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ICL Evangelism & Discipleship

# MAKING & TEACHING YOUR DISCIPLES

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## Introduction

### GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE

In Ephesians 3:6-12, the Apostle Paul speaks of the *Missio Dei* when he writes...

<sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> **according to his eternal purpose** which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

- Discuss the meanings and implications of the underlined words...
- Discuss the meaning and implications of the boldface words...
- Do you get the sense that God is up to something bigger than "your best life now"?
- Do you get the sense that the church is some sort of tool in God's cosmic plan?

### THE EXISTENTIAL DILEMMA

When we become children of God, we receive a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26), but we do not receive not a new mind (Matthew 16:23). We receive a *renewable* mind:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)

In one sense (the spirit sense) the believer has been made perfect, and there is no struggle. The issue of salvation/damnation, heaven/hell has been settled. "It is finished!" said Jesus.

In another sense (the mind sense) the believer struggles daily to conform his thinking and his actions to that of Jesus Christ. "Take up your cross daily!" said Jesus, "and follow me."

Cf. The teabag in water illustration...

Thus, our discipleship process is not a segmented “urgent evangelism followed by optional discipleship” approach, but a comprehensive process whereby the entire Christian community does what is necessary to lead people to their public profession of faith in Christ (as symbolized in baptism) and joining together regularly (Hebrews 10:25) to study and live out the teachings of Jesus.

Disciples themselves are involved in the disciple-making process!

## SHORT-CIRCUITING THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

To get a new heart in justification, yet fail to renew the mind through the commands of Christ in sanctification, short-circuits the discipleship process intended by God.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. (Philippians 2:12-13)

God has worked it in, and we are expected to work it out! “But **grow** in the *grace* and *knowledge* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen” (2 Pet 3:18).

## JESUS’ LIFE AS THE ETHICAL PATTERN FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

For those who have received the benefits of justification through Christ’s complete and final saving work on the cross, Jesus’ life now becomes the pattern for believers to follow. His external moral life and internal godly attitudes become the standard for normal Christian living:

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. (1 John 2:5-6)

Without the four Gospels and Acts, we would be hard-pressed for details on how to do this. But here again, God is good. In prompting the four gospel writers to document Jesus’ life as they did, he has given those who follow the earthly Jesus from afar the opportunity of meeting them up close!

## AN IMPORTANT QUALIFICATION

In patterning our ethical lives after the life of Christ, we must carefully qualify what we mean by this. In the New Testament, it becomes clear that believers will not be able to emulate *everything* concerning Jesus by virtue of his own unique person and work. (Theologians refer to this as the “communicable” and “non-communicable” attributes of God.) Divide the question as follows:

Features of Jesus that I cannot emulate:

Character traits of Jesus that I can emulate:

## EARLY CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The early church never lost sight of the character traits of Jesus.

True, they recognized his person and work for all its saving worth to the elect of God. But in Jesus, they also recognized that God also has perfectly revealed the type of moral life which is pleasing to him. We see the importance of Jesus' life for Christian living underscored in the letters of Paul, Peter, and John. They exhort their readers:

- to have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)
- to have the same selfless attitude of Christ (Philippians 2:5)
- to have the love of Christ (Ephesians 5:2)
- to follow in the steps of Christ (1 Peter 2:21)
- to live as Jesus lived (1 John 2:5-6)
- to follow the example of Christ (Romans 15:2-3; 1 Corinthians 11:1)

Thus, the New Testament becomes the primary source book on discipleship for believers who have never physically encountered the Risen Christ.

## OUR CALLING

Jesus issued the ultimate call, challenge, and supreme blessing for every believer:

A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.  
(Luke 6:40)

Resolve, then, to be “fully trained” so that you become like your Savior in attitude and action. This is part of God's grand plan in your Christian discipleship. You are part of the cosmic *Missio Dei*!

# I. Making Disciples

## JESUS MADE DISCIPLES

When Jesus calls us to make disciples, he is calling us to do what he did. As Jesus began his public ministry of preaching, he began to call disciples (Matthew 4:17-22). These verses show us a clear distinction between Jesus' preaching ministry (v. 17) and his making of disciples (vv. 18-22).

Jesus had a closer, more personal relationship with his disciples than he did with the multitudes that gathered to hear him preach. The multitudes came to hear him preach; the disciples walked with him.

**Matthew 4:23 and 9:35-37 show us that Jesus did three things in his public ministry:**

1. He taught in the synagogues.
2. He preached “the Gospel of the Kingdom.”
3. He healed every sickness and disease.

### **As he ministered, Jesus saw three things about the multitudes:**

1. He saw that they were weary (no passion or strength).
2. He saw that they were scattered (directionless).
3. He saw that they were like sheep with no shepherd (leaderless).

Jesus felt a compassion for the people that motivated (compelled) him to action. To reach them, he reproduced himself by making and sending disciples (Matthew 9:36-10:1).

### **JESUS HAD A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS DISCIPLES**

The Bible shows us several differences in the relationship Jesus had with his disciples and the one he had with the multitudes:

1. He called and chose the disciples personally (Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 6:13; John 1:42-43).
2. He taught them on a deeper level (Matthew 13:11).
3. He gave them power (authority) for ministry (Matthew 10:1).
4. He sent them out for specific ministry (Matthew 10:5).
5. He gave them special instructions for that ministry (Matthew 10:5-42).
6. He gave them authority to baptize (John 4:1-2).
7. He called them to a deeper level of commitment (Matthew 16:24-27; John 6:60-69).
8. He gave them the keys to the Kingdom (Matthew 16:19).
9. He showed them His glory (Matthew 17:1-9).
10. He baptized them with His Holy Spirit (Acts 2).

**As we have seen, a disciple is a spirit-transformed follower of Jesus Christ.** The disciples were transformed by their relationship with Christ. The purpose of this transformation was to equip them to follow him that they might reach the multitudes.

We make disciples in the same way, by intentionally leading men and women into a transformational relationship (experience) with Christ in order that they might learn to follow him. As we do this, we will empower them to be sent to their multitudes.

### **FOLLOWING ONE WHO IS NOT HERE?**

How can we follow someone we cannot see or hear? Jesus' disciples wondered the same thing when he told them that he would be leaving them but they would still be able to follow him (John 14:21-26). As disciples, we can follow Jesus in five important ways:

#### **1. Following Jesus by knowing him**

Who is Jesus? What is he like? Where is he now? What is he doing? These are important questions if we are to follow the Lord. There are five important things for us to know about Jesus: (1) his history, (2) his ministry, (3) his future, (4) his character, and (5) his identity.

## **2. Following Jesus by being filled with the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. The disciple of Jesus is learning to be led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14). We can only follow Jesus as we walk in the Spirit. Disciples, then, ought to ask God to fill them daily with the Holy Spirit and learn to follow his leading in their lives. As they are filled and walking under the power of the Holy Spirit, they will be able to follow Jesus.

## **3. Following Jesus by knowing and obeying the truth**

Jesus told the woman at the well that God was looking for those who would “worship Him in Spirit and truth” (John 4:24; 8:31-32). We can follow Jesus only as we walk in the light of truth. Without truth, we are in spiritual darkness, unable to see or know God (John 1:4-5, 17-18). All sin is rooted in a lie—an untruth. As people see and obey the truth, they will have freedom from their sins.

## **4. Following Jesus by submitting to spiritual authority**

We also follow Jesus by submitting ourselves to the authorities he has placed in our lives. Few people like this truth, but Romans 13:1-7 teaches that every authority is ordained (or chosen) by God. Authorities are used by God to direct us, protect us, reveal his will to us, keep us from evil, and sanctify us (teach us to live holy lives). Authorities are therefore a means of God’s grace to us. While their authority may not be absolute, it is nevertheless real. A disciple recognizes the value of his authorities and seeks to maintain a proper relationship with them.

## **5. Following Jesus by mastering spiritual disciplines**

Spiritual disciplines are things we do regularly to grow in our relationship with Jesus. The beginning disciplines are prayer, Bible study, giving, and serving. If we learn to do these disciplines well, we will grow in our relationship with the Lord, and we will be able to more easily hear his voice and understand his will.

# **FOUR MARKS OF A TRUE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST**

## **1. A Disciple is Obedient (John 14:21-24; Hebrews 5:8).**

- Obedience is the evidence of our faith in Christ (Luke 6:46).
- Obedience is the proof of our love for Christ (John 14:23).
- Obedience is the key to Christ’s presence in us (John 14:23).

## **2. A Disciple is Faithful (John 8:31-32; Hebrews 3:1-2).**

- Faithfulness is *required* (1 Corinthians 4:2).
- Faithfulness is *rewarded* (Matthew 25:21).
- Faithfulness is *measured* in small things (Luke 16:10-13).
- Faithfulness is the *foundation* of discipleship (2 Timothy 2:2).

## **3. A Disciple is Loving (John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:19).**

- Love is commanded of disciples (John 15:12-14).
- Love is the outward mark of a true disciple (John 13:35).
- Love is the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 3:13-19).

#### **4. A Disciple is Reproducing (John 15:8; John 12:24, 32).**

- Jesus is looking for His disciples to reproduce and bear fruit (John 15:4, 8, 16).
- Reproducing is the essence (or key) to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

## **ORGANIC DISCIPLESHIP**

Organic discipleship, like organic evangelism, is not a program, a Bible study, a class, a cell group, or a department of the church. It is a *lifestyle* of obedience and growing spiritual maturity characterized by a passionate love for Christ and others, a willingness to suffer in service, and a commitment to reach the lost.

Organic discipleship is the fruit of our relationship with Christ and his followers.

**We teach what we know. We reproduce what we are!**

Organic discipleship begins with reproduction not merely instruction. Seek to guide your new disciple in the following ways:

1. Be filled with the Holy Spirit
2. Grow in his awareness of the presence of God
3. Learn to hear God's voice through the Word
4. Develop a strong love for God and his neighbor
5. Repent of his sins and clear his conscience
6. Share his faith with others
7. Skillfully operate in his spiritual gifts

**Above all, make sure you help him make his first disciple!**

## **PREPARING TO MAKE DISCIPLES**

1. Prayer is the first step in beginning a discipling ministry. There are two aspects of prayer we must develop:

- Personal Prayer

Build up your own prayer life. Make sure you are having quality times with the Lord. Learn to meditate in and pray the Scriptures. Read books and devotionals on prayer. Find a "prayer warrior" and spend much time with him, learning from him. Put prayer into practice.

- Intercessory Prayer

Recruit intercessors to pray for you regularly. The more intercessors you have the more you will be covered by their prayers of faith. As you enlist them, ask them to also consider fasting for you one day (or meal, or recreational activity, etc.) each week. Communicate with them the information they will need to effectively pray for you and your disciples. Share progress and victories with them to keep them encouraged. (Be discreet with personal information.)

2. Study is the next step in preparation. Give yourself continually to the study of God's Word. Read the Bible regularly. Memorize key verses. Meditate in larger portions of the Bible.
3. Being a disciple is the third step of preparation. Are *you* following the Lord Jesus? Can you hear his voice speaking to your heart?
4. Developing the skills associated with being a good disciple-maker is a fourth step. These skills and attitudes, which are listed in the appendix, will make you a better discipler and will help ensure the work you are doing will bear lasting fruit.

## **A SAMPLE DISCIPLE-MAKING PLAN**

This plan is given as an illustration of how you can begin to multiply disciples. It uses numbers and timing that you will want to *adjust* for your own situation. It also assumes you will be able to invest a great deal of time in leadership development and you are making multiplication a high priority.

In this plan you begin with two faithful, available, and teachable men (or women) and each makes a disciple (and each of their disciples makes a disciple) every 6-12 months. As the disciples multiply, you may want to use small groups for pastoral care and fellowship.

Note: Triads are sometimes more beneficial than dyads. You might not multiply every 6-12 months. You might do it in one or 18-24 months depending on your situation. Adjust it to fit your ministry. But the goal of the plan is to give you an overview of how a *movement* can be launched and what it could look like as it develops.

### **Aggressive Sample Plan**

1. January – make 2 disciples; train them for 6 months
2. July – each disciple makes a disciple (the 2 are now 4)
3. Train the 4 for 6 months
4. January – each disciple makes a disciple (the 4 are now 8)
5. Train the 8 for 6 months; train some as small group leaders
6. July – each disciple makes a disciple (the 8 are now 16)
7. Train the 16 for 6 months; start small groups
8. January – each disciple makes a disciple (the 16 are now 32)
9. Train the 32 for 6 months; start more small groups
10. July – each disciple makes a disciple (the 32 are now 64)
11. Train the 64 for 6 months; make more small groups
12. January – each disciple makes a disciple (the 64 are now 128)

### **Keys to Quicker Multiplication**

1. Help your disciples make their first disciple.
2. Multiply sooner rather than later!
3. Keep the passion level high.
4. Reproduce and train your leaders.
5. Avoid only “classroom” discipleship.
6. Ask God to bring to you the ones he has chosen.
7. Keep your discipleship training simple.
8. Keep your discipleship training relational.
9. Avoid turning your small group meetings into “church” meetings.
10. Do community “blessing” projects.

## II. Teaching Disciples

### DISCIPLESHIP AS APPRENTICESHIP

Discipleship is learning within the context of a relationship with a leader—someone more knowledgeable and experienced. It is more of a guided apprenticeship than it is a series of Bible studies or lessons. The disciple learns by doing and by being accountable to a discipler for what he has done and should be doing.

Because of this, we are not advocating or providing a package of discipleship lessons, nor are we encouraging you to use or become reliant on them. Wherever possible, the leader should develop his or her *own* discipleship lessons and teach each of his leaders to develop their own as well.

#### **Developing your own lessons has several key advantages:**

1. It will force you to learn the lessons as you develop them.
2. It will create more ownership for you in what your disciples are learning.
3. You will teach your own lessons with more passion than you would when teaching someone else’s lessons.
4. You will be able to incorporate real life situations into the lessons you are teaching.
5. You will be more flexible in what you are teaching.
6. You will have a greater opportunity to hear the voice of the Spirit and greater intentionality in seeking his leadership if you develop your own lessons.
7. You will tend to teach what you have experienced when you are doing your own lessons, rather than teaching only what you know.
8. You can include specific action points and spiritual growth tasks that may not be included in packaged lessons or which are more suitable than the ones included in the packaged lessons.
9. You can customize the lessons, making them more personal to your disciples.
10. You will be teaching your generations after you how to develop their own discipleship lessons. Instead of giving them a fish, you will be teaching them to fish.

### TWO EMPHASES IN TEACHING CONTENT

1. **Christian Identity**—who am I in Christ?
2. **Christian Obedience**—what is expected of me by Christ?

The following material contains some tools you can use to develop your own lessons as they pertain to Christian Identity and Christian Obedience. These tools highlight some important principles disciples should learn and reproduce in their lives.

## CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

Begin by teaching your disciples the **covenant** (see notes from previous lecture). Then highlight the incredible biblical descriptions of the child of God.

1. I am a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
2. I am the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).
3. I am more than a conqueror through him who loves me (Romans 8:37).
4. I am an overcomer by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony (Revelation 12:11).
5. I am a partaker of His divine nature (2 Peter 1:3,4).
6. I am an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).
7. I am part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people (2 Peter 2:9).
8. I am complete in him who is the head of all principality and power (Colossians 2:10).
9. I am alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:5).
10. I am free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).
11. I am far from oppression, and fear does not come near me (Isaiah 54:14).
12. I am born of God, and the evil one does not touch me (1 John 5:18).
13. I am holy and without blame before him in love (1 Peter 1:16; Ephesians 1:4).
14. I have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5; 1 Corinthians 2:16).
15. I have the peace of God that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7).
16. I have the Greater One living in me; greater is he who is in me than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).
17. I have received the gift of righteousness and reign as a king in life by Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17).
18. I have received the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus, the eyes of my understanding being enlightened (Ephesians 1:17,18).
19. I have received the power of the Holy Spirit to lay hands on the sick and see them recover, and to cast out demons; I have power over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means harm me eternally (Mark 16:17, 18; Luke 10:17,19).
20. I can quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one with my shield of faith (Ephesians 6:16).
21. I can do all things through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:13).
22. I shall do even greater works than Christ Jesus (John 14:12).
23. I show forth the praises of God who has called me out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).
24. I am God's child, for I am born again of the incorruptible seed of the Word of God, which lives and abides forever (1 Peter 1:23).
25. I am God's workmanship, created in Christ unto good works (Ephesians 2:10).
26. I am a spirit being—alive to God (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Romans 6:11).
27. I am a believer, and the light of the Gospel shines in my mind (2 Corinthians 4:4).
28. I am a doer of the Word and blessed in my actions (James 1:22, 25).
29. I am the temple of the Holy Spirit; I am not my own (1 Corinthians 6:19).
30. I am the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).

31. I am God's elect, full of mercy, kindness, humility, and longsuffering (Romans 8:33; Colossians 3:12).
32. I am forgiven of all my sins and washed in the blood of Christ (Ephesians 1:7).
33. I am delivered from the power of darkness and translated into God's kingdom (Colossians 1:13).
34. I am redeemed from the curse of sin, sickness, and poverty (Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 28:15-68).
35. I am firmly rooted, built up, established in my faith and overflowing with gratitude (Colossians 2:7).
36. I am called of God to be the voice of his praise (2 Timothy 1:9; Psalm 66:8).
37. I am healed by the stripes of Jesus (1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5).
38. I am raised up with Christ and seated in heavenly places (Colossians 2:12; Ephesians 2:6).
39. I am greatly loved by God (Colossians 3:12; Romans 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; Ephesians 2:4).
40. I am strengthened with all might according to his glorious power (Colossians 1:11).
41. It is not I who live, but Christ lives in me (Galatians 2:20).
42. I am a joint-heir with Christ (Romans 8:17).

## CHRISTIAN OBEDIENCE

Obedience is one of the first lessons a disciple should learn, as it is clearly emphasized in the Great Commission itself. It is also a mega-theme of the entire Bible:

- (Genesis 22:18) "In your seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have **obeyed** my voice."
- (Exodus 19:5) "Now then, if you will indeed **obey** my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own possession among all people, for all the earth is mine."
- (1 Samuel 15:22) "...Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in **obeying** the voice of the Lord? Behold, to **obey** is better than sacrifice, and to **heed** than the fat of rams."
- (Jeremiah 7:23) "**Obey** my voice and I will be your God, and you will be my people."
- (Luke 6:46) "Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not **do what I say**?"
- (John 14:15) "If you love me, you will **keep my commandments**."
- (John 14:23-24) "If anyone loves me, he will **keep my word**; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our abode with him. He who does not love me does not keep My words."
- (Acts 5:29) "We must **obey** God rather than men."

### The 7 Commands of Christ

1. Repent, Believe, Be Baptized (Mark 1:15, Matthew 28:19)
2. Receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:22)
3. Love God and Your Neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40)
4. Celebrate Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
5. Pray Daily (Luke 18:1)
6. Give (Matthew 19:21; Luke 6:38)
7. Make Disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)

### The 49 Commands of Christ

Below are 49 ways to love God and others! These commands are consistent with the theme of all Scripture, which is to love God with all of our hearts and to love one another (Matthew 22:40; John 13:34). By relating each command to a character trait, you can practice *character-based discipleship*. Skill-based discipleship focuses on the practice of spiritual disciplines. Character-based discipleship focuses on the character and heart of the disciple. Feel free to add your own character traits.

1. Repent—*Matthew 4:17*—Humility
2. Follow Me—*Matthew 4:19*—Meekness
3. Rejoice—*Matthew 5:12*—Joyfulness
4. Let Your Light Shine—*Matthew 5:16*—Generosity
5. Honor God’s Law—*Matthew 5:17–18*—Love
6. Be Reconciled—*Matthew 5:24–25*—Responsibility
7. Do Not Commit Adultery—*Matthew 5:29–30*—Self-Control
8. Keep Your Word—*Matthew 5:37*—Truthfulness
9. Go the Second Mile—*Matthew 5:38–42*—Deference
10. Love Your Enemies—*Matthew 5:44*—Creativity
11. Be Perfect—*Matthew 5:48*—Sincerity
12. Practice Secret Disciplines—*Matthew 6:1–18*—Faith
13. Lay Up Treasures—*Matthew 6:19–21*—Thriftiness
14. Seek God’s Kingdom—*Matthew 6:33*—Initiative
15. Judge Not—*Matthew 7:1*—Discernment
16. Do Not Cast Pearls—*Matthew 7:6*—Discretion
17. Ask, Seek, and Knock—*Matthew 7:7–8*—Resourcefulness
18. Do Unto Others—*Matthew 7:12*—Sensitivity
19. Choose the Narrow Way—*Matthew 7:13–14*—Decisiveness
20. Beware of False Prophets—*Matthew 7:15*—Alertness
21. Pray For Laborers—*Matthew 9:38*—Compassion
22. Be Wise as Serpents—*Matthew 10:16*—Wisdom
23. Fear God, Not Man—*Matthew 10:26*—Boldness
24. Hear God’s Voice—*Matthew 11:15*—Attentiveness
25. Take My Yoke—*Matthew 11:29*—Obedience
26. Honor Your Parents—*Matthew 15:4*—Honor/Reverence
27. Beware of Leaven—*Matthew 16:6*—Virtue
28. Deny Yourself—*Luke 9:23*—Determination
29. Despise Not Little Ones—*Matthew 18:10*—Tolerance
30. Go to Offenders—*Matthew 18:15*—Justice
31. Beware of Covetousness—*Luke 12:15*—Contentment
32. Forgive Offenders—*Matthew 18:21–22*—Forgiveness
33. Honor Marriage—*Matthew 19:6*—Loyalty
34. Be a Servant—*Matthew 20:26–28*—Availability
35. Be a House of Prayer—*Matthew 21:13*—Persuasiveness
36. Ask in Faith—*Matthew 21:21–22*—Patience
37. Bring in the Poor—*Luke 14:12–14*—Hospitality
38. Render to Caesar—*Matthew 22:19–21*—Gratefulness
39. Love the Lord—*Matthew 22:37–38*—Enthusiasm
40. Love Your Neighbor—*Matthew 22:39*—Gentleness
41. Await My Return—*Matthew 24:42–44*—Punctuality
42. Take, Eat, and Drink—*Matthew 26:26–27*—Thoroughness
43. Be Born Again—*John 3:7*—Security
44. Keep My Commandments—*John 14:15*—Diligence

45. Watch and Pray—*Matthew 26:41*—Endurance
46. Feed My Sheep—*John 21:15-16*—Dependability
47. Baptize My Disciples—*Matthew 28:19*—Cautiousness
48. Receive God's Power—*Luke 24:49*—Orderliness
49. Make Disciples—*Matthew 28:20*—Flexibility

### **Emphasize Character Development**

The Beatitudes show the character of a disciple (Matthew 5:3-11):

1. Poor in spirit
2. One who mourns
3. Gentle (meek)
4. One who hungers and thirsts for righteousness
5. Merciful
6. Pure in heart
7. A peacemaker
8. One who rejoices through persecution

### **Twenty Things Every Disciple Should Know and Do**

1. The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39)
2. The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)
3. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)
4. The Seven Commands of Christ
5. The Cost of Discipleship (Mark 8:34-38)
6. Find an Accountability Partner and Group
7. The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23)
8. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)
9. Make Their Own Disciple
10. The Great Call (Mark 16:15-18)
11. How to Share Their Personal Testimony
12. The Romans Road (Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9-10; 14:17-18)
13. The Great Commitment (Acts 1:8)
14. The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
15. The Beginning Disciplines (prayer, Bible study, giving, serving, and fasting)
16. Their Spiritual Gifts (How to Use Them)
17. The 66 Books of the Bible
18. The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)
19. The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)
20. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm

### **Seven Scriptures to Speak Every Day**

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thanksgiving in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16). Teach your disciples to speak these seven portions of Scripture every day. They should speak them to God, themselves, and the devil.

1. Matthew 16:16 “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

2. Romans 10:9 "...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
3. Psalm 103:1-5 "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of his benefits: who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with loving-kindness and compassion, who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle."
4. Romans 8:1 "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
5. Psalm 34:1 "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth."
6. Philippians 4:19 "And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."
7. Revelation 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death."

### **Basic Christian Doctrine Every Christian Should Believe**

1. There is only one God – Isaiah 44:6, 8; 45:6, 14, 18, 21, 22.
2. The one God is three persons – Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2.
3. God is love and loves all people – John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-8.
4. God knows all things – 1 John 3:20.
5. God is all-powerful – Psalms 115:3.
6. God is everywhere – Jeremiah 23:23-24.
7. God is sovereign (supreme ruler) – Zechariah 9:14; 1 Timothy 6:15-16.
8. God is a spirit – John 4:24.
9. God created all things – Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 44:24.
10. God has always been God - Psalms 90:2.
11. Jesus is God - John 1:1, 14; 8:58; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:6-8.
12. Jesus became a man and was sinless - Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Peter 2:22.
13. Jesus has two natures: divine and human - Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5.
14. Jesus was born of a virgin – Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:27; 1 Peter 2:22.
15. Jesus is the only way to God the Father - John 14:6; Matthew 11:27.
16. The Holy Spirit is God - Acts 5:3-4.
17. The Holy Spirit is not a force; He is a person - Acts 13:2.
18. The Bible is inspired by God and is the Word of God - 2 Timothy 3:16.
19. The Church is the Body of Christ – Ephesians 1:22-23.
20. The Church is called to make disciples – Matthew 28:18-20.
21. All people have sinned - Romans 3:23, 5:12.
22. Man is not the product of chance; he was created - Genesis 1:26.
23. Adam and Eve were real people - Genesis 3:20; 5:1; 1 Tim. 2:13.
24. Death entered the world because of Adam's sin - Romans 5:12-15.
25. Sin separates us from God - Isaiah 59:2.
26. Jesus died for all our sins - 1 John 2:2; 2 Corinthians 5:14; 1 Peter 2:24.
27. Jesus' death was a substitution for us (i.e., he died in our place) - 1 Peter 2:24.
28. Jesus rose from the dead in His physical body - John 2:19-21.
29. Those who reject Jesus are rejected by forever – Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:11-15.
30. Hell is a place of punishment - Matthew 25:41; Revelation 19:20.
31. You are saved by faith through grace, not by works – Ephesians 2:8-9.
32. Salvation is a free gift of God - Romans 6:23.
33. You must be born again – John 3:3, 5.
34. The saved will be raised from the dead – 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17.

35. Jesus will visibly return to earth – Acts 1:11.
36. Jesus' Second Coming will be to judge the nations – Revelation 19.
37. There will be a final judgment for all people – 2 Peter 3:7.
38. The damned will be thrown into a lake of fire – Revelation 20:15.
39. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire – Revelation 20:10.
40. There will be a new heaven and a new earth – 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1.

## APPENDIX

### Twenty Discipling Skills and Tips

Making disciples requires much practice and hard work. It is similar to being a parent. The best way to learn is through experience. As we mentioned before, there is no “one” way to make a disciple. Nor is there a “right” way to do it. Every disciple is different and responds to different ideas, goals, and techniques. As you work with your disciples, you will have to “customize” (or make personal) your approach for each one. The following tips may be useful to you as you begin your discipling ministry.

1. ***Take Care of Yourself*** – As a discipler, it is very important for you to be in good spiritual, emotional, financial, and physical condition. The key to keeping your whole life “in shape” is to discover and maintain your personal priorities and to be balanced in all things (1 Corinthians 9:27; Philippians 4:5). Your personal priorities should include your own relationship with Jesus, your family, your ministry in the church, and your job. Keep your spiritual life focused through prayer, Bible study, fasting, and ministry. Maintain your key relationships with love and gentleness, especially with your family. Avoid going into debt. Pay your bills when they are due. Learn to be content with what you have. Do physical exercise regularly, and eat a healthy diet. Remember, your life must be an example to your disciples. What you excuse in moderation they will practice in excess.
2. ***Be Accountable to Someone*** – Accountability is the key to successful disciple-making. The word “accountability” means “to give a record of; to answer for.” To be accountable to someone is to be responsible to them for a specific area of your life. The 12 disciples were accountable to Jesus after He sent them out to do ministry (Luke 10:17). Paul and Barnabas returned to the church at Antioch to give a report of all they had done (Acts 14:26-28). When we are accountable to someone, we are acknowledging our need for God’s authority in our lives. As a discipler, it is important for you to be accountable to someone else for your own life and for your discipling ministry.
3. ***Be Faithful*** – One of the marks of a disciple is that he is faithful. To be faithful is to be “worthy of trust.” That is, you can be counted on to do what is expected and required. As a discipler you must be faithful in all things – to your church, to God’s Word, to your spouse, to your employer, and to your disciple. Keep your word. If you make a promise, keep it (Psalm 15:4). Be faithful in little things and God will give you greater things (Luke 16:10-12). Be on time to your meetings and appointments. Do not make excuses for a lack of faithfulness. Do not live carelessly. As you learn faithfulness, you will also recognize faithfulness in others. In choosing a disciple, the number one requirement is that he be a faithful man (2 Timothy 2:2). Discipleship is passing on to others what you have learned. As you begin your discipling ministry the devil will bring to you many people who are not faithful. These people will waste much of your time, energy, and resources because of their lack of faithfulness.
4. ***Be Flexible*** – To be “flexible” is to “be bent without breaking; to be able to adjust to change.” What works with one disciple may not work with another. What has been helping your disciple grow may

become an obstacle to growth as his situations change. You must be able to make disciples in a variety of situations and settings. Your goal remains the same – to guide them into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ – but your methods may change. This is especially true as you work beyond your first generation. Your disciple may use tasks and techniques with his disciple which you did not use with him. That will be normal and is a sign of growth.

5. ***Be Loving*** – Whatever Jesus does is rooted in His unconditional love for all people. To follow Jesus is to follow the path of love. The first commandment we teach our disciples is the Great Commandment of Matthew 22:37-40. Love is more important than any ministry, miracle, or work we can do for God. Love is greater than any sacrifice or worship – even to the giving of our own lives (1 Corinthians 13).
6. ***Pray for Your Disciples Every Day*** – Perhaps the greatest treasure we can give our disciples is our fervent prayers (Matthew 6:21). Young Christians are very open to attack and temptation. They need to be covered by the prayers of those who are watching over them. Your prayers will do two important things: (1) they will keep your heart and love towards your disciple, and (2) they will act as a covering of protection over him.
7. ***Be Discerning*** – Discernment is instinctively being able to see or know what is not obvious. This is not the same as the spiritual gift mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:10. That is the gift of discerning of *spirits* – being able to identify spirits in specific situations. The discernment we are speaking of here comes from the Holy Spirit as we walk closely with Him. The discipler must be very discerning in his relationship with his disciple. It will be important for you to know his motives and intentions or goals, especially as you counsel him about the situations and problems in his life. Therefore, it is important for you to develop the skill of discernment. To do this you can:
  - Ask the Holy Spirit to give you discernment.
  - Do not answer or respond too quickly.
  - Develop the habit of listening carefully.
  - Fill your life with the Word of God.
  - Understand God’s ways by knowing His character and purposes.
  - Look for that which is *not* obvious. Remember that in every situation there are unseen forces at work – spirits, motives, agendas, fears, and needs.
  - Be sure to confirm every discernment or word with the Word of God and reliable witnesses or people in whom you have confidence (2 Corinthians 13:1).
8. ***Build a Relationship with your Disciple*** – The power of the discipler to influence his disciple comes from the quality of their relationship. To build a strong relationship with your disciple you must take time to get to know him.
9. ***Meet Your Disciple’s Family*** – Every disciple is an individual and must be treated as a unique person. Remember, your disciple is also part of a family and a community. His family and community have a great influence and effect on his life and faith. It is important for you to visit his family and get to know them as much as possible.
10. ***Keep Good Records*** – It is a good idea for you to develop and maintain a good record keeping system for your discipling ministry, especially if you are discipling more than one person at a time. Good records can help you keep track of what you have assigned each disciple, remember important facts and dates (birthdays, etc.), measure your disciples’ progress and growth, and plan your discipling appointments.

11. ***Plan Your Time Together*** – While you must be careful not to “over-program” your time with your disciple, it is also important for you to plan your time together to accomplish your discipling goals in his life. What do you want to accomplish in your time together? What things did you assign to your disciple in your last meeting? Each meeting should have a specific goal for spiritual maturity and growth.
12. ***Use Spiritual Growth Tasks*** – A spiritual growth task is an assignment you give to your disciple that helps him to grow in Christ. It may be to pray for someone, or to fast for a day, or to read a book, an article, or a portion of the Bible. It may include memorizing some Bible verses, writing a letter, witnessing to a neighbor, or doing something special for a loved one. Be creative and keep the tasks simple and focused.
13. ***Listen*** – Develop the skill of good listening. Be quick to listen and slow to speak. Remember, “He who talks the most, listens the least.” Listening is more than hearing words. It is important to listen for feelings as well as facts.
14. ***Ask Questions*** – Asking the right questions is one of the most important tools you have in making a disciple. Asking the right questions will help you to get the information you need to help your disciple. The purpose of asking questions is to guide your disciple as he discovers God’s will and heart in his life.
15. ***Learn the Skills of Coaching and Mentoring*** – A discipler is more of a coach than a supervisor. A supervisor is concerned with getting the job done. A coach is focused on developing people. He develops his players so that they are successful in playing the game. The best disciplers are those who have mastered the skills of good coaching. A good coach is able to motivate people to do what they thought they couldn’t do. There are seven steps to effective coaching:
  1. Listen actively.
  2. Celebrate wins.
  3. Care personally.
  4. Strategize plans.
  5. Do skill training.
  6. Develop character.
  7. Challenge specifically.

What is the difference between coaching and mentoring? The coach is concerned more with developing skills while a mentor focuses more on character and guiding. A discipler must be prepared to do both.

16. ***Develop Credibility*** – Credibility is the character quality of being believable, reliable, and trustworthy. Your disciple must be able to trust your spiritual judgment and have confidence in your personal integrity. There are four things that contribute to the development of credibility:
  - Your Position – your relationship with your disciple is based on your official position to him (perhaps you are his elder or pastor).
  - Your Expertise (or Skill) – your disciple recognizes your experience, knowledge, and abilities.
  - Your Spiritual Authority – your disciple is confident in your spiritual judgment, gifts, wisdom, and discernment.
  - Your Relational Authority – you have built a strong relationship with your disciple and he has great confidence and trust in you.

17. **Use Discretion** – In most instances, it is not appropriate for a man to directly disciple a woman or for a woman to disciple a man. If you must disciple someone of the opposite sex, try to do it in a group setting or have an older woman do it for you. Set guidelines to prevent being alone and avoid temptation or even the appearance of evil as it can give the enemy opportunity to destroy you (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
18. **Keep it Simple** – Simplicity is doing the same thing with fewer resources (2 Corinthians 1:12; 11:3). Jesus lived a simple, uncluttered life. In discipleship, as in most other things, the best way is usually the simplest way. Keep your lessons, spiritual growth tasks, and meetings simple.
19. **Build a Prayer Foundation** – As we mentioned earlier, it is important for every discipler to have a strong prayer foundation.
20. **Maintain Confidentiality** – Confidentiality means you do not share personal information your disciple has entrusted to you. Your disciple must know that whatever he shares with you will remain with you. This will keep his trust in you strong.