

1. WHY DISCIPLESHIP?

THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST DEMANDS IT.¹

We need to have a correct perspective of Christ so that we will have the right motivation for making disciples. Everything hinges on what you think of Christ.

A. THE POWER OF CHRIST (MATT 28:18).

1. **Jesus possesses all authority.** (see Dan 7:13-14)
2. **Jesus has the right to exercise authority.** (see Phil 2:9-11)
How do we see the Lord exercising His authority today?

- (Matt 16:18).
- (Rom 16:20).
- (Acts 26:18).
- (Rom 1:16, Eph 1:19, Eph 3:20-21).

3. **Jesus exercises this authority in commanded us to make disciples.** (John 15:16)

B. THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF CHRIST (MATT 28:19-20).

1. **The command of Christ for His followers:** *make disciples.*
2. **The course of action.** The command is to make disciples. *Go, baptizing* and *teaching* are participles that modify the command.

Going is *evangelism*. We go with the gospel message, the good news that sinners can be made right with God and not have to face condemnation for their sins.

¹ Adapted from the Discipleship manuals from Community Bible Church, Vallejo, CA, USA and expanded from personal teaching notes. You are free to use as needed, but please do not distribute without permission. Stephen Williams, stephen@christcommunitychurch.in

We are to baptize those who believe (Matt 28:19). All believers are commanded by Christ to make a public commitment to Him.

Those who have trusted in Christ are to be taught obedience (Matt 28:20).

3. The supremacy of Christ in this command.

- a. **The extent of this command exalts Christ (Matt 28:19).** Jesus commands us to go make disciples *of all the nations*. The person and work of Christ is so significant that it cannot be kept in a corner. It must go to the furthest corners of the globe. (Isa 49:5-6, Acts 4:12).
- b. **The equality of the Son with the Father and the Spirit (Matt 28:19).**
- c. **The Lord has equipped the saints (Matt 28:20).**

C. THE PROMISE OF CHRIST (MATT 28:20).

He *himself* will be with us! Jesus is not sending some angel to help us or someone else. He *Himself* promises to be with us as we carry out His commands.

CONCLUSION

We are commanded to go to the nations and make disciples. The task set before us is impossible. But we have the assurance of Christ's presence, which is backed by His all-sufficient power, which means we have the guarantee of success.

Making disciples begins by having a right vision of Christ. When you see Christ in His glory, when you understand a little of the magnitude of His power, when you grasp hold of the promise of His presence, you will go out and proclaim Him. You will make disciples. What is going to stop you? **2**

2. WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

If we are commanded to make disciples, we need to know what that means, for if we get this wrong, our ministry could be a failure or it will not be as fruitful as it could be.

A. DIFFERENT VIEWS OF A DISCIPLE.

There has been great diversity as to the meaning of what a disciple really is. This has led to much confusion in the church of what it means to make disciples. Some of the more popular views are:

1. **Disciples are learners.** (John 6:60, 66).
2. **Disciples are committed Christians.** (Luke 14:26-27, 33).

Dwight Pentecost: "There is a vast difference between being saved and being a disciple. Not all men who are saved are disciples although all who are disciples are saved. In discussing the question of discipleship, we are not dealing with a man's salvation. We are dealing with a man's relationship to Jesus Christ as his teacher, his Master, and his Lord."²

3. **A disciple is one called to full time ministry.** (Mark 3:13-15).
4. **A disciple is one who has converted to Christ but who has not entered into discipleship.**
5. **A disciple is a true believer in Christ who is in the process of becoming more like Christ.**

² Dwight Pentecost, *Design for Discipleship* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1971), 14, quoted in Michael Wilkins, *Following the Master* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992), 27-28.

B. DEFINING WHAT A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST IS.

In the Scriptures there is a development of the meaning of the word disciple so that by the time we get to the book of Acts we have a clear definition of what a disciple of Christ is.

1. **A disciple is a follower.** (cf. John 10:27). It involves making a life commitment to Christ and His ways.

a. **Jesus was constantly calling men to follow Him.** (Matt 4:19; John 1:43; Matt 9:9; Matt 16:24; Matt 19:21).

A disciple of Christ is one that follows Him. This means they follow His teaching, His way of life, and His example. They put themselves under His authority.

b. **Disciples of Christ are with Christ (John 14:23; 14:16-18).** As they are with Him they learn to be like Him.

c. **Disciples of Christ follow His teaching.** They keep His commandments (John 13:34-35; 14:15, 21).

d. **Disciples of Christ follow His example.** We learn to follow Christ's example from believers who model imitating Christ. (1 Cor 11:1; 1 The 1:6).

From this general definition we see that a disciple of Christ is a follower of Christ. Unfortunately, many will follow Christ for the wrong reasons, so it must go deeper than this (John 6:2, 26; John 8:31; Matt 13:20-21).

2. **A disciple is one who recognizes that Jesus is Lord (Luke 5:1-11).** Jesus is not simply some great teacher to emulate. He is Lord of all.

a. **Peter greatly respected Jesus (Luke 5:5).**

b. **Peter is revealed Christ's true identity (Luke 5:6-8).**

c. **Peter responds to seeing Christ's glory (Luke 5:8-10).** (also Rom 10:9-10; Col 2:6).

3. **A disciple is one who makes a radical commitment to Christ.** This is what Jesus demands as Lord.

a. **Jesus calls sinners to a new life (Luke 5:10).** He calls us to be fishers of men: to make disciples.

b. **Jesus expects a response to leave all and follow Him (Luke 5:11).** (see Luke 9:23-25).

1) **Deny yourself (Luke 9:23).**

2) **Take up your cross (Luke 9:23).**
(2 Tim 3:12; John 15:18).

3) **Forsake your family (Luke 14:25-26).**

4) **Count the cost (Luke 14:27-32).** Jesus gives two illustrations to emphasize the need to consider the cost of being His disciple (Luke 14:28-32).

- **The first is of a person who wants to build a building.** Before he ever begins, the person will sit down and calculate the cost (Luke 14:28-30).
- **The second illustration is of a king about to meet another king in battle (Luke 14:31).**

Consider the cost of following Christ, of being His disciple. There is no place for half-hearted commitment. He demands all of you and is worthy of all of you.

5) **Give up all of your possessions (Luke 14:33; 18:22-23).** Love Christ more than things. Things are temporary. Christ is eternal.

4. **A disciple is one who continues to grow in Christ likeness (Matt 10:24-25; 28:20; Luke 6:40; Rom 8:29).**

A true disciple will **continue in Christ's word** (John 8:31).

a. The response of the false disciple (John 6:60, 66).

b. The response of the true disciple (John 6:67-70).

CONCLUSION: SO WHO IS A DISCIPLE (ACTS 11:26)?

A disciple is a follower of Christ. He is one who puts himself under the authority and teaching of Christ. The reason he follows Christ is because he has come to believe some things about Christ. He believes Jesus is Lord. He believes and knows Jesus is the holy one of God. He is the one with the words of eternal life; He is the one who takes away our sins, which means He is also our Savior. Because you believe Christ is Lord, the one with all authority, you give your life to Him. This is what Jesus demands of all His disciples. You must lose your life for His sake. This is how you become a disciple. So making disciples begins with conversion. You come to Him on His terms because He is Lord. But a disciple of Christ is not one who simply believes some things about Christ. He is one who continues in His word. He grows in Christ-likeness. He becomes like his teacher. He is in a process of becoming more and more like Christ.

When you examine this definition of a disciple it sounds just like how one would define a Christian. And that is exactly what a disciple is. A disciple is a Christian and a Christian is a disciple. In the early church “the disciples were first called *Christians* in Antioch” (Acts 11:26). Notice before they were ever called Christians, they were simply called disciples because that is what a Christian is. A disciple is not some super zealous saint. A disciple is not someone in full time ministry. A disciple is just another word for a Christian. All Christians are disciples. All Christians continue in Christ’s word. All Christians are growing in Christ-likeness. And all Christians are commanded to make disciples.

3. DISCIPLE-MAKING:

CHRIST'S PATTERN FOR DISCIPLING MEN

Making disciples is our Lord's strategy for building His church. Disciple making, then, is not some small obscure ministry in the church. Disciple making is the church. Everything we do as a church and every ministry in the church should be focused on making disciples.

To understand how to make disciples we need to look at the example of our Lord Jesus. Jesus had a plan for making disciples. Everything He did was centered on this goal. When Jesus commissioned His followers in Matthew 28 to make disciples, they knew exactly how to do this because He had modeled it for them. He had lived out and showed them what to do.

A. THE PLAN FOR MAKING DISCIPLES.

1. **Jesus had a ministry to the multitudes.** (Mark 1:14-15, 38-39; Mark 1:21-39).

- **Jesus required those who made profession of faith in Him to be baptized (John 4:1; Matt 28:19),**
- **Jesus also taught the multitudes (Matt 5:1-2).**

2. **Jesus concentrated on a few.**

- **Jesus looked for men out of the multitude He could train and invest His life in (Luke 6:12-13).** This was Christ's plan to reach the world with the gospel. His strategy was to train men.

If you are in ministry serving someplace, your goal should be to learn as much as you can from the person over you so you can do what they do. This is discipleship (Matt 10:25).

B. THE PEOPLE TO FOCUS ON.

1. **They were teachable or humble.** Teachability is maybe most clearly seen in how one responds to rebuke.

The example of Peter responding to rebuke (Matt 14:28-3; 15:15-16; 26:40; 16:23).

2. They were faithful (2 Tim 2:2).

- a. **Faithfulness is someone who is trustworthy (Matt 24:45-46).** They can be counted on do what you request even when you are not around.
- b. **Faithfulness is measured by little things (Luke 16:10).** If a person has not learned to be faithful in the small things, there is no question he will not be faithful in the bigger things.

According to Jesus, money is a little thing (Luke 16:11). How you spend God's resources determines who you are really serving (Luke 16:13).

- c. **Faithfulness is critical.** If a person is not faithful, then he will fail to take what he has learned and teach other men and the chain will be broken and the goal will not be reached.

(Mark 3:9; 6:41, 43; John 4; Mark 6:7, 12-13).

- A. **The pattern of making disciples.** There were at least three main things that Jesus emphasized in His training of the twelve. He modeled for them how to live and do ministry; He was an example. He also instructed and corrected them; He was an exhorter. And He gave them work to do; He *employed* them in ministry.

These three things presuppose that you are spending time together.

1. **Jesus *employed* the disciples in ministry (John 4:5-6, 8).** He gave them a small task: get some food. When making disciples we need to give them small jobs to do.
2. **Jesus was an *example* (John 4:27).** Jesus modeled to His disciples how to do ministry.

3. Jesus is an *exhorter* (John 4:31-38).

Summary: What we see in this passage is Jesus making disciples. He is ministering to the multitudes—the Samaritans. He is also focused on the few. He is training His faithful disciples. He is giving them small tasks to do. He is modeling to them how to live and how to do ministry. He is teaching them from real life situations. When Jesus is done there will be twelve men like Him who can then train others.

The gospel has now been handed down to us. Faithful men have imparted what they learned to us. Will we be faithful to our generation and will we train the next generation of disciples?

DEVELOPING DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

As we have seen making disciples is very comprehensive. It includes evangelism ministries and teaching ministries. Therefore, when developing “discipleship” in the local church it must be broad enough to cover these areas. There also must be a focus on ministering to the group as well as training the few.

EVANGELISM:

Part of the equipping ministry should be to train people how to evangelize. There needs to be a vision of reaching people for Christ. This must come from the pulpit and other teaching venues. Also a strategy needs to be developed about how to best evangelize, and then practical opportunities need to be given to people so they can go out and do this as they see it modeled for them.

Some suggestions:

- Evangelism should be part of our preaching. Invite people to come to Christ.
- Parents need to be encouraged to teach and evangelize their children. Train them how to do this.
- Teach an evangelism Sunday school class to teach people how to evangelize.
- Friendship evangelism needs to be taught, encouraged, and modeled.
- Reach those God brings to your church or ministry.
- Reach your community:
 - Start a Kindness Evangelism program. This is a great way for those with the gift of evangelism to model to others how to evangelize. This is also a very non-threatening way to evangelize since everyone can show kindness to others.
 - Organize street evangelism (at fruit stands, movie places, wherever people are gathered).
 - Reach the elderly by starting a convalescent ministry.
 - Start a prison ministry.
 - Reach the youth through outreaches.
 - Reach adults through sports activities.

TEACHING:

Teaching needs to be structured so it reaches people who are new believers, young believers and mature believers. Different avenues need to be established to meet the needs of people at their maturity level. Remember also that part of teaching is modeling or living what you are teaching others. Thus people need to be around you so they can learn from your example.

- **Preaching/corporate worship:** The emphasis on this in the New Testament cannot be ignored. It is the primary means God uses to mature us and help us grow in Christ. Men need to be developed and given the opportunity to preach.

- **One on one mentoring ministry:** Develop a ministry for new and young believers to help them grow in Christ and learn basic Bible doctrine. Training must be provided for mentors so they know how to disciple others. The main way to train them is by them simply watching someone else do this.
- **Home Fellowship Groups:** Small groups are essential to the growth of believers in the church. Teaching the word, fellowship, ministering to one another, prayer, worship, outreach should all be essential components to these groups. They are the place that “body life” takes place. The importance of ministering to one another in groups like these should be emphasized from the pulpit through sermons.

The leader should also focus on training and developing an intern who will eventually have his own group.

- **Sunday School classes:** These should address the various needs in the church. It should be geared to help the youngest Christian grow, yet be challenging to the most mature believer. Topics should address specific needs in the body. There are certain topics that we have decided should be taught regularly: parenting, marriage, finances, missions.

As men have developed their teaching gifts in other areas like Home Fellowship Groups, some of these men should be given opportunity to start teaching Sunday school under the direction of a mentor. This is an essential way to develop the preaching gifts of men.

- **Men’s Ministry, Women’s Ministry, College & Career Ministries:** These groups meet to encourage specific needs related to gender or singleness.
- **Children’s and Youth Ministry:** There must be a vision to reach the next generation for Christ (Ps 78).
- **Leadership Training and Development:** This is geared for those who have shown themselves faithful in the little things. There is a great focus on a man’s character, how he leads his wife and children, learning basic hermeneutic skills, learning disciplines to help his walk, and learning in more depth some of the great doctrines of the faith.
- **Leadership Training for Women:** This is much like LTD except with an emphasis on women’s roles in the church and home.

SERVING:

All of the equipping stated above will be fruitless unless it is accompanied with serving. As people are equipped by evangelists and pastors, they need to take what they have learned and apply it to ministry. Thus believers need to be taught the importance of serving and exhorted to serve. Leaders need to provide avenues for people to use their spiritual gifts. Leaders also must model serving. They must have a vision of having faithful men with them whom they can train for the ministry.

4. DISCIPLE-MAKING

PAUL'S METHOD OF IMPARTATION

The plan of Jesus for making disciples: minister to the multitudes while concentrating on training leaders. From the multitude, look for people who are faithful. The pattern for discipling them includes being an exhorter. Jesus taught them how to live and do ministry. It involves being an example. Jesus showed them how to live and do ministry. And it consists of being an employer. Jesus gave them work to do so they could learn from experience.

Paul's method of making disciples is exactly the same as Christ's. Paul ministered to the multitudes while he trained the faithful few. He taught his disciples; he was a model to his disciples; and he gave them opportunities to learn by experience.

The example of Timothy (1 Cor 4:17)

- He was a man worth investing in.
- He was trained by Paul's example.
- He learned from Paul's teaching.
- He learned from experience.

A. Paul's ministry to the multitudes—the Corinthians (1 Cor 4:14-16).

1. Paul was an exhorter (1 Cor 4:14-15).

a. Exhortation often involves admonishing.

b. How to admonish (1 Cor 4:14).

1) Admonish in love (Acts 20:31).

2) Admonish as family (Heb 5:12; Col 1:28).

3) Admonish with the word (2 Tim 3:16-17).

4) Admonishing correctly:

- Speak with carefully measured words (Jas 1:19-20)
- Speak with the right tone of voice (Pro 15:1)
- Speak with praise and commendation (Pro 15:23)

2. **Paul was an example (1 Cor 4:16; cf. 1 Cor 11:1).** Disciples become like their teacher. Be an example worth imitating.
 - a. **Be an example in character (1 Tim 4:12).** The way we live is our most powerful message for the gospel.
 - 1) **We are to be an example in speech (Jam 3:1-12; 1 Pet 2:23).**
 - 2) **We are to be an example in conduct.** Our behavior must match our words.
 - 3) **We are to be an example in love.** Love has the greatest impact on others. Love lifts burdens; it does not add to them.
 - 4) **We are to be an example in faith.**
 - 5) **We are to be an example in purity.** Flee immorality (1 Cor 6:18). Be holy (1 Pet 1:15). “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” (Rom 13:14).
 - b. **Be an example in service (Mark 10:45; John 13:12-15).**

B. **Paul trained the few—Timothy (1 Cor 4:17).** Paul had discipled Timothy so well that Timothy was just like Paul. The goal of discipleship is to be able to send others to work in our place. The goal is reproduction. Paul multiplied his ministry by training other men to be like him.

1. **Paul employed Timothy (1 Cor 4:17).**
 - a. **Timothy was Paul’s beloved child in the Lord (1 Tim 1:2, 18).** Paul’s training of Timothy was done in the context of a loving relationship.
 - b. **Timothy was with Paul.** (1 The 3:1-2). Paul trained him to be a fellow worker, which was his objective (2 Cor 1:19).
 - c. **Timothy was faithful (1 Cor 4:17).**
2. **Paul trained Timothy by example (1 Cor 4:17).** Timothy had become like his teacher. He could remind the Corinthians of Paul’s ways which are in Christ because he practiced Paul’s ways.
3. **Paul exhorted Timothy (1 Cor 4:17).** Timothy learned Paul’s teaching.

DEVELOPING A DISCIPLESHIP MENTORING MINISTRY

One of the most important things to help new, young, and mature believers grow in Christ is to develop a Discipleship Mentoring Ministry. As you develop this ministry it will also begin to build your leadership base. Remember your objective as a pastor/teacher or evangelist is to equip the saints so they do the work of the ministry, to build up the body of Christ. The work of the ministry is to make disciples.

THE BENEFITS AND PRIORITY OF THIS MINISTRY

A Discipleship Mentoring Ministry is a ministry where older believers mentor younger or new believers in their walk with Christ. They teach, lead by example, and employ younger believers in ministry. This keeps older believers focused on what is important (making disciples); it keeps them in the word and on their knees knowing they have the awesome task of caring for another's soul, for which they will be held accountable for (Heb 13:17). This ministry is also very valuable for new and young believers for it gives them a model to follow, not only in their walk, but it also prepares them to mentor others.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT THIS MINISTRY

Preach on the Importance of This

Give the biblical basis of why this ministry is important. God's people need to see the commands of Christ about this. Preach and teach on the key texts (e.g. Matt 28:18-20; 2 Tim 2:2; Eph 4:11-16). Look to the example of Jesus and Paul from various passages, for they modeled discipling others.

Train Leaders How to Disciple Others

The goal is to develop a team of people who will be able to disciple others. This is the beginning of your leadership training. Show them how to disciple others by discipling them. Take them through Basic Discipleship, Basic Bible Doctrine, and Basic Disciple Making or similar books. Teach them how to develop a lesson plan and ask good questions. Have them read Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman and The Trellis and the Vine by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne, and then review these books with them.

Once These Leaders Are Trained Send Them Out to Disciple Others

Show the biblical model of Jesus and Paul doing this.

Keep Training Your Leaders

- Teach them the sufficiency of Scripture and the power of the Spirit to cope with any problem or trial that we face.
- Teach them how to counsel using the word of God.

- Train them doctrinally. They must be sound in the word (1 Tim 4:15-16).
- Teach them to build relationships by modeling it yourself (1 The 2:1ff).
- Hold them accountable. Make sure they are growing as a Christian in their home, at work, and in ministry.
- Have quarterly meetings and have disciplers give updates.

As the Ministry Grows, Develop Key Leaders

5. WOMEN DISCIPLING WOMEN

Biblically the overall pattern for women is the same as men. Paul told Timothy that older women have a responsibility to seek out younger women, having looked to their own character (Titus 2:3), and to teach the younger women.

Women's mentoring is more than theological instruction (which needs to take place), but includes the practical application of theology as well, of how to have a Christ-honoring family life, of how to be self-controlled, pure, kind and submissive within the context of the church and the family (Titus 2:4-5).

Everybody has a place in the body of Christ, and everyone has something to teach another – Paul is reminding the older women to impart to others so that God's word is not blasphemed (Titus 2:5) by our disobedience. However, there is a uniqueness to women's discipleship that must be addressed.

A. The Challenge to Women Discipling Women

Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. (Titus 2:3-5)

B. The Responsibility of the Church towards Women (Titus 2:1-2)

1. **The pastor must equip the women in the church. (v1a)**

2. **The root of discipleship ministry is sound doctrine (v1b)**

C. The Mandate for Women (Titus 2:3-5)

(cf. Prov 7:10-12)

1. **Discipleship is a responsibility for women as much as men (v3)**

a. (Eph 4:11-16)

b. Where is this applied by women? Particularly, the older women are to teach the younger women (v3-4).

2. An older woman is defined by her maturity in obedience (v3-4)

- a. (Heb 5:14).
- b. This practice of obedience in a woman's life which makes her ready for discipleship is found in these five areas (v3-4):
 - i. Reverent behavior
 - ii. Self-controlled tongue, not slander
 - iii. Selflessness, not self-indulgence
 - iv. A commitment to sound doctrine (so able to teach what is good)
 - v. A commitment to the home (v4)

3. The focus of women's discipleship (v4-5)

- a. **The priority is the home (v4).**
- b. **The goal is fear of the Lord (v5).**
- c. **The methods is motherly love (1 Thess. 2:7-8)**
- d. **The motivation for patience is the Gospel (Titus 3:11-14)**

D. Suggestions for existing women's ministries to integrate discipleship³

A church can enhance their existing women's ministry by asking some pointed questions in light of this mandate:

- How is the women's ministry enabling our church to obey Titus 2:3-5?
- How does our discipleship ministry reflect the principles of discipleship in Titus 2?
- How are women being equipped to train younger women in biblical principles of womanhood?
- What opportunities do we provide to develop nurturing relationships between older and younger women?

³ Questions taken from Susan Hunt, *Wanted: More Older Women Discipling Younger Women*, 07/01/2010

6. QUALIFICATIONS AND GOALS

A SAMPLE MODEL

I. QUALIFICATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP⁴

A. Who is ready to disciple someone else?

A discipler should be expected to complete the following qualifications:

1. Agree with the Doctrinal Statement of the church. Any differences in conviction should be noted on your form before turning them in to the church. Minor differences are not significant, but must be noted.
2. Faithfully attend Worship services at the church (Sunday classes, morning and evening worship services and a home fellowship group –regular church meetings).
3. Prayerfully become a member of the Church.
4. Show basic understanding of Biblical and theological truth by passing a doctrinal test.
5. Manifest a stable, consistent Christian lifestyle.
6. Demonstrate a teachable and submissive spirit.
7. Has been disciplined or is being disciplined.

B. How do you choose someone to be disciplined?

1. A regular attender of church services
2. Has demonstrated a commitment to be disciplined by meeting consistently with his discipler and fulfilling minimum standards and requirements. Evaluation will be made by the discipler in four weeks to determine whether or not the individual is ready to be disciplined.

II. ACCOUNTABILITY

Being a discipler is a great responsibility for which the Lord will hold you accountable. Your commitment entails the following responsibilities:

- A. Understanding and applying the biblical material, being taught, to your life.
- B. Being diligent in attending all discipler training meetings.
- C. Demonstrating love and compassion to your disciple and holding him accountable for:

⁴ This guide is particular to a larger church, as a model it should be modified and adapted to suit other local churches.

1. Preparation and study for each lesson.
 2. Attendance of each meeting on a weekly basis. If your disciple fails to meet with you, you are expected to call him immediately to find out what happened.
 3. Achieving personal goals he has shared and asked you to hold him accountable to fulfill.
- D. Ask the assistance of the discipleship coordinator in resolving any kind of difficult problem with your disciple. Biblical counseling is available.

III. THE DESIGN OF THE MINISTRY

The design of discipleship is **not solely to increase Bible knowledge**. Discipleship and maturity is more than transmitting facts to another person or persons. The program is designed to assist the discipleship maturity process in a number of ways.

- A. It gives the disciple opportunity to discover for himself truth from the word of God.
- B. It assists the disciple in developing a regular disciplined reading and study of the word of God.
- C. It ensures a regular contact with another person with whom an open relationship can be developed where there is prayer and sharing of trials, victories, and mutual encouragement.
- D. It provides through the discipler a model in the Christian life which is so essential to developing qualities of growth.
- E. It can develop confidence in the disciple, having seen it modeled by his discipler, to go on and disciple someone else himself.

IV. SPECIFIC GOALS TO PRAY AND WORK FOR

- A. To lead the disciple to acknowledge (confess) their faith publicly. (If they have not done so already)
 1. To give them assurance of their salvation.
 2. To follow Christ's directive in being baptized.
- B. To exemplify application of biblical principles of Christian living in one's daily life style.
 1. The Word of God: daily reading, studying, applying.
 2. Memorization of the Word.
 3. To manifest a consistent prayer life.
 4. To practice evangelism as a way of life.
- C. To build Christian character (faithfulness, patience, love, giving, etc).
- D. To become part of a local body of believers.

1. To see the need and to become faithful in attending the meetings of this local church (Sunday School, morning and evening worship service, and a home fellowship group).
 2. To accept some ministry responsibility in an area of service.
- E. To get them *to the point* where they can disciple someone else.

V. DESCRIPTION OF THE MEETINGS

- A. Meet together once a week for about 90 minutes.
- B. Your meetings should include these three areas.
1. Fellowship and sharing - 20 minutes.
 - a. The goal is to get to know and build a strong relationship.
 - b. Control direction of conversation by asking questions.
 - (1) Identify needs
 - (2) Evaluate progress
 2. Memory review and discussion of lesson- 60 minutes.
 - a. Go over memory verses
 - b. Prepare for each lesson by developing a lesson plan
 - (1) know the point and purpose of each lesson
 - (2) ask questions to stimulate thought
 3. Prayer - 10 minutes
- C. Build Your Relationship.
1. Get to know them (birth date, phone number, children, spouse, job, hobbies, etc.)
 2. Once a month do something extra (shopping, dessert, crafts, etc.), be creative.
 3. Participate in the same Home Fellowship Group.