

## Disciple-Making Mentors

Growing faith requires a hands-on approach. Jesus spent time mentoring and coaching the apostles. Discipleship today also requires a mentor who helps shape the thoughts, attitudes, and behavior of the mentee disciple. A mentor models what Christ looks like in words and actions. An effective mentor understands how to spiritually discern the disciples' level of understanding and growth to help them grow closer to Jesus.

Paul demonstrated this truth in 2 Timothy 2:2 when he told believers that "what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

## Disciples Make Disciples

Disciples are infused with a cultural DNA to make more disciples. In Mark 1:17, Jesus illustrated this point well when He said, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

In John 14:12, Jesus conveyed that believers should spend their efforts repeating the discipleship process: "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."

Becoming a disciple of Christ who makes more disciples requires sacrifice and the understanding of the cost of being a follower of Jesus. Matthew 10:38 says, "And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."



## Discipleship Characteristics

As you reflect on what has been discussed about discipleship, you will see the following characteristics that should be evident in the life of a Christian.

**Disciples grow in Christ as they do the following things:**

- obey Jesus' commands
- place Jesus first in all things
- submit themselves entirely to God's will
- count the cost of discipleship
- bear much fruit
- love one another
- learn their spiritual gifting
- use their spiritual gifting in ministry and mission

**Disciples make more disciples and make that goal part of their DNA as the following things happen:**

- men lead their homes spiritually
- children are mentored
- believers participate in small groups
- disciples are mentored one on one
- believers live in a community with other local believers

If you are beginning your walk with the Lord, this overview can help you on your journey with Christ. If you have been involved in church for a length of time and this all seems new to you, ask yourself:

Are you being mentored as a disciple?

Are you mentoring at least one to three disciples?

Are you participating in small-group discipleship?

If you answered no to any questions, maybe it is time to become all God designed you to be. Join a small-group discipleship team and begin your adventure today. You too can become a "fisher of men."

# DISCIPLESHIP

17 From that time Jesus began to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand."

18 Four Fishermen Called as Disciples

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net in the sea; they were fishermen.

19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them.

22 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

23 And He got into the boat and sat down, and the disciples sat around Him.

24 And He said to them, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

25 And they brought their boats to land, for they had left them there; and they entered the boat and sat down with Him.

26 And He said to them, "Now that the Son of Man is seated at the right hand of God, all power is given to Him in heaven and on earth."

27 Therefore, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

28 Then He sent them out, and they went away. And He entered the boat and sat down, and the disciples sat around Him.

29 And He said to them, "From now on you will be catching men."

30 And they brought their boats to land, for they had left them there; and they entered the boat and sat down with Him.

31 And He said to them, "Now that the Son of Man is seated at the right hand of God, all power is given to Him in heaven and on earth."

32 Therefore, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

How do we  
Disciple?



## Where do we Start?

Discipleship begins with our walk with God. John 15 provides many examples of our need to stay connected in our relationship with God.

John 15:1 states, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

John 15:5 conveys, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:9 communicates, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

John 15:17 shares, "This is my command: Love each other."

From these scriptures, God teaches us that we must focus on our relationship with Him. He should be a part of every thought and action in every day of our lives. God loves His disciples, so He will prune them to prepare them to bear much fruit. The pruning process can exist in many forms, including trials, tribulations, obedient circumstances, and circumstances to avoid situations. He also teaches us to love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Disciple our Family



Discipleship continues in our homes. We need to help and encourage our family members to walk with God.

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Eph. 5:25).

Paul was demonstrating God's command for the father and husband of the family. He is the head of the household, just as Christ is the Head of the church. The Father's role comes with the responsibilities to disciple children in the teachings of Christ and to spiritually lead his family in their relationship with Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:7 states, "You shall teach [God's commands] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." We are not to compartmentalize God in our lives. We are not to add extra God time into our busy lives. Instead, we are to invite God into what we are already doing in our daily agenda. We are to make disciples throughout our everyday relationships.

## Discipleship in the Body of Christ

In Ephesian 4:12-13, Paul told believers "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Paul followed up with Ephesians 4:16, saying that the body of Christ is "joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, [and] when each part is working properly, [it] makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

God provides every Christian with spiritual gifts to utilize in the body of Christ. He intentionally compares the assembly of believers to the human body. Every part of the human body has an intense purpose and function to help the entire body achieve the brain's command. Jesus is the Head of the church, and He provides every member of the body of Christ with a purpose and function to help build up the kingdom by making disciples. Discipleship is the process of maturing our faith and helping others do the same. Paul clearly explained that organic discipleship happens when Christians intentionally relate to a community of believers.

