

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

MAKING DISCIPLES



A NEXT STEP DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE

MATTHEW 28:18 - 20

And Jesus came and said to them,
“All authority in heaven and on
earth has been given to me. Go
therefore and make disciples of
all nations, baptizing them in the
name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, teach-
ing them to observe all that I have
commanded you. And behold, I am
with you always, to the end of the
age.”

NEXT STEP DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship: A commitment to follow another, adopting the teachings, behaviors, and attitudes in such a way that you become like the one that you are following.

For a Christ-follower, discipleship means that we have committed to following Jesus, as Lord, and are becoming like Him. For this to happen, we need to be transformed. Transformation is the product of the Spirit of God working in our lives; but rarely does the Spirit work completely on His own. He works alongside:

GOD'S WORD

The Bible introduces us to both the work and the words of Jesus. According to the Apostle Paul:

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (English Standard Version).

GOD'S PEOPLE

Discipleship happens in the context of relationship. Every follower of Jesus should be connected to a community of other believers (a Church) but also to a person who is intentionally helping them to grow and mature into the likeness of Christ. We call this person a disciple-maker.

INTENTIONAL GROWTH

Each of us also brings our own self-will to discipleship. We need to make the choice to grow new life-habits, change behaviors, and make a serious effort if we hope to see the transformation of the Spirit in our lives.

Discipleship happens at the intersection of Spirit, Word, relation-

ships, and personal effort. But you have been called to not only be transformed, but to be part of the transformation of others. You have been called to be a disciple-maker.

This guide is designed to introduce you to a simple process for making disciples of Jesus. Over the next few pages, you will be introduced to three key steps in discipleship:

1.ENGAGE

Knowing who to disciple and where to start.

2.EQUIP

Using resources and tools to help someone start the lifelong process of becoming like Jesus.

3.EMPOWER

Releasing the disciple you're working with to engage others and make disciples.

Read on to discover how you can take the first step towards living out God's mission for your life.

ENGAGE

Discipleship begins with engaging another person for the express purpose of helping them to grow to be more like Jesus. This starts with **discovering a pond** of potential disciples, narrowing the list down through **qualifying the right person**, and then **inviting** that person into a discipleship relationship.

DISCOVER

Potential disciples are all around you. They live with you, work with you, do community with you, and play with you. If you are going to engage another person in discipleship, it starts with opening your eyes to the incredible potential and need right around you. When Jesus called His first disciples, His words were:

MATTHEW 4:19

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

We continue this legacy of ‘fishing for people’. As a result, each of us has a variety of Ponds: the environments, locations, and groups that we regularly traverse (e.g. a workplace, hobby area, store, park). At Christian Church in the Wildwood (CCW), we have a variety of Ponds within which you can also discover potential disciples: Sunday morning worship, ministry teams, discipleship groups, care groups and study groups.

Recognize some of your potential Ponds, label it, and fill that Pond in with the names of people you know in that location:

example

Kathy H.

Shellie A.

Nathan G.

Jeffrey J.

Lynn G.

Jessica C.

Joey C.

Elijah R.

POND: Workplace

POND:

POND:

POND:

POND:

POND:

QUALIFY

Now that you have discovered some potential disciples, it's time to narrow the focus. The two things we can do at this stage are:

PRAY

Pray over the list of potential disciples that you've created and ask God to clearly indicate who you should be investing in. Come back to those names again and again. You never know what God is doing to prepare someone for transformation!

QUALIFY

Discipleship is a big investment of time and energy. For that reason, it's important to qualify these potential disciples by looking for three key qualities:

Faithful

Is this person faithfully committed to those things they are involved in? Are they showing up to those things they've committed to or do they regularly cancel? If they aren't faithful in those things, then they won't follow through with discipleship either.

Available

Do they have the time and availability to meet with you on a regular basis? Do they have time to complete the study materials that you'll be working through together? If not, then you'll become increasingly frustrated with conflicting schedules.

Trainable

Is this person hungry for transformation? Are they willing to learn, change, and follow your lead? As the disciple-maker, you'll be providing spiritual leadership in this individual's life for a period of time. If they do not have a willingness to follow and grow, you will continually find yourself in conflict and debate.

Take some time to go back to the list of potential disciples that you listed and evaluate which of those individuals have these qualities in their lives.

CAST A VISION

After you've pinpointed a potential disciple, it's time to invite them to join in the adventure of discipleship with you. To do this:

START WITH AN ASK

Ask them if they've ever considered entering into a discipleship relationship before.

CAST A VISION

Clarify the goal of the relationship by explaining the goal of discipleship. It might sound something like this:

As Christ-followers, it's our goal to follow Jesus and become more and more like Him. The best place to do that is through a mentor - someone who will help you navigate the words of Jesus, assist you in setting spiritual growth goals, encourage you when the going gets rough and provide accountability for the tough things in life. That's what discipleship is all about. Is that something that you would be willing to do alongside me this year?

SET THE EXPECTATIONS

Be clear about the expectations that you place on this sort of relationship. Some helpful expectations include:

We will meet weekly (or every other week) for 1 - 1.5 hours.

Discipleship includes daily reading, journaling and application activities.

Authenticity, transparency, open communication and a willingness to grow are all necessary.

GIVE THEM SPACE

Don't expect an answer right away. Ask them to pray about their decision and to get back to you in the next couple of weeks.

After casting the vision, if the person is receptive to meeting, then you're ready to move on and begin discipling. If not, return to your list of potential disciples and start again.

EQUIP

Once you've engaged a person in a relationship, it's time to equip them to be a disciple of Jesus. We equip others to be followers of Jesus by **knowing their Next Step**, **choosing a discipleship path**, and by **doing life together**.

All of this starts with a first meeting. To get your discipleship relationship going, set a time and date to meet together. If you are committing to a reoccurring meeting, make sure you both have cleared that spot in your calendar and committed it to this time.

When you first meet together, reinforce these key ideas:

- **The goal of discipleship is to grow and mature into the likeness of Jesus Christ.** As a result, they will become a disciple-maker and take part in the multiplying mission of Jesus. God's Spirit is at work transforming and empowering them so that they might someday do this with another person. They should be praying that God places someone on their heart whom they can take part in a discipleship relationship with.
- **Transparency and authenticity are critical to growth.** It's important to get past the surface and allow real conversation to be a part of the time together.
- **Growth as a disciple happens through prayer and intentional effort.** In the context of a discipleship relationship, this means that (1) they should be praying daily, (2) completing all challenges, and that (3) while reading the Bible on their own they should be actively jotting down insights and questions that can be discussed during your time together.

These ideas should become central to your time together. Come back to them again and again while meeting together.

THE NEXT STEP

The Discipleship Wheel is our tool for understanding what stage of growth a person is at and what their Next Step might look like. To determine where to begin with a potential disciple, you must (1) identify the stage and (2) know their Next Step.

IDENTIFY THE STAGE

The first step in discipleship is identifying the spiritual stage at which each person is operating (see the inner circle of the discipleship wheel image). Each spiritual stage corresponds to a physical growth stage and can be identified by *common language* and *habits*.

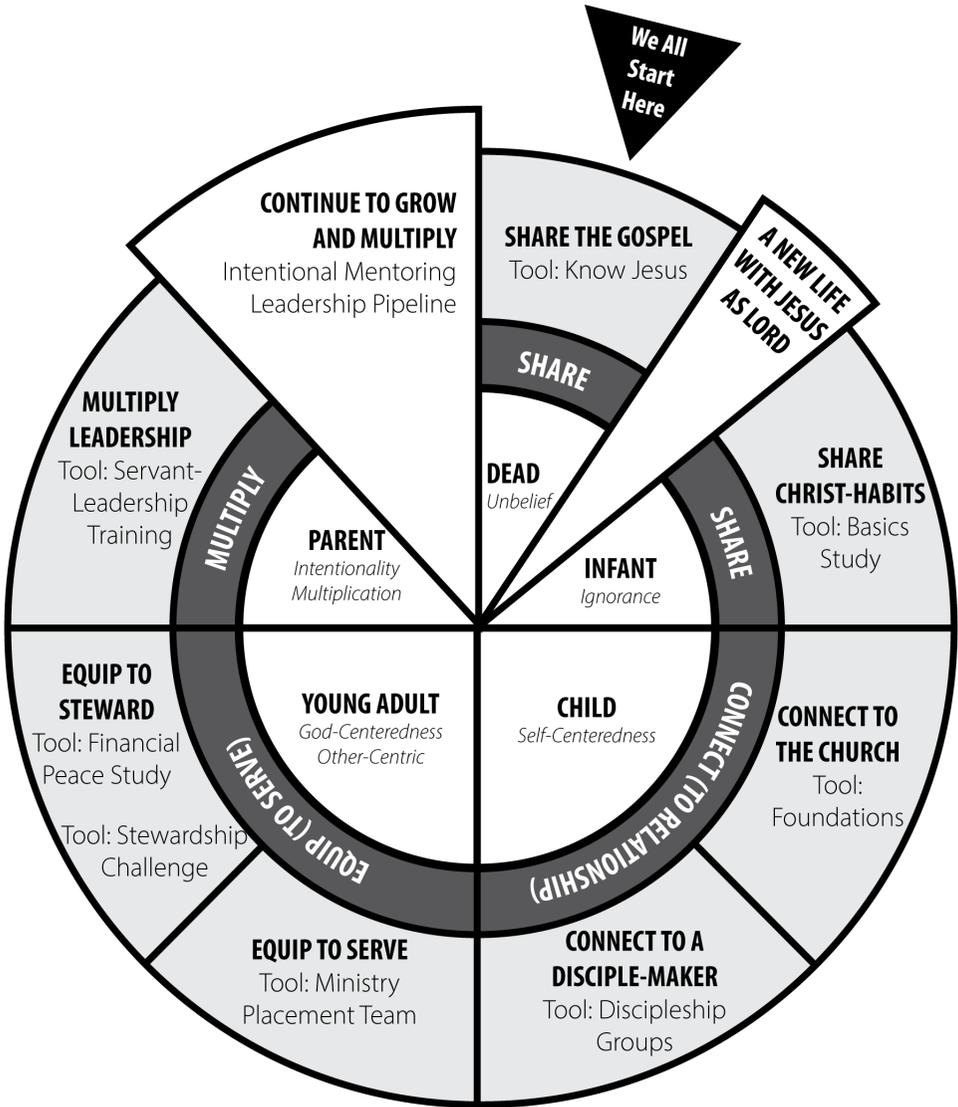
Tips for identifying the stage:

- Walk through each stage and then ask the person you are working with what stage they believe they are currently at. Emphasize that there is no shame in being at any particular stage, it simply helps in discovering the best possible path towards spiritual growth.
- Most people tend to overestimate how spiritually mature they are. If this person identifies themselves as a 'spiritual young adult', ask questions that pertain to that stage's identifying markers (e.g. Do you know your spiritual gifting? Where are you currently serving? How are you being a wise steward and investing God's resources?). If they don't have good answers to these questions, chances are they aren't actually operating at this stage of spiritual maturity.

Current Growth Stage:

KNOW THE NEXT STEP

After identifying the stage, it's time to determine this person's next step (the outer grey wheel). Each Next Step is a spiritual milestone that is common to all believers. At CCW, we've created tools and environments to assist in achieving this spiritual milestone.



Example: A spiritual infant needs to learn Christ-habits (e.g. reading God's Word, praying). CCW has a tool called the Basics Study which helps participants to begin developing these habits in their lives.

Tips for choosing a Next Step:

- Walk through the Next Steps together. Emphasize that while these steps are often taken in a different order, there is a natural progression to them.

- Use the Next Step Questions (p.13) to help identify what your focus should be on.
- Choose several goals or milestones that the person you're discipling would like to work towards.

Next Step Focus:

For more information on the Discipleship Wheel and the Next Steps, consider completing the Foundations 2 course or talking to a Next Step Coach.

IMPORTANT: It is critical that you determine if your disciple has actually submitted to the Lordship of Jesus in their life, placed their confidence in His saving work, and have been baptized into His name. We regularly encounter people in the Church who claim to be Christ-followers but have never actually started down this path. Ask these questions:

When did you submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?
What did that look like?

How have you seen the Spirit of God actively transforming you into something different and new?

What would you say to a person if they asked you about the difference that Jesus has made in your life?

If they have not yet taken this step, use the *Know Jesus Guide* to walk them through what a relationship with Jesus looks like.

NEXT STEP QUESTIONS

SHARE THE GOSPEL

When did you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior? What did that look like?

How confident are you in the salvation that God has given you?

Are you confident in your ability to share Your Story and God's Story with another person?

Are you comfortable in sharing what the Bible says about being 'saved' with another person?

SHARE CHRIST-HABITS

Have you completed the Basics: Developing Habits that Change Your Life study?

What are some of your common habits that have helped you grow in a relationship with God?

How confident are you in your ability to navigate the Bible?

What role does the Spirit of God play in your life?

CONNECT TO THE CHURCH

Have you completed the CCW Foundations classes?

Have you become a Family Member of CCW?

What does it mean to you to be a Family Member within this community?

CONNECT TO A DISCIPLE-MAKER

Are you involved in a Discipleship Group?

Who have you previously been discipled by?

How have you participated in the discipleship of others?

EQUIP TO SERVE

Have you discovered your SHAPE (how you are wired to serve)?

How have you seen your SHAPE being used to serve others?

Are you currently serving on a Ministry Team at CCW?

EQUIP TO STEWARD

Have you completed the Becoming a Steward personal study?

How are you trusting God with the resources in your life?

MULTIPLY LEADERSHIP

Have you completed CCW's Servant-Leadership Training?

How have you seen God growing you in your ability to lead others?

THE PATH

There is no single correct way to disciple (provided that it's pointing them towards becoming more like Jesus). At CCW, we have a variety of resources you might use as you equip someone to become a disciple-maker. Here are three great paths to discipleship. Choose the path that best fits your gifting and personality:

CHAPTER-PER-DAY

This method involves reading a chapter of the Bible every day and using the notes and questions as a springboard for discussion during your time together. Follow these steps:

1. Starting in the book of John and then going through the book of Jude, you will individually read one chapter of the Bible per day (Note: Moving Romans to the back of the list

may be wise due to its complexity). Before starting each book, take some of your time together to give an overview of the book - who wrote it and why. The Bible Project has videos available on their website and Youtube that do this extremely well (www.bibleproject.com).

2. For each chapter, write down any insights or questions that may come to mind.
3. During your time together, allow your discipleship partner to lead the conversation by asking many questions. Encourage them to feel free to ask you anything. Be transparent during this time, always focusing on how God's Word should shape both our head and our heart. Share your sin struggles, the temptations that you've faced along the way, and the ways in which the Spirit has transformed you.
4. Keep a running list of the topics that arise (e.g. the Church, leadership, Holy Spirit). After completing the current book study, each of these issues needs to be addressed Biblically. This will give you the opportunity to do your own research and be prepared for each topic.

You can find an in-depth guide to the Chapter-per-Day method at: ccw.church/one-on-one-discipleship/

PERSON-TO-PERSON TALK SHEETS

P2P Talk-Sheets are designed to help you have a conversation with another person about the Core Values of Jesus: Biblical Truth, Real Relationships, Inspired Worship, Selfless Service, and Spirit-Led Living. These pages are designed to be used anywhere, whether you're sitting in your home or meeting in a coffee shop. In addition, you can move through this conversation at whatever pace you think is best, spending as much time as you need on developing the associated habit.

Each P2P sheet is packed with resources that help you move from conversation to action: key scripture to read, discussion questions, and application activities.

You can find these Talk Sheets at:
ccw.church/one-on-one-discipleship/

CORE52

Core 52 is a fifty-two week guide to growing disciples and developing a Biblical I.Q. created by professor Mark Moore. Each week features a brief essay, memory verse, Bible story, and practical ways to put what you've learned into practice.

Find this resource at any online bookstore or in the CCW Resource Center.

MY DISCIPLESHIP PLAN:

DO LIFE TOGETHER

Another key component of your weekly time together is to share life together. When you meet, you should:

- **Share the victories and challenges of the previous week.**
Ask: How have you seen God show up this week?
- **Spend time in accountability.**
It might be helpful to set some accountability questions to ask weekly during your first session. These questions can touch on sin issues and spiritual goals that you need to regularly address.
- **Pray together.**
Share new prayer requests and pray with one another.

EMPOWER

A discipleship relationship is for a season. Once you have spent time equipping your discipleship partner to follow Jesus, it will be time to empower them to become a disciple-maker on their own. Healthy empowerment begins with **recognizing the opportunity** to multiply, **equipping** them for success, and ends with **releasing them to disciple**.

THE OPPORTUNITY

At some point in the relationship, you should recognize the opportunity to multiply. All discipleship relationships change over time - and it's extremely important that yours does as well. When you multiply, it creates two disciple-makers where there was previously one. Here are some signs that the person that you're discipling is ready for this amazing opportunity:

- They have navigated the Next Steps.**
A great clue that the time to empower has arrived is that they have intentionally walked through the Next Steps of discipleship. Have they navigated the Next Steps and are they hungry for more?
- They are confidently growing in their relationship with God.**
A second clue is the relationship between God and this disciple. Have they grown to a place where they have the desire and habits to pursue God without your guidance?
- They are increasingly aware of the guidance of the Spirit.**
The Spirit plays an ever-increasingly important role in the life of a Christ-follower. Are they sensing the guidance of God's Spirit and striving to keep in step with Him?
- They are looking for opportunities to use what they've learned with others.**
A fourth clue that this person is ready to be empowered to make disciples is that they're already looking for opportunities to do just that. Are they committed to the mission of the Church (Matt. 28:18 - 20) and excited about their part in it?

- They have the skillset that they need to disciple others.**
They won't have everything figured out, but they should understand some of the basics that they'll need to disciple another person. Have they been equipped with the skills that they will need as they invest in the growth of others?

IMPORTANT: At times, you may need to end a discipleship relationship. Some key reasons to end the relationship:

Lack of Commitment

They have failed to consistently show up or they are showing up unprepared to your times together.

Lack of Change

They have failed to make any of the changes that you have talked about in your time together.

Lack of Christ

They have fully stepped away from Christ and have chosen sin over salvation.

Before ending the relationship, you should attempt to encourage your discipleship partner towards change. Let them know the reason you're considering ending the relationship and the change that needs to happen. If the issue still persists, then it is time to end this commitment with them and shift your time and energy towards someone else.

FINDING SUCCESS

You'll want to make sure that you equip the person that you're empowering to find success as they disciple others. The best way to do that is to encourage them to use the same model that you have used with them now that they've seen it in action. Walk through this packet with them and make sure that they are familiar with each of the following aspects of discipleship:

DISCIPLESHIP REVIEW LIST

- Discover and Grow Ponds (p.5)
- Qualify the Right Person for a Discipleship Relationship (p.7)
- Cast a Vision for Discipleship (p.8)

- Use the Discipleship Wheel to Determine the Next Step (p.10)
- Follow a Discipleship Path (p.14)
- Find Opportunities to Do Life Together (p.16)

- Recognize the Opportunity to Multiply (p.17)
- Equip for Success (p.18)
- Release to Disciple (p.19)

If you discover a gap in your discipleship partner's ability as you are reviewing this list, take time to go back over that content and equip them to successfully disciple others.

THE BIG CHANGE

If you've recognized that the person you're discipling has been adequately equipped to be a disciple-maker, then it's time to release them to do just that. But remember: your relationship with one another is changing, not ending. Here are a few key things to keep in mind as this relationship changes:

Make it a Celebration

This is a massive milestone in the life of a disciple of Jesus. Find ways to celebrate this achievement.

Find Ways to Stay Connected

It would still be helpful to meet together, just less often. Consider meeting once a month for the time being. This time can be used for encouragement, accountability, prayer, and to address any challenges that this new disciple-maker has encountered.

Don't Stop the Discipleship

After such a large endeavor, it's tempting to think that your job is done, but there's a world of people out there that need to know Jesus! Now that you have the availability, it's time to find another person to begin the discipleship adventure with.

NEXT STEP

DISCIPLESHIP

ccw.church

