

Imprinting the Gospel

A practical guide to making disciples of Jesus who make disciples of Jesus.

Keys to Train Your Church to Make Disciples

Vision
Experience
Tools

Are new disciples of Jesus a Myth?



Vision

It is easier to make disciples than you think and is the way God has designed his church to grow!

Your people need to be solid on the basics of being a Christian and making disciples so they will buy in

16

- John 14.15,21 says that if we love Jesus we will obey his commands.
- In John 8.31 it also says that if we obey Jesus' commands we are really his disciples.
- In Matthew 28 Jesus commands us to make disciples.

- Therefore, if we make disciples, we are really one of his disciples. BUT, If I refuse to make disciples (either by action or inaction) what does that make me?

BTW: Jesus never commands discipleship!

- What types of things are confused with making disciples?
 - Inviting people to church
 - Being part of a life group.
 - Telling my waitress about Jesus.
 - Telling someone to be blessed, or have a blessed day.
 - Wearing Merry CHRISTmas Pins.
 - Letting my actions talk and never speaking of Jesus.

They will only *see* Jesus in us if they *hear* about him from us.
There is no gospel without words. Nobody is saved by
watching deeds.

- John Piper

Romans 1.5, 1 Peter 2.9, Phil. 2.10

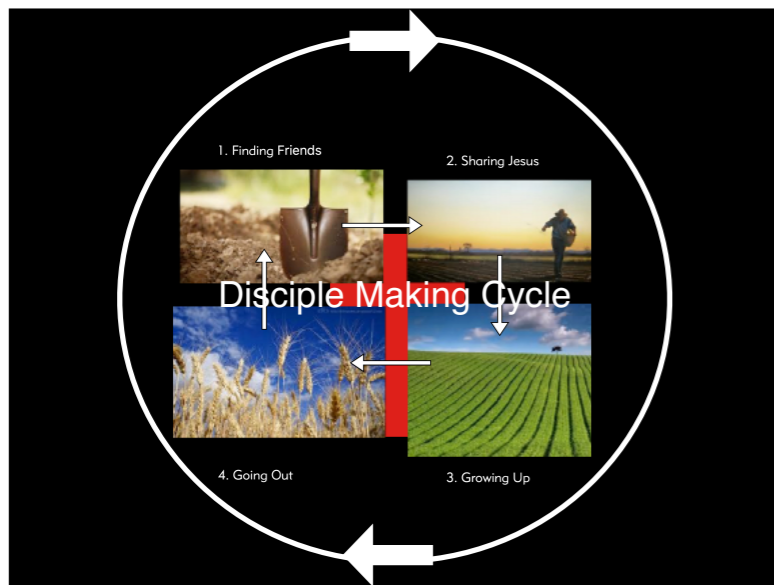
Questions?

- What is a Christian?
- What is faith?
- Who is a disciple?
- What is the difference between making disciples and discipleship?
- How do we as disciples of Jesus go about fulfilling the Great Commission and making NEW disciples of Jesus?
- Why make disciples?
- What is the difference between evangelism and making disciples?

-
- How many disciples do you have to make?

Experience

It is easier to make disciples than you think, and it is the way God has designed his church to grow!



STEP ONE: Finding Friends:

- Find a person of peace (Luke 10:1-11)



- A person of peace (POP) is far from God but is being stirred up to seek Him.
- A POP opens up a new network of people. (Levi in Mark 2)
- A POP is ready to receive the word of God with Joy. (Zaccheus)
- A POP may be going through a major life transition or has recently gone through one.

Where do you find POPs?

- co-workers
- neighbors
- family
- passion groups (clubs and classes)
- fridge friends (who can grab food from your fridge without asking?)
- businesses you frequent

25

STEP TWO: Sharing Jesus

Keys to Starting Spiritual Conversations

- Remember, you are not selling Jesus!
- Look for opportunities
- Develop spiritual sensitivity (know when to talk and when not to)
- Share Jesus, not church
- Don't be defensive
- Accept that people have been hurt by the church
- Be humble
- Be a listener, not a teller
- Ask your POP if they would like to learn about the real Jesus?

Spiritual Conversation Bridges & Spiritual Conversations

Verbal bridges connect the secular to the sacred.

Intentionally engaging a POP and looking for opportunities to have deeper spiritual conversation.

Pain	Purpose	Religious Q's	Skillful Living	Spirituality
There is nothing I can say to make the pain go away, but I believe there is a God who knows pain.	I believe there is purpose and meaning for everyone, would be interested in hearing more?	Those are great Q's, would be interested in seeing what Jesus has to say about those topics?	There is a reason I have joy & wholeness in life and relationships, and you can have it too!	The bible talks about a deeper truer reality. Jesus talks about what true religion is.

I Found Soil! It's Everywhere!

- Spiritual Conversation Bridges (Bridging a surface conversation to a deeper spiritual conversation)
- Love Loud! (Practicing regular acts of service to others shows your love)
- My story (how and why you came to Christ - where you were and where you are - have a 30 sec, 2 min, and 5 min or longer version)
- Ask the miracle question (if God could do a miracle in your life today, what would it be?)
- Use the Story Method to share a story of Jesus

Q: What are spiritual conversation bridges?

23

A: They are questions, stories, statements or answers that connect the secular to the sacred.

Bridges bring Jesus close in conversation, and prepare the way for a true spiritual conversation.

How do I use a bridge?

Use a spiritual conversation bridge to move the relationship into a deeper phase.



How Can You Connect With Strangers?

- Be brave
- Talk with people you see regularly
- Ask questions about the other person
- Use a challenging experience to bond (waiting at DMV)
- Ask for help
- Start with shared commonalities then move deeper
- Mutual disclosure but...don't overshare
- Use humor
- Smile
- Make sure the interaction is equal
- Do it again (practice).

Disciple making is intentionally including people far from God in your life so they can see your walk and your talk match. It includes praying and looking for opportunities to enter into authentic spiritual conversations with them.

When beginning or in the midst of a disciple making relationship, here are some verbal transitions which may help move the conversation forward:

- “It seems like you have always had religion shoved on you.”
- “It looks like you have a lot of knowledge but don't really know what Jesus has to do with you.”
- “I see that life has been hard and you haven't really had anyone to turn to.”
- Then: “I would love to share who Jesus really is by looking at some stories in the Bible and talking about them with you, if you want. What do you think?”

26

Say, “I believe when someone starts looking for Jesus, he talks to them or begins to stir things up in them. Have you noticed anything like that this week?”

Encourage them to say, “Jesus if you are real please show me who you are.”

26

Ask them in your first or second meeting, “On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being I want nothing to do with God and 10 being I want Jesus to be Lord of my life, where would you put yourself? It's good to just be honest with yourself and know where you are starting.”

Regularly follow up with them to see where they are on this scale to track their progress over time.

At least every month have your disciple look back and reflect on the changes in his/her life since starting the journey.

Talk about the lies we tend to believe and the consequences of believing those lies. Discuss what will happen if we follow the lies...to emptiness, never measuring up, always trying to find worth.

27

Next, share the Truth from Scripture and where it leads us.

See their immediate needs and share God's perspective with them.

Share how far you have come and how far you have to go. Both parts are necessary for a balanced view of the Gospel.

Frequently share your own brokenness and sin struggles. Explain that this is being human and it's alright; Jesus knew that we would still mess up when He died for us.

Don't judge (feel superior) with your own moral choices 27

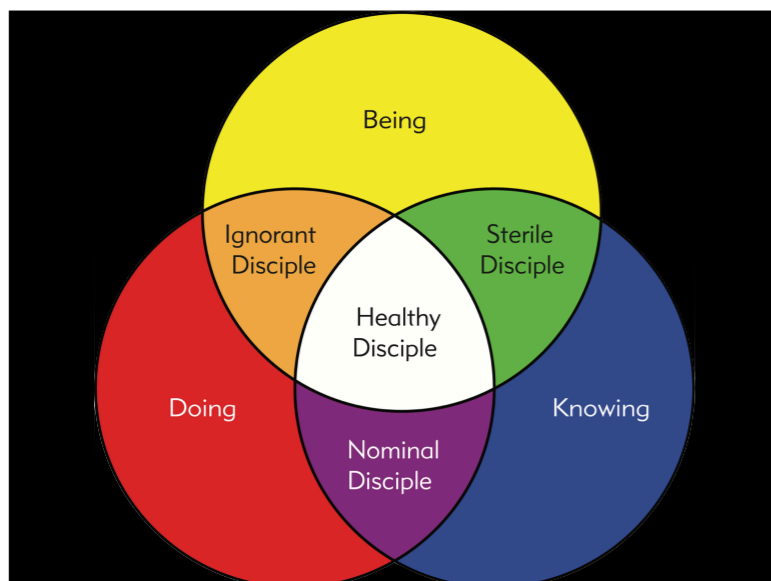
- Encourage POP's to ask questions and wrestle with what they really believe about themselves, life, and God.
- Look for someone far from God to disciple and also look for someone already following God to help them look for someone far from God to disciple.
- Tell them "I don't make anyone a Christian, only God does that. I would just love for you to know Him, and I can share who He is to me and what He has done in my life."
- Realize it is not you that makes someone have a relationship with God. It is God. You are along on the journey and He will use you if you let Him.
- Include them in fun times you naturally do outside of the spiritual conversations.
- Include them in your community of people close to God.
- New Followers of Jesus need daily/regular contact and feeding. Make sure you're connecting with them. 28

TIP: This needs to be genuine contact. Be careful of Social Media which gives the illusion of "real" conversation, but tends to be shallow, surface communication. Make it real and personal. Communicate in their language - for some this will be a text for others it be a phone call and for someone else an e-mail. And of course, meet face to face with them as much as possible. The goal is to include them in your life. If you only meet for an hour a week and have no other connection points, you will risk failing to move your disciple forward spiritually.

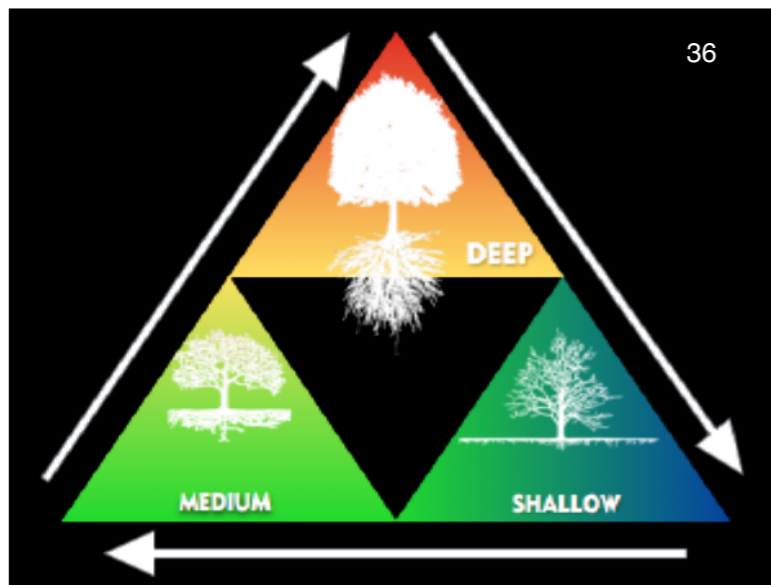
Tools

Using tools helps you stay fresh, focused, and intentional

The MD (Maturity Diagram)



The Growth Stages



Understand The Growth Stages of Disciples 34

What Characterizes Immature Disciples? Maturing Disciples? Mature Disciples?



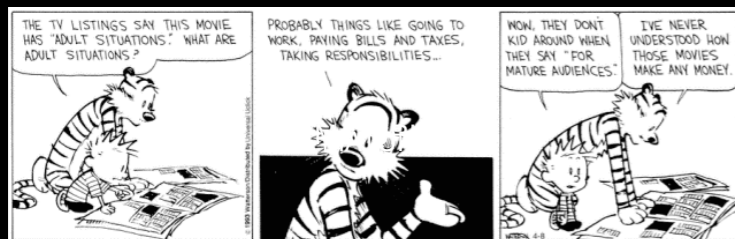
A spiritual growth task is an assignment you give to your disciple that helps him to grow in Christ. Some examples include:

- Praying for someone
- Fasting for a day
- Reading a book, an article, or a portion of the Bible.
- Memorizing some Bible verses
- Writing a letter
- Witnessing to a neighbor
- Doing something special for a loved one
- Apologizing and seeking forgiveness
- Inviting a person of peace (POP) over for a meal

	Shallow Rooted Disciples	Medium Rooted Disciples	Deeply Rooted Disciples
Being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obey • Pray Daily • Meditate • Hear God's Voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the Fruit of the Spirit • Develop the Beatitudes • Practice a Sabbath • Practice Simplicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection • Journaling • Abstinence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fasting • Solitude • Silence
Doing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repent, believe and be baptized • Take communion • Love God and others • Give Generously • Serve occasionally in and out of the church • Reproduce other disciples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach and Model Forgiveness • Go to those who have wronged you • Be part of an accountability group • Serve Regularly in and out of the church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be Debt Free • Lead an Accountability Group • Teach and Model Confession of sin • Teach your Disciple to Make a Disciple. • Teach your disciple to help his disciple make a disciple
Knowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of the Bible • The Nature of God • The Nature of Jesus • The Nature of the Holy Spirit • Read the Gospels <p>Memorize the Following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 1, 16, 103 • Matthew 5.1-12; 6.5-13, 25-34 • 1 Corinthians 13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual Gifts • The Nature of Man • The Church • Read OT Narrative Books <p>Memorize the Following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exodus 20 • Psalm 23 • Matthew 18 • 1 Corinthians 12 • Galatians 5 • Romans 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Leadership • Nature of Salvation • End Times • Read the NT Letters <p>Memorize the Following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah 49-57 • 1 Timothy • Titus

38-41

MATURITY





Imprinting the Gospel

A practical guide to making
disciples of Jesus who make
disciples of Jesus.
