must follow rigid stages to be successful, but I have found it helpful to follow the five stages as I developed these resources. It is the principle involved in the process of disciple making that is important, not how I defined the stages or structured this curriculum as you will see in session three.

As Jesus trained His disciples we see the overlapping of stages and training. What is clear, however, is that Jesus used a process where He continually raised the bar of commitment. While there were no rigidly structured stages we can see how Jesus not only required a deeper commitment but taught deeper truths and gave the disciples an increasing level of responsibility over the span of three years.

STAGE 1: THE INVITATION “The Starting Five” (*John 1:35-51*)

Jesus did not immediately call his disciples to become fully devoted followers. He brought them along, step by step, until they were ready to fully commit to following Him. The Apostle John gives us the earliest account of Jesus' interaction with His future disciples some time in A.D. 26. “The Starting Five”, as we will call them, first were introduced to Jesus by John the Baptist. When they met Jesus they had not yet come to faith in Him.

- Read *John 1:35-51* for an account of this stage

Spiritual Boot Camp is the resource that is used for this first stage of *The Disciple's Journey*. All believers and non-believers alike are invited to participate in this first nine week course which is designed to bring people to faith and teach them the basic fundamentals of the Christian life.

STAGE 2: THE CALLING “The Fab Five” (*Matthew 4:19-20; 9:9; Mark 1:17*)

In this stage Jesus called some of the disciples who were His occasional followers, to be His permanent companions. Jesus had been able to observe their level of commitment. Jesus called those who demonstrated by their faithfulness that they were ready for the challenge of the next stage. This training to

become “*fishers of men*” began immediately as they followed Him on His first Galilean tour starting in the summer of A.D. 27. Matthew was added sometime later (*Matt. 9:9*)

- Read *Mark 1:17-18* for an account of this stage.

7 Great Doctrines of the Bible is the resource that you will go through in this second stage of *The Disciple’s Journey*. The focus is on becoming firmly grounded in sound doctrine and to become “*fishers of men*.”

STAGE 3: THE CHOOSING “The Dirty Dozen” (*Luke 6:12-13; Mark 3:13-19*)

A larger group of disciples followed Jesus from the summer of A.D. 27 until the winter of A.D. 28. During this nearly year and a half of being with Jesus on His second Galilean tour they had learned much and were now ready for more intensive training to prepare them to be sent out on their own. During this stage Jesus makes the final cut and chooses from among His followers twelve men who He designated Apostles. From this point on His main focus would be training the twelve.

- Read *Luke 6:12-13* and *Mark 3:34-19* for an account of this stage.

Anchoring: Living by the 7 Great Anchors of God-- Part 1-- is the resource you will go through in this stage. The focus will be learning to live by the great anchors of God and doing outreach and ministry together.

STAGE 4: THE SENDING “The Dirty Dozen” and “Band of Brothers”, (*Luke 9:1-4; Luke 10:1,17; Mark 6:6-7,30; Matthew 10:1,5*)

“The Choosing Stage” had prepared the disciples for “The Sending Stage.” These two stages seem to merge together. Jesus now sent His disciples out to practice what He had taught them. The disciples were sent out on their mission in the fall of A.D. 29. This stage lasted approximately one year until the final stage, “The Commissioning Stage”.

- Read *Luke 9:1-4* and *Luke 10:1, 17* for an account of this stage.

Anchoring: Living by the 7 Great Anchors of God--Section 2 is the resource you will go through in this stage. This is the last half of the study of the *Anchoring* book. In addition, disciples will begin leading group sessions and be “sent out” for ministry and outreach projects.

STAGE 5: THE COMMISSIONING “All the Others” (*Matthew 28: 18-20*)

The disciples were commissioned to go make other disciples. They were to reproduce what Jesus had produced in them. It was a mandate not an option. Jesus had spent three plus years with them for this very moment. They were to pass on the baton to others. That was Jesus’ only plan for producing mature Christians and developing leaders for the church.

- Read *Matthew 28:18-20* for an account of this stage

Footprints: following Jesus leading others is an overview of the five stages and a guide for reproducing new groups. As you complete this final course you will begin finding people for your own Spiritual Boot Camp

Group. You will be commissioned to reproduce others by leading them stage by stage through The Disciple's Journey you have just completed.



STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SESSION 1

Answer the following questions about what you have read.

1. **Review the seven characteristics of The Disciple's Journey and answer the following questions:**
 - If you are considering this journey: Do you have any reservations, fears or questions about any of these characteristics? If so what?

 - If you are completing the journey: Which of these characteristics have you already experienced? Explain.

 - For everyone: What does it mean to you to be on a journey "with a real person"? Why has God designed for transformation to occur within accountable relationships? In what ways have you experienced this?

2. **Review the five stages of The Disciple's Journey and answer the following questions:**
 - If you are considering this journey: Read the Scriptures that describe each stage. When you think about going through these stages what are some of your thoughts and feelings?

 - If you are completing the journey: Which of these stages brought you the most joy? Which stage was most difficult for you and why?

3. Review the accountability questions and be prepared to share with the group.



MEMORY AND MEDITATION PROJECT

Read *Luke 9:57-62*. Memorize and meditate on verses 57-58 and answer the questions that follow: Write the Scripture on the front side of your index card for this session. Write notes you want to remember from this session on the reverse side.

Luke 9:57-58

⁵⁷ *As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."* ⁵⁸ *Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*

- What was the main point that Jesus was making in this passage about a disciple's journey?

- What was the issue with the first man? What do you think his response was to what Jesus said?

- What was the issue with the second man? Have you ever faced that issue in your life? If so how did you resolve it?

- How was the issue with the third man different than the others? In what way was it the same?

- What does this passage say to you? What does God want you to do?



SEARCH THE WORD STUDY GUIDE

Using the tools of observation, interpretation, and application search *Luke 14:25-33* and write what you discover in the space that is provided. (To review the three principles of Bible study see pages 85-92 in *Spiritual Boot Camp*).

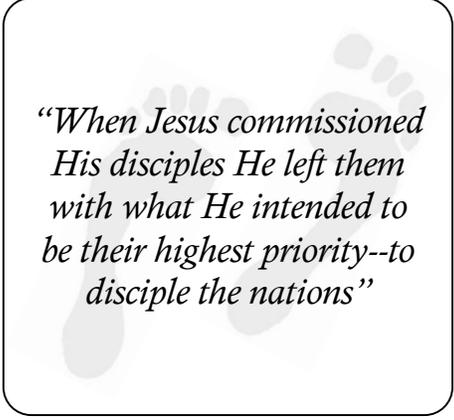
OBSERVATION: What does it say?

INTERPRETATION: What does it mean? (Consult your Study Bible to read the background of the book.)

APPLICATION: What does it say to me?

SESSION 2

ESSENTIALS OF DISCIPLE MAKING



“When Jesus commissioned His disciples He left them with what He intended to be their highest priority--to disciple the nations”

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

Before we go any further I want to offer a definition of discipleship. When Jesus called the few good men who would be at the core of His only plan for establishing the Church, He launched a process of disciple making that would develop reproducers until He came again. Following is a definition that I believe captures six essential elements of that process. We will look at the details of each of these essentials in a later session:

Discipleship is the process of becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus as we follow in the footprints of Jesus and intentionally develop a few other fully devoted reproducers who will glorify God in all they say and do.

The most commonly used terms used for disciple in the New Testament are *Mathetes*, which refers to a learner and *Akolothain* which means to follow. When Jesus called disciples He invited them to follow Him so that they could learn all His commands (teachings) and teach them to others who would teach others also (*Matthew 28:18-20*). This is the process of disciple making.

A ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Greg Ogden has written an excellent book on disciple making titled, *Transforming Discipleship*, published by NAVPRESS. I highly recommend that you read this book. One reason it so valuable is that Ogden has been personally involved in disciple making for years in his church. His resources are a result of those experiences. In his book he says that in the 17 plus years he has conducted workshops on discipleship he has asked thousands of believers the following question:

How many of you have been in an intentional discipleship relationship in which someone has walked with you over time with the express purpose of helping you become mature in Christ?” (p. 55)

Ogden goes on to say that approximately 10 to 15 percent of the people raised their hands. And since these people are attending a workshop on discipleship, they are probably part of the 20 percent that are already active in ministry.

The well respected pollster George Barna conducted a nation-wide survey of hundreds of born again adults which included pastors and church leaders. He concluded:

Not one of the adults we interviewed said that their goal in life was to be a committed follower of Jesus Christ or to make disciples of the entire world—or even their entire block. (Barna, Growing Disciples, p.2)

It is obvious that not many people are responding to Jesus' call to follow Him on the disciple's journey. It is truly a road less traveled. Those who choose to travel this road will not experience any traffic jams! But why are there so few joining the journey? Following are some reasons I have observed:

WHY A ROAD LESS TRAVELED?

The disciple's journey is difficult

Many choose not to go on the journey because it is difficult. As we have seen the cost is high. Why has God made this journey so difficult? It is because He wants the best for us. He wants us to learn to love, trust, and obey Him. It is because He wants to shape the character of those who will lead others and that happens best through hardship and trials. James pointed this out to believers who were facing severe testing and trials.

James 1:2-4

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

There is an inadequate biblical understanding of disciple making

I have noticed in my discussions with pastors and other church leaders that there is a definite lack of understanding about disciple making. Most churches claim to follow a track that develops disciples. What they usually mean is that they offer classes that help people become spiritually mature. This is certainly one aspect of disciple making and I don't want to minimize its importance. However a class, seminar, and typical small group is part but not all that is involved in the disciple making process.

If we believe that the principles Jesus used to make disciples are the principles we should use today we must include all of them in our disciple making process. This starts with making a personal commitment to disciple making and investing in a few, faithful, available and teachable people. It means intentionally spending time with these people for an extended period of time with a goal of launching them to reproduce other disciples. Anything less than this does not reflect a complete biblical understanding of disciple making.

There are misplaced values and priorities

When Jesus commissioned His disciples He left them with what He intended to be their highest priority--to disciple the nations (*Matt. 28:18-20*). The healthy growth of the church depended on this. Salvation was the starting point. Fully devoted, reproducing disciples was the destination. There are many good and helpful things done in churches. There are programs and ministries that meet the spiritual needs of many people. But our first priority must always be to make reproducing disciples. This is to be valued above all else or Christ's will for making disciples will never be all that He intended it to be.

It seems to me we have been losing significant ground when it comes to disciple making in the last generation or two. The influence of the Navigators and those whom that organization influenced has diminished. I believe some aspects of the church growth movement, seekers emphasis, and the emergence of mega churches have taken the focus off of serious disciple making. While all have made major contributions to the kingdom, the priority in most cases has not been disciple making.

When I have talked with pastors about disciple making in the last ten years I have heard things like, “I don’t want to do anything complicated” or “We just can’t get people to do the work.” One of the most neglected areas has been the mentoring of new believers. Most churches have some kind of membership class but little else. A few years ago when my wife and I were looking for a place to serve we start attending a large fast growing church where I was acquainted with the pastor. One weekend when 150 people were baptized at the various services.

It so happened I had a lunch appointment with the pastor the next week. I ask him about his plans for following up on these people. I could tell he had not given much thought to it and he said he tentatively planned some kind of an information luncheon for them. I shared with him my passion for working with new believers and gave him a copy of some of the *Spiritual Boot Camp* material to review. I volunteered to start working with new believers and training others to do the same. Two months later he emailed me to say that he had not gotten to the material yet but he soon would. That is the last time I heard from him. What I learned from that experience and several like it, was that most church leaders have many values and priorities more important than disciple making. Most of the pastors I have talked to have shown a mild interest in serious disciple making but they have been too distracted with other work and goals to devote the focus and energy needed to developing reproducing disciples.

There are low expectations

There are several reasons that we have set the bar so low in the church.

- We lower the bar to attract people and then think we can raise the bar later to a higher level of commitment.

The priority of many churches is to attract people through needs oriented services and programs. The message we send is that it’s all about you. This plays perfectly into the interests of an individualistic society. Then when we try to raise the bar at a later time we wonder why people won’t respond to a higher level of commitment. They don’t buy into our bait and switch tactics. What we call them **with** is what we call them **to!**

Church growth that relies on needs oriented teaching and programming without serious disciple making has never worked and is difficult to sustain. A church must continue to offer more and bigger and better enticements or people move on to another church which they see as better meeting their needs. People will never be satisfied because they fail to learn that satisfaction comes only by being filled with the presence of God. They continue to be consumers not producers or reproducers. It is when a person’s purpose in life is to glorify God by seeking and serving Him that he is fulfilled.

- We are more concerned about the crowd than the “few”.

Jesus did not neglect the crowds that followed Him but neither did He cater to them. He kept the bar of discipleship high and always focused on the few that would become fully devoted followers. He actually discouraged people who were not willing to pay the cost of a disciple, from following Him. As long as we keep our eyes on the crowds we will lose sight of those who have the potential to become reproducers.

- We act as if becoming saved is the goal not the gateway to becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus.

Right out of the gate people need to learn that putting their trust in Christ alone for their salvation is only the first step of the disciple's journey. Baptism symbolizes the beginning not the end. Rather than count how many baptisms there are in a year, we need to count how many disciples have been made. The Great Commission tells us to make fully taught disciples not just people who have received Jesus.

- We have not committed ourselves to the radical lifestyle of a disciple.

It all starts with leadership. Paul said, *"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ"* (1 Cor. 11:1). The Apostles followed Christ and set an example for the disciples to follow. If we do not demonstrate the radical lifestyle of a disciple and a commitment to disciple making ourselves, there is little chance of having a disciple making church.

There is no clear disciple making process

For discipleship to take root in a church there must be a clear path of the disciple making process communicated to the people. It must plainly show the path people should take from starting as new believers to becoming mature, reproducing disciples. This should be in the DNA of the church and continually communicated in many ways as essential. What we think about, talk about, write about, and do, demonstrates our true values.

THE MANY ROADS OF DISICPLE MAKING

The Disciple's Journey approach to disciple making that I propose is just one of the many ways to make disciples. It is the principles of disciple making that are important not the resources or the method. The goal is what is important. We are to simply make disciples, teaching them all that we have been commanded. If we follow this command in *Matthew 28: 18-20*, many approaches will work. Some are more structured and intentional such as The Disciple's Journey. Others are more informal but just as effective. There are many people who are committed disciple makers who have done it in a variety of ways. They have mentored new or immature believers. They have taught classes or led groups. They are always looking for someone to mentor. They meet with people one on one.

To suggest that disciple making is legitimate unless done in a certain way or by following a set curriculum would be a great disservice to Elda Lowman and many others who have poured their lives into making disciples in a variety of ways. Elda comes from my wife's unincorporated home town of Elmira, Oregon. Elda committed to go as a missionary to India but found the door closed. Instead she became a teacher in the local school district and eventually the principal. But that, I'm sure she would say, was not her true calling. It was disciple making, but I doubt she would have referred to it in those terms.

For nearly forty years Elda taught Sunday School and led Junior Church. She led the Youth Group, and her Vacation Bible Schools consistently drew 200 children from the area. She influenced hundreds if not thousands of young people and adults over the years. My wife was one of her disciples as were her parents. When her mother and father put their trust in Jesus it was Elda who came to their house each week to help the infant believers learn the basics of the faith. My wife can recall dozens of young people who attended christian colleges largely because of her influence. Many went on to become pastors, missionaries, school teachers and faithful servants, in part because of her disciple making.

Elda did not follow a carefully structured process as I have done in developing *The Disciple's Journey*. She didn't need my curriculum. Her life was the curriculum. She had assembled a "disciples makers tool box" of resources that she used with people depending on the situation. She got it! To Elda and the multitude of other people who have been and are disciple makers in less a structured way, we say "well done good and faithful servants".

All this said, I still believe there is a place for a structured disciple making plan and using resources that intentionally develop reproducing leaders. This *Disciple's Journey* curriculum is primarily about making disciples who will do just that. This was clearly Jesus' goal in the training of the twelve as well as it was Paul's goal with his disciple Timothy. Robert Coleman who wrote the classic book on disciple making, *Master Plan of Evangelism* writes,

What really counts in the ultimate perpetuation of our work is the faithfulness with which our converts go out and make leaders out of their converts, not simply more followers. (p. 110)

THE DISCIPLE MAKING RELAY

The relay is one of the most exciting races in track. There is little room for error. The passing of the baton is the most critical part of the handoff where most often a race is won or lost. The timing of the handoff must be precise. Not only will precious time be lost if the handoff is not timed perfectly, if the baton is not passed on in the allotted yardage the team will be disqualified. And if the baton is dropped there is little chance that the team will be able to make up for the lost time. They will finish the race but will most likely come in last.

If you followed the 2008 Olympic Games you may remember the disastrous performance of the men and women's 4 x 100 meter relays. Although favored to win, both the American teams were disqualified because they blew the handoff of the baton. There was a barrage of criticism of the American teams because although they had the incredible talent, they had been overconfident and had not spent enough time practicing the passing of the baton.

And so it is with discipleship. The discipleship process is not complete until the baton is successfully passed on. Reproduction does not occur until the baton of what has been learned is passed on to the next team member and he or she continues the discipleship journey. Jesus demonstrated the disciple making relay. He started the process, handed on the baton to His disciples and told them to finish the race. They were to take the baton of disciple making from Him and pass it on to others who would do the same.

Here is what the original relay looked like.

- Jesus started the relay and handed off the baton to the twelve Apostles.

Matthew 28: 19-20

¹⁹ "...go and make disciples of all nations ²⁰...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Jesus started the process and handed the baton to the Apostles. The Apostles were simply to take the baton and hand it on to others. They were to teach others all they had been taught by Jesus.

- The Apostles handed off the baton to other faithful people

2 Timothy 2:2a

² *"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses..."*

We can see clearly what happens next in the process of how the Apostle Paul disciplined Timothy. Although Paul was not directly disciplined by Jesus he was still recognized as one of the Apostles. He handed on all he had learned to Timothy.

- The others took the baton and hand it on to faithful others.

2 Timothy 2:2b

² *"...entrust to reliable men..."*

Timothy was to take what he had learned from Paul and intentionally pass this baton of truth and action to other reliable or faithful people. Faithfulness has to do with spiritual maturity.

- The others handed off the baton to still others

2 Timothy 2:2b

² *"...who will also be qualified to teach others."*

Notice that there were two qualifications for those to whom Timothy was to intentionally pass on the baton. They were to not only be faithful but also be qualified to teach others. They were to be people who were fully taught and had the ability to teach others. Teaching involves training and competency. There is a definite leadership component to this stage of disciple making. This is the reproduction level of discipleship.

And the disciple making race goes on. As the case is made in an old Nike ad, "There is no finish line." There is no finish line in the disciple making process. Until Jesus returns we are to continue making disciples. The discipleship process is not complete until the baton is successfully passed on. Reproduction does not occur until the baton of what has been learned is passed on to the next the team member and he continues the disciple making journey.

Here is what your relay looks like:

1. A disciple maker hands the baton to you: You are disciplined.
2. You take the baton and hand it off to someone else: You become a disciple maker.
3. The person whom you disciplined takes the baton and hands it off to another faithful person. He or she becomes a disciple maker. The process of reproduction has occurred.

THREE YEARS AND OUT!

Jesus worked Himself out of a job in three years. This was the time He allotted to launch the disciple making process that would reach the world and grow the church until He returned. Because of the short

amount of time that Jesus had to train His disciples, He made every moment count. He prioritized His life based on the realization that in three years He would be gone and they would be on their own.

What would happen if we all were given a three year timetable for making disciples? If we knew that whatever training we did with our disciples would have to be completed in three years how would that influence our priorities? We need to live with that same sense of urgency. Consider thinking of working ourselves out of a job in three years. Of course I do not mean we will stop being a disciple maker. That is who we are not what we do for a limited amount of time. I am referring to the three year cycle launching strategy for The Disciple's Journey resources. Following is the three year cycle. If you decide to follow this cycle here is what it will look like:

Year 1: You are disciplined

A disciple maker leads you through the 51 week journey. You faithfully complete all assignments in the four resources. Some of you are just completing this cycle.

Year 2: You become a "shepherd" as you disciple others

When you have successfully completed the first year of *The Disciple's Journey* you will be expected to reproduce by starting your own group. You will start a group that begins with "The Introduction Stage" and *Spiritual Boot Camp* and ends with "The Commissioning Stage" and *Footprints*. You will disciple in the same way you were disciplined. In addition to leading your group your assignments will include review of the previous courses and assignments, new Scripture memory assignments and a daily Disciple's Journey Journal.

Year 3: You become a "spiritual parent" to those you have disciplined

Paul not only disciplined Timothy he was a spiritual parent to him as Timothy disciplined others. When you launch your group to reproduce they will need encouragement, support and accountability as they disciple others. You will need to keep in contact with these people through personal contact, emails and phone calls. It will be up to you as to how often you make contact and whether it is face to face or with other forms of communication. The goal is to help your disciples effectively disciple others. I suggest that you complete a 52 week study "*What the Bible is all About*" by Henrietta Mears, continue to memorize and review Scripture as you complete the daily Disciple's Journey Journal each day. Your main focus will be learning to become a spiritual parent.

THE TRAINING PROCESS

The great disciple maker Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators, in his naturally bold, confrontational style said,

Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men". No man ever followed Jesus who didn't become a fisher of men. If you aren't fishing, you aren't following.

For Daws, as he was called, discipleship always including **doing** as well as **studying**. He met with the men he was discipling and then they served and did outreach together. I heartily agree. Jesus taught while He was on the road. His training of the twelve always combined study time with serving and evangelism. When Jesus was on the road, to get away from the crowds He went up on a mountainside. His disciples came to Him and they sat down for the most extended study time recorded in the Gospels. This is often referred to as "The Sermon on the Mount."

I believe that discipleship without an intentional service-outreach element built into it falls short of complete biblical disciple making. I don't mean to diminish the value of study groups. Many people have experienced significant growth in such groups. But I do believe study combined with outreach is an essential part of disciple making. This is what may separate *The Disciple's Journey* approach from most other disciple making curriculums. I do not give any specific outreach assignments but encourage groups to plan what they will do together. I make suggestions but I believe each group and each church is better suited to know what outreach activities will best suit the nature of the group and the needs of the community. Following is a "50-50" principle to consider. Don't get caught up in the exact percentages but the principle.

The 50-50 principle

50% study and prayer in the group

Prepares you for:

50% service and outreach in the field

Reproducible precepts and skills

Each course has specific precepts (biblical principles and Scriptures) to memorize. Repetition and review are indispensable parts of the training process. At the end of the first year disciples should be able to know from memory over 100 verses of Scripture and other related biblical principles and ministry skills.

MATERIAL IS IMMATERIAL

This may seem to be a strange statement since the purpose of this leader's guide is to teach you how to use *The Disciple's Journey* resources. What I mean is that material is immaterial in the sense that the only material that really counts is God's Word. What I have to say in these resources is relatively immaterial. You could use any resource that has God's Word as its primary focus. It is the biblical principles of disciple making that are important, not a specific curriculum. As we have discussed, there are many ways to make disciples. The ultimate goal is to make fully devoted reproducing disciples, not to follow this or any other method or curriculum. There are many routes to take to the final destination. It is not important **how** you get there but **that** you get there.

Remember two essential principles of disciple making

What is important is that we remember the two essentials of disciple making: (1) what you have been taught, (2) you are to teach others who will teach others

Disciple making is always to be intentional. Our approach should be first transformational not just informational. To be effective, disciple making must be highly relational. We are investing our **lives** in others not just imparting information or teaching skills.

Remember two questions to always ask yourself

In their book *The Invested Life*, Joel Rosenberg and Dr. T.E. Koshy repeatedly challenge readers to ask the questions: "Who am I investing in?" and "Who is investing in me?" The answer to these questions will help us determine whether or not we are true disciple makers. We always need to be investing our lives in someone as we allow someone to invest their life in us.

START FROM THE BOTTOM UP NOT THE TOP DOWN

One of my biggest mistakes has been trying to explain disciple making to people. I end up being frustrated and discouraged because of the lack of understanding and resistance I encounter. Something recently occurred to me something that I should have realized all along. You can't explain discipleship to someone. They must experience it. Jesus never tried to explain the disciple making process to anyone. He simply asked them to follow Him. All that He clearly explained was the cost. The only way they would understand how to become a fully devoted disciple who would disciple others was to follow Jesus. Understanding only happens on the journey.

The Invested Life helped me discover my error in thinking by stressing that disciple making must always come from the bottom up not from the top down. I finally realized that I must stop trying to explain the disciple making process to leadership. That is the top down strategy that seldom works. Instead I needed to start with myself. I needed to focus on prayer, asking God to clearly reveal to me who He wanted me to disciple. I needed to be less concerned with the launching of a disciple making ministry for the entire church. I needed to let God unfold His plan.

WE DO NOT CHOOSE WHO WE WILL DISIPCLE. GOD CHOOSES FOR US.

John 15:16

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

The selection process should always start and end with prayer. We do not choose who we will disciple. God chooses for us. It is only God who knows the heart and potential of a person. It is only Jesus who knows when a person is ready to lay down his life and follow Him. Jesus spent the night in prayer before choosing the twelve. Should we do any less? We need to pray until God clearly reveals who we should disciple. We might need to start with one person and then add others, forming a team. Jesus started with individuals and then formed a team at just the right time (*Luke 6:12-16; Mark 3: 13-19*).



STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SESSION TWO

Answer the following questions about what you have read.

1. Review the definition of a disciple. Measure yourself to the standard of each of the components highlighted in bold. What are your strengths and weaknesses at this point in the disciple's journey?
 2. Review the reasons for "a road less traveled." Which of these reasons have you personally experienced? Which of the reasons have you observed?
 3. In what ways have you been discipled over the years? In what ways have you been involved in discipling others?
 4. Briefly outline the stages of the disciple making relay. How do you see your responsibility in the process?
 5. What is your take on the value of the "50-50 principle". Can this be supported in Scripture? Is there an example that you can think of?
 6. What is the most important thing for you to remember and apply to your life in this session?
- Review the accountability questions and be prepared to share with the group.



MEMORY AND MEDITATION PROJECT

Memorize and meditate on *Matthew 28:18-20* and answer the questions that follow: Write the Scripture on the front side of your index card for this session. Write notes you want to remember from this session on the reverse side.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- What essentials of disciple making do you see in this passage?
- Why do you suppose Jesus starts with His statement on authority? How should that impact us?
- What would "*teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you*" include? In a practical sense, how can this be done in disciple making?
- Jesus ends the "Great Commission" by promising to be with the disciples "*always, to the very end of the age*". Why do you think Jesus concludes His remarks in this way? What significance does it have for you in regards to disciple making?
- What one thing will you take away from this passage that will transform your life?



SEARCH THE WORD STUDY GUIDE

Using the tools of observation, interpretation, and application search *Ephesians 4:11-16* and write what you discover in the space that is provided. (To review the three principles of Bible study see pages 85-92 in *Spiritual Boot Camp*).

OBSERVATION What does it say?

INTERPRETATION: What does it mean? (Consult your Study Bible to read the background of the book.)

APPLICATION What does it say to me?

SESSION 3

SITUATIONAL DISCIPLE MAKING

“Disciple making should flow naturally from our life and relationships. It should be an extension of our ministries. Disciple making should be the focus of every ministry in the church.”

Disciple making is leading people on a journey that follows in the footprints of Jesus. It is teaching them to know all that has been passed on to us so they can teach others (*Matt. 28:18-20*). We are to lead them through the stages until they are mature spiritual adults, equipped to reproduce. This is not difficult to articulate but it is more difficult to accomplish because of some of the issues we have already discussed. One of the most difficult aspects of disciple making is how to get started.

YOUR UNIQUE SITUATION

There are certain essential principles of disciple making that do not change. These provide a solid biblical foundation. The methods and resources we use in disciple making are more flexible. Material is immaterial and strategy is situational. Every situation is unique. Who you are going to disciple will always determine how you will disciple. The two must match to be effective. The Disciple’s Journey approach and resources are just one way of disciple making. Going straight through The Disciple’s Journey books stage by stage in a year might not be the best fit for your situation. In this session I want to share other options that might better fit your situation. If you follow the essential biblical principles of disciple making you have the option of choosing resources and methods that fit your situation.

WHO WILL YOU DISCIPLE?

The first question to address is who will you disciple? This will dictate your strategy and the resources you will use. Every situation is unique. Jesus had the task of making disciples of working class men who had only a background in Judaism. In three years Jesus would develop them into fully taught disciples who would found and lead the 1st Century Church.

The disciples, in turn, faced the challenge of making disciples out of thousands of new Jew and Gentile believers. They came from a variety of backgrounds but most knew little or nothing about what being a Christian was all about. What they did know was mostly false. The Church was comprised of spiritual infants and children who were mostly ignorant, worldly, selfish, and needed immediate grounding in the new faith.

I am part of a core group of people who will be starting a new church in a few weeks called Oasis Community. We are planting this church in a part of Orange County in Southern California called “Little Arabia” because of its high concentration of Middle Eastern people, most of whom are Muslims. A primary vision is to reach the Muslim community. This area of Anaheim, however, is fifty percent Hispanic. Caucasian is a definite minority. This means for most people English is a second language. The core group that will be planting the Church is largely younger believers.

Disciple making in this unique situation has some special challenges. How will we disciple the core group and how will we disciple the new people we will be reaching? My approach now is to pray for guidance and build relationships with the core group so I understand who they are and their “spiritual ages.” Since English will be a second language for many of the new people we will need to bring that into consideration in the resources we use. I am sure that we will need an approach that first focuses on bringing people to faith and mentoring new believers. Our approach and resources will need to match who we are. What I do know for certain is that I will invest my life in others as others invest their life in me. Disciple making is not an option. How we do it is. We will adapt our resources and strategy to fit the needs.

DISCERNING SPIRITUAL AGES

When we look closely at how Jesus led His disciples through the five stages we can see how they grew through five spiritual ages. Knowing the basic characteristics of these spiritual ages can help define who you will be discipling and decide on the appropriate strategy and resources. By observing a person’s spiritual age you can plan ways to meet their spiritual needs. We will look at a very brief sketch of each age. For more comprehensive help on how to determine the spiritual age of believers and how to help them mature I recommend the book *Real Life Discipleship* by Jim Putman and the companion *Real Life Discipleship Training Manual*, NAVPRESS. Each stage can be determined by observing the following:

- **What they say or don’t say.**

Real Life Ministries, a church I will talk more about soon, calls this indicator “The phrase from the phase.” By listening to the conversation of the various spiritual ages you can hear clear indicators of the age of a believer. It is not only the things they say but what they don’t say. By listening, you can determine a person’s values, priorities, and world view. People talk about what is important to them. They talk about what they love. Listen long enough and you will know their heart.

- **What they know or don’t know.**

What people talk about reveals how much they know about a topic. By listening to a person in a small group over a period of time will reveal how much they know about the following: Basic biblical doctrine, how a follower of Jesus is to live his or her life, and how to love, trust, and obey God.

- **What they do or don’t do**

You can observe a child’s age, not just by their appearance but by what they do or don’t do. They don’t clean their rooms without being told. They don’t know right and wrong without being taught. Left to their own devices they will be self-centered and self-destructive. Observe a child for an hour and this will be evident.

Spiritual ages can be observed in the same way. Look closely at what a believer does and it will indicate his spiritual age.

We will now observe three major characteristics of each of the five spiritual ages and how to meet the spiritual needs of each age.

Spiritual Infants

- **Needy**

We know that infants are needy by nature. They come into the world completely dependent. They can't feed or dress themselves. They have to be fed, carried, cleaned up, and nurtured. As most of you know infants are a ton of work. They can't be left alone. Someone must be with them constantly. So it is with spiritual infants. When they are reborn into a new life they need someone to nurture and feed them. For spiritual growth to occur they need a spiritual adult who loves them.

- **Ignorant**

Spiritual infants are reborn into a new life that requires them to learn new truth and new behavior. There is a need to be fed the Word of God in bite sized portions. Infants not only need to know the Word but how to obey it as well. This involves mentoring. It requires someone to explain what the Word means and how it is to be obeyed. Infants do not yet have a secure identity in Christ. They need to know they have been adopted by their heavenly Father and are secure in His grace. Above all, spiritual infants need someone to love them and to model the christian life for them.

- **Messy**

Infants are by nature messy. Not only do they make messes, they don't clean them up. I have found that many spiritual infants continue to mess up their own lives. They need help in taking those first steps. Mentors are there to teach infants how to clean up the messes and avoid making them in the future.

- **Phrases of the phase**

Spiritual infants are not difficult to spot. Many are new to the faith but some believers have never grown beyond infancy. Either they have not been taught or they have not taken advantage of the teaching available to them. I call this "failure to thrive." When you listen to a spiritual infant they usually do not have a grasp on the basic essentials. Phrases such as, "Aren't all religions alike?" or "Is that in the Bible?" are common. You might hear comments such as, "I can never forgive him" or "I can worship anywhere" or "I don't have to go to church to be a christian."

Spiritual Children

After infants have learned how to take those first steps in the Christian life we want to help them become spiritual children. Following are some characteristics of this age:

- **Self-Centered**

Children think about themselves and what they want first. They are self-centered. Wise parents know this and while wanting their children to be others-centered recognize that it doesn't happen automatically. They must be taught not only the behavior but the biblical values of being selfless. This value must be taught verbally as well as modeled. Children are naturally focused on their own needs being met rather than meeting the needs of others. They are jealous and quarrel about who gets what. Read *James 4:1-4* for a good description of the self-centeredness of spiritual children. They tend to gravitate to small groups or churches that will meet their needs. They often have unrealistic expectations of others.

Spiritual children need a coach—someone to train them to be godly. They often do the right things for the wrong reasons, so they will receive the benefits. They need to be taught to feed themselves on solid food so they can discern good from evil on their own (*Heb. 5:11-14*). They need to move from the basic

truths of the faith to mature thinking and acting. This will be characterized by thinking of others first, becoming a selfless servant.

- **Worldly**

Just think of toys and play. Don't those two words describe the world of a child? If children were in charge of a school the entire curriculum would consist of recess and a lunch menu of nothing but candy. The world of a child consists of what makes him happy. Often this is true of spiritual children. They attempt to follow Jesus with one foot following the pleasure of the world. It doesn't work. The Apostle John refers to this characteristic of children when he warns believers to avoid "...the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life" (1 John 2:15-17).

Spiritual children need a coach to teach them how to experience real joy that comes from remaining in the love of God, obeying His commands, and laying down their lives for others (John 15: 9-14).

- **Vulnerable**

We are all well aware that children are vulnerable to all kinds of dangerous situations. They do not possess the mature experience and thinking required to discern the kinds of harm that could come to them. They are naive. They need to be protected as they learn to protect themselves. How? They need someone to come along side them to coach them. Spiritual children need to learn sound doctrine and how to discern false teachings (2 Cor.11:3). They need to be equipped for ministry and grow in the character of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16). This will happen as they are taught how to love God and others with all their hearts, trust His promises, and obey His commands.

- **Phrases of the phase**

There are several ways to determine if a person is a spiritual child. Often their conversation will be self-centered—about their needs. They will talk about finding a church or group that meets their needs. They will say things like, "My group isn't meeting my needs" or "I don't have time to go to group every week." Spiritual children are mostly consumers. Their conversation is primarily about worldly things such as possessions or what brings them pleasure. Listen to their conversations and you will hear very little about spiritual things. They don't show much interest in their purpose in life of becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus, accomplishing His mission and glorifying Him in all they say and do. Unfortunately there are many older believers who have never grown past the spiritual children stage.

Spiritual young adults

It is a joy to see a spiritual child become a spiritual young adult. This stage is a combination of youthful exuberance, immature decisions, and godly vision. They believe they can move mountains but often stumble over molehills. If you listen to their conversations they love to talk about the Lord and conquering the world for Him. Following are some characteristics that can help you identify spiritual young adults:

- **Involved**

Young adults are noted for being activists and revolutionaries. They are passionate about causes that they believe will help make the world a better place. Spiritual young adults demonstrate these characteristics. Think of the disciples. They came to Jesus as infants, became spiritual children as they began to follow Him, and grew into spiritual young adults who were sent out to practice what they had learned. Along the way they were impulsive (Peter), made mistakes, had immature values, but were mission minded.

Spiritual young adults are mission minded and want to serve. When they find a cause they will pursue it with great passion. They are gaining a great heart for people and are willing to sacrifice. God is becoming the most important thing in their lives and their priorities are aligned with what they see as God's purposes. They often have unrealistic expectation for others, especially the older generation who doesn't live up to their standards. They can be easily disillusioned and disappointed. They need a personal trainer to help them focus all that enthusiasm. This should be a spiritual adult or parent who can give them godly counsel, helping them develop realistic expectations, and set appropriate boundaries.

- **Independent**

Spiritual young adults have the adolescent tendencies of wanting to be free and unaccountable. They often see boundaries as hindrances to accomplish a mission. They see the value of the team but don't always work within the team concept. They tend to do things on their own rather than involve and train others. Spiritual young adults need a spiritual adult to whom they can be accountable, someone they respect and are willing to take counsel from. They need someone with whom they can debrief and who can help them acquire the skills they need to complete ministry tasks and become servant-leaders.

- **Incomplete**

To be incomplete is to lack spiritual maturity. Completeness comes by being tested by the trials of life (*James 1:2-4; Eph. 4:13*). Completeness is being completely aligned with the character of Christ. It is to be holy. Spiritual young adults are incomplete in their character. There are noticeable gaps when measured by the standard of the character of Christ. Completeness of character is a result of the transformation that comes from being attached to the vine of Jesus and being transformed by the renewing of the mind.

Spiritual young adults need to embrace the Word of God as the sole and absolute authority for all they say and do. There can be no exceptions to complete obedience. Spiritual young adults have been raised in a culture of relativism, secular tolerance, and political correctness based on lies. Don't assume that because they are committed believers that relativism has not influenced them.

Spiritual young adults need to make a consistent priority of being in the Word and prayer so that the fruit of their efforts comes from being attached to the vine of Jesus. Time spent in "solitary places" needs to match time in service. If spiritual young adults are in positions of leadership, they need spiritual adults to support, counsel, and encourage them. They will need help with conflict resolution. They are producers not reproducers so they can become overloaded. Since they have difficulty establishing boundaries, they will often take on too much and sometimes neglect other priorities such as marriage and family.

- **Phrases of the phase**

Some of the phrases of the phase are: "Let's start an outreach to Muslims. We can hit the streets tomorrow!" "I can't understand why more people don't witness" "Why doesn't our church _____?" "I think I could lead a group."

Spiritual Adults

The goal of disciple making is to produce spiritually mature adults who will reproduce. We see that Jesus' three year training process produced spiritually mature adults who established the 1st century church and passed on the baton to others. You can't have too many spiritually mature adults in a church. The spiritual health of a church does not depend on the "professional" staff but on training that consistently produces

spiritual adults and commissions them to reproduce. Following are some of the key characteristics of spiritual adults.

- **Complete**

Spiritual adults are not perfect but strive to be complete. The measure of completeness is the character of Christ so even the mature adult will always fall short of that perfection. Completeness starts with being filled with the Spirit. This can only happen when we are attached to the vine of Jesus in the Word and prayer. The result is that a person "...bears much fruit..." showing that they are a disciple (*John 15:5, 8*). That fruit of the Spirit is plain to see in a spiritual adult. It displays the character of Christ (*Gal. 5:22, 23*).

- **Relational**

A spiritual adult is always building relationships with other spiritual adults but also with spiritual infants, children, and young adults. They know they have a responsibility to mentor others. Jim Putman, in his book, *Real-Life Discipleship*, says the following of spiritual adults:

Remember, discipleship happens when we are in relationship with other believers where real teaching, authenticity, accountability, shepherding and training are part of our lifestyle. It is the responsibility of all mature believers to learn to feed themselves, then to feed others, and then teach them to feed themselves, and teach them to feed others—you get the idea. (Real-Life Discipleship, p. 140, 141)

It is through the disciple making process that we build intimate relationships with believers. The closeness we develop lasts a lifetime because it is built on oneness in Christ, sharing His life together (*Philippians 2:1-2*). Most of my closest friends are those whom I have discipled over the years.

- **Reproducers**

Like an NCAA football coach looking for that next great running back I am constantly looking for people to disciple. Since I am currently part of a group that is going to plant a new church I am getting to know people so I can discern their spiritual age. I want to know if they are faithful, available, and teachable. Whether it is leading a small group, teaching a class, mentoring a spiritual infant or leading a group through the stages of discipleship, spiritual adults are always building relationships so they make disciples. Jim Putman sums it up in this way,

"Spiritual parents will find someone to disciple. They will actively share, connect, train to minister, and eventually release to disciple." (Real-Life Discipleship, p. 141)

- **Phrases of the phase**

I thoroughly enjoy getting together with spiritual adults because they love talking about the Lord. Their conversation will inevitably default to what they value most—their relationship with God and ministry to others. What we talk about is what we value. Listen to a spiritual adult for very long and you will have no doubt what matters to them most. They say things like: "How would you like me to pray for you?" "I have this non-believing friend that I have been witnessing to." "I got this great insight from the Word in my quiet time today." "I'm excited about the growth I see in our small group." "I just read this great book called *"The Red Sea Rules."*

Spiritual Parents

I see spiritual parents as somewhat different than spiritual adults. They have all of the characteristics of a spiritual adult plus a rendering of the heart that comes only with extended service, sacrifice, and suffering. It is like a spiritual adult on steroids! Spiritual parents have a spiritual maturity that only comes from years of serious time in the Word, prayer, service and disciple making. They are completely devoted to God's children. The perfect picture of a spiritual parent is our heavenly Father. An earthy example is the Apostle Paul as we can see in this letter to the believers in Corinth:

1 Corinthians 4:14-17

¹⁴ I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. ¹⁵ Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶ Therefore I urge you to imitate me. ¹⁷ For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

Paul took his responsibility as a spiritual parent seriously. He confronted when necessary. He counseled when needed. He always loved his spiritual children deeply and wanted God's best for them. He was not afraid to tell them to imitate him as he imitated Christ Jesus. His heart bled for his spiritual children. I see three distinguishing characteristics of spiritual parents in Paul's letter to his children in Thessalonica:

- **Passionate love**

What makes spiritual parents special is the passionate love they have for their children and their uncommon ability to love. Like Paul's their love is a gentle, accepting, unflinching and compassionate love "...like a mother caring for her little children" (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8). There is an uncommon vulnerability that spiritual parents are willing to give. Their lives are an open book for their spiritual children to see. They openly share failures as well as successes. They are who they are by the grace of God. Paul showed this uncommon love to his children in Thessalonica. He told them,

1 Thessalonians 2:8

⁸We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us"

- **Compassionate accountability**

The goal of spiritual parents is to raise responsible, fruit bearing children who will eventually reproduce themselves in others. This requires compassionate accountability. Accountability is holding the people we disciple accountable to be their best for God. The compassionate part is accepting people as being imperfect while at the same time not lowering God's standards for godliness. Notice the key words Paul uses to describe this characteristic of a spiritual parent:

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

*¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² **encouraging, comforting and urging** you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. (Bold added)*

Notice that the accountability starts with encouragement. The Greek word used here is *parakoleo*, the same description that Jesus gave the Holy Spirit who He promised would be our counselor, advocate, encourager, and helper. This Encourager was one who would come alongside God's children and *comfort*

them (*John 14: 15-17*). This is the compassionate side of accountability. But in addition to being encouraged and comforted people also need to be “urged” to be godly. Another word that could be used here is “charged” or “challenged.” These are strong words that a coach standing on the sidelines of a hotly contested game would use, shouting out for his team to do their best, urging them on to victory. Words like compel, press, push, entreat, and motivate all describe some dimensions of what it means for a spiritual parent to urge his children to live lives worthy of God.

I want to stress that we all need accountability. Through every spiritual age each one of us needs to be accountable to someone. This includes spiritual parents. Always remember that accountability turns good intentions into godly disciplines. Spiritual parents invest in others and allow others to invest in them. This is mutual accountability.

- **Prevailing prayer**

Prevailing prayer is best described by Jesus in *Luke 11:1-13*. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray Jesus taught them the principles of prevailing prayer. Prevailing prayer is God centered, persistent, and compassionate. It is prayer that demonstrates complete trust in the heavenly Father to answer. Prevailing prayer is a distinguishing mark of spiritual parents. They prevail in prayer for their children. Paul is the best example of a spiritual parent prevailing in prayer for his or her children. In his letters to the churches we can see how he consistently and passionately prays for his children. He starts out his letter to his spiritual children in Ephesus by reminding them of how persistently he prays for them.

Ephesians 1:15-16

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

We have a record of some of Paul’s prayers that serve as models of how spiritual parents (and others as well) can pray for their children. I have memorized most of these prayers and I pray them regularly for my own children, grandchildren and spiritual children. They are rich prayers that cover so much. In addition there are always personal issues that we need to include as well. Following are the references for four of Paul’s prayers for his spiritual children: (*2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; Ephesians 1:15-20; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-11*)

The spiritual parent mentors, serves, equips, and shepherds. He or she does so consistently and passionately. You cannot keep spiritual parents from their task of parenting. Wherever they are they seek out spiritual children who they can love and nurture. Being a spiritual parent is who they are so they cannot help themselves.

HOW WILL YOU DISCIPLE?

I want to share with you four examples of different approaches to disciple making and some resources that have proven to be effective. This will help you think through your unique situation and choose the strategy and resources that are the best fit for you. All resources are only a tool to help you accomplish the task of making disciples. I want to strongly encourage you to read the books I recommend in this session. These books will expose you to several different views of disciple making from people who have a track record of effectively reproducing disciples.

The “Jesus style”

Because of His unique situation Jesus started with a select group of disciples who were spiritual infants, took them through five stages in three years and launched spiritual adults who would eventually become spiritual parents. They would successfully reproduce reproducers and launch the Church of Christ. Jesus’ style was intensive and comprehensive because it had to be. It was three years and out!

The Disciple’s Journey is based on the “Jesus’ Style.” It starts with “The Invitation Stage” and *Spiritual Boot Camp* and continues 51 weeks ending with “The Commissioning Stage” and the book you are currently reading. This approach is a sequential and structured approach. When you look at the four books you will see that it is also one of the most comprehensive approaches.

The concerns I hear about the linear approach is that it does not offer enough flexibility to allow for individual needs to be met and teachable moments to occur. This would be true if there was a rigid adherence to a strict schedule. I want to stress that you always need to take time to address individual needs and concerns. You can devote an entire session to prayer. You can add an extra week to discuss a difficult session. You have freedom to schedule sessions as you wish. You do not have to complete The Disciple’s Journey in 51 weeks. You may wish to take two weeks per session instead of one. There are also different ways you can use The Disciple’s Journey resources. They can be tools in your “disciple making tool box” as I will explain later. You need to feel free to adapt this curriculum to fit your own unique situation.

Training trainers

When you train trainers the main difference is that you start with more mature believers. The best time to use this method is when you want to train a core group of people to launch the disciple making process. This involves choosing spiritual young adults, spiritual adults, or spiritual parents who will commit to training together and then discipling others. Some people, while they are spiritually mature, may not be disciple makers because they have not been trained to reproduce. Training trainers is the method Paul used with Timothy who had already been mentored before Paul met him and was most probably a spiritual young adult.

I have used this method utilizing a variety of resources. In addition to my own materials I have used *MasterLife*, a series of four training manuals consisting of four six week sessions each. This resource, authored by Avery T. Willis Jr., worked well and we were able to reproduce multiple *MasterLife* groups over a period of years.

Greg Ogden has written an excellent resource titled *Discipleship Essentials*. This training manual has 24 sessions that are designed to use with a small group of people committed to becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus and reproducers. Those who go through the course are committed to reproducing by starting their own group.

This is also the method that Lynn Rosenberg used when asked by the director of women’s ministry at her church to set a goal of making discipleship part of the culture among the women of their church. After much time in prayer, four spiritually mature women banded together to launch the disciple making process. Their plan was to train trainers who would invest in new and young believers. The curriculum they choose was Greg Ogden’s *Discipleship Essentials*. They started in the fall and went through the school year spending two weeks on each of the chapters. I suggest you read about their experience in *The Invested Life* by Joel Rosenberg and T.E. Koshy. If you decide on this method you might want to consider using

Anchoring. It is similar to *Discipleship Essentials* and has 26 sessions. It can be used as an effective disciple making course on its own.

The small group community

The disciple making style of the 1st century church seems to have been launched primarily through small groups or house churches. People were brought into these groups as spiritual infants and taught the basics of the faith through the disciples' teaching (*Acts 2:42-47*). At first they were consumers and then equipped to be producers as they grew through the spiritual ages (*Eph. 4:11-16*). Some, such as Timothy and Titus, elders, and deacons, and many others were singled out to become reproducers (*2 Tim. 2:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:1-13*).

This may be the most natural and effective way to make disciples. People already have relationships within the group. New believers can be welcomed and nurtured by more mature believers in an intimate small group setting. Potential leaders can be recognized in this setting and chosen for additional training, using *The Disciple's Journey* courses or other resources you might choose. The first level of leadership can be apprentice small group leaders who have been taught by example as they have observed their group leaders. Disciple making should flow naturally from our life and relationships. It should be an extension of our ministries. Disciple making should be the focus of every ministry in the church. We always need to look first at where we serve to find people to disciple.

The best example of the small group community style is Real Life Ministries, a Church in a small town in Idaho that has had disciple making in its DNA from the very beginning. In his book, *Real Life Discipleship*, Jim Putman describes how, starting with a small group in a home in 1988, the Church grew to over 8,000 in ten years using the biblical principles of disciple making in small groups. I highly recommend you read this book before deciding on how you want to proceed with disciple making. It is one of the best books I have ever read on discipleship.

The mentor method

The final method is what I will call the "mentor method." It is similar to the "Jesus Style" in some ways. The main difference is the emphasis on new believers and a more flexible approach to methods and resources. A mentor will go to his or her tool box and choose the best resources that fit the situation. Mentors are always involved in evangelism and are constantly looking for new believers to teach. Then, when the time is right, they form a group that helps people move through the other stages. They are willing to invest in more mature believers as well as spiritual infants and children. This is done one on one or in a small group, depending on people and the situation. Mentors are often spiritual parents who have a deep prayer life and are always building relationships in order to be in a position to share the gospel with non-believers and disciple believers.

Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators ministry, is an excellent example of someone who used the mentor method. He founded a ministry to disciple sailors during the Second World War. At one time this disciple making ministry was ministering to over 1,000 ships. Dawson's strategy was simple. Sailors were brought to the Lord, mentored in the basics of the faith and taught to share the gospel with others. Then they were expected to mentor that person and teach him to do the same. Dawson's favorite question was, "Who is your man?" His strategy was primarily one on one. Dawson wrote the classic article, *Born to Reproduce* which you can read in Appendix B.

I have just finished reading a wonderful book that I believe presents an informative and inspirational vision of the "mentoring method." New York best selling author Joel Rosenberg and Dr. T.E Koshy teamed up to

write *The Invested Life, Making Disciples of all Nations One Person at a Time*. It tells the story of how Dr. T.E. Koshy, born and raised in India, was discipled by Bakht Singh, one of the most important evangelists and church planters in the history of India. Dr. Koshy went on to be the founding director of International Friendship Evangelism and evangelical chaplain at Syracuse University for forty years. It was while attending Syracuse that Joel Rosenberg was mentored by Dr. Koshy and learned to disciple others. *The Invested Life* is full of rich stories, testimonies and practical suggestions on how to build relationships to disciple one on one and in small groups. This book is a must read for anyone serious about making disciples.

The disciple maker's tool box

Once you decide who you will disciple you will face the challenge of choosing the resource or resources that best fit your unique situation. I suggest you start a "disciple maker's tool box" with reproducible resources you believe will be effective in helping those you disciple to move through the spiritual ages and reproduce. This should include:

- **All that God has invested in you.**

First think of what is already in your tool box. God has given you unique gifts. He has taught you life lessons. You are to invest in others what God has invested in you. Your tool box contains more than just written resources. It contains life experiences and biblical principles that you can pass on to others. They can learn from you and follow your example.

- **What others have invested in you.**

Who are the people who have invested in your life? There are so many people whom I have learned from over the years. Many I have not met because I learned from them in their books.

- **The doctrines and principles that you have learned from God's Word that you can pass on to others.**

What doctrines and spiritual principles and disciplines have been important in your spiritual growth? List these and start putting them in a form that is reproducible.

- **Reproducible resources that you pass on to others.**

In this session I have listed some resources I think are the best. You may want to add them to your tool box. Be constantly on the lookout for other reproducible resources. I am currently adding to my tool box a small, powerful book that was recommended by my friend Mary. *Red Sea Rules* by Robert J. Morgan is based on Exodus 14 and gives ten practical rules or principles that can help you through a crisis. I am in the process of memorizing the ten principles and the corresponding Scriptures. The principles in the book have already helped me strengthen some of my weaknesses and I plan on using it with others as it is very reproducible.

I give you permission to include the four books in The Disciple's Journey series in your tool box and use them any way you wish. I have released all of my resources under *Share Alike Attribution 3.0 License*. This means you have free and unrestricted permission to download, print, distribute, and charge for any of my resources. You may print or adapt any part of a book to fit your needs. I know this may seem unusual but my commitment is to remove all obstacles so that my books can be used to disciple nations who have almost no access to discipleship resources because of strict copyright laws. Anyone, anywhere, with a mobile phone will be able to download, translate, produce, and distribute without any copyright restrictions. You have that same right.

Spiritual Boot Camp and *7 Great Doctrines of the Bible* are foundational courses that can be used as electives to equip people to be producers without necessarily requiring them to be on the reproducing leadership track. I always encourage new believers who have faithfully gone through *Spiritual Boot Camp* to complete *7 Great Doctrines of the Bible*. The *Anchoring* course also can be used for people who show significant motivation for spiritual growth but not the leadership gifts to become reproducing leaders. Again I say, use this resource in any way you wish.

DISICPLE MAKING PRAYER

All this said, the most important part of choosing who you will disciple and how you will disciple them is prayer. Remember that even though Jesus was divine, He spent the night praying to His Father before choosing the twelve disciples. We should do no less. Be in continual prayer that God will lead you to whomever He wants you to disciple. Pray that He will show you the right strategy and resources. We must always remember that it is Jesus who disciples through us. Shortly before His death Jesus prayed,

John 17:6

⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word."



STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SESSION THREE

Answer the following questions about what you have read.

1. Review the characteristics of a spiritual infant. Who can you think of that fits that description? Are they being mentored? What would God have you to do?
 2. Review the characteristics of spiritual children. What similarities do they share with spiritual infants? Can you think of any spiritual children that you might be able to disciple?
 3. Review the characteristics of spiritual young adults. What spiritual young adults do you know? In what ways have you seen them to be like or not be like the spiritual young adults described by the author? Do you know a spiritual young adult that you might be able to disciple?
 4. Review the characteristics of a spiritual adult. In what ways are a spiritual adult and a spiritual parent alike? In what ways do they share the same characteristics? What spiritual age are you?
 5. Who will you be discipling? What spiritual ages are represented in the people you can think of right now who God may be leading you to disciple?
 6. Which of the four style or methods mentioned do you think would best fit your situation?
 7. What resource or resources do you think would work best? What is in your tool box?
- Review the accountability questions and be prepared to share with the group.



MEMORY AND MEDITATION PROJECT

Memorize and meditate on *Colossians 1: 9-10* and answer the questions that follow: Write the Scripture on the front side of your index card for this session. Write notes you want to remember from this session on the reverse side.

Colossians 1:9-10

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

- Meditate on Paul's prevailing prayer in verse 9. What impresses you most about how Paul prays for his spiritual children? What speaks to you about his example?
- What does it mean to be filled with a knowledge of God's will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding? How can a disciple maker's prayer help accomplish this?
- What does a life "*worthy of the Lord*" look like? In what ways does intentional disciple making help accomplish this? What about your life?
- What does it mean to "*bear fruit in every good work?*" What is essential to fruit bearing?
- How do we help those we disciple "*grow in the knowledge of God?*"
- What do these verses say to you? What does God want you to do?



SEARCH THE WORD STUDY GUIDE

Using the tools of observation, interpretation, and application search *2 Thessalonians 1: 11-12* and write what you discover in the space that is provided. (To review the three principles of Bible study see pages 85-92 in *Spiritual Boot Camp*).

OBSERVATION: What does it say?

INTERPRETATION: What does it mean? (Consult your Study Bible to read the background of the book.)

APPLICATION: What does it say to me?

SESSION 4

THE INVITATION STAGE:

“We mentor them (new believers). We stand beside them as they take their first steps. We help them learn what it means to live the Christian life.”

It is interesting that early in the Gospel of John we have a record of Jesus making a priority of teaching new believers the basics of their new faith. The earliest record we have of Jesus' contact with His future followers is recorded in the first chapter of the gospel of John. John gives an eye opening look into what Jesus did with new believers. It was John the Baptist who first introduced future disciples to Jesus. I want us to see how this all unfolded.

John 1:35-36

³⁵ *The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”*

These initial followers of Jesus we will call the “Starting Five.” Those first mentioned by John in addition to himself were two brothers, Andrew and Simon. After spending the day with them Jesus told Philip to follow Him. Philip recruited Nathanael. It is obvious that these men had a great desire for God. Their hearts had been prepared to believe in the Messiah. They were among the first “seekers.” They were John the Baptist's disciples, but they were looking forward to the Messiah. Those “seekers” became believers in the Lamb of God. Jesus immediately took time to ground them in the basic principles of the faith. In the story of these first disciples there are some valuable principles that we can apply to our ministry to new believers.

PRINCIPLES OF NEW BELIEVER FOLLOW UP

The principle of priority

John 1:39

³⁹ *“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.*

The first thing that stands out in this passage is that Jesus placed a high priority in making sure new believers got off to a good start in the faith. Wherever Jesus was headed and whatever He was going to do next was put on hold. He interrupted His schedule and invited the disciples to “Come and... see” where He was staying. And Jesus spent the rest of the day with them (*John 1:39*).

These men were more important than His agenda for the day. The “to do” list could wait. There were more important things to do. He was about to start the disciple making process of mentoring new believers. That was His highest priority. Everything else was secondary. This is the first lesson for us. Nothing should be more important than making sure new believers are grounded in the faith.

 It is important that new-believer training become part of the DNA of the church. It cannot be some fringe program that exists so it can be said that there is something for new believers. Leadership needs to be fully committed to giving new believers a solid foundation.

The principle of “spiritual gym rats”

John 1:37

³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

These first followers of Jesus were men who had a deep spiritual hunger. They knew they were needy but didn't yet know exactly what they needed. On the other hand they were not about to miss any opportunity to have that hunger satisfied.

 The principle here is to keep our eyes on those new believers who are spiritually hungry and not get discouraged about those who have a low level of interest or motivation. We need to offer training to all new believers but understand there will be more than a few who will not even participate in elementary training. There will be others who will attend new believer groups but will be inconsistent in their attendance and in completing assignments. There are some, however, who will eagerly complete all assignments.

The response I experienced in a *Spiritual Boot Camp* group that I led at a new Church plant I think is pretty typical of what you can expect. Of the ten people who attended the group I found the following: Three people did all of the work. They completed the reading and memorized the Scriptures each week. It is interesting to note that there was a couple from El Salvador with Catholic backgrounds who had to memorize the Scriptures in Spanish first and then English. The man had never memorized Scripture before. The third lady was from India. She was a mature believer but was eager to learn more. She certainly qualified as a “spiritual gym rat” completing all the work and asking what course was going to be next. The others did their work at various levels. Some couldn't even remember to bring their books. My experience has been that 20 to 25% will faithfully do all of the work. I would like to see a higher percentage but I find even that amount exciting.

If you look at those who are not motivated you will become discouraged. If you look at those who are motivated, you will find great joy and satisfaction. Jesus always lived by the principle of “the few.” He never stopped ministering to the many but he focused on those few “spiritual gym rats” who would eventually revolutionize the world.

Many bemoan the problem of a lack of committed workers and ignore the very thing that will produce committed workers! When we focus on new believers we start a “spiritual farm system” or “developmental league” for producing fully devoted disciples. Some of these people become prime candidates for more intentional, intense discipleship and eventually become reproducers, discipling others (*Matthew 28:18-20*; *2 Timothy 2:2*).

 This ministry is critical to the success of discipleship. If we don't provide a solid foundation for new believers we will miss a great opportunity of discovering “the few” who are excellent candidates for The Disciple's Journey. There are many potential reproducers who may never get the chance to reach their potential if we neglect this important ministry. That is why The Disciple's Journey strategy starts with the mentoring of new believers. Jesus started at “The Invitation Stage,” not “The Commissioning Stage.” The

commissioning came at the end of the three year training program. It was a result of the sequential training of the twelve.

The principle of personal invitation

John 1:39

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see..."

We should take special note of what happened next. Jesus did not make a general announcement that there was going to be a new believers class. He did not put a blurb in the weekend service bulletin or the church newsletter and hope that some new believer might show up to learn more about Him. He personally invited these men to where He was staying. This was the first step in calling the disciples to have an ongoing, personal relationship with Him. Above all, mentoring new believers is building that same kind of intimate, personal, ongoing relationship.

 This requires us to have a strategy in place to personally invite new believers to start the discipleship process. The persons leading *Spiritual Boot Camp* groups I refer to as the New Believer Mentors. I do this in the first stage of disciple making because I believe this term best describes what we do with new believers. We mentor them. We stand beside them as they take their first steps. We help them learn what it means to live the Christian life. We nurture new life. We feed, lead, protect and correct. We are "shepherds" to the new baby lambs in the flock.

The principle of immediate follow up

John 1:39

³⁹ ... So they went and saw where he was staying...

Notice that there was no delay. Something so important could not be postponed to a more convenient time. These men would not have to wait for the next scheduled class. Jesus started the first "Foundations" class the same day the first two disciples were introduced to Him. We don't know what His schedule was for the day, but it is clear that spending time with these two men **immediately** took priority over everything else.

 I believe that all churches should involve new believers in immediate follow up. My practice has always been to start meeting with a new believer within the first week.

The principle of the "essential basics"

John 1:39

³⁹ ... So they went and saw where he was staying... **and spent that day with him.** It was about the tenth hour. (Bold added)

Jesus' future disciples came to Him as seekers only perceiving Him as a great "Rabbi." First Jesus would have led them to faith in Him as the Messiah. But He would not have stopped there. There would have been much more to this first instruction. It is evident that Jesus believed for new believers to be transformed into fully devoted disciples, they must first have a firm foundation of faith in Him. They must begin to learn the truth about who He was and who they were to become.

While we cannot know exactly what happened during those many hours the new followers spent with Jesus, we can be sure He was bringing them to true faith in Him. He was turning seekers into believers and teaching them the first steps of following Himself. It is safe to assume that Jesus was teaching these men some essential basics of their new faith. This was the first “New Believers Class.”

 It is interesting to note that we can see here the well documented principle of the essential nature of learning the basics. Basics are an essential foundation of almost anything we do well. We certainly understand this principle when it comes to sports. In all sports there are some basic fundamentals that every participant must learn to be successful. When a team stops winning or an athlete becomes ineffective it is often because they have ignored the basics. The same is true with other occupations and skills. I have noticed that there are usually four to seven basic principles or skill sets that provided a solid foundation. Everything else is built on those four to seven things. Without these essential basics a person or organization will never achieve continued success. This is certainly true in regard to our faith. Unless we teach new believers the basics they will always struggle to walk as Jesus walked. An important part of learning the basics is repetition. In *The Disciple’s Journey* we start the repetition/review process immediately during *Spiritual Boot Camp*.

The principle of spiritual vision

John 1:42

⁴² *And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. **You will be called Cephas**” (which, when translated, is Peter). (Bold added)*

Jesus saw the potential in those who followed Him and gave them a vision of what they would look like when they were transformed. Jesus gave Peter an incredible vision of who he would become. At this early stage of the discipleship process Peter was anything but the rock that Jesus envisioned he would become. Jesus looked beyond what was to what would be. He saw Peter not as an impetuous, fearful, crude and unschooled fisherman who would deny Him three times, but as the rock of an Apostle who would eventually be a great leader in the church.

During “The Invitation Stage” of disciple making, we too can help new believers develop a vision of who they can become in Christ. It is important for them to understand how they are adopted by the heavenly Father and are “in Christ,” and at the same time receive a vision of how God wants to shape them into fully devoted followers of Jesus. The goal of this stage is not to complete a nine week course, but to launch a process of spiritual growth that will result in new believers becoming “... *mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ*” (Eph. 4:13).

 Scripture is clear about what a mature, fully devoted follower of Jesus looks like. We need to help these baby Christians look beyond their first uncertain steps and sin-stained lives to the renewal of their minds and transformation of their actions that will be a result of the Holy Spirit’s ongoing work of sanctification in their lives (Romans 12:1-2).

The principle of high expectations: Following Jesus

John 1:43

⁴³ *The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” (Bold added)*

The next day Jesus found Philip and invited him to follow Him. Philip introduced his Nathanael to Jesus as well. Jesus communicated high expectations for the “Starting Five” from the get go. Jesus invited them immediately to join Him on a journey. Jesus mentored them as they traveled with Him on various occasions. They were not yet constant companions. But neither were they casual companions. Jesus started mentoring them immediately as He began to teach them the high calling of a disciple.

The basic training of the disciples did not end with a one day class but continued as Jesus invited them to follow Him on a discipleship journey where they could observe Him and begin to serve. We know that these men were soon involved in evangelism because Jesus allowed them to baptize rather than do it Himself (*John 4:1-2*). We learn from this that teaching new believers the basics should not be limited to a class. It is the beginning of a discipleship journey that involves both learning and doing. From the very beginning we need to plan ways to have new believers accompany us in ministry and evangelism and give them meaningful service to perform.

I suggest that at least once during this course you take new believers with you to do service or outreach project. This could be some ministry in which you are involved. Some possibilities are: visiting a rest home together; serving food at a homeless shelter; going on a prayer walk together; serving as ushers at a worship service; serving as greeters; delivering homemade bread to first time visitors at your church; having a work day at the church or in the community; having a free car wash for the community. These are just a few ways you could serve together with the new believer you are mentoring.

Jesus took the disciples with Him to the wedding in Cana of Galilee where they saw Him perform His first miracle (*John 2:1-11*). The disciples followed Jesus to Capernaum where they stayed for a few days (*John 2:12*). They were with Him when He went to Jerusalem and cleared the temple of merchants selling their wares (*John 2:13-25*). The disciples were likely with Jesus when he taught Nicodemus about the “new birth” (*John 3:1-21*). They were with Him in the Judean countryside where people were being baptized (*John 3:22-23*).

Jesus and His disciples return trip to Galilee took them through Samaria. The disciples went into town to buy food while Jesus went back to Sychar. It was there that He encountered the Samaritan woman at the well (*John 4:4-26*). We see the disciples’ rejoining Jesus just as Jesus was finishing up His talk with the woman (*John 4:27*). There is no mention of the disciples being with Jesus when He left for Galilee (*John 4:43-54*). As you can see Jesus continued his basic instruction of new believers as He invited them to follow Him on these various occasions.

THE CHURCH’S “MIA’S”

Much is written about the retention of new believers. This is usually measured by the number of people who are still in the church a year after making an initial commitment to Christ. Retention is difficult to measure but most studies I have seen consistently give a retention rate of between ten and twenty percent. This means that eight or nine out of every 10 new believers will be nowhere to be found within a year of

trusting in Jesus. Even if the number was ten points higher, it still should alarm us. I call this group of people the church's MIA'S—missing in attendance. We all know that attendance does not necessarily mean spiritual health or maturity but it at least means that we haven't completely lost the people.

There is no way to eliminate the problem of MIA's. Some people simply will go AWOL (absent without leave) regardless of how diligently we try to follow up. However, we can reduce the casualties by two simple actions.

The results of most of the studies I have seen on this subject agree on two actions churches must take if they are to retain new believers.

1. High expectations

We have seen that Jesus had set and maintained high expectations for those converts who were to be His first disciples. Our first action should be to set and maintain that same level of high expectations. Churches who expect a high level of commitment from new believers receive a higher level of commitment than do churches that do not have high expectations. This was the conclusion of the Southern Baptist churches after they did a study on the retention of new believers. The primary conclusion of their study was:

Effective assimilation churches have one primary characteristic that sets them apart from churches that do not keep their members in active involvement. Effective assimilation churches had high expectations of all of their members. (High Expectations, p. 23)

In this study the Southern Baptists made an interesting discovery that should not surprise us. They found that the key to retention was a new member's class. Furthermore they found churches that **required** the class for membership had the highest retention rate of new believers. Next highest on the list of high retention churches were those that **expected** new believers to attend the class. Churches with the lowest retention were those that **neither require nor expect** new believers to attend a new member's class. (*High Expectations*, (p.105-106)

2. Immediate connections

The second action is to immediately give people an opportunity to be connected to others in the family of God. The importance of immediately connecting people to a group of others believers cannot be overstated. High retention is closely associated with people who are immediately connected to others within the body of Christ. I believe that all churches should offer immediate follow up to new believers. You might want to meet with them one on one. They could be incorporated into an existing small group where they would receive intentional follow up. Have at least one new convert group that is ongoing. People can start *Spiritual Boot Camp* at any point and then finish the course during the next cycle because each week covers a new topic.

It is obvious that believers were connected immediately in the 1st century church (*Acts 2:42-47*). New believers immediately became part of small groups that met in house churches. They were immediately connected to others in the body. They experienced the support and love of others in the family of God. Many who go through *Spiritual Boot Camp* and experience the benefits of a small group will want to become part of another group. Connecting people who have gone through *Spiritual Boot Camp* to a small group should never be left to chance. They should be personally invited to participate in a group. New believer mentors have a responsibility to see that this happens.

DEVELOPING NEW BELIEVER MENTORS

Just imagine what a change it would make in our churches if there were mature believers who personally offered to mentor each new believer. My wife and I have had the joy of this experience over the years. I would like share some personal examples of our experiences. We were offered the challenge of restarting a dying church comprised almost entirely of senior citizens. Immediately we were faced with the opportunity of asking God to raise up a new generation of believers. God answered that prayer and many young families came to the Lord. Most of these people had virtually no religious background.

From the outset Janet and I decided to immediately start these people on a discipleship journey. When a person would place their trust in Christ we would personally invite them to meet with us that next week, taking their first steps. Most were willing to meet with us but there were some who would not start or start and then drop out. The resource we used to help them take those first steps of the journey was *Survival Kit*, a six-week course developed by the Southern Baptists. It is similar to *Spiritual Boot Camp* in its format. As the church continued to grow we trained other people to become New Believer Mentors.

Janet and I found that new believers needed some personal help as they began the discipleship journey because they had no experience taking those first steps as a new Christian. While they became new creations in Christ, the old nature and its patterns of attitude and actions did not all immediately cease to exist. These infant believers needed personal and practical help as they learned to walk in a new direction.

This need for help became evident when I was meeting weekly with Jerry, a new believer with a large his, hers, and theirs family. I had the thrill of baptizing seven members of his family in our swimming pool. This group included three generations all living under one roof. One evening when I was going through a study with Jerry he informed me about an upcoming court date. Before he had received Christ, he had gone through a time of separation from his present wife. During this time she had received some financial assistance from the government that was not due her. Jerry knew that he would have to face the Judge and would be required to pay back a large amount of money.

Jerry confessed that he was not going to keep the court date. He said, "If I show up in court the Judge is going to make me pay three or four hundred dollars a month. I have seven people to support. I just can't do it."

You can probably guess what my counsel was to Jerry. "Jerry," I said, "What is the right thing to do? What would God want you to do?" "I guess He would want me to go and face the music," Jerry replied." I continued, "Jerry, we must always obey God, no matter what the consequences. God knows your situation. Trust Him. He will always be faithful to meet your needs."

Jerry did indeed keep his court date. The next week when we got together he told me the story. "Wayne." he said, "you won't believe what happened. I told the Judge my story and waited for the hammer to fall. But instead the Judge said, "Jerry, it looks to me like you are really trying to change your life. Would you be able to make a \$25.00 a month payment to repay the money you owe?" Jerry could not believe what had just happened. He said, "You know this just never happens. You were right. If we obey, God is faithful to meet our needs."

What would have happened if there had not been someone there to mentor Jerry and give Him godly counsel? What would have occurred if he was left on his own to take those first steps? It is obvious he

would have taken the wrong step. He would have defaulted to his old way of making decisions. It was only through building a personal, trusting relationship with Jerry that this ever would have come up. I was able to give him practical guidance because of the time we spent together each week. That is what becoming a New Believer Mentor is all about.

Since Jerry was showing himself to be faithful, available and teachable I kept meeting with him weekly. He was soon bringing his friends to our weekly small group Bible study. One evening one of his friends received Christ and was baptized in our pool. I handed Jerry a *Survival Kit* book and gave him the task of immediate follow up with his friend. I believe there are some situations that even new believers can be involved in the beginning stage of disciple making.

There are a lot of Jerrys out there who desperately need someone to come alongside of them and mentor them in their first steps of The Discipleship Journey. Many of you taking this course have already gone through *Spiritual Boot Camp* and have been mentored so I know I don't have to convince you of the importance of "The Introduction Stage." You have personally experienced the benefits and it is now time to reproduce by investing in others as others have invested in you. This is true disciple making.

You will have the awesome responsibility and privilege of mentoring new believers though the nine weeks of *Spiritual Boot Camp* and hopefully beyond. You will take a journey to some very exciting places with these new believers. Not all new believers will take advantage of these spiritual growth opportunities but some will. We are always looking for the faithful "few" who will produce fruit for the kingdom of God. Out of this "developmental league" you will discover a few faithful, available and teachable people who have the potential to be reproducers and can "call" them to join you in the second stage of The Disciple's Journey.

LAUNCHING THE NEW BELIEVER MENTOR MINISTRY

People who have completed The Disciple's Journey and have been commissioned are fully trained New Believer Mentors. Their first task is to start a *Spiritual Boot Camp* group and begin the process of reproduction.

There is another option for launching a New Believer Mentor ministry for those who are new to The Disciple's Journey. You could find a group of mature believers and go through this chapter and the *Spiritual Boot Camp* study together. This would enable you to train a core group of people who could then start mentoring new believers by taking them through *Spiritual Boot Camp*. These leaders could be looking for faithful available people who they could "call" and "choose" to take through the others stages of disciple making.

I believe it is best to have at least one group with an open policy so that new believers can be added at any time. This is possible because each week focuses on a different topic that stands on its own. While it is preferable that people start at the beginning, it is more important that they are connected immediately to one of these groups. You will need to meet with any new members individually before the first session they will attend so that you can give them a copy of *Spiritual Boot Camp* and show them how to prepare for group sessions.

LEADER'S GUIDE FOR "THE INVITATION STAGE": SPIRITUAL BOOT CAMP

THE INTRODUCTION SESSION

It is always best to meet with a person or persons first to explain what is involved in becoming part of a *Spiritual Boot Camp* group. Personally invite a new believer or believers to this informational meeting. I always prefer to have people come to my house but I have also led groups at the church.

I suggest you get started by introducing yourself to the person or the group and telling a little bit about your spiritual journey. After this you can have people introduce themselves and answer some of the following icebreaker questions:

- *Where were you born and raised?*
- *What was your first family car that you can remember?*
- *What toy or memento do you still have from your childhood?*
- *When and how did you receive Christ?*
- *What would you like to receive from this course?*

GIVE OUT BOOKS

I would suggest getting together with your group or the person you are mentoring to hand out the materials a week before you start the study of *Spiritual Boot Camp*. Give a brief overview of the important points that you will find in the "Introduction" of the book before handing it out. Next distribute the manuals and have people turn to the "Prepare to Launch" section. Explain the general assignments and then go over the assignment for week one. In this way everyone will have a clear understanding of the course and assignments. This is also an excellent time to spend some time getting acquainted.

ASSIGNMENTS

This course is basic but challenging. Jesus never made it easy for His disciples to follow Him. Their first steps were challenging ones. We don't want to overwhelm new believers but we do want them to get off to a good start with challenging assignments that require thought and discipline. Therefore, this course consists of five days to complete the study and prepare for the group or mentoring sessions. Tell people from the beginning that they will need to set aside approximately thirty minutes a day, five days a week to complete the study. There are writing and memory projects. It is very important that participants complete all assignments.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Each day's lesson includes several writing assignments. People are asked to respond to the material and apply it to their lives. While these writing assignments may vary, there are two basic kinds.

- **Reflect and Respond**

People will be asked to think and respond in writing to certain key sections of each day's lesson. These reflect and respond questions will comprise the core of your group or individual discussions. It is at this point that you will find out if people understand the material and what their issues are.

- **Study and Apply the Word**

Included in most sessions there is a “Study and Apply the Word” assignment. People are asked to study a verse or passage of Scripture, answer certain questions and apply the Word to their lives.

- **Other writing assignments**

There are some other important writing assignments that do not fit under the above two categories. Some of these assignments will also work well for group discussion.

MEMORY WORK ASSIGNMENTS

- **Scripture Memory**

There are key verses of Scripture people will memorize and review during this course. Stress from the very beginning how important the memorizing of Scripture is to spiritual growth. Be sure you also have memorized these Scriptures.

- **Other memory work**

In addition to Scripture memory there is another memory project for each week. This memory project will help new believers remember the core content for the week. This will provide them with a tool that they can refer to for the rest of their lives. These memory projects will give them a solid foundation on which to build their lives.

- **Daily review**

At the end of each day there is a place where people are to memorize current assignments and are encouraged to review past assignments.

LEADING YOUR SMALL GROUP

I suggest that you use the following format for your group sessions. Remember that this is only a suggestion and feel free to organize your sessions in any way that fits your personality and your group. Prepare an outline for your group sessions using the following four areas:

Share and prayer

The share and prayer part of your group session is very important in building a spirit of trust, caring and accountability. You want new believers to learn how to become “part of one another”. This will give them a start.

- **Tears and cheers**

“Tears” represents the burdens, disappointments and other issues new believers are facing. This will enable you to work through issues with them and also give them the support of the group as they receive encouragement and prayer

“Cheers” means the blessings, joys and spiritual progress for which they are thankful. Verbalizing these blessings will strengthen new believers and encourage others.

- **Prayer**

Have a time of prayer. Remember that these are baby Christians and probably do not have much experience praying out loud. This can be very intimidating so don't call on people to pray or go around the circle expecting each person to pray. You can ask for prayer requests from people and pray for them yourself. You can also give people who want to pray out loud that opportunity. Ask for volunteers. Tell them they can just pray sentence prayers if they wish. Your group will grow in this area as they become more comfortable with one another and practice praying out loud.

Review memory assignments

People generally have a lot of stress when it comes to saying their verses and other memory work out loud in front of a group. It is, however, a very effective way of helping people memorize the Word and overcome fear. This is also the only way you will really know if they are completing their memory assignments. Encourage people to keep trying if they are having difficulty with the memory work. Tell them you are looking for progress not perfection. Just remember that you have to accept the fact that some people will not do the assignments.

Individual or group discussion

The majority of your time should be spent in discussion. I suggest having an hour and a half sessions. Of that time devote an hour to group discussion. It is very important to hear what people have written in their responses to the material. Discussion should come from people as they share what they have written in the **Reflect and Respond** and **Study and Apply the Word** sections. You will not be able to have everyone comment on all of each day's questions. That would take all night. As you review each day's discussions sections, use a highlighter to indicate the ones that you think will be **most helpful** to discuss in group sessions.

From peoples' responses and discussion will come other questions and issues that you might need to clarify. Do be careful not to spend too much time on issues not related to the week's material. It is easy to get sidetracked with new believers because they have so many questions. Just try to maintain a balance of answering questions and still covering the material.

GROUP SESSION OUTLINE

To prepare for your group sessions I suggest a simple outline with the following things to cover during group time.

1. Share and Prayer

Use the first fifteen minutes as a bonding time to give people an opportunity to express joys, burdens, and prayer requests. Spend some time thinking about how you want to handle prayer time each week.

2. Memory assignments

Prepare to review all memory assignments for the week and review previous weeks' memory assignments. You might want to put people in pairs to review their memory assignments. This may be less intimidating than reviewing in front of the entire group.

3. Group discussion

Review each day's lesson and choose **some** of the writing assignments to discuss. List the page numbers they are on so your group can find them quickly. Mark them in your *Spiritual Boot Camp* book.

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

INDIVIDUAL HELP

People often have individual issues that are too complicated or personal to handle in the group setting. When you see that people have doctrinal, family or personal issues that need further attention, set a time to get together outside of group time. This can be a great opportunity to develop a close relationship with people and help them see how God and His Word have the answer for all of their issues in life.

There are a couple of sessions that are quite extensive in content and level of difficulty. Week 3, "The Twelve Eras of the Bible" is very content-intense. Be sure to tell people that they are not expected to remember all the material but this is just a start. They can review it later and use it as a resource when they study Scripture. Some probably will need some help completing the TIMELINE. Take some group time to help with this project.

Days 2-4 of week 4 are designed to help new believers learn Bible study tools for understanding Scripture and applying it to their lives. I always start this group session by handing out Study Bibles to everyone and showing them how to use them. I purchased a case of paperback Study Bibles and use them each time I teach *Spiritual Boot Camp*. I collect them at the end of the session and explain that those who complete all of the assignments will receive a Study Bible as a gift at the end of the course.

You might want to use two weeks instead of one for this session. I find it helpful to help them complete their “Study and Apply the Word” assignment during the group session using the tools of observation, interpretation and application. You can have the group work on it together.



STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SESSION 4

Answer the following questions about what you have read.

1. Give your thoughts on the importance of making new-believer follow up a priority in your church. Is it currently a part of your church's DNA?
 2. Define a "spiritual gym rat." Do you qualify? Explain.
 3. Review the 7 principles of new believer follow up. Which principle impacts you the most? Why?
 4. Comment on the church's MIA's. What do you see as some solutions that you or your church can take to reverse this trend?
 5. What kinds of thoughts and feelings do you have when you think about becoming a new believer mentor?
 6. What is the most important insight you take away from this session?
- Review the accountability questions and be prepared to share with the group.



MEMORY AND MEDITATION PROJECT

Read *John 1:35-39* and memorize verses 38-39. Answer the questions that follow: Write the Scripture on the front side of your index card for this session. Write notes you want to remember from this session on the reverse side.

John 1:38-39

³⁸ *Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"*³⁹ *"Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.*

- What had John the Baptist seen and heard that caused him to call Jesus "*the Lamb of God*"? (Read *John 1:19-34*)
- What in this passage indicates that Andrew and Simon were "spiritual gym rats"?
- What was John's disciples' purpose in asking Jesus where He was staying?
- Reflect for a few moments on this first meeting. What do you think Jesus and John's two disciples might have talked about? What questions might the disciples have asked? What would Jesus have emphasized?
- What vision of the future did Jesus cast for Peter? What is the importance of giving new believers a vision of who they can be in Christ?



SEARCH THE WORD STUDY GUIDE

Using the tools of observation, interpretation, and application search *John 1:35-51* and write what you discover in the space that is provided. (To review the three principles of Bible study see pages 85-92 in *Spiritual Boot Camp*).

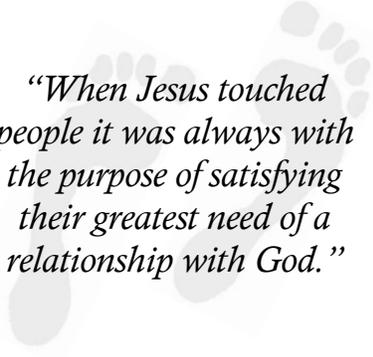
OBSERVATION: What does it say?

INTERPRETATION: What does it mean? (Consult your Study Bible to read the background of the book.)

APPLICATION: What does it say to me?

SESSION 5

THE CALLING STAGE



“When Jesus touched people it was always with the purpose of satisfying their greatest need of a relationship with God.”

Those people who have faithfully completed *Spiritual Boot Camp* will be excellent candidates to move on to the “The Calling Stage” of The Disciple’s Journey. By the completion of the first nine weeks together you should be able to get a sense of what is next for the person or persons you are mentoring. Some will be ready for more advanced training and some will need to be connected to a small group where they can continue to grow but with less demanding expectations. This stage is for those who are spiritual children or who with further nurture are ready to become spiritual children.

During the first stage of The Disciple’s Journey you should give people an overview of the entire journey. It is important to challenge them to continue growing and eventually become producers and reproducers. Just remember that we will always be working with “the few.” But fear not, for it has always been with “the few” that Jesus has built His Church. It is with a few faithful servants that Jesus does mighty things. I want us to see how we can help “the few” continue the journey. We will see how Jesus moved His disciples through the “The Calling Stage.”

In this second stage of disciple making Jesus called some of the disciples who were His occasional followers, to be His permanent companions. Jesus called the “Fab Five” and a few others so He could train them to become fishers of men. This training began immediately as they followed Him on His first Galilean tour starting in the summer of AD 27.

The “Fab Five” were mentioned in the first three gospels: Simon and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John. These are the only disciples that are specifically named at this time. Matthew is called at a later time rounding out this group (*Matthew 9:9*).

Mark 1:17

¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

FIVE FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS

The title of this final book in The Disciple’s Journey is *Footprints-Following Jesus Leading Others* it captures the essence of disciple making. Becoming a disciple is faithfully following in the footprints of Jesus. Making disciples is equipping people to faithfully follow Jesus. I mentioned these five footprints of Jesus in *7 Great Doctrines of the Bible*. We will review them briefly so you can evaluate how closely you have learned to follow these footprints

Mark, more than any other gospel, speaks of what Jesus did as a servant. It records how He healed the sick, drove out demons, trained the disciples, pardoned people, freed people from bondage, and taught and proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom. In the first chapter Mark shows Jesus selecting the “Fab Five”

and teaching them to become the first fishers of men." Jesus wanted these men to follow in His footprints of practical service. He wanted them to become true servants-- doers, not merely hearers of the Word.

"The Calling Stage" is a time to focus on walking in the footprints of Jesus as servants. There are spiritual skills that we need to learn.

1. The footprint of evangelism

Mark 1:14

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

The priority of the footprint of evangelism is immediately apparent. Mark records Jesus' first action as proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom. Next He called four of the "Fab Five" to become "fishers of men." Jesus came to show the love of God and explain how people could be reconciled to Him. Jesus made it clear that it was His highest ministry priority and that it is to be ours as well. He said,

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

I have mentioned how Dawson Trotman and the Navigators have influenced disciple making. In one of the last training sessions he gave to his staff before his death Daws gave the following message titled "The Need of the Hour." What follows are some of the key statements from this classic message that illustrate the importance of following in the footprint of evangelism.

"All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore..." This is not only a privilege: it's an order. *"Go ye into all the world."* God doesn't want you to take an island. He wants you to take the world.

Jesus said, *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* No man ever followed Jesus who didn't become a fisher of men. If you aren't fishing, you aren't following.

You have to start with a few. You have to win one before you can win five, and five before you can win five hundred. But the world is before you. How big is your faith?

The need of the hour is men who want what Jesus Christ wants and who believe He wants to give them power to do what He has asked. Nothing in the world can stop these men.

Do you want to be one of them? You may, but you will have to ask, *"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."* That's the way He has promised it will be. So when you call, ask Big.

- **Learning to become "fishers of men."**

So there it is. If we aren't fishing then we aren't following. Disciple making must include evangelism. That is why reviewing "The Bridge Illustration" learned in *Spiritual Boot Camp* is a vital part of "The Calling Stage." In addition to learning basic doctrine these skills are to be reviewed and practiced throughout the nine weeks. They are to be further reviewed and used for all the remaining weeks of "The Disciple's Journey."

Becoming “fishers of men” is a spiritual skill that is learned through study and practice. The disciples learned how to fish from the Master Fisherman. If you have ever attempted to fly fish you know there is a steep learning curve in learning this skill. Years ago I was an avid fly fisherman. Often I would drive two hours over the Snoqualmie Pass to fly fish on the rivers and streams of Eastern Washington. Sometimes I would leave at four AM and not get back until eight or nine o’clock at night, much to the chagrin of my young bride. I would return with my measly catch of small trout determined to catch the big ones next time. My wife claims that the next time never came; however I distinctly remember bringing home some big ones.

All this time, energy, focus and expense was for the thrill of landing a small trout and dreaming about landing the big one. I’m sure you suspect where I am going with this. Becoming “fishers of men” takes that same level of passion and investment of time, study and practice.

Jesus called His disciples to a lifetime of fishing for the souls of men. They became skilled fishermen as they learned to have a passion for the lost and the skills of boldly and clearly presenting the Gospel. The 1st century church was built on a commitment to evangelism no matter what the cost. The Apostles were called before the Sanhedrin and questioned by the High Priest as to why they were still teaching in the name of Jesus. They had been told to stop or else. Here is how they responded:

Acts 5:29

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!”

What happens next shows the Apostles’ commitment to their calling to be “fishers of men.”

Acts 5:41-42

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

➤ **Answer the following questions about the footprint of evangelism in your life.**

Am I faithfully following in the footprint of evangelism? Do I pray daily for the lost? Am I prepared to answer questions about the hope that I have? Do I look for opportunities to share the Gospel? Am I competent in presenting My Life Story, and the Bridge illustration?

2. The footprint of disciple making

Mark 1:17-18

*¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ **At once they left their nets and followed him** (Bold added).*

Jesus’ second highest ministry priority was the training of the twelve. He said, “Come, follow me” and they “followed Him.” They followed so they could become fully devoted followers of Jesus and develop other fully devoted followers of Jesus. Jesus put the responsibility for spreading the gospel and training others to be reproducing disciples in the first disciples’ hands. They would hand the baton to others so that the entire world could hear the gospel (*Matthew 28:18-20*). For this to happen Jesus would need to be with them continually.

It is at “The Calling Stage” that the more intentional disciple making process begins. Based on the solid foundation started in *Spiritual Book Camp* people are called to continue following in the footprints of Jesus and leading others on that same journey.

➤ **Answer the following questions about the footprint of disciple making in your life.**

Can I say I am a fully devoted follower of Jesus walking in His footprints? Am I fully committed to making disciples for the rest of my life? Do I conscientiously fulfill all of my Disciple’s Journey assignments?

3. The footprint of the Word

The third priority of Jesus was to spend His time teaching people how to trust, love and obey God and train His disciples to do the same. Mark reports,

Mark 1:21

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.

Soon after He called His disciples Jesus began His ministry of teaching. The teaching focused primarily on how people could know God, experience His love, love Him with all their hearts, and allow His love to flow through them to others. He taught the importance of knowing and obeying the Word of God. He taught that His truth would set men free.

John 8:31-32

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

During “The Calling Stage” the disciples also began to learn sound doctrine. As they followed Jesus an essential part of learning to be “fishers of men” was to know and do the Word of God. It was the truth that would make men free. If people don’t know sound doctrine they will not know how to obey the Word of God. It is during “The Calling Stage” that people on The Disciple’s Journey will focus on learning to follow in the footprint of sound doctrine of the Word.

- **Grace and truth**

Jesus **was** the Word and **taught** the Word. He was grace and truth. Grace can be seen in the way He touched people at their point of need. Truth was what He said about Himself, His Father, and His children.

John 1:14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **Obey and teach**

The footprint of the Word always includes knowing and doing the Word of God and then teaching others. Jesus modeled this by obeying His Father (*John 15:10*). Jesus prayed for His disciples,

John 17:6-8

⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

Jesus' disciples followed in the footprint of His Word until they were fully taught. When Jesus commissioned them to make disciples of all the nations He told them to "...teach them everything I have commanded you..." This task was handed on to us as we continue to follow in the footprint of the Word. This priority continued to be a priority of the 1st Century Church. Deacons were appointed so elders could focus on the Word and prayer:

Acts 6:4, 7

⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word... ⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

- **Answer the following questions about the footprint of the Word in your life.**

Are you fully devoted to the Word of God? Have you learned to accept God's Word as your sole and absolute authority and do you obey Him in all things? Are you diligent in your study and memorization of the Word of God? Are you doing "...your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth?"

(2 Timothy 2:15)

4. The footprint of serving

Mark 1:41-42 (NIV)

⁴¹ Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

You don't have to read far in the book of Mark to discover Jesus' footprint of serving as a humble servant. The first chapter of Mark gives several examples of this priority of Jesus. The distinguishing mark of this footprint is compassion. When Jesus saw a man with leprosy He was "filled" with compassion and "touched" someone whom the culture considered untouchable. This was typical of Jesus' ministry. His footprints invariably led to the outcasts of society—those who were oppressed and truly needy.

When we follow in His footsteps we can see the imprint of service in everything He did. In just the first chapter of the book of Mark we see Jesus serving with compassion in a variety of ways. He cast out a demon from a man possessed by an evil spirit (*Mark 1:24-28*). Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law and many others with various diseases. He drove out many more demons (*Mark 1:29-34*). The chapter ends with Jesus healing the man with leprosy. (*Mark 1:43-45*)

The footprints of Jesus led Him to touch people at the point of their needs. He brought physical, emotional and spiritual healing to people. When Jesus touched people it was always with the purpose of satisfying their greatest need of a relationship with God. One day when Jesus was observing the lost and hopeless condition of people He was touched deeply. Matthew says,

Matthew 9:35-37 (NIV)

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."

Jesus served people as He proclaimed the Gospel to them. Meeting their needs opened the door of their hearts so they were receptive to the Gospel. The meeting of physical needs and spiritual needs were essential parts of the footprint of service. Jesus knew that people would not care about what He had to say until they knew how much He cared for them personally. He loved people into the Kingdom. We are to do the same. Evangelism and serving go together. In "The Calling Stage" you will do both personally and as a group. A focus will be looking for practical ways of serving the needs of others and asking God to open doors for sharing the Gospel.

➤ **Answer the following questions about the footprint of serving in your life.**

Are you committed to serving others in practical ways as a way of demonstrating God's love? Do you regularly look for ways to serve others? Can you say you show compassion for the needs of the "outcasts" and otherwise needy people of our community? Do you express your love "...with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:16-18)?

5. The footprint of prayer

Mark 1:35-36

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him,

The four previous footprints have been what Jesus did when He was on the road. These are ministry footprints. But there was a footprint of Jesus that was even more important than fishing for men. An even higher priority than proclaiming the good news and healing was Jesus' priority of time with His heavenly Father. Jesus allowed nothing to stand in the way of His time with His Father. When Jesus went missing the disciples would invariably find Jesus in prayer. They learned that everything Jesus said and did flowed out of this Father-Son relationship. Jesus said,

John 14:31

³¹ but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave."

Jesus never hesitated to retreat to solitary places. These were special places where Jesus could escape the pressures of people and retreat to a quiet place where He could be alone with His Father. Jesus started His ministry in a solitary place in the desert for forty days and returned to these places often. It was here that Jesus did His greatest work. His fellowship with His Father was His greatest work. It was the ministry of prayer. It was communication with His Father. The Father spoke to the Son and the Son listened. The Son spoke to the Father and the Father listened. If we could have observed the conversation we would have seen true intimacy.

The other footprints were a result of what happened in solitary places. They were a result of prayer. Proclaiming the good news, healing and driving out demons were what the Father did through His Son.

Jesus' task was to stay in perfect harmony with His Father. Ministry was the natural fruit of Jesus being in perfect unity with the Father and the Father's power flowing through Him.

And so it must be with us. We must never get so busy doing the good things of ministry that we neglect the solitary places of extended, unhurried time in the Word and prayer. It is at these times that the Lord opens up new horizons of spiritual insight. It is during these times that God prepares us for new and greater ministries. It is at these solitary places that God prepares us for testing. Battles are first won here, not just on the road. What happens on the road is a result of what happens in solitary places.

➤ **Answer the following questions about the footprint of solitary places in your life.**

How would you rate your solitary places in your life on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being perfect? Can you say that you regularly retreat to solitary places for extended time in the Word and prayer? What indicates that prayer is a priority in your life? What will you do to improve this area of your life?

THE PROCESS OF DISCIPLE MAKING

Following is the definition of a disciple that we use in The Disciple's Journey. I want us to look carefully at the 6 components of this definition.

Disciple making is the process of becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus as we follow in the footprints of Jesus and intentionally develop a few other fully devoted reproducers who will glorify God in all they say and do.

1. The Process

Learning to follow in the footprints of Jesus on this incredible journey is a process. We begin like a child learning to take our first steps in "The Introduction Stage." Once we have learned to walk we move on to the next stages as we continue the process. In "The Calling Stage" the disciples continued to learn to walk in the footprints of Jesus. They had not yet been "chosen" to be the select twelve. Jesus wanted to give those He called a chance to follow in His footsteps and observe Him as He taught and touched people with His power and compassion. Jesus also wanted to observe these men and others and choose the most committed out of the hundreds that followed Him to be His closest companions. He would choose twelve men through whom He would change the world.

As the disciples' training progressed we can see Jesus focusing on different areas as He shaped their characters and sharpened their skills.

- At "The Invitation Stage" we see **foundation building**. Jesus wanted to make sure that the disciples had a solid foundation in the basics of the faith. It was essential that their foundation be built on the Word of God (*Matt. 7:24-27*). Jesus brought His disciples along slowly as they accompanied Him on the journey.
- At "The Calling Stage" we see **skill building**. Jesus called the "Fab Five" to become fishers of men. They learned how to do outreach with Jesus as they continued to deepen their foundation in the Word. During this stage they learned the skills that accompanied walking in the five footprints of Jesus.
- At "The Choosing Stage" we see **character building**. After Jesus chose the twelve He gave them the longest teaching session recorded in the Gospels. Matthew chapters 5-7 are all about character.

Jesus raised the bar on what it meant to be a follower of Him. They learned that it was out of the heart that character flowed (*Luke 6:43-45*).

- At “The Sending Stage” we see **love and faith building**. There can be no doubt that the mark of a disciple is love. In chapters 13-17 in John we see Jesus washing the disciple’s feet to show them the full extent of His love. He gives a new commandment which is to love one another as He has loved them. It is by their love for one another than all men will know that they are His disciples. He tells the disciples in chapter 15 that they are to lay down their lives for their brothers. But it is only after His death that they will finally realize just how much Jesus loves them and how they are to love others (*1 John 3: 16-18*). Jesus also continues to put them in situations where they can learn to trust Him as He sends them out on short term missions, walks on water and feeds the hungry (*Luke 9:1-6; Matt. 14:22-23; Mark 8:-19*).
- At “The Commissioning Stage” we see **kingdom building**. The disciples are given the keys to the kingdom of God. They are to make disciples of all the nations. They will do this through the power of the Holy Spirit that will come on them on the day of Pentecost. On the Day of Pentecost Peter preaches the first message on how to become part of the kingdom of God and the Church is launched. (*Matt. 16:19; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1, 2*).

2. Fully devoted

It is obvious when we read the Gospels and see how Jesus interacts with His disciples that He did not call them for a casual relationship. He did not choose them to simply hang out with Him and observe His miraculous signs and wonders. However, Jesus did not ask those who wanted to be His disciples for a full commitment immediately. While Jesus set a high standard from the beginning, His challenge to become fully devoted was elevated over a period of three years. It was as the disciples progressed through the stages of discipleship that He continually raised the bar of commitment.

It was not until “The Sending Stage” that Jesus challenged His disciples with the full cost of discipleship. He told them clearly what the price would be to become fully devoted followers of Him. He challenged them to leave all behind and become fully devoted to Him and the work of the heavenly Father. This was very clear when Jesus said,

Luke 9:23

²³ *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”*

Luke 14:33

³³ *“In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”*

3. Follow in the footprints of Jesus

The footprints represent the character and ministry of Jesus. Fully devoted means fully committed to following Jesus in all things. The Apostle John said, “Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did” (*1 John 2:6*). When we learn to walk in the five footprints of Jesus we will reflect His character and do His work. Spiritual maturity develops when a disciple “...attains to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (*Ephesians 4:13*).

4. **Intentionally develop**

Discipleship is intentional. It was not just something Jesus decided to try. It was not just a good idea to be tested. From the onset Jesus intentionally launched a specific process to develop disciples who would develop other disciples. Jesus intentionally instituted the disciple making process. He intentionally called the "Starting Five" to follow Him. He intentionally called the "Fab Five" to follow Him and become fishers of men. He intentionally chose the "Dirty Dozen" to be with Him. He intentionally sent out the twelve and the 72. He intentionally commissioned the twelve to make disciples of all nations. He has intentionally called all of us to continue the disciple making process.

5. **A few**

Jesus did not try to recruit a large number of disciples who were to become reproducers. He concentrated on only a few who He knew could become leaders. The reproducing level of discipleship is very selective. It is not for everyone but only for those who are willing to pay the price to be trained and then reproduce themselves in others.

Jesus concentrated on a few faithful men to launch the discipleship process. In stage 1 there were the "Starting Five." Later, in stage 2 Jesus calls the "Fab Five." In the third stage He chooses the "Dirty Dozen", and then in the fourth stage sends out those twelve plus the 72 "band of brothers." In the fifth stage Jesus commissions the "12", the "72" and "all the others." That includes all people who are willing to become fully devoted followers. The Church started on the Day of Pentecost with 120 faithful men and women who must have been disciples of Jesus. God used the few, endowed with the power of the Holy Spirit to revolutionize the world. The millions of believers since then are a direct result of Jesus' plan for discipleship.

6. **Reproducers**

A primary goal of discipleship is to develop men and women who walk in the footprints of Jesus, reflect his character, do His will, and reproduce others. We know that this process that Jesus started with His disciples continued in the early Church. Paul told Timothy to carefully choose people who would pass on the baton he had received.

7. **Glorify God**

The final element in the process of discipleship is that the ultimate purpose is to glorify God. We are not just developing people so that they will be good people and do good deeds. The purpose of discipleship is to develop people who will glorify God through their character and service. Jesus told His disciples that He would empower them to do even greater things than He had done on earth. He would do this, Jesus said, so that He could bring glory to His Father.

John 14:12-14

¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

LEADER GUIDE FOR “THE CALLING STAGE”: 7 GREAT DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

“The Calling Stage” is different than “The Invitation Stage” in several ways. First people must have faithfully completed all assignments and been faithful to group sessions during *Spiritual Boot Camp*. This means that before “calling” people to this stage you need to have evidence that they can recall all memory projects from *Spiritual Boot Camp*. You “call” those whom you are convinced have shown the potential to become reproducers. Of course it is not all about memory work and completing assignments. It is about being fully devoted followers of Jesus. It is about faithfully walking in the five footprints of Jesus.

During this stage the bar is raised to a significant new level. In *Spiritual Boot Camp* participants are encouraged but not required to complete all the assignments. At “The Calling Stage” people sign a covenant committing to faithfully attend all sessions and complete all assignments. The degree of difficulty is greater than in the first stage. People will memorize slightly over two verses a week and a “Doctrinal Covenant” for each of the 7 *great Doctrines of the Bible*. The time required to complete assignments will be approximately 40 minutes a day, five days a week. In addition there will be times each month to “walk the talk” by doing service and outreach together. There will be a strong emphasis on becoming skilled “fishers of men.”

CALLING “FAT” DISCIPLES

Because the bar of disciple making has been raised it is important to only call people who are “FAT” to this stage “FAT” is an acronym first used by the Navigators to help identify people who were potential disciple makers.

Faithful

Call people who you already have seen are faithful to the Lord, responsibilities they have already been given, and who have faithfully completed *Spiritual Boot Camp*. The best indication of future behavior is present behavior.

Available

There are faithful people who for a variety of reasons are not available or not willing to set aside the time necessary to join or continue on The Disciple’s Journey. Make sure that you meet with people and go over the time commitments required for group time and assignments. Have them count the cost before commitment to this stage of the journey. Remember that availability is more than carving out time for group time and assignments. It is primarily about having a deep hunger for God and a thirst for His Word.

Teachable

There is a teachable spirit a person must have to join the journey. There are some who seem eager to join but then resist doing the assignments as required or balk at the conditions or the covenant and accountability. The people you have mentored in *Spiritual Boot Camp* will have already given you a strong indication of whether or not they are teachable.

ACCOUNTABILITY COVENANT AND QUESTIONS

When you meet with potential disciples make sure you review the weekly assignments with them and show them the *7 Great Doctrines of the Bible Covenant* that they will be asked to sign. Your group will use this covenant weekly to hold one another accountable for the promises they have made.

Following is the accountability covenant for the “The Calling Stage” of The Disciple’s Journey.

I covenant to set aside 30-40 minutes a day five days a week to complete all the assignments each week. I will attend all group sessions except in the case of emergencies or sickness. I agree to be held accountable to the group to love, trust and obey God. I am willing to be open and honest in what I share. I understand that anything said during the accountability time is completely confidential.

Signed _____

Following are the accountability questions.

Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, made the following statement to new recruits each year at their annual conference. This summed up his philosophy of ministry and criteria for success:

“All you have to do from the time you get up in the morning until the time you go to bed a night is love the Lord with all your heart; trust His promises; obey His commands. Everything else flows from that.”

In this statement of faith Bill Bright encouraged new Campus Crusade staff to live by three commitments. These commitments will form the basis for accountability during this stage of discipleship. At the end of each week disciples will find questions to ask themselves. They are asked to be ready to share the following with the group:

Love the Lord with all your heart

- In what ways did I or didn’t I demonstrate my love of God by seeking Him with all my heart?
- In what ways did I or didn’t I allow God’s love to flow through me to others including my spouse, family and others?

Trust God’s promises

- To what degree did I or didn’t I demonstrate complete trust in God’s promises this week?
- What was my greatest test of faith?

Obey God’s commands

- Are there weaknesses or sins I need to confess?
- Did I faithfully complete all assignments this week?
- In what ways did I witness to the lost this week? (Pray, share, serve, encourage)

TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

Remember that this journey is transformational, not just informational. It is about how God is renewing your mind and transforming your life. Following is a structure I use for group study time. I only use this as a suggestion as to how to structure your group. Feel free to adapt the group session to fit your style and the needs of the group.

1. The warm up

I have found that it is good to have a warm up time when the group first gets together. The groups I have led have mostly been in my home so I have coffee and sometimes pastry when people arrive. We spend some informal time just chatting. This lasts about fifteen minutes. I suggest that the entire group session last two hours.

2. Enter God's presence

I know of no better way to start a group session than to enter God's presence with praise and thanksgiving (*Psalm 100*). Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "...Father, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come" (*Luke 11:2*). This cannot be improved on as a way to set the spirit for your times together. Spend some time in praise and thanksgiving. Read a Psalm together. Praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for who They are and what They are doing in your lives. Thank God for His blessings. Then transition into a time of praying for God's Kingdom and His will. Pray for one another. Pray for God to open doors for your group to do Kingdom building for the King.

3. Accountability

This is a very important time. It is not just a check up to see if people have been faithful to complete assignments and other commitments but to openly share your lives with one another. It is a time to honestly talk about what's going on in your life using the accountability questions as a guide. It is a time to share what's happening on your journey. This can be done as a whole group or in twos. If you have a group of men and women I would **always** do the accountability time separately. Men meet with men and women with women.

4. Review memory assignments

- **Review the Key Scriptures of the week.**

Always review the current week's verses. You can do this with the whole group or in twos to save time. Make sure that people are writing them on their 4X6 spiral bound Disciple's Journey cards.

- **Review the Doctrinal Covenant of the week.**

The Doctrinal Covenant will include the basic points of the doctrine that disciples will learn each week. Memorizing this doctrinal covenant along with the key Scripture will help them make the doctrine a vital and permanent part of their lives.

- **Review some previous week Scriptures and Doctrinal Covenants.**

It is important to remind people that they are responsible for reviewing all previous memory work each week. I always review **some** memory work from past weeks just to keep people accountable and sharp.

- **Review “The Bridge Illustration.”**

One of the most important parts of this stage is to become a skilled “fisher of men.” Remind people to keep reviewing “The Bridge Illustration” each week. Encourage them to share this tool whenever God opens the door. Every few weeks take some time in group for people to practice the “Bridge” one on one.

5. **Discuss the session content**

Your group discussion should take about an hour. There is no way to cover all of the content or have people share their answers to all of the assignments. Remember that the weekly assignments are to help people search the Word on their own and learn to feed themselves. Group discussion is a time for everyone to share insights on what the Holy Spirit has shown them. It is a time to encourage one another. It is a time to clarify difficult questions.

To prepare for a group session go through each day’s reading and make a check mark by what you think would be good to discuss. Make sure people have an opportunity to share some of their responses to the written assignments. Those are:

- **Reflect and respond**

“Reflect and respond” assignments give people the opportunity to stop for a moment, reflect on what they have read and write down their responses.

- **Search the Word**

An important part of all The Disciple’s Journey courses is for people to learn Bible study skills so they can interpret and apply Scripture on their own. To help equip them in this area there are “Search the Word” studies included in each of the sessions. These studies will give disciples the opportunity to use the Bible study tools of observation, interpretation and application.

- **DO! “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them...” (1 Timothy 4:16)**

The first two letters of doctrine spell “do.” It is essential to remember that doctrine is not just something we study but is something we do. Every doctrine combines truth with action. At the end of each day’s study there is a “do” section. This will help people apply that day’s study in a practical way. Make sure you have each person give at least one of their “Do” responses during your group session.

6. **Plan Disciple’s Journey “adventures”**

As I stated in Session 2, the Biblical model for disciple making must include an intentional service-outreach element built into it. Jesus trained disciples on the road—as He walked with His disciples He served, proclaimed the Gospel, and taught His disciples and others.

I encourage you to plan as a group specific outreach adventures to do together. This could include prayer walks in your community, service projects in and around your church, short term missions trips, community surveys, working at a food pantry or community supper for the poor, follow up on your church’s first time visitors, visiting a retirement community, a free car wash, etc. I believe each group and each church is better suited to know what outreach activities will best suit the nature of the group and the needs of the community. And remember the 50–50 principle

50% study and prayer in the group

Prepares you for:

50% service and outreach in the field

A final thought on your group sessions. Materials are made for the people not the people for the materials. Take more time if you need it for some sessions. There may be times when something is so important that you spend the entire time in prayer. Other times a topic needs to expand to another week. Peoples' needs are more important than staying on a strict schedule. Just remember that work tends to expand to the time allotted. Be selective when making changes. People often feel like they need more time to grasp the material. Remind them that they will be going through this same material with someone else. When they lead a group they will have the opportunity to review and learn the material in greater depth.

DOCTRINAL CHALLENGE AND COVENANT

A covenant is an agreement between man and God. It is a promise. The Doctrinal Covenant Challenge is a review of the covenants they have made with God to live by the *Seven Great Doctrines of the Bible*. This final session will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to end the course with a very powerful experience.

Read each statement of the covenant out loud together as a group and then encourage people to sign the covenant. Conclude with a prayer time with people consecrating themselves to live by the covenant. Posting this covenant somewhere in the house it can be easily seen would make it even more powerful.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Of course there is much more that could be said about these great doctrines. You will be teaching only some of the main doctrines in this course. You may want to add to my notes with your own study notes. You can add those notes in the space provided for extra notes. Three excellent resources I recommend for further study are *Concise Theology* by J.J. Packer, *All the Doctrines of the Bible* by Herbert Lockyer, and *The Great Doctrines of the Bible* by Williams Evans.



STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SESSION 5

In this session you were asked a series of questions about each of the five foot prints. Review these questions and write your answers in the appropriate spaces.

1. Answer the questions about the footprint of evangelism in your life. (pg. 65) What do you think about what Dawson Trotman has to say in his article, "The Need of the Hour?"
 2. Answer the questions about the footprint of disciple making in your life. (pg.66)
 3. Answer the questions about the footprint of the Word in your life. (pg.67)
 4. Answer the questions about the footprint of serving in your life. (pg. 68)
 5. Answer the questions about the footprint of prayer in your life. (pg.69)
 6. Review the 6 components of the definition of a disciple. How do you measure up to the definition at this stage of your journey? Be specific.
 7. Reflect on the "FAT" acronym. How can this tool help you "call" people to the second stage of The Disciple's Journey?
- Review the accountability questions and be prepared to share with the group.



MEMORY AND MEDITATION PROJECT

Read *Mark 1:14-20*. Memorize and meditate on verses 17-18 and answer the questions that follow. Write the Scripture on the front side of your index card for this session. Write notes you want to remember from this session on the reverse side.

Mark 1:17-18

¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

- What was Jesus doing when he stopped to call these first disciples? What does that say about the priorities of Jesus?
- What previous contact had Jesus had with Simon and Andrew? What would have led Jesus to call these two men?
- What was a common denominator in how these men responded to Jesus' call? What does that say to us when we "call" our disciples?
- What did Jesus call these men to do? What specific skill was Jesus going to teach them? Why do you believe this was the first thing in their training?
- What does this passage say to you about involvement in disciple making?



SEARCH THE WORD STUDY GUIDE

Using the tools of observation, interpretation, and application search *John 14:12-14* and write what you discover in the space that is provided.

OBSERVATION: What does it say?

INTERPRETATION: What does it mean? (Consult your Study Bible to read the background of the book.)

APPLICATION: What does it say to me?

SESSION 6

THE CHOOSING STAGE

“The twelve disciples were mainly just unschooled, ordinary men with a capacity for extraordinary faithfulness. The training was to develop their bent toward a passion for God and faithfulness into full maturity.”

“The Choosing Stage” and “The Sending Stage” are closely connected. In Matthew’s account the two stages are merged together (*Matt. 10:1-16*). Jesus chose two groups of disciples so He could concentrate on training a smaller number and send them out to practice what they had been taught.

THE CHOOSING STAGE (*Luke 6:12-13; Mark 3:14-15*)

The larger group of disciples followed Jesus from the summer of AD 27 until the winter of AD 28. During over a year of being with Jesus on His second Galilean tour they had learned much and were now ready for more intensive training to prepare them to be sent out on their own.

In this stage Jesus makes the final cut and chooses from among His followers twelve men who He designated apostles. He then put His focus on training the twelve while including other disciples and teaching the crowds. The following is how Jesus chose the twelve disciples who made the cut.

Luke 6:12-16

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ¹⁴ Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

The disciples were to be with Jesus so He could prepare to send them to do three basic tasks during the next stage; preach, drive out demons, and heal the sick (*Luke 9:1-4*). Mark says:

Mark 3:14-15

¹⁴ He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.

It is obvious from this passage that not all of those who followed Jesus made the cut of the final twelve. Only those who proved to be faithful at the first two stages were included in the “The Dirty Dozen” and the 72 others who made up the “Band of Brothers” (*Luke 10:1*). Jesus’ principle of discipleship was very clear; the smaller the group, the more concentrated the training and the greater the potential for effective reproduction. Jesus invested His life in a few so the many could be saved. Robert E. Coleman in his book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism* says,

Hence, as the company of followers around Jesus increased, it became necessary by the middle of His second year of ministry to narrow the select company to a more manageable number. Accordingly, Jesus "Called his disciples, and he chose from them twelve, whom also He named apostles" (Luke 6:13-17; cf., Mark 3:13-19).

As we observe how Jesus trained the twelve disciples during "The Choosing Stage" we see some specific changes. During this time the bar was raised once again. Jesus required greater commitment, greater intimacy, greater character and greater competency.

GREATER COMMITMENT: FROM "FAT" TO "FATTER"

Those who faithfully complete the first two stages of The Disciple's Journey become candidates for "The Choosing Stage." By now you should have a good idea of those who are willing to pay the price to become fully devoted, reproducing followers of Jesus. Because you will be spending the next 33 weeks with these people it is essential to choose carefully. You should already know who has been "FAT" and now it is time to choose those who are "FATTER." Three more qualifications for you to consider are added for this important choice. I will expand on the first three qualifications first and then explain the second three. It is at this stage that Jesus required the greatest level of commitment in order to be chosen for His select group of twelve disciples. Look for those who are spiritual young adults and are ready to become spiritual adults.

- **Faithful**

We must first look at the heart of a person and see if they are faithful. There are always indications of faithfulness that can be observed. Is the person faithful to the worship services of the church? Is the person faithful in using whatever spiritual gifts God has given them? Are they conscientious in responsibilities that they already have? Are they taking advantage of spiritual growth opportunities already offered? As far as you can observe do they demonstrate a godly character?

It is not only mature Christian who demonstrate faithfulness. We need to observe new believers and spiritual children who demonstrate a high level of faithfulness. As you are taking people through the first two stages you can observe how faithful they are in attending the sessions and completing their assignments. Observe how faithful they are to any other responsibilities they might have.

We should look for direction rather than perfection. Jesus' disciples certainly were not perfectly faithful. They were imperfect men who had the hearts to be faithful. Look at where the person seems to be headed? Ask yourself, "Does this person demonstrate an overall bent toward faithfulness?" I repeat again a common sense rule that I adhere to when choosing someone to be a disciple. Present behavior is the best indicator of future behavior. If they are not presently being faithful it is doubtful that they will be faithful in the future.

When we look for men and women with potential we need to be careful to look at the heart and not just appearance. People who appear to have great potential because they seem bright, successful, or physically attractive, are often **not** the ones who will make the best disciples. Samuel made the mistake of looking at appearance rather than the heart. He thought that God would certainly choose Jesse's impressive son Eliab to be King of Israel. Listen to how God views potential:

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷ *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

When Jesus chose His disciples he looked at the heart. In some ways they looked like a bunch of misfits. That is why I refer to them as "The Dirty Dozen" after the rag-tag soldiers in the movie by the same name. The twelve disciples were mainly just unschooled, ordinary men with a capacity for extraordinary faithfulness. The training was to develop their bent toward a passion for God and faithfulness into full maturity. In the book of Acts we see the results of the time Jesus invested in training these ordinary men. Even those who accused them of wrongdoing were astonished at what they saw.

Acts 4:13

¹³ *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

God is still looking for a few ordinary men and women with a passion for Him and a bent toward faithfulness who He can develop into powerful witnesses--people who will reproduce themselves in others. Always look for faithful hearts!

- **A**available

When Jesus called His disciples they were available to follow Him. They left the security of their occupations and comfort of their homes to become disciples of Jesus. You might think that faithful people are always available but I have found they are not. In our culture people tend to overload their lives so that they have little margin for more extensive spiritual training. They may have godly character and be responsible in what they are presently doing, but have no room for the time that it will take to do what many of you have done in these courses.

During one of my discipleship groups I had to terminate two men. These were top of the line, godly men. It broke my heart to have to dismiss them from the group but it became obvious that they were no longer available to do the work. They started missing sessions and not preparing for others. For a variety of reasons they allowed their schedules to interfere with the training. In both cases I believe that family needs were such that they were not able to commit themselves fully to the discipleship process. At that point in their lives they simply became unavailable for the demands of discipleship.

My point is that people should not be encouraged to simply add discipleship to an already overscheduled life. I carefully outline the cost and give people plenty of time to pray about the level of commitment that is required. I go over things such as time commitment and assignments. I want them to be sure that they are willing to make themselves available to prepare for group sessions and do ministry and outreach events with a goal of becoming reproducers.

I ask them to discuss this with family members, especially their spouse. The spouse should give whole hearted support before the final decision is made. We can suggest that people look at their lives and see what they can do to add margin so that they become available for discipleship. There are tools on how to do this in *Spiritual Boot Camp*. Jesus asked people to carefully count the cost:

Luke 14:28

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?”

- **T**eachable

We must also choose people who are teachable. For a person to be teachable they must be willing to allow someone else to direct their spiritual growth. There are some people, who, for a variety of reasons, are not teachable. This is often caused by a rebellious spirit, which is sometimes not easily seen until the person is asked to do something they don't agree with or simply don't want to do. There are other people who are so rigid in their beliefs and behaviors that they refuse to bend when being directed by another person. There is a third category of people who are not teachable because they lack self-discipline. They say they want to be disciple makers but are not disciplined enough to complete the assignments.

When choosing people to disciple, beware of these tendencies and look for people who are willing to place themselves under your direction. Just remember that discipleship is not for the masses but for the few who deeply desire to walk in the footprints of Jesus and are willing to pay the cost.

- **T**rainable

Being trainable differs from being teachable. Teachable is more of an attitude or spirit while trainable is more ability. Some people have a teachable spirit but do not have the potential to be leaders. These people make great level two disciples (producers) but not level three reproducers.

- **E**nthusiastic

It is at the “The Choosing Stage.” that people are selected for advanced training to become reproducing disciples. I want to stress again that It is important to **never** to try to talk someone into being discipled. That is a hard and fast rule that I will live and die with. We do not call people to be disciples—God does. While we are involved in the selection, God is divinely involved in touching the person's heart. That is why prayer is such an important part of the selection process. We need to remember that Jesus spent the night in prayer before making a final decision of choosing twelve men in whom He would invest an enormous amount of time (*Luke 6:11-16*). We want people who God has touched to be involved in discipleship, not those who are recruited by our persuasive powers.

Jesus never tried to persuade people to become disciples. It seems as though He tried to talk them out of it (*John 6:66; Luke 14:25-33*). This was because He wanted only those who had the fire in their hearts to follow Him. He wanted enthusiastic participants who would stay the course no matter what the cost, not people who would halfheartedly “give it a try.”

When talking to someone about discipleship I look very carefully at his or her responses. I want people whose eyes “light up” when I explain the challenge. This does not mean that we should look for spontaneous decisions that are based on the emotions of the moment. People need to make a careful evaluation of the cost. They need plenty of time to pray. But the end result is that the person must have a heartfelt commitment to the training or they will not finish well.

Remember to look for “spiritual gym rats.” In one of my groups two of the most faithful men were “spiritual gym rats.” I began to notice every time I taught a class or seminar they were there. It didn't

matter what the subject matter was. I couldn't get rid of them, not that I tried. When it came time to form my discipleship group I immediately thought of these two men. They ended up being the most faithful.

- **Reproducible**

The people selected for "The Choosing Stage" should be willing and capable of reproducing in others what they have learned. Remember this is a primary goal of disciple making. To be a reproducer a person must be willing and able to develop leadership skills. A reproducer leads others in the same footprints of Jesus that they have taken. Always inform a person up front that at the completion of The Disciple's Journey they will be expected to lead a group through the same material. If they are reluctant to do this then they should not be considered as a candidate for this level of discipleship.

GREATER INTIMACY

It was at this stage that Jesus appointed the twelve designating them apostles so that they might be *"with him... (Mark 3:14)*. Jesus made a greater time commitment to the twelve and required them to do the same. They would be *"with Him"* not only to develop more skills but so they could grow closer to Jesus and one another. During the "Choosing" and "Sending" stages Jesus progressively revealed more of Himself and His heavenly Father.

This was an important part of their development. As Jesus continued to reveal Himself to His disciples they learned to know, love, and trust Him more. As they deepened their relationship with Jesus they deepened their relationship with one another. It was during "The Sending Stage" that Jesus revealed Himself fully and prepared the disciples for His death and resurrection and their commissioning.

The chosen twelve became disciples not only by instruction but also by association. Jesus was with them almost every day and in almost every way. He was with them spiritually, emotionally, and physically. The disciples were with Jesus night and day. They had complete access to Him. Jesus offered His disciples the most intimate of teacher/student relationships. He wanted to teach them all that the heavenly Father had taught Him. Jesus offered them a friendship that was beyond anything they could imagine. At "The Sending Stage" Jesus said to His disciples,

John 15:14,15

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

GREATER IMITATION

The association that Jesus had with His disciples was so intimate that the Son of God passed on to them everything He learned from His heavenly Father. Through this careful process of discipleship the twelve would learn everything they would need to know to become reproducers. They learned to know and do the will of God. They were not only taught the truth of God's love but how that truth was to be lived out in daily life. When Jesus wanted His disciples to know the *"...full extent of his love"*, He washed their feet, a menial task, normally performed by a servant (*John 13:1*).

Jesus wanted His disciples to learn that true love is demonstrated in humility and selfless service. He taught them this principle and instructed them to imitate Him.

John 13:14, 15:15

¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

I have mentioned the danger of our discipleship groups being only study groups. If what happens is only within the confines of the group in a room it is not really disciple making as Jesus modeled it. It is an important part of the disciple making process but it is not complete discipleship. We have seen that Jesus included study with ministry by walking around. There was sit down study time but it was combined with being with Him on the journey walking around proclaiming the Gospel and serving others.

The disciples were with Him when He taught in the temple. They were with Him when He healed the sick. They were with Him when He cast out demons. They learned to be fishers of men as they were with Him when He fished. They were with Him when He was overwhelmed with sorrow prior to His death. It was during this close association with Jesus that they learned to imitate their teacher. Jesus said that this is how a disciple becomes fully trained:

Luke 6:40

⁴⁰ A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

There are two lessons for us to learn. First we must always follow in the footprints of Jesus, imitating Him. This is how we become Christ-like. Secondly we are to be an example of Christ to those we disciple. Paul said to those he disciplined,

Philippians 4:9

⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

1 Corinthians 4:15-16

¹⁵ Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶ Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

Paul told his disciple Timothy to be an example to those he was discipling.

1 Timothy 4:12

¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

People are first to imitate God but we should always be aware that when we disciple a person we are to set an example for them to follow. As daunting as it may seem, our disciples will imitate us as we imitate God.

GREATER CHARACTER

It was shortly after Jesus chose the twelve disciples that Matthew records Jesus' most extensive teaching on character in chapters 5-7. It was character building on the mountain. At this critical juncture of the disciples' Journey Jesus taught in a simple and practical way the kind of character He wanted His disciples to develop and pass on to others. This teaching was revolutionary in that culture. It was not based on the traditions that were taught by the religious leaders of the day. The character Jesus taught far surpassed everything that the disciples had learned from their traditions and heard from their religious leaders. It was based on the true Word of God. Instead of being outside in, Jesus taught that true righteousness was inside out. In Luke's account of this teaching Jesus said,

Luke 6:43-45

⁴³ "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵ The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

Inside out

The focus of the entire teaching on the mountain was that it is from the quality of the heart that right conduct is produced. Jesus taught character that far surpassed the tradition and following the letter of the law that was the standard among the Jews. A favorite statement of Jesus was, "You have heard that it was said..." Jesus would then contrast the traditions of the Jews with the new level of truth and action that God desires. For an example on how to treat people Jesus said,

Matthew 5:38-48

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' ³⁹ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Character of a disciple

And so it is to be when we make disciples. Character is always inside out. It is when Christ lives in us and we live in Him that we display exemplary character. We obey because of grace. We obey because God loves us and we love God. We are renewed from the inside out. Every principle we learn to obey proceeds from our relationship with Christ. We are transformed by God renewing our minds (Rom. 12:1-2). We bear "fruit" in our character because we stay attached to the vine of Jesus and the Spirit indwells us (John 15:1-5; Galatians 5:14-26).

In *Anchoring* Section 1 the focus is on character--living by the great anchors of God while continuing to walk in the five footprints of Jesus. We might call this character building on the road. What does this character look like? What are the distinguishing marks of a disciple? Here is what this will look like in our daily lives—the character of a disciple:

- If we love God with all our hearts we will love our neighbors as ourselves.
- If we truly experience the love of God we will totally trust Him with our lives.
- If we love God and trust Him we will want to live by His Word and obey Him in all things.
- If we love God and trust and obey Him we will have the character of a disciple.

John 14:15

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

GREATER COMPETENCY

The disciple's journey always includes training in truth and action—character and competency. Disciple making is first transformational, then informational and finally transferable. It was during "The Choosing Stage" that training for being sent out was intensified. The disciples would be expected to become competent in ministry tasks and take these skills on the road. They would soon practice what Jesus had taught them to say and do. They would be sent out two by two to do three things: To preach and teach, heal the sick, and drive out demons

LEADERS GUIDE FOR "THE CHOOSING STAGE" ANCHORING, SECTION 1

Anchoring is the resource for "The Choosing Stage" and "The Sending Stage." The training manual is divided into two sections. Section 1 is for "The Choosing Stage" and prepares disciples for "The Sending Stage" (Section 2). In the Gospels these two stages are closely related. There is a seamless thread from one to the other.

Anchoring differs from the other courses in several ways. First the content is structured differently. Unlike the first two courses this book is not designed for five days of study. It is up to the individual to decide how much material he will study each day in order to complete the assignments for the week. There are five parts to each week's assignment. Not all take the same amount of time.

I still recommend that you encourage people to spend at least five days a week doing this study. This will help disciples overcome the temptation to procrastinate and try to do too much at one time. Spending some time each day for five days a week or more will help people maintain the discipline of daily appointments with God. The weekly assignments are as follows:

1. Anchor point truth and anchor point action

There are 7 Anchors each with three anchor points. There is a total of 21 weeks that will be spent on these anchors.

- **Anchor point truth**

Each anchor has two or more verses of Scripture to memorize and study. Encourage disciples to spend some time each day memorizing the anchor point truths for the week and reviewing Scriptures they have already memorized. This should include memory assignments from previous *Disciple's Journey* courses. People will also spend time memorizing and reviewing the anchor point action.

- **Anchor point action**

The anchor point action is in the form of a prayer that is a commitment to live by that anchor. The prayer summarizes the main points of the anchor and will help people remember it.

2. Explore the anchor

The “Exploring the Anchor” section is a segment of teaching that explores various aspects of the anchor point. Encourage disciples to read this section carefully and think deeply about the Scriptures cited and the thoughts presented.

3. Dig deeper

There is a “Dig Deeper” project each week that will help people know and apply the anchor point more thoroughly by studying a key passage of Scripture. They will answer key study and application questions. Be sure that they write all of their answers in the space provided. Have them share some of their answers in group sessions.

4. Search the Word Study Guide

In each session there is a “Search the Word Study Guide.” Here they will study a major passage of Scripture using the tools of observation, interpretation and application. Encourage people to set aside quality time for this project as it is time intensive.

5. Drop Anchor

The “Drop Anchor” application section will help people take all they have learned and apply it to their lives in a practical way. There are suggestions for application each week, but encourage people to make personal application.

6. Accountability questions

Just as the bar for study is raised at these two stages so is the bar for accountability. The questions dig deeper as disciples are learning to trust one another and share more openly critical areas of their lives. Again if you have a group of men and women make sure you keep these groups separate for the accountability time. Following are some areas for which you will be mutually accountable during the weekly group session:

- Have you been faithful this week to your disciple’s journey covenant?
- Do you have any sins or shortcomings to confess?
- Have you been a humble servant to your spouse and children?
- Have you been a godly example to non-believers and looked for opportunities to share your faith?
- Have you been pure and holy in all your relationships?
- Is there a specific area in which you would like prayer and encouragement?
- Is there an area of your life for which you would like specific accountability for next week’s session?

PREPARE 4x6 MEMORY REVIEW CARDS

People on The Disciple’s Journey should already be in the habit of using their memory review cards. These cards will be a tool to help people retain the Anchors and other Scriptures memorized during The Disciple’s

Journey. Have people write the anchor truths on one side of the card and the anchor action and other memory assignments, key insights and Scripture references on the other side

PREPARATION TIME

Preparation time will be approximately 2½ to 3½ hours a week. Some weeks will take more time, some less. I suggest that people keep a specific time each day for an appointment with God. Encourage people to schedule that time and write it on their calendars.

SERVING TOGETHER

During “The Calling Stage” the focus was on doctrine and outreach—learning to effectively present “The Bridge Illustration,” praying for the lost, building relationships with non-believers, and sharing faith when given an opportunity. During “The Choosing Stage” disciples will continue this emphasis plus doing other kinds of servant outreach projects. You can decide as a group how you will serve together.

THE DISCIPLE’S JOURNEY COVENANT

The Covenant people will be asked to sign is a reminder of their commitment to faithfully complete all assignments and other related commitments so they will continue to grow in the character of Christ.

99

1. I will faithfully complete all assignments each week and be ready to participate fully in my group
2. (2 *Timothy* 4:2).
3. I will deny myself, taking up my cross daily and following in the footsteps of Jesus (*Luke* 9:23).
4. I will make becoming a fully devoted disciple of Jesus a priority and not allow distractions of this world to keep me from time in the Word, prayer, and my group (*Mark* 1:35; *Luke* 9:57-62).
5. I will be accountable to others in the group, always being completely honest and open about my weaknesses as well as my strengths (*James* 5:16-20; *Hebrews* 3:13).
6. I am willing to pass on the discipleship baton and reproduce myself in others by leading them through the five stages of discipleship (*Matthew* 28:28-30; 2 *Timothy* 2:1-2).

Signed _____

Date _____

TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

The structure I suggest for group time is similar to the one I gave for *7 Great Doctrines of the Bible*. I only use this as a suggestion as to how to structure your group. Feel free to adapt the group session to fit your style and the needs of the group.

1. The warm up

I have found that it is good to have a warm up time when the group first gets together. The groups I have led have been in my home so I have coffee and sometimes pastry when people arrive. We spend some informal time just chatting. This lasts about fifteen minutes. I suggest that the entire group session last two hours.

2. Enter God's presence

I know of no better way to start a group session than to enter God's presence with praise and thanksgiving (*Psalm 100*). Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "...Father, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come." (*Luke 11:2*). Spend some time in praise and thanksgiving. Then transition into a time of praying for God's Kingdom and His will. Pray for one another. Pray for God to open doors for your group to do Kingdom building.

3. Accountability

This is a very important time. It is not just a check up to see if people have been faithful to complete assignments and other commitments but to openly share their lives with one another. It is a time to honestly talk about what's going on in each person's life using the accountability questions as a guide. It is a time to share what's happening on your journey.

4. Memory and meditation project

The regular memory assignments are the "Anchor Truth" and "Anchor Action." Review these each week with the entire group or in twos. Review some memory projects from previous weeks and other courses regularly. This reminds people that to complete The Disciple's Journey they are responsible to know all of the memory projects.

5. Discuss some of the "Dig Deeper" questions

You will not have time to discuss all of these questions but choose a few to discuss in your group time. Ask the group which of the questions they would like to discuss.

6. Have people share the results of their "Search the Word Study Guide"

This should be an important part of your study. People will have spent a significant amount of time on this study and will want to share their insights.

7. Drop anchor

This is a good way to end the session with people sharing what new thoughts and attitudes God has placed in their hearts. You could again pray for one another as you conclude the session.

8. Disciple's Journey Adventures

Remember the "50-50 Principle." Be sure to plan regular Disciple's Journey adventures doing outreach together.



STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SESSION 6

Answer the following questions about what you have read.

1. Reflect on the last three principles of the “FATTER” acronym. How do you see these principles helping you “choose” people for the rest of The Disciple’s Journey?

 2. What do you think and how do you feel about encouraging greater intimacy in your group?

 3. Reflect on the power of imitation in disciple making. Are you ready to have people imitate you as you imitate Christ?

 4. What does “inside out” mean to you? How important is it to stress this principle in disciple making?

 5. What is the connection between character and competency? How did Jesus merge the two together when training His disciples?

 6. What in this session is most important for you to incorporate into your life and making disciples?
- Review the accountability questions and be prepared to share with the group.



MEMORY AND MEDITATION PROJECT

Read *Mark 3:13-19*. Memorize and meditate on verses 14-15 and answer the questions that follow. Write the Scripture on the front side of your index card for this session. Write notes you want to remember from this session on the reverse side.

Mark 3:14-15

¹⁴ He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.

- What all do you think Jesus considered when making this choice?
- Why twelve disciples? Is there a correct number? What is the principle here?
- What do you think it meant when Mark said Jesus chose the disciples so “*that they might be with Him?*”
- What is the disciple making principle?
- What do you think was Jesus’ reason for waiting so long to choose twelve disciples? Is there a principle for us to follow?
- How are the “choosing” and “sending” stages connected? How is one critical to the other?
- What is the most important disciple making principle for you in this passage?



SEARCH THE WORD STUDY GUIDE

Using the tools of observation, interpretation, and application search *Luke 6:43-45* and write what you discover in the space that is provided.

OBSERVATION: What does it say?

INTERPRETATION: What does it mean? (Consult your Study Bible to read the background of the book.)

APPLICATION: What does it say to me?

SESSION 7

THE SENDING STAGE

“Jesus was well aware that the battle between good and evil was real and that people would need the weapons of warfare to fight the battle.”

As Jesus trained His disciples He connected “The Choosing Stage” and “The Sending Stage” closely together. Jesus chose the twelve disciples so that He could spend more time with them for the specific purpose of training them for their first missionary internship (*Luke 9:1-4; Luke 10:1,17; Mark 6:6-7,30; Matthew 10:1,5*).

During “The Choosing Stage” Jesus laid the foundation for “The Sending Stage.” Now Jesus is ready to send His disciples out to practice what He has taught them. They were sent out on this first

mission in the fall of AD 29. This stage lasted approximately one year. Jesus sent out two groups of disciples ahead of Him. First He dispatched the “Dirty Dozen.”

Luke 9:1-2

¹ When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Jesus also sent the “Band of Brothers” ahead of Him into the towns that He was going to visit. This advanced party of 72 men had also been trained to perform the tasks of ministry.

Luke 10:1

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SENDING STAGE

The “Dirty Dozen” and the “Band of Brothers” had similar assignments. They were sent out to drive out demons, heal the sick and preach. They were not yet ready to teach everything Jesus had taught them and develop reproducers. That was to come in the final stage. “The Sending Stage” is not the reproduction stage but the production stage. You cannot be a reproducer until you first become a producer.

The disciples were given specific assignments

❖ They were to engage in spiritual warfare

The disciples had watched Jesus drive out demons and had been given power to do the same.

❖ They were to cure diseases

The disciples had watched Jesus heal the sick and had been trained to heal diseases themselves.

❖ They were to preach and teach

The disciples heard Jesus preach as He proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom. They also listened to Him as He taught people how to love God and others. They were sent out to do the same.

The disciples were held accountable

There was accountability. When their mission was completed both groups returned and reported to Jesus the results of what they had done.

Mark 6:7, 30

⁷ *Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits...*

³⁰ *The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.*

When the “Dirty Dozen” had completed their assignment they returned for a debriefing. This feedback session seems not to be just a spontaneous meeting but prearranged. Jesus wanted to hear how they had done with this first field assignment. He held them accountable for what He had assigned them to do (*See also Luke 9:10; 10:17*).

Later, when Jesus sent out the 72 on a similar mission, there was also an accountability session. The “Band of Brothers” reported back with great joy because of the success that they had experienced (*Luke 10:1, 17*). It is obvious from these two accounts that follow up and supervision is essential for successful discipleship.

Luke 10:17

¹⁷ *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”*

The disciples were sent out two by two

During “The Sending Stage” the emphasis is on sending out disciples two by two for short term mission assignments. The focus is on doing what they had learned during the previous stages. It is interesting that the Mormons use this biblical principle to develop leaders. When you see young Mormon men in white shirts and ties riding bikes in a neighborhood you know that they have been sent out two by two on a specific Mormon mission. And you can also be assured that they have been trained in Mormon doctrine at their 6:00 A.M. “Seminary” classes week days before school for four years. Before their mission they are given further training and specific assignments to accomplish on their mission. I believe the growth of the Mormon Church can be attributed to this training more than any other single thing. They reproduce leaders so they need no paid clergy. While they are definitely a false religion they are ahead of Evangelicals in using some biblical principles of disciple making to train leaders.

“The Sending Stage” was designed to build the disciples’ faith

At “The Sending Stage” we notice a definite uptick in faith building. As Jesus sent out the twelve and the 72 His focus was on building His disciples’ faith as He prepared them for His death and resurrection. We can see this in His instructions as He sends them out.

Luke 9:3-4

³ *He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. ⁴ Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town.*

The disciples were to travel light on this stage of the disciple's journey. They literally took nothing with them. They were to rely totally on going out in the name and power of Jesus.

Jesus carefully outlines the cost of discipleship and warns anyone who wants to follow Him that they must be willing to give up everything and put their complete trust in Him (*Luke 9, 14*). He begins to warn them of His impending death and resurrection. It was during this stage that many disciples deserted Him (*John 6:66*).

SENT OUT TO PREACH AND TO TEACH

Each discipleship group is free to choose what short term sending assignments are best for their groups. These will depend on the group, the church, the community and other miscellaneous factors. I will make some suggestions and offer some resources to help. What you decided to do is up to you.

Teaching (Sharing God's Word)

- At the beginning of "The Sending Stage" I suggest you begin a rotating schedule for leading your group sessions. By now people will have learned from the group leader how to lead sessions. This is an excellent way to prepare disciples for leading their own groups.
- Feel free to have disciples start their own *Spiritual Boot Camp* groups at this stage. By now they will be well prepared to lead a group.
- There are short-term teaching assignments that can be made. Some of the topics that disciples have already learned that could be taught in a small group or to individuals are: destroying strongholds, how to discern God's will, History of the Church (or one of the other 7 Bible doctrines), and how to face trials. These are just a few to the topics that people in your group will have learned.

Preaching (Sharing the Gospel)

- **Share the "Bridge"**
Always be ready to share "The Bridge Illustration" and your personal testimony. You have been well trained in the use of these two evangelism tools. Remember to look for open doors to share the Gospel.
- **What Everyone Wants to Know About Christianity**
I use the term "preaching" to represent all facets of sharing the Gospel with people. This has been an emphasis since the very beginning in *Spiritual Boot Camp*. There is a resource that I have used many times that I want to recommend. I developed a short course titled, *What Everyone Wants to Know About Christianity* because I wanted a place where people could invite their non-believing acquaintances to a comfortable, nonthreatening place to hear the basic tenants of the Christian faith.

The resource is a thirty five page workbook with fill-ins that people follow during the seminar. The topics cover: How do we know that the Bible is true? Did Christ really rise from the dead? Aren't all religions really the same? If God is good why is there so much suffering? What about evolution? What about Bob? (How to receive Christ).

I encourage people to invite their friends and relatives and sit with them during the seminar. This has worked very successfully. I usually hold the seminar on two successive weeks each session lasting four hours. I have always provided a simple meal in the middle of each session. I conclude with giving

people the opportunity to receive Christ. This is an excellent way for people in your group to be sent out two by two to share the gospel. You can download this resource by going to my website, www.anchorsofgod.com.

- **Prayer Walks**

An excellent way to do outreach is to go on prayer walks. I have done this many times over the years and it is always a blessing. Remember, being “fishers of men” is not just about a structured presentation of the Gospel but it includes all we do to reach out to lost people. Every footprint of Jesus prepared people to hear the words of the Gospel. Prayer was a strategic component of “fishing.” Notice how Jesus included all of the above.

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

There are many ways of going on a prayer walk. Prayer walking is simply pairs or small groups walking through various parts of a town, praying as they walk. The last two weeks I have prayer walked through “Little Arabia” a section of Orange County California which has the largest concentration of Muslims in California. I am part of “Oasis Project” which is planning a Church plant soon in that area. We pray for whatever we see. We pray for specific needs that we encounter. On the first walk we gave a couple of needy people money and prayed with them.

We prayed in front of Muslims in front of a mosque. As we walked by a strip club we prayed for the people who were trying to fill their emptiness with sex. We prayed for neighborhoods. Some people stopped to pray with small business owners. It seems that almost everyone we meet is open to have us pray for them. On a prayer walk pray that God will open your eyes to the needs of that area and opportunities to meet some of those needs. God will always bless you on a prayer walk as you bless others.

- **Survey a neighborhood**

A good way to make contact with people and open doors are neighborhood surveys. Even if your church has been in an area for a long time neighborhoods are constantly changing. During the next few weeks we are going to start surveying door to door in “Little Arabia.” I suggest a simple survey of four or five questions such as:

- What do you see as some of the needs of people in this area? What is the greatest need?
- What is your impression of the churches in the area?
- Are you currently attending a church? Have you attended in the past?
- If you were to going to attend a church what would you want it to be like?
- Would you go to a church if you were invited?
- Do you own a Bible? Would you like one?
- Is there anything that you would like me to pray for? (Be bold about praying for healing if people ask)

These are nonthreatening questions that can open doors to conversation and further contact. I personally do not like the idea of telling people that you are conducting a survey and then trying to share the Gospel with them on the spot. If there is a definite open door then of course that is our responsibility. We need to be completely honest about our intentions.

- **Short term mission trips**

Many churches and Christian organizations have yearly short term mission trips. This is an excellent way to send out disciples during this stage.

SENT OUT TO ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

When Jesus walked on this earth He engaged in spiritual warfare. Jesus knew that anyone who came to Him would be opposed by the "...god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:4; John 8:42-47). Jesus was well aware that the battle between good and evil was real and that people would need the weapons of warfare to fight the battle.

You do not have to read far in the first chapter of Mark to see Jesus reach out with the touch of spiritual warfare. When Jesus went to Capernaum and began to teach in the synagogue He immediately confronted the evil one. Mark records,

Mark 1:23-26

²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" ²⁵ "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

When we walk in the footprints of Jesus we cannot ignore or minimize our responsibility to engage in spiritual warfare. To do so would not be true to the Word of God. There is no less evil in the world today than there was in the time that Jesus walked this earth. The devil was alive and well then and he is alive and well today. There were demons then and there are demons today. Satan deceived and harassed believers then and he continues to do so today. As disciples of Jesus we must be ready and willing to reach out in the name of Jesus and help people do battle with the evil one.

Freedom from strongholds

Almost everyone I know battles some kind of stronghold. A stronghold is a fortress of incorrect beliefs and attitudes that Satan builds in our minds that cause us to habitually sin. Satan capitalizes on vulnerabilities or weaknesses that we all have. Some are always present and other strongholds surface in times of trouble or stress. Paul says:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Help people use the “CD” to destroy strongholds

If you have gone through the first three courses of The Disciple’s Journey you will be familiar with this tool. I have used this tool to help many people, one on one and in groups. It is my experience that those who use this tool are amazed at how God destroys these strongholds. This is a tool that can be used when people are “sent out.”

Freedom from oppression

The subject that I am going to deal with now will make some people feel quite uncomfortable. This will be especially true if you are in a church that does not discuss certain aspects of Satan’s demonic activity. However Scripture clearly says that Satan and his demons have not gone into hiding in our culture. Believers today as in centuries past are involved in the unseen spirit world (*Ephesians 6:12; 1 Timothy 4:1*).

Christians can be oppressed by demons but not possessed by them. When a person is possessed by the Holy Spirit they cannot be possessed by Satan at the same time. They can be tempted, deceived and led astray but not possessed. In biblical accounts the people who were possessed were non-believers. However believers can be oppressed or harassed by demons. To oppress means to burden by weighing down. In some cases this oppression can express itself in demonic phenomena.

I have witnessed several examples of this. After a worship service in a church that I pastored, a teenage girl asked if she could talk to me. She told me that she was having evil dreams involving demonic phenomena that were frightening her. I suspected that she had come in contact with some kind of occult activity. She reported not having any background in the occult of any kind. When I asked if anyone she knew or had recently spent time with had any association with the occult, she said that she had spent the weekend with a cousin who was deeply involved in the occult.

There had been no discussion of the occult and she did not participate in anything associated with the occult. I cannot explain why she was singled out for demonic harassment or oppression. I simply prayed in the name of Jesus for the demons to leave her alone and had her pray the same prayer. She never again had those kind of dreams.

This is not an isolated case. When I was teaching at San Jose Christian College a young lady came to me with a similar story. She had been to visit an aunt who was deeply into the occult. She saw demonic phenomenon around the house that caused her great fear. She also was having harassing dreams. I went through the steps to spiritual freedom with her while another professor prayed in the room with us. She was delivered from all demonic interference.

Origin of oppression

I have found that there are three primary ways that people can be oppressed by Satan.

1. Participation in the occult

There are some people who have either knowingly or unknowingly participated in cultic activities and are still suffering the consequences. Some seemingly innocent or “fun” activities such as tarot cards, fortune telling, astrology, and palm reading can open the door for demonic activity.

2. Association with people in the occult

Warn people about spending time with friends or relatives who are involved in the occult. As I have related, there are often serious consequences.

3. Ancestors who were involved in the occult

I have helped people who had ancestors who had been involved in the occult (parents, grandparents etc.) deal with demonic oppression. They themselves had no direct involvement with the occult but experienced some interference or oppression that they attributed to their family background.

Overcoming oppression

You do not have to be an expert to help a person overcome the oppression of demons. The tool that I have used most often is the Seven Steps to Freedom that was developed by Dr. Neil T. Anderson. I would suggest reading his book *The Bondage Breaker* that explains how to take people through these seven steps to freedom. Following is a simple three-step process that you can use to help people overcome demonic oppression.

1. Assess

When encountering someone who is experiencing demonic oppression it is helpful to assess the origin of the oppression. First ask if the person has been involved in any of the following common occult practices: (For a more complete list see Neil Anderson's book)

- ❖ Ouija board
- ❖ Table lifting
- ❖ Telepathy
- ❖ Spirit guides
- ❖ New age
- ❖ Fortune telling
- ❖ Pacts with the devil
- ❖ Palm reading
- ❖ Astrology
- ❖ Séance
- ❖ Amateur hypnosis
- ❖ White or black magic

2. Confess

Have the person confess and renounce any of these practices even if they have “innocently” participated in them. Confess and renounce each one as follows:

Lord, I confess that I have participated in _____.

I ask your forgiveness, and I renounce _____.

3. Profess

Jesus gave His disciples the authority to drive out demons. It was only in His name that they had this power (*Mark 3:14-15; John 14:12-14*). This ministry of spiritual warfare continued as the Church spread throughout the world (*Acts 8:4-8*). It is still only by the authority and in the name of Jesus that we have power over demons.

To profess means to acknowledge or affirm something we believe. In helping people gain freedom from demonic oppression, professing means acknowledging the authority and power of the name of Jesus over demons. There are two ways for this to happen:

Pray for the person:

Heavenly Father, You are the sovereign God of the universe. Everything is under Your authority and control. All authority has been given to Your Son Jesus, and because we are in Christ and are Your disciples we share in that authority to set captives free. Therefore I command Satan in the name of Jesus to release ___(name)_____ from all demonic harassment and oppression.

Have the person pray:

Heavenly Father, You are sovereign God of the universe. Everything is under Your authority and control. All authority has been given to Your Son Jesus, and because I am in Christ and Your disciple I share in that authority to set captives free. Therefore I command Satan in the name of Jesus to release me from all harassment and oppression.

I know that some will feel engaging in this kind of spiritual warfare is beyond their capabilities. Just remember that it is the power of God that is in force here and not your own. God and His Word are the source of our power. The two prayers carry with them the power and authority of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to set people free!

SENT OUT TO HEAL THE SICK

There can be no doubt that if you follow the footprints of Jesus they will lead you to a healing ministry. In the first chapter of Mark we see Jesus healing Simon's mother-in-law (*Mark 1:20-31*). Jesus continued to make a priority of healing people throughout His three-year ministry. We will look at what the Bible says about healing and how this ministry is part of the disciple making process. We will answer three questions about healing:

1. What is the purpose of the ministry of healing?

Every miracle that Jesus performed had a purpose. When Jesus reached out to touch people so that they would be healed it was for the following three purposes:

- **So that people experience the love and power of God.**

Jesus wanted people to experience in a tangible way the power and love of God. Jesus reached out with compassion to heal people. When Jesus healed someone it showed not only that God loved them but He also had the power over sickness and death. The touch of healing showed that God was all-loving and all-powerful. Wherever Jesus went He touched people with this love and power so that people would believe in Him.

Matthew 14:14

¹⁴ *When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.*

- **So that God can be glorified.**

Every miracle in the Bible was designed to bring glory to God. Whenever Jesus reached out and touched someone, it brought glory to the Father and the Son. When God is glorified it means He is worshiped and revered for who He is and what He does. When Jesus heard Lazarus had died, Jesus said it was for the express purpose of glorifying the Father and the Son. To emphasize this point Jesus waited several days before raising Lazarus from the dead. John reports,

John 11:4

⁴ *When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."*

- **So that people can be reconciled to God.**

It is God's desire that all miracles result in people believing in Jesus and being reconciled to Him. The Apostle John makes this clear. He says,

John 20:30-31

³⁰ *Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

2. Is the ministry of healing for today?

The question some people ask is, "Is the ministry of healing for today?" We know from reading Scripture that healing was an integral part of the Jesus' ministry as well as the 1st Century Church.

- We know that Jesus healed people but He was God. We know that the disciples were given the authority to heal in the name of Jesus. Mark reports:

Mark 6:12-13

¹² *They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.*

- We know that after the establishment of the Church on the day of Pentecost the Apostles reached out with the touch of healing as is reported in the book of Acts.

Acts 5:12-16

¹² *The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. ¹³ No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵ As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶ Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.*

- We know that others reached out with the touch of healing. In the book of Acts Luke emphasizes the Apostles' healing ministry but nowhere in the Bible do we see the touch of healing limited to the first disciples. Stephen, the first Christian martyr did "...great wonders and miraculous signs among the people (Acts 6:8). Luke reports that Philip reached out with the touch of healing:

Acts 8:6

⁶ *When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.*

The Apostle Paul lists among the gifts given to Christians by the Spirit the "...gifts of healing..." (1 Corinthians 12:9). The Apostle James specifically mentions the elders of the Church anointing people

with oil in the name of the Lord so that they would be healed (James 5:14). James goes on to encourage all Christians to reach out with the touch of healing when he says,

James 5:16-18

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

3. How can you reach out with the touch of healing?

I see nothing in Scripture to indicate that the touch of healing was only for certain people or that healing was relegated to a specific time period in history as some believe. The Bible repeatedly demonstrates that God is always the same, demonstrating His love and power in whatever way He wishes at whatever time in history He desires. God says of Himself,

Malachi 3:6

⁶ "I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed."

The writer of Hebrews concurs,

Hebrews 13:8

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

I would like to suggest that you use the biblical model given by James for reaching out with the touch of healing. James was a very practical man and therefore has given some biblical principles that anyone can follow. Here is what He taught the Christians to do:

James 5:13-16

¹³ Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

- **Offer to pray for healing**

Jesus launched a healing ministry that flourished in the life of the early Church and should be an integral part of our ministry today. Some churches do a good job of offering to pray for the sick while others rarely mention it. As a disciple walking in the footprints of Jesus you have an opportunity to offer to pray for the sick no matter what kind of church you are involved in.

- **Pray as you anoint with oil**

Anointing sick people with olive oil was a common practice among the Jews. This was carried over to the Christian community as a symbol of God's healing power. The oil is not a magic healing potion but a part of the petition for God to heal the sick person. There is nothing in Scripture to indicate that we must always anoint with oil when we are praying for a sick person, but as indicated here it is a sound biblical practice.

- **Pray in faith**

James says that the “...prayer offered in faith...” will make the sick person well (*James 5:15*). Throughout the Bible faith and healing are linked together. Sometimes it is the faith of the sick person that is emphasized (*Matthew 8:5-13*), while at other times it is the faith of the person praying for the sick that is emphasized (*Matthew 17:14-23*). In both cases the key is faith that God can and will heal the sick. The prayer offered in faith should include the following:

- **Expect that God will heal.**

We must have complete faith that God can and will heal the person. Our prayer should demonstrate that we believe that our prayer of faith “...will make the sick person well and the lord will raise Him up” (*James 5:15*).

- **Accept that God does not always heal.**

An essential component of our prayer of faith is that God the Father is sovereign, loving, and all-knowing and therefore will always do what is best for His children. Some people are healed and some people are not healed. Only God in His infinite wisdom has the answer to why He heals some while others must suffer through the sickness. When Jesus faced death He asked His Father to save Him from the suffering but put the outcome of the request in God’s faithful loving hands. Mark reports:

Mark 14:35-36

³⁵ *Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.*

³⁶ *“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*

- **Believe that God sometimes gives something better than healing.**

When we believe as Jesus did that our heavenly Father is always loving and faithful we are able to accept the fact that He may not take suffering from us. If God withholds physical healing from us we can trust that He will give us something much better. The Apostle Paul learned this when He prayed for his own healing. Listen to His testimony:

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

⁸ *Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.*

We do not know what Paul’s physical defect was but it must have been severe for Him to plead for the Lord to take it away. God in His infinite wisdom chose to give Paul something even greater than physical healing. Because God withheld healing Paul was able to experience the incredible power of God in his life. The result was that Paul was able to delight in his suffering (*2 Corinthians 12:10*).

Powerful and effective prayer

James ends his instruction on how to pray for healing by giving the key to power and effective prayer. We must live righteous lives.

James 5:16

¹⁶ ...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

A pure life is a powerful life. To be filled with God's power our lives must be emptied of all pollutants. To be righteous means to be right with God and man. The touch of healing can come from ordinary people like you and me if we obey God to be holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16

¹⁵ "...be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

LEADERS GUIDE FOR "THE SENDING STAGE" ANCHORING--SECTION 2

TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

The format for group time is basically the same for "The Sending Stage" as it was for "The Choosing Stage." There are three differences.

1. Shared leadership

During this stage I suggest that you rotate leadership for group time. Each week have a different person lead. This will prepare them for leading their own groups. You will be able to give them input on their skill in leading a group.

2. Sending out two by two

You will need to spend some group time discussing "sending" assignments and feedback on those assignments. Remember that you have complete freedom on the frequency and nature of those assignments.

3. Passing the baton

At the end of this stage you pass on the baton to the disciples. You will need to take time in group time preparing people to launch *Spiritual Boot Camp* groups.



STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SESSION 7

Answer the following questions about what you have read.

1. After reflecting on this session, how ready are you for “The Sending Stage?” What gives you the most concern if any?

 2. Why do you believe that Jesus sent out the disciples two by two? What are some of the advantages you see?

 3. What kind of beliefs have you held about spiritual warfare? What thoughts, feelings, questions or doubts do you have about engaging in spiritual warfare?

 4. What has been your view of healing? What kind of thoughts and feelings do you have when you think of reaching out with the touch of healing?

 5. How have you been challenged with the biblical principles on healing? In what areas will you need to grow?

 6. Which of the suggestions for going out two by two most appeals to you? Do you have other ideas?
- Review the accountability questions and be prepared to share with the group.



MEMORY AND MEDITATION PROJECT

Memorize and meditate on *Luke 9:1-4* and answer the questions that follow: Write the Scripture on the front side of your index card for this session. Write notes you want to remember from this session on the reverse side.

Luke 9:1-4

¹ When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

³ He told them: "Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. ⁴ Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town.

- What does it mean to have "power and authority" to drive out all demons? What support from Scripture is there that we have this power today?
- How do you think the disciples preached the kingdom of God? What are some of the ways we can do this today in this culture?
- Do we have the authority and power to heal the sick today? How can we have a ministry of healing today in this culture?
- In verse 4 Jesus tells His disciples to travel light. What applications can that have for us today? What essentials do we need for this stage of the journey? What is the principle here?
- How will you apply this Scripture to your life in a practical way?



SEARCH THE WORD STUDY GUIDE

Using the tools of observation, interpretation, and application search *Luke 10:1-17* and write what you discover in the space that is provided.

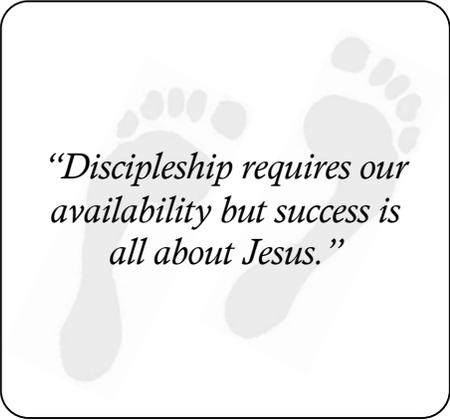
OBSERVATION: What does it say?

INTERPRETATION: What does it mean? (Consult your Study Bible to read the background of the book.)

APPLICATION: What does it say to me?

SESSION 8

THE COMMISSIONING STAGE



“Discipleship requires our availability but success is all about Jesus.”

It was only when Jesus was ready to depart from this earth that He finally commissioned the disciples to be reproducers. After spending three years with them, Jesus was ready to launch the disciples on the mission He had given them. The goal on earth had been reached. Jesus had worked Himself out of a job and was ready to depart for heaven. The disciples had been fully taught and were fully ready to pass the baton on to others. Jesus had looked forward to the day He could commission His disciples and return to His Father. He knew they were ready to reproduce.

FINAL WORDS

Jesus reserved the commissioning of His disciples for His final words on earth. Mark gives this brief account of the commission:

Mark 16:15

¹⁵ *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”*

Matthew gives an expanded version of this in what we commonly refer to as “The Great Commission.”

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Luke does not mention the commissioning in his synoptic gospel, but does include it in a somewhat different version in the book of Acts. He reports these last words of Jesus before He ascended to heaven:

Acts 1:8

⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

The completed work of Jesus on earth culminated with His death on the cross and His resurrection. It provided salvation for men and launched the great commission to accomplish His only plan to disciple the nations. He prayed for His disciples,

John 17:4

⁴*I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.*

Jesus glorified His heavenly Father by providing salvation for all mankind and teaching His disciples to “go make disciples.” The heavenly Father continues to be glorified when those of us who have been commissioned make disciples.

FOUR ESSENTIALS OF “THE GREAT COMMISSION”

When we look at the three versions of the commissioning of the disciples there are four essentials that stand out:

1. Receiving authority

In Matthew’s account of the commission Jesus begins by reminding the disciples of His authority. He reminded them that He had been given *all authority*. Jesus said, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me...*” (Matthew 28:18). This is of first importance because it is only with the authority of Jesus that we can make disciples of all the nations. We can go about disciple making with total confidence because we have been given the authority to do so by Jesus.

2. Disciple making

The second essential of the commission is that Jesus gives us His authority for the specific purpose to make disciples. Jesus said, “*...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...*” (Matthew 28:19)

When people receive Jesus the goal is to make disciples not just converts. When Jesus said, “*make disciples,*” He was not referring only to the initial stage but to the entire process of disciple making. If we don’t lead them on the entire journey, we are not being true to the commission. Jesus commissioned us to take people on the journey of discipleship from their first baby steps through the “The Commissioning Stage.” We dare not leave out any part of this journey. It is through the entire process of this journey that the disciples become fully devoted followers of Jesus, producing fruit, and reproducing other disciples.

3. Teaching everything

Teaching is the third essential we find in the commissioning of the disciples. Jesus emphatically says that the discipleship process is not complete until we have finished, “*...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you*” (Matthew 28:20). Everything that Jesus taught is the product and the proof of successful disciple making. Jesus uses the all-inclusive term “*everything*” to emphasize the importance of the comprehensive teaching of the Word of God in disciple making. Disciples are not only to be taught content but also taught to obey the Word of God. There is to be a focus on truth and action—information and transformation. The unbroken chain of disciple making is dependent on fully taught, mature followers of Jesus.

4. With Jesus

Here is the great news about discipleship. We go and make disciples in the power and presence of Jesus! He says, “*... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*” (Matthew 28:20). When we lead someone on the disciple’s journey we walk with Jesus and with them. As surely as the twelve disciples

were led by Jesus, He is present with us every step of the way. We will never travel alone. With each step we are to take Jesus leaves clear footprints for us to follow.

When we stay in His presence we will enjoy His power. In Luke's version of the Great Commission Jesus promises, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (*Acts 1:8*). Disciple making is always carried out with the authority, in the presence of, and with the power of Jesus. Jesus makes disciples through us. We are merely His instruments. Often we forget the supernatural nature of discipleship and take on responsibilities that were never meant to be ours.

Notice that in all accounts of the commissioning we are only responsible to go. We are not responsible for the results. Discipleship requires our availability but success is all about Jesus. Jesus only asks us to invest our lives. He is the one who takes responsibility for the lives in whom we invest. He produces the return for the Kingdom. This does not let us off the hook for being responsible, competent disciples giving our best, but it does relieve us of the pressure of thinking that we are responsible for the success of those we disciple. We need not have any regrets on time spent with disciples no matter how successful they become. I like the way the great disciple maker Henrietta Mears puts it,

The greatness of your spiritual power is in the measure of your surrender. Success is not a question of who you are or your gifts or competencies but of whether God controls you. Relinquishment is everything.

We are simply to surrender everything to God. Every attempt to make disciples is equally successful because we have obediently followed Jesus and relinquished all to Him. Jesus left His disciples with this important lesson concerning relinquishment:

John 12:23-27

²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me...²⁷ "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.

DISCIPLE MAKING IN THE 1ST CENTURY CHURCH

Disciple making in the first century Church followed the same basic principles of the "The Great Commission" and had the same goal. There were some differences in how the disciple making process was implemented. The twelve disciples had been trained and were ready to train others. The Apostle Paul had been put on a "fast track" by the Holy Spirit to be a major disciple maker.

Disciple making in the small group

Because of the tremendous influx of new believers, Jesus' plan of discipleship had to be implemented immediately. Those infant believers in "The Invitation Stage" were immediately integrated into small groups or house churches. It was here that they learned to take those first steps of the Christian life and eventually disciple others (*Acts 2:42-47*). Unfortunately most people today are not integrated into true disciple making groups where they are intentionally mentored on the disciple's journey. In most churches small groups have little resemblance to those we find described in Acts.

If small groups today functioned as they did in *Acts 2:42-47*, the stages of discipleship could be accomplished in the context of those groups. Discipleship would occur within ministries where natural relationships are already strong. Some believers would be chosen for further training in leadership. I have observed that there are only a small minority of groups that have a vision of disciple making. Most lean heavily toward discussion and fellowship. While these groups are helpful, most will not consistently develop fully devoted followers of Jesus who become reproducers. If small group leaders could be trained to become disciple makers it would become an ideal place to lead people through the five stages.

The five stages of 1st Century disciple making

The five stages of disciple making are not as distinct in the 1st century church as they were when Jesus trained His twelve disciples. The principles of disciple making were the same, but people were at different places in their spiritual maturity. We can still see the process at work as Paul discipled Timothy.

1. The Invitation Stage

Paul did not begin to disciple Timothy at “The Invitation Stage.” Timothy had been taught the basics of the faith by his family and in the church in Lystra where he already had a good reputation (*Acts 16:1-2*).

2. The Calling Stage

It is obvious that Timothy had been brought along on the disciple’s journey in the Church in Lystra. Because Timothy had already proven himself to be “faithful, available and teachable” he was qualified to move on to the next stages.

3. The Choosing Stage

Paul chose Timothy on the recommendation of the brothers at Lystra. Paul immediately took Timothy with him on a missionary journey and continued the disciple making process (*Acts 16: 3-5*). We see a new dimension to the disciple making process. There is no longer a single disciple maker as there was in the beginning. Jesus is gone and the baton has been passed on to others. Now there are multiple disciple makers, working together and discipling people who are at various stages of the journey.

4. The Sending Stage

After Timothy had been with Paul for a substantial period of time he was ready for “The Sending Stage.” We first see this stage when Timothy and Erastas were sent to Macedonian while Paul stayed in Asia.

5. The Commissioning Stage

It was when Paul was imprisoned under Nero in 66-67 A.D. that Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy. There were two primary reasons for writing this last letter. First he missed Timothy, his “true son” in the faith and wanted him to join him. Paul was also very concerned about the welfare of the churches during this time of persecution. He warned Timothy to “*keep the sound teaching*” and “*guard the gospel*” (*1 Tim. 1:13-14*).

It was in this letter that Paul “commissions” Timothy to continue the disciple making process. He says,

2 Timothy 2:2

² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

There are some important things to note as we observe the disciple making process of the early Church:

- **People are at different stages of the disciple's journey.**

This is important because it means while the principles of the process are important we need to remember the differences and be flexible. Today we will find people at all stages of the discipleship process. Some people in the body of Christ will have been discipled in some way, often by several people. This training may not be as structured or as intentional as I have presented here, but nonetheless they will have been effectively discipled.

These people may be mature believers but often could profit from learning to be more intentional in using discipleship resources to more effectively reproduce others. Let me make it clear again that in a sense materials are immaterial. If we use the basic biblical principles to make disciples, then many different kinds of material based on God's Word can be effective. What is important is that churches have a clear process that enables them to produce fully taught disciples who can teach others all they have learned. You can incorporate people at various stages of disciple making. You can use The Disciple's Journey resources in any way you wish.

- **Disciple making is a team effort**

Just remember that disciple making is now a team endeavor. There may be many people who have contributed to the equipping of those you disciple. All this counts towards the goal of developing fully devoted followers of Jesus.

- **There is still a need for a process of "intentional" disciple making**

This is especially true today in our culture where there is an erosion of biblical anchors and generations of people with little background in the faith. There needs to be an intentional, effective process for building strong biblical foundations at the beginning of the journey. The house must be built on the "rock."

FIVE FACTORS OF DISCIPLE MAKING

I believe it is important for us to carefully study all of Paul's instructions in his commissioning of Timothy. There are five important factors of disciple making.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

¹ You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. ³ Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

1. The grace factor

It is significant that Paul starts his commissioning of Timothy by reminding Him to "...be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (v. 1). There are two important lessons:

- **The gift of grace**

Everything starts and ends with grace (*Romans 3:23; 6:23-25*). It is only when we fully understand how much God loves us and how we are to allow that love flow through us to others that we can make disciples of the nations. We must always remember that God's love is the distinguishing mark of a disciple.

- **The centrality of Christ**

Paul regularly reminded people of God's grace before He asked them to do something. Our motivation for being obedient is always to be as a result of our relationship with Christ. It is Christ in us (His grace) and His grace through us (His power), that motivates us to live for Him. Paul says,

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

➤ What about you? Is it grace that motivates and empowers you in all things?

2. The reproducible factor

Next Paul moved on to the practical aspects of disciple making. First he addressed the reproducible factor. Timothy was to choose people who could reproduce themselves in others. They were to have two non-negotiable qualities.

- **Faithfulness**

Disciples are to be faithful

2 Timothy 2:2a

² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men...

To be faithful is to be reliable. We must always remember to start at this point. Faithfulness can be observed if we watch people carefully over a period of time. We can discern their level of faithfulness. This keeps us from choosing people who "look good" or "sound good." Faithful servants are reliable in every task they are given to do. Remember, present behavior is the best indicator of future behavior.

- **Qualified**

The second qualification is that a disciple must be qualified to teach others.

2 Timothy 2:2b

² ...who will be qualified to teach others.

The inference is that not everyone has the ability or can qualify to teach others. This quality may be a little more difficult to detect. Teaching is not just the ability to communicate but has a leadership quality to it. Reproducers are leaders. First a leader must be able to grasp what they have been taught then communicate it effectively to others. You should be able to discern this quality in the first two stages of disciple making. (Notice that what Timothy had learned had been in the presence of "...many witnesses." Paul taught Timothy on the road as they ministered together).

- What about you? Can you say with certainty that you are faithful? Are you qualified to teach others?

3. The soldier factor

Paul sums up the commissioning of Timothy by using three examples. A disciple was to be like a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer. First Paul gave two key qualities of a soldier.

- **Hardship**

2 Timothy 2:3

³ *Endure hardship with us like a good Soldier of Christ Jesus*

I served three years in the Army but the hardships I experienced could not begin to compare to those of Navy Seals. I have had the opportunity to observe a little of what it takes to be a Navy Seal. My grandson Saylor has had his heart set on being a Seal since his early teens. We arranged for Saylor to meet with a career Navy Seal stationed at Coronado Island, the home of the infamous BUDS training (Basic Underwater Demolition School). No one contests that this is the most grueling military training in the world. Only one third of men who go through this eight weeks of training make it through “Hell Week.”

We met Matt the Seal at a restaurant where he began to acquaint Saylor with the hardships that come with being a Navy Seal. After lunch and before Saylor’s tour of the Seal Base, Matt said he wanted to take Saylor and me to a “Seal Bar” where he said Navy Seals hung out and where women who wanted to hook up with them frequented. As you can imagine I wondered what this was going to be all about. We walked into the bar and Matt told Saylor to look at a row of about a dozen pictures of Navy Seals which were positioned on the wall behind the bar.

Matt said, “Saylor, all of these men were killed in the line of duty in the last few years. About a third of them I knew personally. We never know if we are going to return from a mission. We are ready to die for our country. Being a Navy Seal is not about personal glory but sacrifice. Think about this before you make a decision.”

There are many hardships that Navy Seals endure. Their training is constant and rigorous. They can be deployed at a moment’s notice and are not allowed to tell their families where they are going, what they are going to do, and when they will return. Hardship, sacrifice, and danger is a regular part of their lives.

- **Focus**

2 Timothy 2:4

⁴ *No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.*

The following summer when Saylor was fifteen we visited Coronado Island again with Matt the Seal. This time Matt let Saylor run the grueling Seal obstacle course used in their BUDS training. After this we went to Seal Team Five’s equipment room where Seals hang out while getting ready to do their daily workouts. Even in this casual setting their intense focus was evident. It is extraordinary to say the least. One of the secrets to their success is that they are able to have a single

focus on a mission. They do not allow anything to distract them from their mission. The only thing that exists for a Navy Seal is the mission. This allows them to routinely do what we think is an incredible feat such as taking out Osama Bin Laden.

About 6 months ago I had the opportunity to have another look into the hardship and focus that it takes to be a Navy Seal. Saylor signed an early enlistment during his senior year of high school. As part of early enlistment those who are attempting to get Special Operations contracts with the Navy must take a P.S.T. (physical strength training) test every two weeks until boot camp. The group Saylor was a part of was made up of about 25 young men and women attempting to qualify for several different categories of special operations contracts. The Seal contract had the highest standards and was by far the most difficult to qualify for. And this was only for starting the process of becoming a Seal. Only a few make it all the way. Just to be considered to receive a Navy Seal contract they had to achieve the following minimum standards:

- ❖ Swimming: 500 yards in 12 minutes 30 seconds
- ❖ Push-ups: 42 strict pushups in 2 minutes
- ❖ Sit-ups: 50 strict sit-ups in 2 minutes
- ❖ Pull-ups: 6 strict pull-ups in 2 minutes
- ❖ Run: 1 & 1/2 miles in 11 minutes

This bi-weekly testing was overseen by a Seal Mentor, a former Navy Seal by the name of Doc. He and a few other Navy personnel watched closely as the recruits performed the tests. After the run, which was the final test, Doc gathered an exhausted group of men and women together and read the results of each person's test. Doc compared what they did to past performances and told them what they were going to have to do to improve. He was relentless in setting the bar high for all these recruits who wanted to be special operations personnel.

I took some notes on a few of the things that Doc said because I was sure that some principles would apply to this section on disciple making. Following are a few quotes from Doc. They all have to do with the hardship and focus of a soldier—and a disciple.

"Special Ops (operations) means that you want to be special. Become someone special."

"Push yourself beyond the limits of what other people are willing to do."

"You must go beyond. Continually raise the bar. Never be satisfied."

"Set goals. Journal."

"When it comes down to it, are you doing the work? Work harder than anyone else."

Think about it. Don't all of these principles apply to becoming a fully devoted disciple of Jesus? I believe Paul would say amen to all of these principles. Of course Paul had never heard of Navy Seals but he did know the single focus that was required of someone in the military. He wanted Timothy to have that kind of focus and develop disciples with a single focus. Paul also knew that a disciple must be willing and able to endure hardships like a soldier. The message from our

Commander is clear. He is calling us to be special operation soldiers for the greatest cause in the world-making disciples of the nations!

- What about you? Are you developing the focus of a Navy Seal? Are you willing to endure the hardships of a soldier?

4. The athlete factor

Next Paul uses two characteristics of a world-class athlete as an example of how a disciple should function in his preparation.

- **Discipline**

2 Timothy 2:5

⁵ Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.

The rules of track and field are very strict. You can have all the talent in the world but if you do not possess the discipline and compete according to the rules you will be disqualified and not win. Track and field competition is not just about talent but about character. I was able to witness this firsthand a little over a year ago. I had promised Saylor, who lives in Bryson City, North Carolina, that his Grandmother and I would come out for his junior year track season. He had competed in the North Carolina State Championships in the 400 meter sprint his sophomore year and looked forward to having another good season.

For six weeks I went to the Swain County High School track every afternoon at 3:00 and watched Saylor and the rest of the track team work out. Saylor again qualified for State in the 400 meter run and his 4 X 400 meter relay team also qualified as one of the top 7 teams in the state. At the State Championships his relay was the last event. He opted out of the individual 400 meter event so he would be fresh for the relay. The official fired the gun to start the race and fired again indicating a false start. Someone would be disqualified. Saylor ran the lead off leg and I had warned him—wait for the gun. Be disciplined. I looked up at the board and it listed Hendersonville as the team that had false started. Hendersonville held the state record for the 4 X 400 relay and was the top ranked team in the state. It was the only team that Swain County had lost to during the year.

They lined up for the start again. It was a clean start and Saylor got Swain about a ten yard lead as he handed off the baton to the next runner. About half way around the track the runner from the school with the second best time in the state got tangled up with another runner and fell. Two of the best teams were down. Swain County's anchor held off two fast closing teams and crossed the finish line first. The boys from the little school in the Smoky Mountains had won the State Championship for the first time ever. They had not won on talent alone. They had won because of character—of discipline. There was great rejoicing in Bryson City—and of course by the proud Grandparents.

- **Goal**

2 Timothy 2:5b

...athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.

In addition to bragging about my grandson there is a lesson to be learned here. Discipline is important in any athletic event. Winning in sports is not just about being the most talented; it is about who is willing to discipline themselves in the training and in the event. It is about character as well as giftedness. You are not going to reach your goal of being a fully devoted follower of Jesus without discipline. No one gets the crown without it. Crossing a finish line always involves discipline. Biblical discipline involves having the inner will empowered by the Spirit to do what it takes to be great for God. A great outcome takes great discipline produced by the Spirit in those who live by the Spirit (*Galatians 5:16-25*).

- What about you? How well disciplined are you? How well disciplined are you willing to become? What are you willing to do?

5. The farmer factor

Paul completes his instructions by comparing the hard work of disciple making to the hard work of a farmer.

There are two important things to note:

- **Hard work**

2 Timothy 2:6a

⁶The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.

Anyone who has worked on a farm knows that it is just plain hard work. I spent the summer between my sophomore and junior years of high school in the small farming community of Thorpe Washington (population 250). My first job was bucking bales of hay in a barn with a big local kid named Porky George. He threw those bales around like they were nothing while I thought I was going to die trying to learn the skill. It was the most miserable day of my life but eventually I learned how use leverage to move the bales around. That summer I worked for different farmers and learned what hard work was all about.

Paul wanted Timothy to work hard as a disciple and pass that work ethic along to other faithful people. As Doc the Seal Mentor told the recruits, “Work harder than anyone else.” As disciples of Christ we should work harder than anyone else.

- **Results**

2 Timothy 2:6b

⁶...first to receive a share of the crops.

The lesson we learn here is that if you do the hard work you will be rewarded with the fruit of your labors. This is the law of the harvest. If we sow we will reap. Wherever we look in Scripture it is God who produces the crops (*2 Corinthians 9:6-11*). God asks us only to faithfully reap what He has sown in the hearts of those we disciple. We are His laborers. He produces the crop and we enjoy the harvest.

- What about you? How hard do you work? Do you work harder than anyone else? Are you willing to do anything for the prize? Do you trust in God for the results?

LEADERS GUIDE FOR “THE COMMISSIONING STAGE” FOOTPRINTS— FOLLOWING JESUS, LEADING OTHERS

LEADING GROUP SESSIONS

PRAYER TIME

As with the other courses I suggest you always start your group time with prayer. Entering God presence with praise, thanksgiving and intercession will set the tone for the entire group time.

STUDY QUESTIONS

There are study questions at the end of each teachings session that participants are to complete. Be sure that people write all of their answers in the space provided. Use these questions as the basis for you group discussion time.

MEMORY AND MEDITATION PROJECT

In each session there is a “memory and meditation project.” Group members are to memorize the passage and be ready to recite it during group time. Have them share some of their answers to the questions associated with the Scripture.

SEARCH THE WORD STUDY GUIDE

In each session there is a “Search the Word Study Guide.” Here everyone will study a major passage of Scripture using the tools of observation, interpretation and application. Encourage people to set aside quality time for this project as it is time intensive. Spend some time discussing what they have learned.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Have an accountability time using the same accountability questions that were used in *Anchoring*. If you have a group of men and women make sure you separate for the accountability time.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTONS

Following are some areas for which you will be accountable during weekly group session:

- Have you been faithful this week to your *Disciple’s Journey* Covenant?
- Do you have any sins or shortcomings to confess?
- Have you been a humble servant to your spouse and children?
- Have you been a godly example to non-believers and looked for opportunities to share your faith?
- Have you been pure and holy in all your relationships?
- Is there a specific area in which you would like prayer and encouragement?
- Is there an area of your life for which you would like specific accountability for next week’s session?

PLANNING FOR DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

During this final course those who are completing The Disciple's Journey will be making plans to start their own groups. Who people will disciple and what resources they will use will be while going through *Footprints*.

THE DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY COVENANT

People signed a *Disciple's Journey Covenant* when they entered "The Calling Stage," so for them this is more like a covenant renewal. This covenant is a reminder of your commitment to faithfully complete all assignments and other related commitments so you will continue to grow in the character of Christ. First read the covenant and Scriptures. Pray and sign the covenant.

- I will faithfully complete all assignments each week and be ready to participate fully in my group. (*2 Timothy 4:2*).
- I will deny myself, taking up my cross daily and following in the footsteps of Jesus (*Luke 9:23*).
- I will make becoming a fully devoted disciple of Jesus a priority and not allow distractions of this world to keep me from time in the Word, prayer, and my group. (*Mark 1:35; Luke 9:57-62*).
- I will be accountable to others in the group, always being completely honest and open about my weaknesses as well as my strengths (*James 5:16-20; Hebrews 3:13*).
- I am willing to pass on the discipleship baton and reproduce myself in others by leading them through the five stages of discipleship (*Matthew 28:28-30; 2 Timothy 2:1-2*).

Signed _____

Date _____



STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SESSION 8

Answer the following questions about what you have read.

1. Why did Jesus start the commissioning of the disciples with the statement *“All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me?”* How does the authority given to Jesus affect our disciple making?
 2. Distinguish between making disciples and making converts. Why do you think this distinction is a largely lost principle in disciple making in our churches today? What are the consequences?
 3. How can *“Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”* be applied to disciple making today?
 4. What are some of the major differences between disciple making today and in the 1st Century Church? What adjustments do we need to make?
 5. What can we learn about the principle of being a soldier from Navy Seals? What will you remember from the examples that will help you in disciple making?
 6. Of everything mentioned in this session, what spoke to your heart? What are you willing to do about it?
 7. On a scale of 1-10 with ten being perfect, how ready are you to be commissioned and to make disciples? Explain why you choose that number.
- Review the accountability questions and be prepared to share with the group.



MEMORY AND MEDITATION PROJECT

Read *2 Timothy 2:1-7* and memorize and meditate on verses 1-2. Answer the questions that follow.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

¹You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

- Why is it so important to be strong in grace when we make disciples? Why does Paul put this principle first?
- Why do you think Paul mentions that what Timothy had learned was in the presence of many witnesses? How can this principle be applied to disciple making in the 21st Century?
- When looking for someone to disciple what will you look for that will demonstrate the attribute of faithfulness?
- What does it mean to endure hardship for Christ? Give an example.
- What is the relationship between disciplining one's self and discipline as a fruit of the Spirit? How are they connected?
- Apply the example of a hard working farmer to yourself. How can this principle affect how you grow as a disciple and how you disciple others?



SEARCH THE WORD STUDY GUIDE

Using the tools of observation, interpretation, and application search *1Timothy 4:11-16* and write what you discover in the space that is provided.

OBSERVATION: What does it say?

INTERPRETATION: What does it mean? (Consult your Study Bible to read the background of the book.)

APPLICATION: What does it say to me?

SESSION 9

FOOTPRINTS: FOLLOWING JESUS-LEADING OTHERS

“True spiritual parents never lose their passion for God. They set aside special times to be with God in solitary places. Intentional spiritual growth is a priority.”

Many of you will be leading a group through The Disciple’s Journey you have just completed. How you will proceed will depend on several factors. You might need to lead more than one *Spiritual Boot Camp* group before you are able to find people who are ready for the next stages. One thing you can be sure of is that you are well prepared to guide disciples on that same road you have just traveled.

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS

As you complete this first phase of disciple making it is important to remember that the journey continues. In this second phase as you are leading others you will want to set an example by continued growth. It is certain that you will be stretched through the process of leading your group. Following are some guidelines that will help you prepare to lead each session.

LEADING GROUP SESSIONS

1. Review the same material as your disciples.

You will review the same material as your disciples. I would suggest using a new Disciple’s Journey book so your answers are fresh. You were required to move through a lot of content at a very fast pace. There was often more than you could master in a day or a week. You will now have an opportunity to review the material and solidify the content and important principles. You will also have time to apply God’s Word to your life in some new ways.

2. Add new notes and personal insights.

If you decide to use your old book, review a section and read it thoroughly as if you were reading it for the first time. You do not need to rewrite your responses but read what you have written and add new insights in the margins. Do this in red ink so you can easily see what you have added.

3. Use a highlighter to note what you would like people to discuss in the group session.

As you read a session, highlight information, principles, and responses that you would like to discuss in the group. Be selective as there will not be enough time to discuss all of the peoples’ input. If this frustrates people remind them that they have already learned much through self-study and will be able to review the material again when they lead their own groups.

4. Use the leader’s guide that accompanies the resources you are using.

Each course has its own leaders guide. These guides are to help you to prepare to lead group sessions. They are in this manual and also in the appendix of the other manuals

5. Review all memory projects.

You are not off the hook for being able to recall the memory projects you have learned on the journey. Remember the Scripture and principles are to be regularly reviewed so they will anchor you for your entire life. Use your memory card index regularly. Keep it close at hand at all times.

6. Memorize new Scriptures.

I have included a new list of Scriptures for you to memorize during the time that you will lead others through The Disciple's Journey. This will include some longer passages of Scripture. Start a new memory card index file and record the references in the weekly journal that is included in Appendix A. This is just a suggestion. Feel free to memorize any Scriptures that God puts on your heart.

7. Plan for Disciple's Journey adventures.

An essential part of The Disciple's Journey is following in the footprints of Jesus in service and outreach. As you plan your group sessions include some outreach events for your group. The kind and frequency of these outreach adventures is up to you and your group. Be careful to prevent your group becoming a study group only.

THE DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

I'm sure many of you have seen the movie *Chariots of Fire*. It tells the inspiring story of Eric Liddell, the 1924 Olympic 400 meter sprint champion who captivated the world with his speed and his noble character. His commitment to God was such that he refused to compete in the 100 meter dash, his best event, because it was held on a Sunday, the Lord's Day.

Eric was from Scotland and had qualified for the 100 and 400 meter sprints as a member of the British Olympic team. When he announced that he would not complete in the 100 meter dash he faced disdain from his countrymen and ridicule from the press. He was accused of being disloyal to his country. He had opted out of his best race and was not expected to do well in the 400 meters.

How wrong the naysayers were. The gun sounded and 47.6 seconds later, in world record time, Eric Liddell broke the tape to become the first Scot ever to win a gold medal. The "Flying Scotsman" became a national hero and continued to excel in the sprints for several more years, using his fame to speak to thousands of people about his faith in Christ.

The final chapter in Eric Liddell's life is not as well known as his sprinting achievements. He hung up his spikes and left his fame behind to become a missionary in China. There he was separated from his wife and children often and suffered years of untold hardship. Inland China was a dangerous place to live. The work was slow and discouraging.

The Second World War put an end to Eric's missionary work. He was captured by the Japanese and along with other Christians interned in a prison camp. He continued to be a leader and an inspiration to those around him in the midst of terrible conditions. Separated from his wife and children, it was in this camp that Eric died of an undiagnosed illness. It was not until two months later that his wife and family, who had fled back to Scotland learned of his death. He died February 25, 1945 at the age of 44.

But there is more to the story. Eric Liddell left a legacy of discipleship. He wrote a small book titled *Manual of Christian Discipleship*. He wanted this to be a guide for Chinese pastors. It contained sixty pages of Bible

reading with comments for each day of the year. It also contained on one page a routine that he followed for years as a guide for his daily quiet times. Every morning he would ask himself six questions. I found these questions very helpful. I have incorporated these questions into a “Disciple’s Journey Journal” which you might want to use during the next year. Following is an example of one week of the journal followed by an explanation of how to use it.

DISCIPLE’S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week ____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ’s forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning’s Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST

DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

HOW TO USE THE DISCIPEL'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

In Appendix A you will find the 52 week journal that you can use during the time that you will be leading your group. At the start of each week record the date and verses you will memorize and review during the week. If you are going to do any Bible reading or study in addition to what is in the session you can record it in "The Bible reading/study" area. On the right is a column to record daily and weekly prayer priorities.

QUESTIONS

I want to share with you some ways I have used this journal for my appointments with God. I am not suggesting that you follow this exact process but I offer it as an example of how I have used it in the past. I still use many of these principals.

- **What have I especially to thank God for this morning?**
Use this question as an opportunity to enter God's presence through praise and thanksgiving. Review *Psalms 100* and the "Lord's Prayer." These Scriptures will prepare you for a time of praise and thanksgiving. This should be familiar to you because of learning to pray through the five components of the "Lord's Prayer."
- **Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?**
Review Henrietta Mears' statement on surrender: "The greatness of your spiritual power is the measure of your surrender. Success is not a question of who you are or your gifts or competencies but of whether God controls you. Relinquishment is everything." Read *John 12:23-28*. Often there will be people, situations, or behaviors that you will need to relinquish to God. You will know you have not surrendered them because you will find yourself being anxious or worrying. Surrender each to God by name.
- **Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?**
This is a time to examine your life and confess any sins that come to your mind. This is also a time to pray for spiritual protection. Scriptures you can rely on are: *Matthew 6:12-15; 1 John 1:9; Ephesians 6:10-20*
- **For whom does God want me to pray this morning?**
Use this time to pray for God's Kingdom and will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (*Matt. 6:10*). Use the "prayer list" space to write specific prayer requests for the day. God will bring to your mind people and situations for which to pray (*1 Tim. 2:1-8; Ephesians 6:18-20*).
- **What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?**
Often God has something to say to us about the Scripture we read, study, memorize, or review. This is a time to apply the Word to your life. Write what you believe God wants you to do about what He has said to you and what you **will** do (*2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:22*).
- **What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?**
This is a great way to end an appointment with God and launch the day. This is a time to listen. Think about the five footprints of Jesus. How does He want you to follow Him today? Reflect on what God has

been saying to you during this time and write what you believe He wants you to do, to be, or to continue praying about during the day (*Col. 1:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12*).

You can ask yourself these six questions and journal any thoughts you might have. You don't have to feel obligated to write something after each question. These are only to serve as a guide and support for your appointments with God. Feel free to journal what God is putting in your heart. If you still have room after answering the questions, journal what God is doing in you and through you on your new Disciple's Journey adventure. Some of you may want more space than I have provided. You can start your own journal with more space, asking yourself these same questions.

SHEPHERDING GOD'S FLOCK

There are qualities that I believe best describe the leadership style of a disciple maker. These are: (1) His attitude is that of a servant. (2) His heart is that of a shepherd. (3) His task is that of an equipper. A disciple maker humbly serves those he leads in the servant style of Jesus. He gently and compassionately oversees his flock as does the "Good Shepherd." He equips the flock for works of service as did the leaders of the 1st Century Church. All three of these functions of leadership can be seen in God's call of David to be king of Israel.

Psalm 78:70-72

⁷⁰ He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; ⁷¹from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. ⁷²And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.

Jesus chose someone who already had the attitude of a servant to become the great leader of Israel. David shepherded the people with integrity of heart. He possessed leadership skills that allowed Him to develop others leaders who would help him rule the country. He prepared his son Solomon to take over the throne. These qualities are needed as you make disciples and shepherd your flock during the next year.

THE CHARACTER OF THE CHIEF SHEPHERD

Elders are instructed to be shepherds of God's flock. Paul reminded the elders in Ephesus that the Holy Spirit had made them overseers and shepherds of the Church of God. They were to not only to watch over the flock but themselves.

Acts 20:28

²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Shepherds of God's flock were to be special kinds of people. For this responsibility they were to have impeccable character. Paul told Timothy that elders were to be "...above reproach" (1 Tim. 3:2). While you may not be an elder, the principles of an elder or shepherd apply to all leaders of groups. A person who leads a group of believers is responsible for shepherding God's flock that is under his or her care. To fully understand how to be a shepherd of God's flock we must first look at the example of the Chief Shepherd. We must model ourselves after the character of Jesus who is that Chief Shepherd. Matthew quoting from the prophet Isaiah said of Jesus,

Matthew 2:6

⁶ *“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.”*

Peter referred to Jesus as the Chief Shepherd:

1 Peter 5:4

⁴ *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

What can we learn about being a shepherd of God’s flock from the Chief Shepherd? What kind of character are we to imitate? Following are three character qualities that the Chief Shepherd exhibited when leading His flock.

1. **Unconditional Love**

The Apostle John presents a thorough picture of how Jesus, the Chief Shepherd, shepherds His flock. The passage of Scripture recorded in *John 10:1-30* is best understood in light of the Old Testament role of a shepherd. A leader in the Old Testament was often compared to a shepherd, symbolizing a royal caretaker of God’s people (*Ps. 80:1; 23:1; Is. 40:10-11; 56:9-12; Eze. 34; Zec. 10:2*). It was with this background in mind that Jesus referred to Himself as the “Good Shepherd.” He went into great detail in the first ten verses contrasting false shepherds with Himself, the true Shepherd of His people. What stands out in this entire section is His unconditional love.

- **Unconditional love is sacrificial.**

Jesus summed up His love for His sheep with this statement which He also repeats in verses 11 and 15. The Good Shepherd wanted people to have no doubt about the depth of His unconditional love. He said,

John 10:11

¹¹ *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”*

People would not understand how deeply Jesus loved them until they finally realized that He died on the cross to save them from their sins. It was only then that they would begin to understand the sacrificial dimension of unconditional love. After Jesus’ death and resurrection John said,

1 John 3:16

¹⁶ *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

- **Unconditional love is faithful.**

The second distinguishing mark of the Good Shepherd’s unconditional love is that He is forever faithful. There is never a time that He will withdraw His love for His sheep or love them less because of their unworthiness or wandering. He will always do everything possible to bring them back into the fold (*Luke 15:4-5*). Once in the fold He will keep them eternally secure. He will never give up on His precious lambs or turn His back on them. Jesus makes it clear that no one can take them out of His or the Fathers’ hands.

John 10:28-30

²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

³⁰ I and the Father are one."

- What about you? As a shepherd of a flock are you ready to lay down your life for those you lead? Can you say that your love is unconditional and that you will never give up on your sheep?

2. Intimacy

The Chief Shepherd was not aloof from His flock. He was not a hired hand who only put in His hours and did his duty. The Chief Shepherd loved His sheep so deeply that He gave them the right to be intimate with Him. He did this in the following ways:

- **To know**

The Chief Shepherd went to extraordinary measures to know and be known by His sheep. Jesus explained,

John 10:3

³ The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

The Chief Shepherd knows us intimately. He calls us by name. There is nothing about us that He does not know and has not always known. Before we were born He knew us and He has perfect and complete knowledge of us now. He knows and cares for every detail of our life. Because of His unconditional love and perfect understanding of us we can trust that He always does what is best for us. Trust is the foundation of an intimate relationship. Jesus said,

John 10:27

²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Because we know how much the Chief Shepherd cares for us and how intimately He knows us we are willing to listen to His voice and follow Him. We can trust Him to always lead us to safe places. Dr. Lynn Andersen in his excellent book, *They Smell Like Sheep*, puts it this way:

This is the essence of spiritual leadership: sheep following a shepherd because they know and trust him. This kind of trust and allegiance can be gained only one way—by a shepherd touching his sheep, carrying them, handling them, and feeding them— to the extent that he smells like them. (They Smell Like Sheep, Dr. Lynn Andersen, Howard Books, p. 17)

- **To be known**

The Good Shepherd desires complete intimacy with His flock. He not only knows His sheep but reveals everything about Himself to them. He keeps no secrets. Jesus said,

John 10:14-15

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep.

The Good Shepherd knows that if His sheep know Him and how much He loves them, the second part necessary for an intimate relationship will be accomplished. It takes two who are willing to know and be known to establish true intimacy with one another. It is this standard of full disclosure that Jesus gave as a model for us as shepherds of His flock. The kind of community Jesus developed with His disciples should be our goal. His prayer in *John 17* expresses that deep oneness that true intimacy involves. The way we relate to our disciples should replicate how Jesus related with His Father and His disciples.

- What about you? Will you put in the effort to study the sheep in your flock and care deeply about every aspect of their lives? Are you willing for your life to be an open book for your flock to read? Will you be open and transparent about your deepest thoughts, feelings, strengths, and weaknesses?

3. Serving together

The Chief Shepherd was also the chief servant. Jesus emptied Himself and came to earth as a humble servant to show the extent of His love for His children (*Philippians 2: 1-11; John 1:1, 13-14*).

- **Loving service**

Jesus' disciples learned to be shepherds by following the Good Shepherd. Fully devoted disciples are fully devoted shepherds. Jesus spent three years with these men so they would make disciples and shepherd the flocks He would entrust to them. The Apostle John wrote extensively about Jesus as the Good Shepherd and concludes his Gospel by relating Jesus' instructions to the disciples about their responsibility as shepherds.

John 21:15-17

¹⁵ *When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"*

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

¹⁶ *Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"*

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

¹⁷ *The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"*

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

There can be no doubt about the importance Jesus placed on shepherding. The disciples remembered these final instructions as they led the early development of the Church. Elders were appointed to shepherd God's flock. They became God's appointed leaders of the Church as they are today. Peter, who Jesus spoke to so pointedly and passionately about the responsibilities of a Shepherd, took Jesus' words to heart. To the Church he said,

1 Peter 5:2-4

² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

- **Daily commitment**

Being a shepherd of God's flock requires daily commitment. It is not a part time job. It means knowing and being known by our flock. We are to lead with willing and eager hearts in such a way that our sheep will want to follow us. We are not to be autocratic or demanding but lead gently and by example. As Dr. Anderson says,

Good spiritual shepherds today imitate the Chief Shepherd. Like him, they attract flocks through loving service and authentic relationships. Like him, they feed and protect their flocks. They know their flocks and their flocks know them. They are trusted as men and women who are committed enough to put their lives on the line, daily, for the precious people they lead. (They Smell like Sheep, p. 17)

If we always remember how the Chief Shepherd leads and follow His example we will be loving, effective shepherds of God's flock whom He has trusted to us.

- What about you? How do you measure up to loving service? Are you there fully physically, emotionally, and spiritually with your flock of disciples? Are you fully committed to daily service? Are you ready to feed and protect your flock? Are you ready to set an example for your flock so they will want to follow you?

Isaiah 40:11

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

SPIRITUAL PARENTING

When you have completed **phase one** of The Disciple's Journey you will be ready to start **phase two** as you make disciples by taking a group on the same journey you have completed. **Phase three** completes the three year cycle as you serve as a "spiritual parent" to those you have disciplined and are leading your own groups. Following are some ways you can be a spiritual parent to those you have disciplined:

Keep in contact with those you have disciplined.

Your disciples will need encouragement, counsel and accountability as they take a group through The Disciple's Journey. Always be praying for them. Contact them regularly through email, phone calls or getting together with them. How you do this is up to you.

Keep making disciples.

One you have launched your group, seek God's will as to whom He wants you to invest in next. God may be calling you to begin again with new believers. There may be more mature believers that desire to be disciplined. When we recognize that a disciple is who we are not just what we do for a period of time, we will never stop investing our lives in others.

Keep growing

True spiritual parents never lose their passion for God. They set aside special times to be with God in solitary places. Intentional spiritual growth is a priority. For the third phase you might want to go through *What the Bible is All About* by Henrietta Mears. This classic best seller with over 4 million copies in print gives a clear, concise, practical and inspirational review of every book in the Bible. There are chapters to read for each day of the week. My wife and I completed this book a few years ago. We loved the book and hope you will as well. I have also included passages of Scripture you might want to memorize for each week during the year. Always be sure to continue to review the passages you have already memorized.



STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SESSION 9

Answer the following questions about what you have read.

1. Review Erick Liddell's six questions. How could you see answering these questions during your daily appointments with God help you on your spiritual journey?

2. Review the characteristics of the unconditional love of the Chief Shepherd and answer:
 - What about you? As a shepherd of a flock are you ready to lay down your life for those you lead? Can you say that your love is unconditional and that you will never give up on your sheep?

3. Review the characteristic of intimacy of the Chief Shepherd and answer:
 - What about you? Will you put in the effort to study the sheep in your flock and care deeply about every aspect of their life? Are you willing for your life to be an open book for your flock? Will you be open and transparent about your deepest thoughts, feelings, strengths and weaknesses?

4. Review the characteristic of serving together following the example of the Chief Shepherd and answer:
 - What about you? How do you measure up to loving service? Are you fully there emotionally, spiritually with your flock of disciples? Are you fully committed to daily service? Are you ready to feed and protect your flock?

 - Are you ready to set an example for your flock so they will want to follow you?

- Review the accountability questions and be prepared to share with the group.



MEMORY AND MEDITATION PROJECT

Read *1 Peter 5:1-4*. Memorize and meditate on verses 2-4 and answer the questions that follow:
Write the Scripture on the front side of your index card for this session. Write notes you want

to remember from this session on the reverse side.

1 Peter 5:2-4

² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

- The terms elder, shepherd and overseer are used in this passage. In what ways are these different parts of the ways you are to shepherd God's flock that is under your care?
- What does it mean to shepherd, not because you must but because you are willing? (v. 2)
- What happens when we lead by "lording" it over someone? Why do you believe Peter includes this warning?
- How can your leadership style as shepherds be an example to your flock?
- What will you take away from this passage that will help you shepherd your flock?



SEARCH THE WORD STUDY GUIDE

Using the tools of observation, interpretation, and application search *Psalm 23* and write what you discover in the space that is provided. I also suggest that you read the classic book by Phillip Keller. *A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23*.

OBSERVATION: What does it say?

INTERPRETATION: What does it mean? (Consult your Study Bible to read the background of the book.)

APPLICATION: What does it say to me?

MEMORY SCRIPTURES FOR PHASE 2 OF THE DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY:

Following are Scriptures for might want to memorize during the year that you lead your group on The Disciple's Journey. Each week write the reference of your Scripture on the space provided in the Journal. Be faithful in your commitment to memorize and meditate on these Scriptures as an example to your group.

Week 1: Ps. 23:1-2
Week 2: Ps. 23:3-4
Week 3: Ps. 23:5-6
Week 4: 1 Tim. 4:11-12
Week 5: 1 Tim. 4:13-14
Week 6: 1 Tim. 4:15-16
Week 7: 1 Tim. 3:1-3
Week 8: 1 Tim. 3:4-5
Week 9: 1 Tim. 3:6-7
Week 10: 2 Tim. 2:20-21
Week 11: 2 Tim. 2:22-24
Week 12: 2 Tim. 2:25-26
Week 13: Titus 1:5-6
Week 14: Titus 1:7-8
Week 15: Titus 1:9
Week 16: Titus 3:1-2
Week 17: Titus 3:3-4
Week 18: Titus 3:5-6

Week 19: Titus 3:7-8
Week 20: Titus 3:9
Week 21: Acts 20:27-28
Week 22: Acts 20:29-30
Week 23: Acts 20:31-32
Week 24: Matt. 5:1-2
Week 25: Matt. 5:3-4
Week 26: Matt. 5:5-6
Week 27: Matt. 5:7-8
Week 28: Matt. 5:9-10
Week 29: Matt. 5:11-12
Week 30: Matt. 5:13-14
Week 31: Matt. 5:15-16
Week 32: Matt. 6:25-26
Week 33: Matt. 6:27-28
Week 34: Matt. 6:29-30
Week 35: Matt. 6:31-32

Week 36: Matt. 6:33-34
Week 37: John 15:1-2
Week 38: John 15:3-4
Week 39: John 15:5-6
Week 40: John 15:7-8
Week 41: John 15:9-10
Week 42: John 15:11-12
Week 43: John 15:13-14
Week 44: John 15:15-17
Week 45: John 14:12-14
Week 46: John 14:34-35
Week 47: John 12:23-24
Week 48: John 12:25-26
Week 49: John 12:27-28
Week 50: Mark 11:22-24
Week 51: Matt 22:37-38
Week 52: Matt 22:39-40

MEMORY SCRIPTURES FOR PHASE 3 OF THE DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY:

Following are Scriptures you can memorize during phase 3 of The Disciple's Journey. Write the reference of your Scripture on the space provided in the Journal each week. Be faithful in your commitment to memorize and meditate on new Scriptures. Also continue to faithfully review previous Scriptures.

Week 1: Col. 1:9-10
Week 2: Col. 1:11-12
Week 3: Col. 1:13-14
Week 4: Eph. 3:14-15
Week 5: Eph. 3:16-17
Week 6: Eph. 3:18-19
Week 7: Eph. 3:20-21
Week 8: Col. 3: 1-2
Week 9: Col. 3:3-4
Week 10: Col. 3:5-6
Week 11: Col. 3:7-8
Week 12: Col. 3:9-10
Week 13: Col. 3:11-12
Week 14: Col. 3:13-14
Week 15: Col. 3:15-17
Week 16: Phil. 3:7-8
Week 17: Phil. 3:9-10

Week 19: Phil. 3:13-14
Week 20: Phil. 1:1-2
Week 21: Phil. 1:3-4
Week 22: Phil. 1:5-6
Week 23: Phil. 1:7-8
Week 24: Phil. 1:9-11
Week 25: Eph. 4:1-2
Week 26: Eph. 4:3-4
Week 27: Eph. 4:5-6
Week 28: Eph. 4:7-8
Week 29: Eph. 4:9-10
Week 30: Eph. 4:11-12
Week 31: Eph. 4:13-14
Week 32: Eph. 4:15-16
Week 33: Gal. 6:1-2
Week 34: Gal. 6:3-4
Week 35: Gal. 6:5-6

Week 36: Gal. 6:7-8
Week 37: Gal. 6:9-10
Week 38: 2 Cor. 10:3-4
Week 39: 2 Cor. 10: 5-6
Week 40: Eph. 6:10-11
Week 41: Eph. 6:12-13
Week 42: Eph. 6:14-15
Week 43: Eph. 6:16-17
Week 44: Eph. 6:18-20
Week 45: Ps. 8:1-2
Week 46: Ps. 8:3-4
Week 47: Ps. 8:5-6
Week 48: Ps. 8:7-9
Week 49: Ps. 1:1-3
Week 50: Ps. 100:1-3
Week 51: Ps. 100:4-5
Week 52: Ps. 42:1-2

APPENDIX A
THE DISCIPLE'S JOURNAL

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY JOURNAL

Week _____ Memory Verse _____ Review _____ Bible Reading/Study _____

- What have I specially to thank God for this morning?
- Have I surrendered this new day to God, and will I seek and obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout its hours?
- Is there any sin in my life for which I should seek Christ's forgiveness and cleansing? Is there any apology or restitution to make?
- For whom does God want me to pray this morning?
- What bearing does this morning's Bible passage have on my life and what does He want me to do about it?
- What does God want me to do today and how does He want me to do it?

DAY 1 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 2 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 3 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 4 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 5 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 6 _____	PRAYER LIST
DAY 7 _____	PRAYER LIST

APPENDIX B
BORN TO REPRODUCE

BORN TO REPRODUCE

The founder of the Navigators was Dawson Trotman or Daws as he was called. God gave Daws a vision for training young Navy christians to win others and equip them to become reproducing disciples. One sailor would come to the Lord, be discipled, and then disciple another. At one point Navigators were ministering on 1,000 U.S. naval ships and stations. Billy Graham said, "*I think Daws has personally touched more lives than anybody I have ever known.*" In 1956, shortly before he drowned saving someone else, Daws gave a powerful message that outlined his strategy for disciple making. I have included that message in this leader's guide because I believe Daws presents some basic principles of new believer follow up and disciple making that need to be heard by this generation. The message has not been edited and is exactly as he delivered it. It is Public Domain so I have included the entire message.

BORN TO REPRODUCE *By Dawson Trotman*

A few years ago, while visiting Edinburgh, Scotland, I stood on High Street just down from the castle. As I stood there, I saw a father and a mother coming toward me pushing a baby carriage. They looked very happy, were well dressed and apparently were well-to-do. I tried to catch a glimpse of the baby as they passed and, seeing my interest, they stopped to let me look at the little, pink-cheeked member of their family.

I watched them for a little while as they walked on and thought how beautiful it is that God permits a man to choose one woman who seems the most beautiful and lovely to him, and she chooses him out of all the men whom she has ever known. Then they separate themselves to one another, and God in His plan gives them the means of reproduction! It is a wonderful thing that a little child should be born into their family, having some of the father's characteristics and some of the mother's, some of his looks and some of hers. Each sees in that baby a reflection of the one whom he or she loves.

Seeing that little one made me feel homesick for my own children whom I dearly love and whose faces I had not seen for some time. As I continued to stand there I saw another baby carriage or perambulator as they call it over there, coming in my direction. It was a secondhand affair and very wobbly. Obviously the father and mother were poor. Both were dressed poorly and plainly, but when I indicated my interest in seeing their baby, they stopped and with the same pride as the other parents let me view their little, pink-cheeked, beautiful-eyed child.

I thought as these went on their way, "God gave this little baby whose parents are poor everything that He gave the other. It has five little fingers on each hand, a little mouth and two eyes. Properly cared for, those little hands may someday be the hands of an artist or a musician." Then this other thought came to me, "Isn't it wonderful that God did not select the wealthy and the educated and say, 'You can have children,' and to the poor and uneducated say, 'You cannot.' Everyone on earth has that privilege."

The first order ever given to man was that he "be fruitful and multiply." In other words, he was to reproduce after his own kind. God did not tell Adam and Eve, our first parents, to be spiritual. They were already in His image. Sin had not yet come in. He just said, "Multiply. I want more just like you, more in My own image."

Of course, the image was marred. But Adam and Eve had children. They began to multiply. There came a time, however, when God had to destroy most of the flesh that had been born. He started over with eight people. The more than two billion people who are on the earth today came from the eight who were in the ark, because they were fruitful and multiplied.

HINDRANCES

Only a few things will ever keep human beings from multiplying themselves in the physical realm. One is that they never marry. If they are not united, they will not reproduce. This is a truth which Christians need to grasp with reference to spiritual reproduction. When a person becomes a child of God, he should realize that he is to live in union with Jesus Christ if he is going to win others to the Savior.

Another factor that can hinder reproduction is disease or impairment to some part of the body that is needed for reproductive purposes. In the spiritual realm sin is the disease that can keep one from winning the lost.

One other thing that can keep people from having children is immaturity. God in His wisdom saw to it that little children cannot have babies. A little boy must first grow to sufficient maturity to be able to earn a living, and a little girl must be old enough to care for a baby.

Everyone should be born again. That is God's desire. God never intended that man should merely live and die -- be a walking corpse to be laid in the ground. The vast majority of people know that there is something beyond the grave, and so each one who is born into God's family should seek others to be born again.

A person is born again when he receives Jesus Christ. *"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God...Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God"* (John 1:12,13) -- the new birth. It is God's plan that these new babes in Christ grow. All provision is made for their growth into maturity, and then they are to multiply -- not only the rich or the educated, but all alike. Every person who is born into God's family is to multiply.

In the physical realm when your children have children, you become a grandparent. Your parents are then great-grandparents, and theirs are great-great-grandparents. And so it should be in the spiritual.

SPIRITUAL BABIES

Wherever you find a Christian who is not leading men and women to Christ, something is wrong. He may still be a babe. I do not mean that he does not know a lot of doctrine and is not well informed through hearing good preaching. I know many people who can argue the pre-, the post- and the amillennial position and who know much about dispensations, but who are still immature. Paul said of some such in Corinth, *"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual (or mature), but as unto carnal, even as unto babes..."* (1 Corinthians 3:1).

Because they were babes, they were immature, incapable of spiritual reproduction. In other words, they could not help other people to be born again. Paul continued, *"I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it ... ye are yet carnal (or babes): for ... there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions..."* (1 Corinthians 3:2, 3). I know a lot of church members, Sunday school teachers and members of the women's missionary society who will say to each other, "Have you heard about so and so?" and pass

along some gossip. Such have done an abominable thing in the sight of God. How horrible it is when a Christian hears something and spreads the story! The Book says, *"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him...a lying tongue..."* (Proverbs 6:16, 17). Oh, the Christians I know, both men and women, who let lying come in!

"...he that soweth discord among brethren" (Proverbs 16:19) is another. This is walking as a babe, and I believe that it is one of the basic reasons why some Christians do not have people born again into God's family through them. They are sick spiritually. There is something wrong. There is a spiritual disease in their lives. They are immature. There is not that union with Christ.

But when all things are right between you and the Lord, regardless of how much or how little you may know intellectually from the standpoint of the world, you can be a spiritual parent. And that, incidentally, may even be when you are very young in the Lord.

A young lady works at the telephone desk in our office in Colorado Springs. A year and a half ago she was closely associated with the young Communist league in Great Britain. She heard Billy Graham and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. Soon she and a couple other girls in her art and drama school were used of the Lord to win some girls to Christ. We taught Pat and some of the others, and they in turn taught the girls whom they led to Christ. Some of these have led still other girls to Christ, and they too are training their friends. Patricia is a great-grandmother already, though she is only about a year and four months old in the Lord.

We see this all the time. I know a sailor who, when he was only four months old in the Lord, was a great-grandfather. He had led some sailors to the Lord who in turn led other sailors to the Lord, and these last led still other sailors to the Lord -- yet he was only four months old.

How was this done? God used the pure channel of these young Christians' lives in their exuberance and first love for Christ, and out of their hearts the incorruptible seed of the Word of God was sown in the hearts of other people. It took hold. Faith came by the hearing of the Word. They were born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They observed those Christians who led them to Christ and shared in the joy, the peace and the thrill of it all. And in their joy, they wanted someone else to know.

In all our Christian audiences, I am sure there are men and women who have been Christians for five, ten or twenty years but who do not know of one person who is living for Jesus Christ today because of them. I am not talking now about merely working for Christ, but about producing for Christ. Someone may say, "I gave out a hundred thousand tracts." That is good, but how many sheep did you bring in?"

Some time ago I talked to 29 missionary candidates. They were graduates of universities or Bible schools or seminaries. As a member of the board I interviewed each one over a period of five days, giving each candidate from half an hour to an hour. Among the questions I asked were two which are very important. The first one had to do with their devotional life. "How is your devotional life?" I asked them. "How is the time you spend with the Lord? Do you feel that your devotional life is what the Lord would have it to be?"

Out of this particular group of 29 only one person said, "I believe my devotional life is what it ought to be." To the others my question then was, "Why is your devotional life not what it should be?"

"Well, you see, I am here at this summer school," was a common reply. "We have a concentrated course. We do a year's work in only ten weeks. We are so busy."

I said, "All right. Let's back up to when you were in college. Did you have victory in your devotional life then?"

"Well, not exactly."

We traced back and found that never since they came to know the Savior had they had a period set aside for daily devotions. That was one of the reasons for their sterility -- lack of communion with Christ.

The other question I asked them was, "You are going out to the foreign field. You hope to be used by the Lord in winning men and women to Christ. Is that right?"

"Yes."

"You want them to go on and live the victorious life, don't you? You don't want them just to make a decision and then go back into the world, do you?"

"No."

"Then may I ask you something more? How many persons do you know by name today who were won to Christ by you and are living for Him?"

"The majority had to admit that they were ready to cross an ocean and learn a foreign language, but they had not won their first soul who was going on with Jesus Christ. A number of them said that they got many people to go to church; others said they had persuaded some to go forward when the invitation was given.

I asked, "Are they living for Christ now?" Their eyes dropped. I then continued, "How do you expect that by crossing an ocean and speaking in a foreign language with people who are suspicious of you, whose way of life is unfamiliar, you will be able to do there what you have not yet done here?"

This is not for missionaries and prospective missionaries only. It is for all of God's people. Every one of His children ought to be a reproducer.

Are you producing? If not, why not? Is it because of a lack of communion with Christ, your Lord, that closeness of fellowship which is part of the great plan? Or is it some sin in your life, an unconfessed something, that has stopped the flow? Or is it that you are still a babe? *"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again..." (Hebrews 5:12).*

HOW TO PRODUCE REPRODUCERS

The reason that we are not getting this Gospel to the ends of the earth is not because it is not potent enough. Twenty-three years ago we took a born-again sailor and spent some time with him, showing him how to reproduce spiritually after his kind. It took time, lots of time. It was not a hurried, 30-minute challenge in a church service and a hasty good-bye with an invitation to come back next week. We spent time together. We took care of his problems and taught him not only to hear God's Word and to read it, but also how to study it. We taught him how to fill the quiver of his heart with the arrows of God's Word, so that the Spirit of God could lift an arrow from his heart and place it to the bow of his lips and pierce a heart for Christ.

He found a number of boys on his ship, but none of them would go all out for the Lord. They would go to church, but when it came right down to doing something, they were “also rans.” He came to me after a month of this and said, “Dawson, I can't get any of these guys on the ship to get down to business.”

I said to him, “Listen, you ask God to give you one. You can't have two until you have one. Ask God to give you a man after your own heart.”

He began to pray. One day he came to me and said, “I think I've found him.” Later he brought the young fellow over. Three months from the time I started to work with him, he had found a man for Christ, a man of like heart. This first sailor was not the kind of man you had to push and give prizes to before he would do something. He loved the Lord and was willing to pay a price to produce. He worked with this new babe in Christ, and those two fellows began to grow and spiritually reproduce. On that ship 125 men found the Savior before it was sunk at Pearl Harbor.

Men off that first battleship are in four continents of the world as missionaries today. The work spread from ship to ship to ship, so that when the Japanese struck at Pears Harbor, there was a testimony being given on 50 ships of the U.S. fleet. When the war closed, there was work by one or more producers (I am not talking about mere Christians), on more than a thousand of the U.S. Fleet ships and at many army camps and air bases. It had to have a start, however. The devil's great trick is to stop anything like this if he can before it gets started. He will stop you, too, if you let him.

There are Christians whose lives run in circles who, nevertheless, have the desire to be spiritual parents. Take a typical example. You meet him in the morning as he goes to work and say to him, “Why are you going to work?”

“Well, I have to earn money.”

“What are you earning money for?” you ask.

“Well,” he replies, “I have to buy food.”

“What do you want food for?”

“I have to eat so as to have strength to go to work and earn some more money.”

“What do you want more money for?”

“I have to buy clothes so that I can be dressed to go to work and earn some more money.”

“What do you want more money for?”

“I have to buy a house or pay the rent so I will have a place to rest up, so I will be fit to work and earn some more money.” And so it goes. There are many Christians like that who are going in big circles. But you continue your questioning and ask, “What else do you do?”

“Oh, I find time to serve the Lord. I am preaching here and there.” But down behind all of this he has the one desire to be a spiritual father. He is praying that God will give him a man to teach. Perhaps it takes him

six months. It need not take that long, but maybe it takes him six months to reach the other for Christ and get him started taking in the Word and giving it out and getting ready to teach a man himself.

So this first man at the end of six months has another man. Each man starts teaching another in the following six months. At the end of the year, there are just four of them. Perhaps each one teaches a Bible class or helps in a street meeting, but at the same time his main interest is seeing how the new fellow he won to the Lord is doing. So at the end of the year the four of them get together and have a prayer meeting and determine, "Now, let's not allow anything to sidetrack us. Let's give the Gospel out to a lot of people, but let's check up on at least one and see him through."

So the four of them in the next six months each get a man. That makes eight at the end of a year and a half. They all go out after another and at the end of two years there are 16 men. At the end of three years there are 64 men; the 16 have doubled twice. At the end of five years there are 1,024. At the end of fifteen and a half years there are approximately 2,147,500,000. That is the present population of the world of persons over three years of age.

But wait a minute! Suppose that after the first man, A, helps B and B is ready to get his man while A starts helping another, B is sidetracked, washes out and does not produce his first man. Fifteen and one-half years later you can cut your 2,147,500,000 down to 1,073,750,000 because the devil caused B to be sterile.

God promised Abraham "... in Isaac shall thy seed be called" (Genesis 21:12), so Abraham waited a long, long time for that son. God's promise to make Abraham the father of many nations was all wrapped up in that one son, Isaac. If Hitler had been present and had caused Isaac's death when Abraham had his knife poised over him on Mount Moriah, Hitler could have killed every Jew in that one stroke.

I believe that is why Satan puts all his efforts into getting the Christian busy, busy, busy, but not producing.

Men, where is your man? Women, where is your woman? Where is the one whom you led to Christ and who is now going on with Him?

There is a story in 1 Kings, chapter 20 about a man who gave a prisoner to a servant and instructed the servant to guard the prisoner well. But as the servant was busy here and there the prisoner made his escape.

The curse of today is that we are too busy. I am not talking about being busy earning money to buy food. I am talking about being busy doing Christian things. We have spiritual activity with little productivity. And productivity comes as a result of what we call "follow-up."

MAJORING IN REPRODUCING

Five years ago, Billy Graham came to me and said, "Daws, we would like you to help with our follow-up. I've been studying the great evangelists and the great revivals and I fail to see that there was much of a follow-up program. We need it. We are having an average of 6,000 people come forward to decide for Christ in a month's campaign. I feel that with the work you have done you could come in and help us."

I said, "Billy, I can't follow up 6,000 people. My work has always been with individuals and small groups."

"Look, Daws," he answered, "everywhere I go I meet Navigators. I met them in school in Wheaton. They

Are in my school right now. (He was president of Northwestern Schools at that time.) There must be something to this."

"I just don't have time." I said.

He tackled me again. The third time he pled with me and said, "Daws, I am not able to sleep nights for thinking of what happens to the converts after a crusade is over."

At that time I was on my way to Formosa and I said, "While I am there I will pray about it, Billy." On the sands of a Formosan beach I paced up and down two or three hours a day praying, "Lord, how can I do this? I am not even getting the work done You have given me to do. How can I take six months of the year to give to Billy?" But God laid the burden upon my heart.

Why should Billy have asked me to do it? I had said to him that day before I left for Formosa, "Billy, you will have to get somebody else." He took me by the shoulders and said, "Who else? Who is majoring in this?" I had been majoring in it.

What will it take to jar us out of our complacency and send us home to pray, "God, give me a girl or man whom I can win to Christ, or let me take one who is already won, an infant in Christ, and try to train that one so that he or she will reproduce!"

How thrilled we are to see the masses fill up the seats! But where is your man? I would rather have one "Isaac" alive than a hundred dead, or sterile, or immature.

BEGINNING OF FOLLOW-UP

One day years ago, I was driving along in my little Model T Ford and saw a young man walking down the street. I stopped and picked him up. As he got into the car, he swore and said, "It's sure tough to get a ride." I never hear a man take my Savior's name in vain but what my heart aches. I reached into my pocket for a tract and said, "Lad, read this."

He looked up at me and said, "Haven't I seen you somewhere before?"

I looked at him closely. He looked like someone I should know. We figured out that we had met the year before on the same road. He was on his way to a golf course to caddy when I picked him up. He had gotten into my car and had started out the same way with the name "Jesus Christ." I had taken exception to his use of that name and had opened up the New Testament and shown him the way of salvation. He had accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. In parting I had given him Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." "God bless you, son. Read this," I said, and sped on my merry way.

A year later, there was no more evidence of the new birth and the new creature in this boy than if he had never heard of Jesus Christ.

I had a great passion to win souls and that was my great passion. But after I met this boy the second time on the way to the golf course, I began to go back and find some of my "converts." I want to tell you, I was sick at heart. It seemed that Philippians 1:6 was not working.

An Armenian boy came into my office one day and told me about all the souls he had won. He said that they were all Armenians and had the list to prove it.

I said, "Well, what is this one doing?"

He said, "That one isn't doing so good. He is backslidden."

"What about this one?" We went all down the list and there was not one living a victorious life.

I said, "Give me your Bible." I turned to Philippians and put a cardboard right under the 6th verse, took a razor blade out of my pocket and started to come down on the page. He grabbed my hand and asked, "What are you going to do?"

"I'm going to cut this verse out," I said, "It isn't working."

Do you know what was wrong? I had been taking the 6th verse away from its context, verses 3 through 7. Paul was not just saying, "All right, the Lord has started something, He will finish it." But you know, that is what some people tell me when they win a soul. They say, "Well, I just committed him to God."

Suppose I meet someone who has a large family and say to him, "Who is taking care of your children?"

"My family? Oh, I left them with the Lord."

Right away I would say to that one, "I have a verse for you: 'But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he...is worse than an infidel'(1 Timothy 5:8)."

Paul said to the elders of the church at Ephesus, "Take heed...to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers..." (Acts 20:28). You cannot make God the overseer. He makes you the overseer.

We began work on follow-up. This emphasis on finding and helping some of the converts went on for a couple or three years before the Navigator work started. By that time our work included fewer converts but more time spent with the converts. Soon I could say as Paul said to the Philippians, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5). He followed up his converts with daily prayer and fellowship. Then he could say, "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). In keeping with this the 7th verse reads: "Even as it is meet (or proper) for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart..."

Until this time I had forgotten to follow up the people God had reached through me. But from then on I began to spend time helping them. That is why sometime later when that first sailor came to me, I saw the value of spending three months with him. I saw an Isaac in him. Isaac had Jacob, and Jacob had the twelve, and all the rest of the nation came through them.

IT TAKES TIME TO DO GOD'S WORK

You can lead a soul to Christ in from 20 minutes to a couple of hours. But it takes from 20 weeks to a couple of years to get him on the road to maturity, victorious over the sins and the recurring problems that come along. He must learn how to make right decisions. He must be warned of the various "isms" that are likely to reach out with their octopus arms and pull him in and sidetrack him.

But when you get yourself a man, you have doubled your ministry -- in fact, you have more than doubled your ministry. Do you know why? When you teach your man, he sees how it is done and he imitates you.

If I were the minister of a church and had deacons or elders to pass the plate and choir members to sing, I would say, "Thank God for your help. We need you. Praise the Lord for these extra things that you do," but I would keep pressing home the big job -- "Be fruitful and multiply." All these other things are incidental to the supreme task of winning a man or woman to Jesus Christ and then helping him or her to go on. Where is your man? Where is your woman? Do you have one? You can ask God for one. Search your hearts. Ask the Lord, "Am I spiritually sterile? If I am, why am I?"

Don't let your lack of knowledge stand in the way of winning the lost. It used to be the plan of The Navigators in the early days that whenever the sailors were with us for supper each fellow was asked at the end of the meal to quote a verse.

I would say it this way, "Quote a verse you have learned in the last 48 hours if you have one. Otherwise, just give us a verse." One evening as we quoted verses around the table, my little three-year-old daughter's turn came. There was a new sailor next to her who did not think about her quoting Scripture, so without giving her an opportunity, he began. She looked up at him as much as to say, "I am a human being," then she quoted John 3:16 in her own way. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only forgotten Son, that WHOSOEVER believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." She put the emphasis on the "whosoever" because when she was first taught the verse she could not pronounce that word. Days later that sailor came over and said to me, "You know, I was going to quote that verse of Scripture. It was the only one I knew. But I didn't really know it, not until little Ruthie quoted it. When she said 'whosoever,' I thought, 'that means me.' Back on ship I accepted the Lord." Today that young man is a missionary in South America.

Until several years after we were married, my wife's father did not know the Lord. Here again God used children to reach a hungry heart. When Ruthie was three and Bruce was five, they went to visit Grandpa and Grandma. Grandpa tried to get them to repeat nursery rhymes. He said, "Mary had a little lamb" and "Little Boy Blue," but the children just looked at him and asked, "Who is Little Boy Blue?" He thought they did not know very much. Their mother said, "They know some things. Quote Romans 3:23, Bruce." This Bruce did. Then he asked, "Shall I quote another one, Grandpa?"

"Sure," said Grandpa.

Bruce began to quote verses of Scripture, some 15 in all, and Ruth quoted some in between. This delighted Grandpa. He took them over to the neighbors and to the aunts and uncles, showing them how well these children knew the Scriptures. In the meantime the Word of God was doing its work. It was not long before the Holy Spirit, through the voices of babes, planted the seed in his heart. "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast Thou ordained strength..." (Psalm 8:2).

Soulwinners are not soulwinners because of what they know, but because of the Person they know, how well they know Him and how much they long for others to know Him.

“Oh, but I am afraid,” someone says. Remember, “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe” (Proverbs 29:25). Nothing under heaven except sin, immaturity and lack of communion will put you in a position where you cannot reproduce. Furthermore, there is not anything under heaven that can keep a newly born again one from going on with the Lord if he has a spiritual parent to take care of him and give him the spiritual food God has provided for his normal growth.

Effects obey their causes by irresistible laws. When you sow the seed of God's Word you will get results. Not every heart will receive the Word, but some will, and the new birth will take place. When a soul is born, give it the care that Paul gave new believers. Paul believed in follow-up work. He was a busy evangelist, but he took time for follow-up. The New Testament is largely made up of the letters of Paul which were follow-up letters to the converts.

James believed in it. “But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only,” he said in James 1:22. Peter believed in it, for he said, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). John believed in it, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3 John 4). All the writings of Peter, Paul, James and most of the writings of John are food for the new Christian.

The Gospel spread to the known world during the first century without radio, television or the printing press, because these produced ones were reproducing. But today we have a lot of pew-sitters -- people who think that if they are faithful in church attendance, put good-sized gifts into the offering plate and get people to come, they have done their part.

Where is your man? Where is your woman? Where is your boy? Where is your girl? Every one of us, no matter what age we are, should get busy memorizing Scripture. In one Sunday school class a woman 72 years of age and another who was 78 finished The Navigators Topical Memory System. They then had something to give.

Load your heart with this precious Seed. You will find that God will direct you to those whom you can lead to Christ. There are many hearts ready for the Gospel now.

APPENDIX C
THE OASIS DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY

THE OASIS DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY

When I finished writing *Footprints* Janet and I had just become part of a new church plant in the “Little Arabia” section of Anaheim, California. A small core group of about fifty people had been meeting for eight months to prepare for the launch. In October of 2012 we held our first worship service in the Brookhurst Community Center.

The Lord had given Janet and me a vision for making disciples by using *The Disciple's Journey* resources that I had just completed. What we did not know was how we would implement this or who we would disciple. We decided to pray, build relationship, and wait for God to open doors.

I was asked to lead one of several small group starting in January of 2013. The group was larger than we expected so I knew that we would need to break into smaller groups for a portion of our time to facilitate better discussion. I was fortunate to have as part of this group Peyt Steiner and Kari Pel, two spiritually mature adults. I asked them to help with the leadership in the smaller groups. The result was that we immediately started working as a team. We continued to lead the group together and build relationships between ourselves and our group.

During the next few months the church grew to about 75 people. I decided to start a *Spiritual Boot Camp* group in August and invite anyone in the church who was interested to participate. To avoid a conflict with the existing small groups I decided to meet on Friday nights. Kari and her husband Jason wanted to attend but Kari was concerned that because of her tax business attending every Friday night would be difficult during the January through April 15th tax season. She asked if I would consider meeting every other Friday night. After considering this I thought that every other Friday night might have some advantages over meeting weekly. It would put less pressure on people to finish the challenging assignments and would also give more time to do outreach and ministry together on the alternating weeks. (An essential part of disciples making—the 50/50 principle)

In August of 2013 we launched *Spiritual Boot Camp* in the Steiner/Rickerson home. I was very surprised to see eighteen people show up. Once again we were faced with the positive issue of having too many people for one group, so we divided into three small groups with Kari, Peyt and me each leading a group. We were fortunate to have a large house that had a separate space for each group. Each week participants were assigned to a different group so people could get to know one another. All but one person finished, completing all the work which was a prerequisite for continuing on to “The Calling” stage and *7 Great Doctrines of the Bible*. A second person who finished *Spiritual Boot Camp* decided not to continue because of growing responsibilities with his family.

For this stage we decided to put the people in permanent groups for the nine sessions. All sixteen people completed “The Calling” stage. Five of the people were from other churches and decided not to continue because they needed to connect more closely with those churches. Another lady moved to Texas so ten people were “chosen” for the next two stages and the *Anchoring* resource. It is interesting to note that nine of these ten people were from our small group that met on Wednesday evenings. This reinforces the principle that those we disciple will most often come from our circle of existing relationships. I believe the best starting point for making disciples starts in small groups. This gives the leaders of these groups the opportunity to begin building relationships and the discipling process. Some will become candidates for more intentional and intensive discipleship training.

We decided to take a three week break before starting *Anchoring*. During this time the group read and applied the principles from the book, *The Hour That Changes the World* by Dick Eastman. In his book Eastman gives a powerful and practical 12 step plan that equips people to pray for one hour. We then held one another accountable for praying through these steps for one hour once a week. I use this format regularly and have found it the most helpful tool I have ever used for spiritual growth.

During *Anchoring*, Jake, one of our faithful disciples, died suddenly of a heart attack. We miss him but are moving on with tears and cheers, knowing that he faithfully completed the disciple's journey on earth and is enjoying his final destination in heaven.

For the final "Commissioning Stage" and the *Footprints* resource we decided to meet weekly. This has worked well to help review and focus on the essential principles of disciple making and prepare people to launch their own *Spiritual Boot Camp* groups. It has been rewarding to see the spiritual growth and the confidence that our people are demonstrating. To a person they have the faith to be commissioned to "go make disciples".

For *Anchoring* and *Footprints* we separated into a men's group and a women's group. A very important change in these stages was that we alternated leadership within the group. Each person was able to gain valuable experience in leading a *Disciples Journey* group. As I write this today we are three days away from completing *The Disciple's Journey*. The nine people who are completing this two year sojourn have definitely been faithful, available and teachable. It has been an honor and pleasure to be one of the leaders who has invested in their lives.

SOME THINGS WE HAVE LEARNED DURING THIS TWO YEAR JOURNEY

The principal of starting from the bottom up not the top down

We have learned that discipleship starts from the bottom up, not from the top down. Jesus did not start from the top by making an announcement or promoting a program for the many. He did not try to convince the religious leaders of the day to buy into disciple making. He started from the bottom up building relationships with a few, training them and then commissioning them.

The only mention of *The Disciple's Journey* at our worship services was to invite people to attend *Spiritual Boot Camp*. We feel strongly that everyone should have the opportunity to be grounded in the basics of the faith. At this point we didn't mention the term "discipleship".

The principal of fishing in your own pond

We have learned the wisdom of building relationships first in small groups. We need to fish in our own "ponds" first and then widen the circle. People we already have relationships with will often be most receptive to being discipled. These relationships give us the opportunity to observe who is ready for further training and invite those people to participate in more intentional discipleship. All small groups should have an element of discipleship, but we need to move faithful, teachable and available people from these community groups to core discipleship group training.

The principal of high expectations

We have found that we must keep expectations high from the very beginning. People must be held accountable to be faithfully attend group sessions and to complete all the assignments. Even though Jesus

brought His disciples along stage by stage, He started with high expectations and continued to raise the bar. The disciples were held accountable. We should constantly ask ourselves and those we disciple, “Am I/we being/doing my best for Jesus?”

The principal of disciple making in stages

We found that discipling people in stages helps us discover those who are faithful, available and teachable. At the “Invitation Stage” people can receive grounding in the basics of the faith and also get their first experience of intentional disciple making. In *Spiritual Boot Camp* we do ask for commitment but not the level of the other stages. During this stage they can drop out or opt out of moving to the next stage without feeling they have failed. It might be that they are just not ready to make the commitment that is required for further discipling.

The “Calling Stage” has a higher level of commitment and accountability and gives people an even deeper foundation in the basics of the faith as they study the *7 Great Doctrines of the Bible*. By the end of this stage it is those who desire to complete *The Disciple’s Journey* and who have demonstrated that they are faithful, available and teachable, who are “chosen” to continue. From the “Choosing Stage” on no one dropped out of our *Disciple’s Journey* group.

The principal of extended time together

We became thoroughly convinced that you can’t hurry through the disciple making process. Jesus was willing to spend over three years with His disciples. We believe that nothing can take the place of learning, sharing, and serving together over an extended period of time. I think there was a significant advantage to meeting every other week. That extra year help us bond together, develop Christlikeness and become competent in the faith skills of *The Disciple’s Journey*.

The principle of on the job training

We were able to witness a significant uptick in competency and confidence when we started taking turns leading the group sessions during *Anchoring*. To a person, people felt equipped and confident that they could lead *Disciple’s Journey* groups.

The principal of the a clear process and goal of reproduction

One of the primary keys that contributed to the successful completing of this phase of *The Disciple’s Journey* was the strong emphasis on the goal of reproduction. *The Disciple’s Journey* resources as well as we leaders consistently and clearly emphasized that the purpose of the journey was to commission fully devoted followers of Jesus who would reproduce other fully devoted followers of Jesus who would pass the baton. There was not only a clear process of reproduction but a clear expectations that each person would disciple others. We believe our disciples are ready to do exactly that.

REPRODUCING

In a few days we will “commission” *The Disciple’s Journey* group and they will begin the process of starting their own groups. Peyt and Kari will continue to work with these people now as shepherds as well as starting new groups of their own. They will pray for, encourage, and give council so that the goal of reproducing will be successful and the batons will be passed. So now you know some things about our journey. Your journey will be different and that is good. Every situation is unique and God will bless it in His own unique way.