

DISCIPLESHIP TEMPLATE

BY

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Biblical terms & scriptures and my random thoughts about Discipleship.

What is Christian Discipleship?

The Greek term for “disciple” in the New Testament is *mathetes*, which means more than just “student” or “learner.” A disciple is a “follower,” someone who adheres completely to the teachings of another, making them his rule of life and conduct.

Mark 8:34-38 The disciple of Christ needs to be set apart from the world. Our focus should be on our Lord and pleasing Him in every area of our lives. We must put off self-centeredness and put on Christ-centeredness.

Philippians 2:5 really sums up what we are to do when it comes to everything in life: "our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." What a perfect example. He is to us, everything we are to do in our Christian walk.

Matthew 28:18-20. Commands we are to share our faith and tell nonbelievers about the wonderful changes Jesus Christ has made in our lives. No matter what our maturity level in the Christian life, we have something to offer. We have experienced the love of the living God, and that is exactly what we are to share. A true Christian (and not one in name only) will also be a disciple of Christ. That is, he will have counted the cost of following the Lord and has totally committed his life to Jesus. He accepts the call to sacrifice and follows wherever the Lord leads. The disciple completely follows the teaching of Jesus, makes Christ his or her number-one priority and lives accordingly. He or she is actively involved in making other disciples.

I believe there are two types of discipleships.

1. Pre-Salvation. That is helping someone that is not yet a Christian become one.
2. Post Salvation. There are two categories in this area.
 - a. discipling the person you led to Christ to grow and mature into the likeness of Jesus.
 - b. discipling the person someone else has led to Christ to grow and mature into the likeness of Jesus.

The discipler must initially be more spiritually mature than the disciple, therefore, two peers shouldn't be in a discipleship with each other. They can be in a Bible study or accountability meeting but not discipleship.

1 Corinthians 11:1-2 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings, just as I passed them on to you.

I believe that discipleship should be 1 on 1; no more, because there will be more openness, honesty and trust.

I believe one of the keys to being a good discipler is to be a good vision caster, to cast a vision of growth and maturity. This calls the disciplee to something that is much bigger than themselves and you must also be able to clearly explain what you will be doing with your time and why.

Pre-Salvation Discipleship with plenty of time or no hurry.

Prayerfully spot someone to approach that is not a Christ follower; that is interested in a life change or sees you as someone different than the world and wants what you have; or someone you meet that is new to the Church. Ask them questions get to know them and find out if they are seeking salvation, if so, invite them to do a Bible study with you.

Cast the Vision

Explain that you could get together once a week for about 1 to 1 ½ hours for a meeting.

Split your time for:

- a. Fellowship.
- b. Bible study to help them learn about Jesus, to see the path of salvation and then the history of the early Church.

Explain what you will be doing with your time together. You will be reading 1 chapter a day from the Bible and taking notes on the chapter and verse to be discussed at your next meeting.

You do all this in the form of an invitation. If they accept, you would then set up a weekly meeting with a set time and place.

Start in the book of John and read 1 chapter per day for 3 weeks. Explain during this time they will be learning all about Jesus; how he came to earth; why he did what he did while he was here, etc.

The next book to read is Acts. Read 1 chapter a day for 4 weeks. Explain during this time you will be learning about the early Church, the one that Jesus had the Apostles start right after he ascended back to heaven. They will read about the first sermon preached on salvation; they will see 8 different conversions to Christianity; they will see

why CCW does certain things because we are trying to model and restore the early Church.

At the end of these 2 books you should be able to simply ask your disciplee if they see anything the need to do to become a Christ follower.

Most will say they need to be baptized. That's great but then ask them why and make them tell you.

Hint. They should be mentioning they are lost, want to be saved, want their sins forgiven so they want to be right with God and they want a relationship with Jesus.

Hint. You must help them see and admit they are lost and cut off from God and are in need of a savior, otherwise in time, salvation or being saved will mean nothing to them.

Pre-Salvation Discipleship When pressed for time.

When someone is convicted by the Holy Spirit that they are lost and in need of salvation they often don't want to wait for 7 weeks. Here is a plan you can do in two settings.

First meeting, take them through the Word study. This 7 scripture study explains all about the Bible and that it is the instruction manual for our life. This study will get you and your disciplee on the same page Biblically. Next you take them through the Light and Dark study part 1. This 7 scripture study is all about sin and what sin is and how sin separates us from God.

At the end of this study, give the person your studying with a list of the scriptures you have discussed that day and have them go home look them over and reflect on the sins they are aware of that is displeasing to God. You want them to have time to reflect that they are lost and separated from God.

Before departing set a time and place for your next meeting, it could be the next day.

Second meeting, ask them what God revealed to them as they looked over the scriptures for a second time. Listen closely to what they are saying. Do they realize they are lost and are they somewhat sorrowful and are they ready to change?

Take them through the Light and Dark study part 2. In this study they will see God's plan of salvation and what we must do to have our sins covered by the blood of Jesus. Be sure they get and understand all of God's plan. Believe, Repent, Confess and Baptism.

Again at the end of the 2nd study you should be able to simply ask your disciplee if they see anything they need to do to have their sins forgiven and become a Christ follower.

Most will say they need to be baptized. That's great but then ask them why and make them tell you.

Hint. They should mention they are lost and want to be saved; they want their sins forgiven; they want to be right with God and they want a relationship with Jesus.

If you don't know what these studies are, plan on attending the Evangelism Training Class.

Post Salvation Discipleship with the person you led to Christ.

This is the easier of the two, because you already have a good relationship with this person. You know that you both view and read the Bible the same way and are already in the habit of meeting together on a regular basis.

Now you need to cast a bigger vision, that you can and should continue to meet together to study the rest of the Bible. The goal for both of you is to grow and mature to be more like Jesus and to equip and train them to be prepared so someday they can do the same thing with others.

1. Again set time and place to meet once a week for 1-1.5 hours a week.
2. I recommend starting in the book of 1 Corinthians and like before read 1 chapter per day taking notes to be discussed at the next meeting.
3. Very important point about taking notes.
 - i. when reading the Bible, God either gives us insight to right down and discuss,
 - ii. or it creates questions for us to ask.

You must monitor your disciple. This is one of the main ways you can tell if they are growing and maturing. They will either be sharing the insight they receive or they will be asking questions about what they have been reading.

4. Explain prior to starting each new book what the book is about and give a view, like who wrote it and why. Give them the basics of what they will be reading.
5. Due to the depth, I take them through the book of Romans after Jude. For some reason I have never taken anyone through the book of Revelation.
6. During your time together, your discipleship partner should be asking a lot of different questions, even about you and what sins you struggle with. You should be encouraging this and let them feel free about asking you anything. When you feel that you can trust them, you should be very honest with them and give them an overview of what your life was like before Christ and how Jesus has changed you and how you deal with your own temptations and weaknesses. This is more powerful and motivating than you can imagine.
7. You should keep a running list of all the odd topics that come up about the Bible, the Church, the leadership and the way things are done and why. These topics are coming up for a reason and need to be resolved Biblically. Explain that and when you have finished the current book you are reading, you can look into and study each of the topics. By doing it this way you have time to do your own research and be prepared for each topic. Once you have resolved said topics, you can move on to the next book in the Bible and start a new list.

8. During your time together you must continually repeat yourself and be encouraging so they can embrace this:
 - a. The Goal is to grow and mature into the likeness of Jesus.
 - b. To multiply ourselves to disciple others. Explain that someday with the help of the Holy Spirit they will be discipling others and should be praying and asking God to put someone on their heart and in their path to make this happen.
9. Important note about being a discipler. You must always be prepared that as your disciple grows and matures in Christ, they may very well go on before you and with God's guidance can be used to accomplish more for the kingdom than you ever have. (In fact you should encourage this and be praying for it to happen.)
10. As you and your disciple are reading through the Bible and after you have resolved most questions and issues they have; you need to encourage them to prayerfully seek out someone to approach to either lead to Christ or another Christ follower to disciple. They should follow the same model you have used. As they start meeting with their discipleship partner you will want to cut back on the amount of time the two of you spend together, but you still need to meet to help and encourage them. I recommend at least once a month.
11. You now need to go find another person to either Lead to Christ or find a Christ follower to disciple. It never ever ends until God calls you home.

POST SALVATION DISCIPLESHIP WITH THE PERSON SOMEONE ELSE HAS LED TO CHRIST.

1. This one is a little more complicated because someone else has led them to Christ and you don't have a first-hand knowledge as to what they have been taught about the Bible and most important did they follow the Biblical plan of salvation: believe, repent, confess and baptism. You must clarify this before entering a post salvation discipleship. If they did not follow the Biblical plan of salvation you need to help them identify and fix the error by taking them through a salvation study.
2. Assuming you are working with someone that became a Christ follower the biblical way we will move on.
3. I believe there are 2 keys to success in post salvation discipleship. They are:
 - a. Find and qualify the disciple.
 - b. Clarify the goal of discipleship

In order to find a disciple:

Look for the person always asking questions about the Church, the leadership, the way things are done, the Bible and the programs at Church. They are curious for a reason.

Look for the person that shows up for almost any and all meetings, workdays, classes and gatherings.

Look for the person that has just joined a ministry or continues to change ministries. They are trying to get more involved.

4. In order to qualify the disciple we must look for a:
 - a. Faithful person. Are they faithful in all the things they are involved with like church services, ministry opportunities, Bible studies, fellowship even with their work, or do they continually make plans and then cancel? If they aren't faithful then they won't follow through with discipleship either.
 - b. Available. Do they really have the time available to meet on a regular basis and time to do the study? The key here is consistency, you can't keep moving the date and time around it's too much work to keep up with and will eventually fail.
 - c. Trainable. Are they really trainable? Do they respect you as a leader? This will reveal itself if you find them asking your opinion on things and then taking your advice or do they consider themselves as one of your peers? This will reveal itself if they are always arguing with you and wanting you to change your mind to agree with them and their point of view. (Remember initially the discipler must be more spiritually mature than the disciple.)
5. Once you have found your potential discipleship partner it is time to invite them to join you in discipleship. You should ask them if they have ever considered entering a discipleship study. Now it time to clarify the goal by CASTING THE VISION. You should explain our goal as a Christ follower is to grow and mature to be more like Jesus and to equip and train them to be prepared so someday they can be disciplers'. This is a call to something that is much bigger than themselves, it is for the kingdom (make sure they understand this call.) Don't expect an answer right away ask them to pray about it and get back with you.
6. Once they have accepted:
 - a. Again set time and place to meet once a week for 1-1.5 hours a week.
 - b. I recommend starting in the book of John and go through the rest of the new testament, like before read 1 chapter per day taking notes to be discussed at the next meeting.
 - c. Very important point about taking notes.
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10. You should also keep a running list of all odd topics that come up about the bible, the church, the leadership and the way things are done and why. These topics are coming up for a reason and need to be resolved Biblically. Explain that when you have finished the current book of the Bible that you are reading you can look into and study each of the topics. By doing it this way you have time to do your own research and be prepared for each topic. Once you have resolved said topics you can move on to the next book in the bible and start a new list.
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13. As you and your disciple are reading through the Bible and after you have resolved most questions and issues they have; you need to encourage them to prayerfully seek out someone to approach to either lead to Christ or another Christ follower to disciple. They should follow the same model you have used. As they start meeting with their discipleship partner you will want to cut back on the amount of time the two of you spend together, but you still need to meet to help and encourage them. I recommend at least once a month.
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Some reasons to end a discipleship

Unfaithfulness

Continually unprepared

Not taking your advice after asking for it

Changing to live a none Christ like life

In each of these and any that is not mentioned, before ending your discipleship, you should try and encourage your disciple from every angle possible to change. However, after you have tried everything you can and without any change, it is time to end your discipleship with them and move on to someone else.

Evangelism - Discipleship - Outreach

To me it is simple; it boils down to a mindset - 3 Scriptures- and a Word. These things should never leave our minds.

1. Mindset – that evangelism, discipleship and outreach is not a program, it is a way of life.
2. 3 Scriptures always rattling around in my head.
 - A. Matthew 28:16-20 is a command to lead others to Christ and to teach and encourage them to obey Christ.
 - B. Ephesians 4:11-16 training for service - You should always be asking yourself, who am I training and to do or accomplish what?
 - C. 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1- Example. You must set the example of Christ; like living the example of leading others to Christ; in equipping others to serve and lead. Ask yourself is anyone following your lead, if not you're not setting the right example.
3. A word – Invitation. Always ask yourself, who have I invited lately to do a number of things?
 - A. Give their life to Jesus.
 - B. Do a Bible study with me?
 - C. Get involved in a discipleship relationship.
 - D. To get involved in serving God.
 - E. To take on some kind of a new challenge to bring Glory to God.
 - F. Etc., Etc., Etc.