



let's go
make
disciples

NEW DAY RESOURCES

Follow Me: How to Join Jesus in the Mission of Making Disciples

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Introduction

Making disciples looks like...

Married couple Jada and Anthony are faithful followers of Jesus. Lately, they have **developed a concern** for Jada's sister, Kayla, and her husband, Derek, who both dropped out of church during college. After a time of prayer, Jada and Anthony began having **weekly dinners** with Kayla and Derek where they **openly discuss spiritual matters**. Though Jada and Anthony don't have all the answers, they are determined to lead Kayla and Derek back to Jesus. ***Jada and Anthony are making disciples.***



Lisa and Teresa are best friends in their early 50s. Their families have done everything together, including raising their children together. Recently, they asked a couple of young mothers at church if they would like to meet every Thursday morning during the church's Mothers-Day-Out program. Together, they **discuss life, marriage, motherhood, spirituality**, and everything else. The young mothers LOVE the time together, and they are finding support, love, and Christian encouragement. ***Lisa and Teresa are making disciples.***

Marcus is an elder at church who has retired from his secular job. Lately, he and fellow elder, Grant, have begun **mentoring** several other older men, with the goal of helping these men become leaders at church. ***Marcus and Grant are making disciples.***

Rebecca and Dalton are a young married couple at church. Even though they are still young, they have decided to “adopt” several college students, **inviting them into their home** regularly, with the goal of helping them become stronger Christians. The college students love their “home away from home.”

Rebecca and Dalton are making disciples.



Chris works at a large warehouse with dozens of employees. Recently, Chris has begun having an **open Bible study during lunch break**, inviting anyone who wants to come. The Bible study has grown to nearly a dozen people, so Chris is now inviting these individuals to spend more time with him at **dinners, at ball games, and at church**. Chris is determined to use his time with these friends to bring them to Christ. ***Chris is making disciples.***

Alexa and Calvin have three children under the age of 10. As the father of the family, Calvin has begun having **morning devotionals with the family**, and both parents deliberately have spiritual discussions with the kids every day. The family also does ministry together, which the kids love. ***Alexa and Calvin are making disciples.***

The Disciplemaking Imperative

Jesus' final command must be our first priority:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

These, the last words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, express Jesus' expectation that those of us who have been saved by the Gospel must in turn **take that Gospel to others**, until all the people of every nation have been given the chance to say "yes" to King Jesus.

Jesus' final
command
must be our
first priority:
*Go make
disciples.*

The other Gospels end with a sending message, too:

Mark: He said to them: "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel* to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (16:15-16)

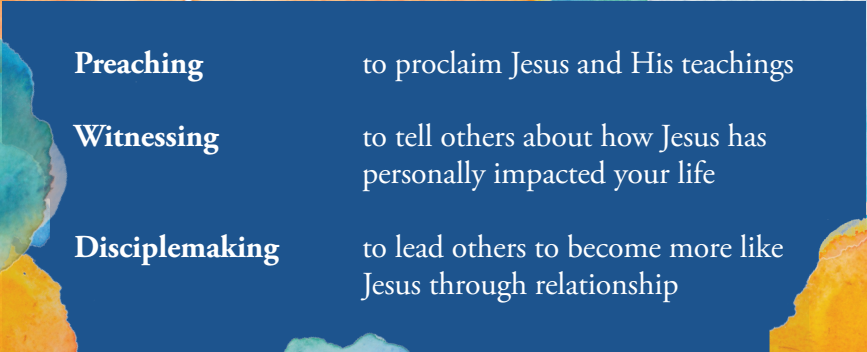
Luke: He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. *You are witnesses of these things.*" (24:46-48)

John: Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! *As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.*" (20:21)

And the book of **Acts** opens with a sending message:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, *and to the ends of the earth.* (1:8)

You have been sent by Jesus to preach the Gospel, to be a witness of Jesus, and to make disciples. To **preach** Jesus is to proclaim Him and His teachings, whether publicly or privately. To **witness** Jesus is more personal; it is to tell others about how Jesus has impacted your life. And to **make disciples** is to lead others to become more like Jesus through relationship.



Preaching	to proclaim Jesus and His teachings
Witnessing	to tell others about how Jesus has personally impacted your life
Disciplemaking	to lead others to become more like Jesus through relationship

There is obvious overlap between these terms, and Jesus teaches us to do all three. **Disciplemaking**, however, is perhaps the most powerful of these commands because people make their deepest commitments in the context of loving relationships.



When you love others enough to invest in their lives, you are discipling them to become more like Jesus. By doing so, you change the world.

But What Is Disciplemaking?

Forms of the word “disciple” appear in the New Testament nearly 300 times. For comparison, the word “Christian” only appears three times in the New Testament, and the term “member” only appears nine times in relation to Christ or the church. It’s clear, then, that though you are also a Christian and a church member, the preferred term for who you are in Christ is the term disciple. You are a disciple of Jesus!

The Church of Titus in Heraklion, Crete



Paul disciplined Titus, who then taught older women to discipline younger women (Titus 2:3–4)

So, what is a disciple?

It’s simple: A disciple is someone who **follows** someone else, learns from them and is transformed by them.

Joshua followed Moses to become the leader of Israel. Elisha followed Elijah to become the miracle worker of Israel. Titus followed Paul to become the leader of the church in Crete. Mark followed Peter to become the author of the second Gospel.

Christian discipling is entering a relationship with someone for the purpose of helping them become more like Jesus.

Plato followed Socrates to become the great philosopher of ideas. Aristotle followed Plato to become the great philosopher of science. An apprentice follows a master blacksmith to become a smithy himself. An intern follows a seasoned accountant before opening

her own firm. A medical resident follows a supervising physician to become a hospitalist. In each case, disciples are transformed by entering a relationship with a disciplinemaker for the purpose of being transformed by that disciplinemaker.

All of us were disciplined by somebody. Many of you were disciplined by your **parents** to become a healthy teen, or a man, or a woman. Perhaps you were disciplined by a **coach** to become a better athlete. Maybe you were disciplined by a school **teacher** who believed in you. In **your job** or career you were disciplined by someone who taught you the ins and outs of your job. **At church**, you were likely disciplined by someone in your small group, an older couple, a Bible class teacher, an elder, or a minister. ***Everybody is disciplined by somebody.***

And just as you were disciplined by somebody, you should be a disciplemaker yourself.

So, what is disciplemaking?

Christian disciplemaking is entering a relationship with someone for the purpose of helping them become more like Jesus. It's that simple! Disciplemakers help people either discover faith in Jesus or deepen their faith.

Every Christian can and should make disciples. In fact, you are likely already doing some sort of Christian discipling.

- ***Are you married?*** Chances are you are already helping to disciple your spouse to become closer to Jesus.
- ***Do you have children?*** You are likely already discipling them to trust and follow Jesus.
- ***Do you serve at church?*** It's likely that you are at least providing some discipling for the people you serve with.
- ***Are you in a small group?*** You are likely helping disciple the others in your group.

Since disciplemaking is entering into a relationship with somebody for the purpose of helping them become more like Jesus, disciplemaking can be done at any stage in a person's life. You can disciple **children** to trust and follow Jesus. You can disciple **lost people** to believe, repent, and be baptized. You can disciple **married couples** to be more Christ-like spouses. You can disciple **young adults** to become mature Christians.

You can disciple **business owners** to be distinctly Christian in their practice. You can disciple **potential Christian leaders** to become strong leaders.

You can disciple anyone who needs to take the next step in becoming more like Jesus. And you should disciple them!

Who needs to be discipled?



BABIES

need discipling to grow up with a Christian worldview.



CHILDREN

need discipling to discover the truths of the Bible.



TEENAGERS

need discipling to discover God's plan for their life.



ALL ADULTS

need discipling to fulfill their mission.



SINGLE ADULTS

need discipling to become men or women of God.



HUSBANDS & WIVES

need discipling to be Christ-like spouses.



PARENTS

need discipling to raise godly children.



OLDER ADULTS

need discipling to become leaders.



Why Is Disciplemaking Necessary?

Churches tend to be good at large gatherings, programs, classes, and events. These are vital to the development of the church, and they have the advantage of connecting with lots of people, motivating them, and providing them with places to worship and learn. But, programs, classes, and events are not enough. Real transformation requires more than mere lessons, events, and information. **Real transformation requires transformational relationships.**

So, though Jesus preached publicly, taught in the synagogues, and healed the sick, one of His greatest legacies was the relationship He cultivated with 12 ordinary men, His disciples. The crowds fade from the Gospel story after the crucifixion of Jesus, but the disciples take the Gospel to the whole world in Jesus' name! By making disciples who made disciples, Jesus assured that the Christian message would transform the world. **And that model of disciples making disciples still applies to you.**

**Disciples making
disciples transforms
the world.**

Nothing can take the place of a loving relationship dedicated to helping others become more like Jesus. This is because discipling offers people the loving context in which to apply Jesus' teachings to their lives under the watchful and loving care of other believers. A sermon may motivate and challenge, but a loving mentor, coach, or discipler helps a person become

what the sermon has preached. It's not enough to give people facts about the Gospel. ***People require Christian relationships in order to mature fully as Christians.***

This is why disciplemaking is so important. Disciplemaking uses the events, the programs, the sermons, and the classes of the church, and applies them personally to each person to help them grow into mature believers. Disciples are handcrafted or they are not made at all.

Disciples are handcrafted or they are not made at all.

Compare disciplemaking to raising a child. Children need more than mere information about how to grow up. You don't simply give

children an instruction manual and expect them to know how to be a person. Rather, a child requires loving parents—people who love children enough to inspire, correct, hold accountable,



Benchmarks of Discipleship



Children need parents. Athletes need coaches. And we all need disciplinarians to help us reach spiritual maturity!

encourage, and train children until they become full adults. So the Scriptures teach us to “train up a child” (Ephesians 6:4). Children require the loving relationship of a parent in order to grow up healthy.

Or compare disciplinarian to becoming a professional athlete. Nobody becomes a star athlete by merely watching YouTube videos or reading books or listening to lessons on sports. Rather, star athletes require coaches—people who invest in their lives, carefully training them to become world-class through exercise, love, correction, application, and ambition. Athletes require the loving relationship of a coach in order to become world-class.

People need disciplinarians in their lives in order to help them apply the Christian message, to coach them, to correct them, to guide them, and to help them aspire to full maturity. This is why Jesus teaches us to make disciples, not just to preach and witness. The people around you need disciplining, and there is no shortcut around this. ***You are called to be a disciplinarian!***

**Everyone needs
someone to show
them the ropes.**

How Do I Make Disciples?

Jesus' **message** is perfect, but His **method** is also perfect. By reading the Gospels, we see how Jesus, the master disciplemaker, made disciples. By following the method of the Master disciplemaker, Jesus, you can learn how to disciple others.

1. Choose people that God has set before you.

In the Gospels, Jesus begins His ministry by choosing twelve disciples who would be with Him for the next three years (see Matthew 4:17-22). He chose the individuals God had set before Him: fishermen, a tax collector, a rebel, etc. Although some of us are called to travel the world, we should actually make disciples right where we already are. **Jesus simply saw men who had a need to be discipled, and he entered a relationship with them and discipled them.**

Jesus' message is perfect and His method is perfect.

To make disciples, open your eyes to the people God has already set before you, people who are in your network. Do you have a family member who is spiritually lost?

Disciple that person into faith and baptism. Do you know a married couple who could use help in strengthening their marriage? Disciple them towards a more Christlike marriage. Do you work with younger people who could use help becoming more spiritually mature? **Disciple them.**



2. *Pray over those God calls you to disciple.*

Just prior to naming His twelve disciples, Jesus spent an entire night in prayer (Luke 6:12-16). That's because Jesus knows that genuine transformation is the work of God (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). ***We do the work, but God produces the results.***

So, why not spend a week or two in prayer about those who are already in your network? Why not pray that God will open their hearts, that something will spark an interest or need, that God will give you the right words? Why not pray that God will increase your capacity to care, and decrease your busy-ness so that you have the time to invest in another person's destiny? Pray about discipling, and pray for those God is calling you to disciple.



3. *Practice life-on-life with the disciple(s).*

Jesus spent enormous amounts of time with His disciples. He **built strong relationships** with them.

- He *ate dinner* with them (Matthew 9:10).
- He *explained the truth* to them (Mark 4:33-34).
- He *did ministry* with them (Matthew 10:1-5).
- He *challenged* them (Mark 6:37).
- He *corrected* them (Luke 9:41).
- He *became very close* to them (John 13:23-25), even calling them "family" (Matthew 12:49).

Jesus' motivation was love—He loves people enough to disciple them (John 13:34-35). People learn best when they are in a loving relationship, and genuine transformation typically occurs in loving relationships.

Disciplemaking works when you love someone enough to train them in a caring relationship. **Real disciplemaking requires genuine relationships.** Invite those God is calling you to disciple into a genuine relationship, and weave the Christian faith into that relationship.

If Jesus hadn't made disciples who made other disciples, the Christian message would have died in the first century.

4. Lead them to increased Christ-likeness.

When Jesus first called His disciples, He had a job for them: "He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons" (Mark 3:14-15). Jesus spent His time training the disciples to become more like He is. Disciplemaking is a relationship with a goal. It is more than just a friendship, a small group, or a Bible

study. **Disciplemaking is moving people from one place in their walk with Jesus to the next.**

Disciplemaking is a relationship with a goal.

When you enter discipling relationships, your job is to help other disciples become more like Jesus.

This will look different from person to person. What does a person need to move closer to God? Do they need to be baptized? Is God calling them to become a more Christ-like man or woman? Do they need help becoming a better Bible student? A leader in the church? A disciplemaker helps people grow from one degree of Christ-likeness to the next through a loving relationship.

5. Empower them to go disciple others.

The message of Jesus would have stopped if His disciples hadn't made other disciples. The Christian message is only spread when each disciple of Jesus takes seriously the challenge Jesus gives to us: "Go make disciples." Expect those you're discipling to disciple others. Ask for it, set it up, assist in it. Remind disciples that nobody is really like Jesus who doesn't make disciples, because that's what Jesus did. Teach everyone to "pay the Gospel forward!"

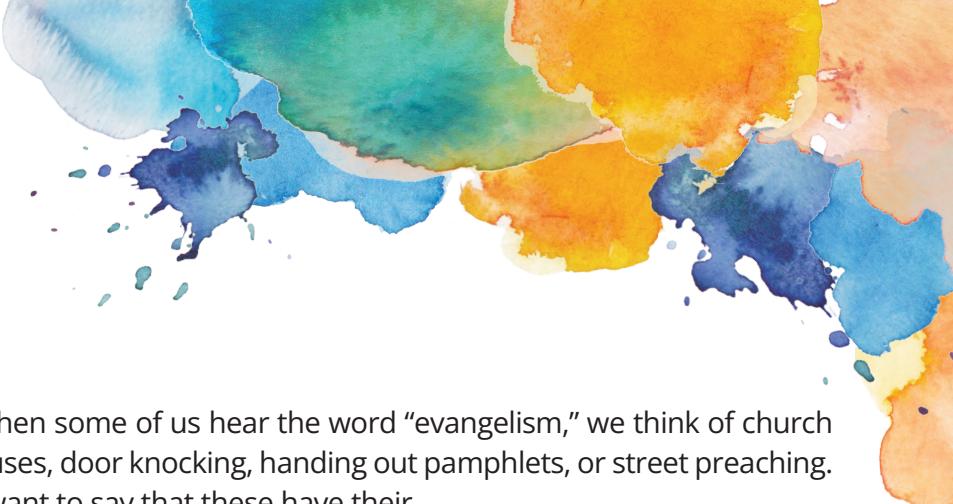
Evangelism Is a Necessary Form of Disciplemaking

Evangelism is one of the first forms of disciplemaking. Evangelism is developing a relationship with someone who is not a Christian for the purpose of helping that person become a Christian by putting their faith in Jesus, repenting of their sins, and putting on Jesus in baptism. Evangelism is the only hope a lost world has, and we Christians are the only ones who can effectively do evangelism.



Evangelism is an essential form of disciplemaking where we love others enough to lead them to faith, repentance, and baptism.





When some of us hear the word “evangelism,” we think of church buses, door knocking, handing out pamphlets, or street preaching. I want to say that these have their place, and have brought many people to Jesus. But most lost people respond best when someone cares enough to enter a relationship with them to help them know Jesus and the Scriptures, then to lead them to become a follower themselves.

**Most lost people
respond best when
someone cares enough
to enter a relationship
with them.**

In the early church, evangelism was the engine that spread the faith. In his classic work, *Christian Heroes and Martyrs*, William Foster describes this evangelistic fire:

In that age, every Christian was a missionary. The soldier tried to win recruits for the heavenly host; the prisoner sought to bring his jailer to Christ; the slave girl whispered the gospel in the ears of her mistress; the young wife begged her husband to be baptized that their souls might not be parted after death; every one who had experienced the joys of believing tried to bring others to the faith.

The only hope for the church today, as well as for your own family members, your friends, and your world around you, is an evangelistic church. If each of us took seriously the call to evangelize the lost, the Christian faith would resolve so many of the world’s problems. But even more, if each of us took seriously the call to evangelize, then the lost would be prepared to meet God in judgment, and so would we.

So, how do I evangelize?

There are dozens of ways, but here is one simple approach that utilizes the relational aspects of discipling.

Get clarity in your own life about who you are in Christ.

Spend some time in prayer and in the Scriptures understanding what Christ has done in your life, what Christ teaches about life, about sin, about salvation, and about eternity. An important tool here is to write out and memorize your own testimony: where were you when Christ found you? What decisions did you have to make? How has Christ changed your life? By knowing your own Jesus story, you are better able to help people find Jesus in their story.

The amount of prayer you offer for the lost will tell you how important the Gospel is to you.

You don't have to become a Bible scholar in order to disciple the lost; in fact, please don't wait until you're a Bible scholar. Start where you are, and start soon.

Pray that God will open doors by placing lost people in your path. Look for lost people in your family, at work, in the neighborhood, among people visiting or attending church, or elsewhere. Pray that God will open a path into their hearts. We preach the Gospel, but the Lord opens the heart (Acts 16:14). Pray, pray, pray for the lost. The amount of prayer you offer for the lost will tell you how important the Gospel is to you.

Ask people to join you (and a few others) in a weekly conversation. Each person responds differently to invitations, but here is one approach: Invite a lost person to join you and one or two other people in a weekly meeting about eternal things, the Bible, or just life. By having another person or two, whether they are Christians or not, the dynamic changes, opening up more conversation. This discipleship group should meet at least once per week to talk explicitly about eternal matters.

Share life together. Weekly meetings are necessary for evangelism, but are usually not sufficient. Discipling involves a



*What has Christ
done in your life?*

*Having clarity on how Christ has
changed your life makes it much
easier to help others see why
they need Christ, too.*

loving relationship, not just a meeting. Invite the person you're discipling into your home, to join you in ministry, to ball games, and to life in general. Jesus shared His life with His disciples. Effective evangelism involves sharing life together.

Be explicit in your ask. At some point, ask if the person you are discipling would like to trust and follow Jesus. If so, ask them to repent (turn from sins) and to be baptized (joining Christ in His death and resurrection). Listening is important in evangelism, but so is asking. People need persuasion in their lives, and the Gospel involves persuasion (2 Corinthians 5:11). Don't be ashamed to ask people to say yes to Jesus.

Continue discipling! Once a person is baptized, they are just a baby, and babies need help growing. Don't drop the group once a person is baptized. Rather, help connect them to other believers, help them grow in Christ, and teach them to bring their friends and family to Christ too!

Lead them to become disciplemakers. For disciplemaking to go viral, once you have baptized your disciple, immediately ask them to continue meeting with you, but now to bring one or two of their friends, and help them to bring someone else to Jesus. Sometimes the most motivated evangelists are those who have just found Jesus themselves. Help them immediately bring someone else to Jesus, and make the Gospel go viral!

Commit to a Disciplemaking Lifestyle

The biblical expectation is that we will live a lifestyle of discipling: passing the faith from one generation to the next. Faith is not “caught.” Rather, it must be “taught.”

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.
(2 Timothy 2:2)

To make disciples, we should commit to a discipling lifestyle. **Walk through life expecting to make disciples, asking people into discipling relationships, and enjoying the fruits of discipling.**

To live a discipling lifestyle might require that you rethink how you live your Christian life, but maybe not as much as you think. To become a discipler, you simply need to think outwardly about the Christian faith. A discipler is one who is actively looking for people he or she can help become more like Jesus. Discipling is both **intentional** and **relational**.

So, for example, instead of merely raising kids to be great athletes or successful in their

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

2 Timothy 2:2

careers, intentionally work to make your children world class followers of Jesus. Instead of your small group simply being a Bible study or fellowship group, actively seek to disciple one another outside of the regular meetings, specifically helping one another mature in Christ. As you get older, actively disciple younger Christians: younger husbands or wives, teens, men on men, women on women, and the like. As an example of this, Paul teaches older women “to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

and so train the young women..." (Titus 2:3-4 ESV). Each of us should adjust our lives so that discipling is just a way of life. Discipling should be your lifestyle!

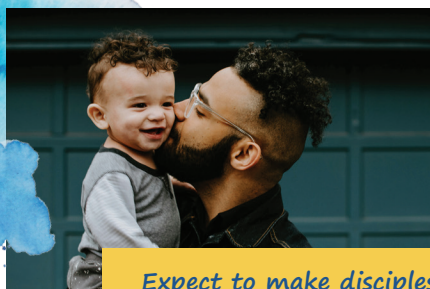
So, be open to the opportunities God places before you. If you are a parent, God is calling you to disciple your children. If you

**Each of us should
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is just a way of life.**

are an older couple, disciple newly marrieds to love each other as Jesus instructs. If you are an older man, train younger men to be strong in the faith. If you are an older woman, teach and encourage the younger women in your

life to trust and follow Jesus. If you are a leader at church, be diligent in raising up new leaders, while setting an example of reaching and engaging the lost. Whoever you are in Christ, live open to making disciples!

Make discipling your lifestyle!



*Expect to make disciples as you walk through life.
Opportunities are everywhere!*



Disciplemaking Tools

Making disciples doesn't have to be hard. It's just mentoring others to be like Christ. Nevertheless, in times and places where the art of disciplemaking has been largely lost, some tools can be helpful. Here are a few:

Discipleship Groups (D-groups)

These are groups of 3-5 same-gendered people (give or take) who are committed to discipling each other. D-groups meet regularly to discuss the Scriptures and to share life together. Discipleship groups are a great way to get on board with disciplemaking.

Small Groups

Small groups can sometimes be little more than fellowship groups, friend groups, Bible study groups, and the like. These are all very good, and we don't want to criticize these kinds of groups. But if you are willing to take your small group to the next level, you can use it to disciple each other. For this, learn to break the small group into smaller units that meet regularly outside the main group: a men's breakfast, or a women's evening. During these times, deliberately disciple one another to greater maturity. Additionally, you can invite lost people into your small group and use the group to evangelize the lost. It's not as hard as you may think. Just invite a couple of friends, and use the group to disciple them into Christ.

Discovery Bible Study (DBS)

This is a simple and intuitive way to train ourselves and others by simply using the Scriptures. DBS asks a set of eight questions in every meeting, with four of them specifically designed to help us hear from the Lord:

- *What does this text tell me about God?*
- *What does this text tell me about people?*

- *What does this text tell me I need to do?*
- *Who else needs to hear this message?*

DBS works best when we are serious about the obedience part of the questions (“what do I need to do?”). If we are not serious about obedience, DBS can fall flat and even be boring. DBS, when done well, is a proven discipling strategy that has brought hundreds of thousands of people to Jesus across the Global South.



DBS bookmarks are a helpful tool that include a list of Scriptures and the 8 DBS discussion questions.

The DBS method calls people to hear the word of God and apply it to their own lives. Learn more about using DBS with D-groups, small groups, and evangelism at the end of this book and at finalcommand.com/discovery-group-resources.

Discipleship.org

A network of discipling experts, resources, and tools. They host a National Disciple Making Forum every year.

Renew.org

A network of experts, resources, and tools to help develop strong Biblical thinking that is important for discipling. They host national and regional discipling gatherings throughout the year.

Real Life Resources

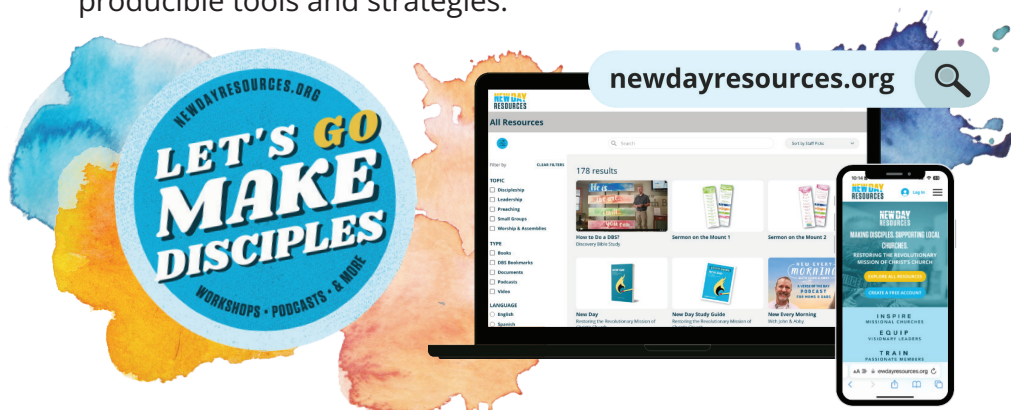
A provider of tried and tested discipling methods. Explore their library of videos, books, and other resources at realliferesources.org. Some helpful books by Jim Putman:

- *Real-Life Discipleship*
- *Church is a Team Sport*

New Day Resources

New Day Resources is a ministry of North Boulevard Church of Christ. We exist to equip & inspire church leaders as they join Christ's discipling mission! To achieve our mission, we share our resources freely, host regional and national events, and offer coaching to ministers, elders, and leaders.

With decades of experience, our goal is to help you navigate the challenging but rewarding path of discipling with reproducible tools and strategies.



More Books

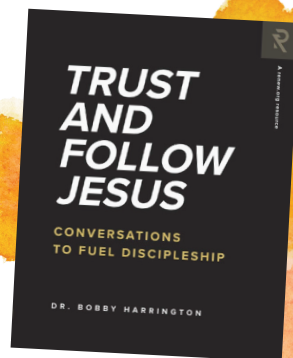
Perhaps the most influential discipling book in English is Robert Coleman's fantastic work, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*.

Others include Bobby Harrington's *Trust and Follow Jesus: Conversations to Fuel Discipleship* (especially good for evangelism).

For general discipling, consider:

- *Discipling: the Core Mission of the Church* by Bobby Harrington and Scott Sager
- *Kingdom Life* by Kelvin Teamer
- *King Jesus and the Beauty of Obedience Based Discipleship* by David Young

As you study and practice discipling, God will lead you to more resources.



Questions & Answers

Does Jesus expect everyone to make disciples? Wasn't that command only for the apostles?

Jesus does indeed command the apostles to make disciples in Matthew 28:19, but He then immediately tells them to teach us to do what He has commanded them. Since He just commanded them to make disciples, and we are to do everything Jesus commanded them, we are to make disciples, too.

But the answer runs deeper than this. **Jesus was a disciplemaker. If you wish to be like Jesus, you, too, will be a disciplemaker.** It's fair to say that if you are not a disciplemaker, you are not like Jesus, because He is a disciplemaker. Let's live like Jesus!

What's the difference between disciplmaking and evangelism?

Evangelism is the first step of disciplmaking. Evangelism is discipling a person from disbelief or error to genuine faith in Jesus and baptism into Him. Because the world is lost and rushing into eternity, we should put a priority on discipling (evangelizing) lost people. You should be an active evangelist for Jesus!

What if I'm not mature enough to make disciples?

When my daughter was in first grade, she was so excited to learn to read that she came home every day and taught her four year old brother how to read. So, how old do you need to be to teach a four year old how to read? FIVE! **Everyone who has experienced Jesus in their lives can help someone else experience Jesus.**

So, even if you are not mature enough to disciple leaders, you are mature enough to disciple somebody! A new Christian can disciple unbelievers. A young single can disciple other younger singles. A middle age couple can disciple a young couple. A high school student can disciple other students.

Any of us can disciple somebody. But, if you feel unsure of yourself, start a discipleship group, where everybody disciplines one another. D-groups can be a great way to get started in a disciplemaking lifestyle.

Isn't it enough just to serve others through our ministries?

Anytime we serve others in ministry, we are doing the will of God. But Jesus did more than merely serve. Jesus preached the Gospel and made disciples. Our ministries are strongest when they are used to access people whom we then disciple.

You serve meals to the needy? Why not seek to disciple some of those you serve? You teach English as a second language? Why not disciple those you teach? You work with a team that digs wells in the developing world? Why not make disciples of those you serve?

Remember that if it is important to serve others fresh water (and it is!), it is infinitely more important to offer them the Water of Life!

Who needs to be disciplined?

Everyone! Lost people need discipling in order to be saved. Immature Christians need discipling in order to mature. Children require discipling in order to become Christian adults. Leaders require discipling to become the best leaders they can be. Even elders and ministers need discipling. If we think of disciplemaking as coaching, we can see that discipling is important for us all:

- Barnabas disciplined Paul (Acts 11:25-26).
- Paul disciplined Timothy (2 Timothy 3:10-11).

Everyone needs a Barnabas in their lives, and everyone needs a Timothy.

What is a discipling movement?

A discipling movement (DMM) happens when disciples make disciples who make disciples in rapidly expanding numbers, resulting in the planting of multiple churches. In North America, discipling movements have not caught on yet, but in the Global South, there are numerous discipling movements, resulting in hundreds of thousands of baptisms. North Boulevard is delighted to be part of over twenty discipling movements in the Global South.

In the last fifteen years, discipling movements have swept across Sierra Leone, baptizing hundreds of thousands of people and planting tens of thousands of churches. It's simple: each disciple makes other disciples who make other disciples.

*A group of discipling makers
in Bo, Sierra Leone.*



Next Steps

So, you want to make discipling a part of your life, but you don't know where to begin. What do you do?

Of course there are many possible next steps, but I want to suggest a reasonable course of action that you can begin this very week.

1 Get in a D-group.

The easiest on-ramp to making disciples is to join or start a Discipleship Group with a few people already in your network.

Do this before the week is over.

Simply ask a few people (typically of the same gender) if they would join you once per week to talk about eternal matters. Start by asking them simply for an 8-week commitment.

Then, use the DBS in this booklet, or download another one from newdayresources.org. Work through the DBS together, paying special attention to cultivating an authentic and open atmosphere. When the 8 weeks are coming to an end, ask the group to stay together for a year. Many will say yes, and you will have a D-group where each person disciples the others.

2 Begin praying like a discipler.

Learn to pray for people who need to be discipled: lost people, struggling people, young people, and others. Ask God to help you discover who He may be calling you to disciple. Pray for persons of peace: people whom God is already preparing to receive the Gospel in their hearts. **Pray for them, and look for them.** Pray against strongholds that keep people away from the Gospel or from flourishing in their faith. Pray for the Gospel around the world, making it your business to know where the Gospel is flourishing. Discipling movements only happen among people who are praying for it.



3 Develop relationships with lost people for the purpose of sharing the Gospel.

One of the most important forms of disciplemaking is evangelism. The world is lost, and we are God's messengers of salvation. Pray that God will soften the hearts of those in your networks. Develop life-on-life relationships with the lost. Then find ways to help them come to Jesus. Then, continue to disciple them as they grow in Christ.

4 Immerse yourself in the world of disciplemaking.

Start making disciplemaking your business. Read disciplemaking literature. Go to disciplemaking events. Connect with other disciplemakers. The greatest way to become something new is to hang out with others who already embody what you want to become.

The 1st Century religious leaders were astonished by Peter and John's courage when they realized that the disciples "were unschooled, ordinary men" (Acts 4:13).

Trust that the Holy Spirit will give you all you need to become a disciplemaker!

Leading a Discovery Bible Study

Discovery Bible study is a simple yet powerful way of helping people experience the transformative power of the Bible. DBS lets the Scriptures be the teacher and the participants learn and respond directly to God's word. Each person focuses on hearing from God through Scripture reading and then putting that truth into concrete action in their own life.

To lead a DBS study, meet regularly with a group of people you are discipling asking the same eight questions of a Bible passage every time you meet. What changes from meeting to meeting is which text of Scripture you discuss.

Make sure to emphasize question six: ***"How will you put this passage into practice?"*** If this question is taken seriously, and obedience is practiced that very day and week, your experience of DBS will come to life! If we are not serious about obedience, DBS can fall flat and even be boring. When done well, DBS has brought hundreds of thousands of people to Jesus across the Global South, as people read Scripture, obey, then enjoy the blessings of God.

For many more DBS studies on a variety of topics,
visit newdayresources.org



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

GRATITUDE

What happened last week for which you are thankful?

INTERCESSION

What challenges do you see in your life, family, or world?

ACCOUNTABILITY

How did you obey, share, and meet the needs from last week's meeting?

READ THE PASSAGE

Re-Read, Re-Tell, & Consider the Details

He is...

What do we learn about God?

We are...

What do we learn about people?

I will...

How will you put this passage into practice?

You can...

Who needs this message that you will tell this week?

Service

How can we help with a challenge you're facing?

**NEW DAY
RESOURCES**

newdayresources.org

THE LIFE SERIES

THE NEW LIFE

John 20:1-31

The Risen Lord and Savior

Acts 2:22-41

The Turning Point

Acts 8:26-40

The Chariot Ride

Romans 3:20-28

The One Declared Not Guilty

Romans 6:1-23

The Death that Brings Life

Romans 8:1-17

The Way of Adoption

Galatians 5:16-26

The Good Fruit

Ephesians 2:1-10

The Unexpected Gift

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finalcommand.com

This sample DBS bookmark is designed to work for evangelism as well as everyday discipling.

notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.