

# **BASIC DISCIPLE MAKING**

**The Plan, Process & Practice of Making Disciples**

***EXALTING CHRIST PUBLISHING***

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The lessons in Basic Discipling Making cover broad principles of making disciples. The books *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert E. Coleman, *A Call To Prayer* by J. C. Ryle, and *Words to Winners of Souls* by Horatius Bonar will be used. Not only will you learn the plan and process of disciple making, but you will also have the opportunity to put these ideas into practice. You will be held accountable to practice disciple making by beginning to disciple someone yourself.

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# LESSON ONE

## THE PLAN OF MAKING DISCIPLES

**Reading:** Preface to *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

### I. THE PLAN OF JESUS CHRIST

#### A. He Recognized the Magnitude of the Task

1. A problem of breadth: reaching the multitudes (John 3:17; Matthew 28:19)
2. A problem of depth: caring for people (Matthew 9:36-38)

#### B. He Recognized His own (human) Limitations

1. Limited time on the earth (John 16:27-28; Mark 9:19)
2. Limited by physical bounds (John 16:5-7)

#### C. He Reproduced Himself in Other Men

1. Concerned Himself primarily with a few (John 6:66)
2. Realized more could be done through them (John 14:12-13)
3. Staked His entire mission on them (John 17:20)
4. Others would be reproduced through them and continue the cycle (2 Timothy 2:2)

### II. THE PURPOSE OF GIFTED MEN

#### A. The Few are Responsible to Train the Many

Equipping every believer to be qualified to carry out the ministry is God's pattern (Ephesians 4:11-12). Every believer a minister is the goal. This sets the basis for reaching and ministering to the multitudes.

## **B. Recognizing that the Church Body is Built up Through the Function of Many (Ephesians 4:16)**

Believers must be qualified to minister and reproduce themselves in others (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

**NOTE:** The whole process of discipling is related to spiritual gifts in Ephesians 4:7-16. There is a six step process that brings the believer to the point of using his gift to the capacity that God has designed. It centers around the provision of gifted men who focus their attention on equipping the many who in turn will themselves build up the body of Christ, and as a result have an impact on the world.

**First Step**     *Planting of a gift: 4:7*  
Every believer is given the capacity to minister - to meet the needs of the body.

**Second Step**   *Provision of Gifted Men: 4:11*  
God specifically gifts men to minister, either directly or indirectly to the rest of the body

**Third Step**     *Process of Equipping: 4:12a*  
God's design is that the few direct their energies to preparing the many. This will obviously involve centering efforts on those who themselves will in turn equip the whole body. Like Jesus, we must recognize that the task is too large both in breadth and depth.

**Fourth Step**    *Placement of Believer's in Ministry: 4:12b*  
As believers grow they reach a relative maturity and are placed in ministries by Christ to meet the needs of the many.

**Fifth Step**     *Progress in Building up of the Body: 4:12b*  
As the body experiences growth, personal attention to needs are met, and the problem of caring for needs on a broad and deep scale is solved.

**Sixth Step**     *Product of a Mature Body in the World: 4:13-16*  
The church as a body reaches maturity as a whole. The church corporately displays Christ to the world and Christ through the Church impacts the world as He did in the days of His flesh.

**THE GOAL**     *The Incarnation Continues:*  
The fulness of Christ is displayed to the world and the church impacts the world for God (Ephesians 1:22-23).

### **III. THE PATTERN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

#### **A. The Church in Jerusalem**

1. Preached and taught (Acts 2:42; 3:12-26; 5:42)
2. Modeled (Acts 4:7-13, 18-21, 23-25, 29-31; 5:27-29, 40-42)
3. Reproduced (Acts 8:1-5; 11:19-21)

#### **B. The Ministry of Paul** (Acts 14:21-22, 15:36, 41, 18:23; Galatians 2:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12)

#### **The Plan and Process of Discipleship can be Described as Follows:**

**DISCIPLER:** One who reproduces himself by leading someone to Christ and then through teaching, example, care and nurture, sees them come to maturity and Christlikeness so that they are able to continue the cycle in others. When this has been accomplished then the goal of leadership has been met.

**DISCIPLE:** One who is committed to learning from and obeying Jesus Christ. One who is willing to learn from the life of another until he reaches maturity and Christlikeness and is able to impart what he has learned to another.

## LESSON ONE QUESTIONS

1. After studying these passages in lesson one, how would you summarize the plan of the Lord Jesus for making disciples?
2. In what ways did Christ's approach to discipleship benefit His disciples?
3. What would you say are the highest priorities of the church today if we are going to effectively produce disciples?
4. List some qualities necessary to become a discipler. Of the areas listed, which ones do you need growth in?







## LESSON TWO

### SELECTION

**Reading:** Chapter one of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

Jesus Christ spent nearly all of His earthly ministry preparing and training just twelve men. From His ministry with the twelve we see that there are eight basic training and discipling guidelines that are essential to preparation for leadership.

The first principle concerns the process of selection. Selection of the right men was and is critical. Since they were to carry on His work when He left, no mistake could be made here.

#### **A. Recognition of its Importance**

1. He planned to invest His life in them (John 17:4-8).
2. He planned for them to carry on His work (Matthew 28:18-20).
3. He prayed over their selection all night (Luke 6:12-16).

#### **B. Requirement for Selection: Consecration**

1. Negatively: Human achievement, status, wealth, religious position, and formal education were not required (Acts 4:13). Neither was personal maturity, character, nobility, self-confidence, nor spiritual capability (Matthew 19:13; Mark 3:17; 10:35-41; Luke 9:44-46, 54; John 1:45-47).
2. Positively: A teachable spirit. They had a hunger for God and the truth.
  - a. They sought to know things about Christ (John 1:37-38).
  - b. They were excited about knowing Christ (John 1:41-42).
  - c. They longed for the Messiah and God's kingdom (John 1:43-45).
3. Positively: A willing heart. They were willing to follow and be molded by the Master.
  - a. They were not divided in their interest (Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 10:28).
  - b. They wanted the Words of God (John 6:68-69).

**C. Reason for the Selection: Concentration**

1. Small enough group to be effective with. (Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:13-17).
2. Men who would bear witness of His life and sufferings (John 15:27).
3. Men in whom He would multiply Himself (John 17:4-8, 20).
4. Men who would carry on His work and care for the multitudes (John 21:15; Matthew 28:18-20).

## LESSON TWO QUESTIONS

1. After reading the lesson and realizing the importance of choosing the right disciple, describe the process you would go through in choosing a disciple.
2. After reading the section on consecration, have your discipler express to you specifically how he has seen these positive aspects in you and where you lack.
3. Give a brief summary of chapter one of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. With what do you agree or disagree? What are the implications of this teaching on your life and ministry?



## LESSON THREE

### ASSOCIATION

**Reading:** Chapter two of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

The second principle is association. In order to multiply Himself in others, Jesus knew He had to be with them. This was necessary if He was to impart not only His teaching but His life.

#### A. His Plan to Associate with Them

1. He invited specific men (Mark 3:14-5). The men Jesus invited to be with Him had displayed qualities and attitudes that He looked for in prospective leaders. They had shown a yearning for God (John 1:37-45), a willingness to follow and learn, and a singleness of mind and purpose (Matthew 4:18-22). In short, they recognized His position and were receptive to His leadership.
2. His investment with the men. As they were with Him, they would see things as He saw them: His values, perspective, goals, and commitment. They would finally carry on His work. To accomplish this they would be with Him. They would learn from Him as they saw Him in every conceivable situation and circumstance. He invited men to follow Him and be with Him (John 1:37-39, 43; Mark 1:17; 2:14).

#### B. His Procedure of Association

1. Instruction and personal explanation (Matthew 15:10; Mark 4:34; John 17:8, 14).
2. Observation of His life.
  - a. Boldness in preaching (Mark 1:39; John 7:11-39)
  - b. Confrontation of opponents (John 8:1-59; Matthew 21:23-22:46)
  - c. Response to rejection and ridicule (Luke 4:15-30; John 7:1-9)
  - d. Sacrifice for multitudes (Mark 6:31-44)
  - e. Compassion on the multitudes (Matthew 9:36-38)
  - f. Fervor and zeal for God (Matthew 15:1-9; 21:12-13; John 2:13-22)

- g. Intolerance and indignation for hypocritical religious leaders (Matthew 23:1-39)
- h. Concern for individuals (Mark 10:46-52)
- i. Impartiality to rich and poor (Matthew 26:6-13)
- j. Use of and trust in the Word of God (Matthew 26:31, 54)
- k. Total submission to the will of God (Luke 22:41-42)
- l. Prayer life and dependence on God (Mark 6:46; Luke 9:18)
- m. Trust in God for basic needs (Luke 8:1-3; 9:58; Matthew 6:25-34)
- n. Handle inconveniences and interruptions (Mark 1:23-39; 6:31-36)
- o. Patience with the unfaithful, slow of learning (Matthew 16:5-12; Luke 10:38-42; John 14:5-9) and unwise (Mark 10:35-41; Matthew 16:22)
- p. Willingness to serve and give of Himself (John 13:1-17)
- q. Faith in the midst of impossible situations (Matthew 14:25-31; John 6:1-11)

### **C. His Prospect in Association**

The disciples would become like Christ in every facet (Luke 6:40). They would replace Him in ministry and be like Him in character and commitment (John 17:16-20). They would have been with Him in everything and therefore, qualified to witness of Him and His teachings (John 15:27).

1. They would hold to His teaching (John 8:31-32).
2. Love as He loved (John 13:34).
3. Sacrifice as He sacrificed (Luke 14:26-33).
4. Bear fruit (John 15:7-8).



## LESSON THREE QUESTIONS

1. Review again the things the disciples observed in Christ's life listed in the lesson on association. Which events do you think are the most significant to becoming Christ-like? In which areas do you need to improve?
2. Describe the benefits of having your disciple around you in life situations.

3. Begin a study in the life of Peter and list the things that Jesus said to him and did with him to effectively disciple him. (Use a concordance).

4. Give a brief summary of chapter two of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. With what do you agree or disagree? What are the implications of this teaching on your life and ministry?

# LESSON FOUR

## CONSECRATION

**Reading:** Chapter three of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

### I. JESUS' EXPECTATION: PRIORITIES OF A DISCIPLE

Jesus Christ expected unqualified loyalty and commitment from His disciples. He would accept nothing less. He refused to lower His standards to make them more acceptable so that more would be willing to follow Him (John 6:66; Luke 9:57-62).

- A. Subordination of Family Relations to Him (Luke 9:59-62; 14:26)**
- B. Submission of our Life Ambitions and Desires to His Approval (Luke 14:27; Mark 8:34-35; Matthew 16:24-28)**
- C. Sacrifice of Material Possessions (job, etc.) if necessary for Him (Luke 14:33; 9:57-58).**
- D. Singleness of Mind and Purpose (Luke 9:60)**

### II. JESUS' EXPLANATION: PERSPECTIVE OF A DISCIPLE

Jesus accepted only total consecration because of the very nature of their mission. In order to carry out His work they had to be totally committed or they would fail.

- A. Awareness: The choice of only one master (Luke 16:13)**
- B. Anticipation: The conflict with opposition (Matthew 10:16-18; John 16:1-4)**
- C. Acceptance: The cost of fulfilling their mission (Luke 14:28-32)**

### **III. JESUS' EXAMPLE: PATTERN OF A DISCIPLE**

Jesus Christ Himself displayed in His own life what He expected from His disciples. There was no confusion in the disciple's minds what consecration meant for they saw it in Jesus.

- A. He Endured the Rejection of His own Family (Mark 3:21; John 7:1-5)**
- B. He Sacrificed the Normal Comforts of Life (Luke 9:58)**
- C. He Submitted His Immediate Pleasures and Ambitions to the Father (Matthew 4:1-11, 26:39; John 4:31-34, 5:30)**

## LESSON FOUR QUESTIONS

1. Review again the priorities, perspective and pattern of a disciple. How would you evaluate yourself in these areas? How, when and where could you make any needed changes?
2. What opposition or temptations have you faced recently that you were able to recognize as a plan of Satan to draw you off course? How did you respond to it?
3. Give a brief summary of chapter three of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. With what do you agree or disagree? What are the implications of this teaching on your life and ministry?



## LESSON FIVE

### IMPARTATION

**Reading:** Chapter four of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

Jesus stuck with His disciples in spite of their deficiencies. Because they were committed, He knew that through the process of time and trials He would be able to impart His life and values to them.

#### I. HIS PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

##### A. The Value of Eternal Things

1. Concern for men (Matthew 4:18-19; 9:35-38) and their souls (Mark 8:34-38)
2. Place of money and materialism (Luke 12:13-21)
3. The future glory and reward (John 17:24; Matthew 19:26-29)

##### B. The Importance of Faithfulness (Luke 16:9-13)

##### C. The Importance of Faith in God

1. For daily needs (Matthew 6:25-34)
2. For crises and problems (Luke 8:22-25)
3. For influence with God (Matthew 8:5-13; 9:2, 20-22)

#### II. HIS PATTERN OF LIFE

##### A. Inner Character in Spite of Circumstances (John 16:32-33; 15:11)

##### B. Love for Enemies and Friends (John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:43-48)

- C. Commitment and Loyalty to Another's Growth (John 13:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20)**
- D. Concern for the Truth of God's Word (John 15:15; 17:4, 8, 14)**
- E. Commitment to Reaching the Lost (Matthew 9:36-38)**

### **III. HIS PERSPECTIVE IN MINISTRY**

- A. Total Dependence on the Holy Spirit (Matthew 4:1, 12:28; Luke 4:18, 10:21)**
- B. Anticipation of Great Things for God (John 14:13-14; Matthew 21:21-22)**
- C. Need for Closeness to Christ (John 15:3-8; Matthew 14:28-33)**



## **LESSON FIVE QUESTIONS**

1. What has the Lord imparted to you through your association with other Christians? What do you want to impart to others (children, spouse, disciples)?
2. What do you think is the essence of what Jesus is saying in Luke 12:13-21? How has this teaching begun to be a part of your life?
3. Review the section of the lesson dealing with Christ's philosophy of life and discuss with your discipler what he perceives you value the most. What preoccupies your time and energy, temporary things or eternal things?



## LESSON SIX

### DEMONSTRATION

**Reading:** Chapter five of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, and *A Call to Prayer* by J. C. Ryle

Everything Jesus Christ expected of His disciples He practiced Himself. This was the key. By seeing it first in Jesus, they were able to see they could do it themselves. Three vital areas were demonstrated.

#### I. PRACTICE OF PRAYER

- A. Before Important Decisions (Luke 6:12-13)
- B. Prior to Temptations (Luke 22:39-46)
- C. In Response to God's Blessing (Luke 10:21-22)
- D. In the Midst of Public Ministry (Mark 1:35)
- E. Before Performing Miracles and Healing (Mark 6:41; John 11:41-42)
- F. Giving of Thanks at all Times (Matthew 26:27, 11:25-26)
- G. As a Regular Pattern for Strength in Ministry (Luke 5:16, 9:18, 11:1)

#### II. USE OF SCRIPTURE

- A. Their Inspiration From God (Matthew 15:3-6)
- B. Their Final Authority (John 10:35)
- C. Their Power in Overcoming Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11)

- D. Their Certainty of Fulfillment (Matthew 26:54, 56)**
- E. His Skill in Silencing Opponents (Matthew 22:31-32, 41-46)**
- F. The Basis of His Ministry (Luke 4:17-21)**
- G. Their Importance to be Effective Witnesses and Disciples (Luke 24:27, 32, 44)**

### **III. HIS MANNER OF INSTRUCTING AND TRAINING**

- A. Personal Instruction and Explanation (Matthew 15:15-20; Mark 4:34)**
- B. On the Job Training (Mark 3:14)**
- C. Lessons from People and Problems (Luke 7:44-50; Matthew 15:12-14, 16:5-12; John 6:1-15; Mark 10:23-31)**
- D. Application of Scripture from Real Life Situations and Circumstances (Matthew 15:1-9)**

## LESSON SIX QUESTIONS

1. List at least five reasons why it is essential to pray and support them with Scripture.
2. Give a brief summary of *A Call to Prayer* by J. C. Ryle. What are the implications of this teaching on your life and ministry? Discuss how you will put this teaching into practice.
3. Discuss areas of ministry with your discipler that you have a desire for and discuss together how you can get equipped for that area.

4. Continue to pray about someone you can begin to disciple. Write down the ways in which you can begin to develop a personal relationship with this person in preparation for possible discipleship.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Describe the importance of the Word of God for life and ministry.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What importance did Paul place on modeling (2 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Timothy 4:12; Philippians 4:9)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Give a brief summary of chapter five of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. With what do you agree or disagree? What are the implications of this teaching on your life and ministry?

# LESSON SEVEN

## DELEGATION

**Reading:** Chapter six of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

The entire focus of discipleship is on the time when the disciple will be able to fulfill his own ministry. This was Jesus' aim with the twelve. He slowly, but purposefully delegated ever widening responsibilities to His disciples. Eventually they would take over Christ's ministry.

### I. IMPLEMENTATION OF DELEGATION

Jesus took precaution to not act prematurely in assigning tasks. He began with small things and eventually ended by giving the disciples full charge of His work.

- A. Stage One: Exposure to Christ and Growth (John 1:37-39; Mark 3:14)**
- B. Stage Two: Errands, Duties and Tasks (John 4:1-2; Luke 9:51-52; Mark 6:41-44)**
- C. Stage Three: Evangelism/Healing (Matthew 10:1, 7-8; Luke 9:1-2)**
- D. Stage Four: Evangelism/Discipleship Worldwide**
  - 1. Sent as Christ was sent (John 20:21)
  - 2. Care and equipping (John 21:15-17)
  - 3. Preach repentance and remission of sins (Luke 24:44-49)
  - 4. Assume Christ's work (Matthew 28:18-20)

## **II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DELEGATION (Matthew 10)**

- A. Concentrate on the Ministry, not Money (vv. 9-10)**
- B. Concentrate on the Responsive (vv. 11-14)**
- C. Expect Conflict (vv. 16-26)**
- D. Put your Confidence in God (vv. 26-33)**
- E. Expect Conflict from Family (vv. 34-39)**
- F. Understand your Commission (vv. 40-42)**



## LESSON SEVEN QUESTIONS

1. After studying the steps in which Christ delegated responsibility and evaluating your own growth at this point, what stage would you place yourself in?
2. Write down the kind of responsibility you would like to attain to by next year; in two years; in five years. Discuss with your discipler the best steps to pursue to reach these goals.
3. Give a brief summary of chapter six of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. With what do you agree or disagree? What are the implications of this teaching on your life and ministry?



# LESSON EIGHT

## SUPERVISION

**Reading:** Chapter seven of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

Disciple making is not complete without the element of supervision. Jesus Christ undertook to see that His disciples would reach a point where they could not only begin a ministry, but maintain the ministry on their own. To do this He made it a point to check upon their progress and to make evaluation, give correction and motivation.

### I. EVALUATION

Jesus expected reports of the disciples' ministry. He did not simply want followers. He wanted effective followers.

#### A. Expectation of Results (Luke 9:1-6, 10, 10:1-19)

1. The term 'account' means: to declare thoroughly, detail, recount, relate, tell (Luke 9:10). Jesus expected a detailed account of what transpired. Apparently it was prearranged that they meet. He wanted to know what they did and what took place so that He could evaluate where improvement could be made.
2. Triumph over Satan: Results or no results was either triumph over Satan or defeat at the hands of Satan. This is why it was so important to Jesus that the disciples were effective (Luke 10:18-19)

#### B. Humility in Ministry (Luke 10:20)

Jesus wanted the disciples to keep personal things in perspective. Their effectiveness in ministry was no basis for pride. They were saved like everyone else, by the grace of God, who wrote their name in heaven.

## II. CORRECTION

Jesus did not hesitate to correct the disciples of wrong attitudes, activity, etc.

### A. The Attitude of Superiority and Exclusiveness

Jesus resisted the attitude of superiority and exclusiveness. They were to accept others as equals in their ministry, no matter what the sphere, if they did not speak evil of Christ's name (Mark 9:38-40). Jesus even extended this to children. They were to consider anyone vital to Christ's ministry who labored in His name, even children (Matthew 18:1-1)

### B. The Attitude of Intolerance and Impatience (Luke 9:51-56)

Note: "He did not expect more from the disciples than they could do, but He did expect their best and this He expected always to be improved as they grew in knowledge and grace." Robert E. Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, pg. 94, 1993 edition

## III. MOTIVATION AND STIMULATION

Jesus Christ was not contented with anything but total success. He was constantly motivating the disciples to improve to see greater things from God.

### A. Motivate to Great Things through Prayer (Mark 9:14-29)

The disciples were unable to cast out a demon. Jesus was perturbed by the disciples inability. Apparently He had expected greater results at this point. He said they needed to pray more in faith and expect great things (Mark 9:29)

### B. Motivate to Great Things thorough God's Power (Matthew 15:29-38, 16:1-12)



3. If you were discipling a new believer, what would be your first objective in his life and how would you obtain it?

4. Give a brief summary of chapter seven of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. With what do you agree or disagree? What are the implications of this teaching on your life and ministry?

5. Who are you following up on to begin to disciple, and how are you developing a relationship with him?

## LESSON NINE

### REPRODUCTION

**Reading:** Chapter eight and Epilogue of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, and *Words to Winners of Souls* by Horatius Bonar

The goal of the entire discipleship process is reproduction. Jesus Christ did not consider His life a success until He saw Himself reproduced in His disciples. Our goal is no less today. Not until we see ourselves duplicated in other men/women is our task finished.

#### I. THE DIRECTION OF DISCIPLESHIP

Christ's aim was to see the disciples brought to the point where they could lead others as He led them.

- A. Reproduce the Ability to Develop Leadership (Matthew 16:13-19)**
- B. Reproduce the Ability to Effectively Continue a Ministry (John 15:1-16)**
- C. The Objective of Paul (2 Timothy 2:1-2)**

#### II. THE COMMISSION OF CHRIST (Matthew 28:18-20)

The Great Commission is centered around the main idea of reproducing yourself in others to insure the continuation of your ministry.

- A. The Means**
  - 1. Go - evangelize
  - 2. Baptize, commitment, confession
  - 3. Teach, communicate

**B. The Objective: Make Disciples**

Jesus Christ wanted the disciples to reproduce themselves to insure the continuation of His ministry.

**III. THE TRUE EVALUATION OF DISCIPLESHIP**

**A. The Prerequisite to Ministry (John 15:2-3)**

**B. The Mark of the Obedient (John 8:31-36)**

**C. Absent in the Unfaithful (Luke 12:42-48; 19:11-27)**

**D. Absent in the Religious Hypocrites (Matthew 15:7-9)**

**E. The Wages of the True Laborer (John 4:36-38)**



## LESSON NINE QUESTIONS

1. Study 2 Timothy 2:1-10 and write down what you perceive to be required in order to attain the commission Paul gives to Timothy here. What steps would you take to begin to carry out this commission?
2. Study John 15:1-17 and write a paragraph to explain the kind of relationship that we must have with Christ to maintain an effective ministry.
3. What are some of your convictions and concepts of ministry that you would want to convey to your disciple?

