

Discipleship Ministry

Overview & Guidelines

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INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

The Lord has mandated that His church make disciples of all nations. He has promised His presence and authority in helping us fulfill this commission (Matthew 28:18-20). As believers, we are to entrust what we have learned “to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also” (II Timothy 2:2).

The discipleship ministry is designed to bring a believer to the point where he can reproduce what he has learned into others. Discipleship is much more than just gaining knowledge and doing an assigned lesson. Discipleship is becoming personally involved in someone’s life. It is modeling and teaching Christlikeness in every area of life. It is encouraging and challenging one another to apply the things that are learned. It is building relationships! (Cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12) This requires a commitment that will take time and prayer. It may even mean denying yourself, which Jesus stressed was one of the costs of following Him (Mark 8:34-38). But it will be worth it as you do your part in fulfilling the great commission.

The curriculum used for the discipleship ministry is divided into three areas. The first phase is an introduction to discipleship. The core curriculum is *Basic Discipleship*. This study is designed to introduce the student to the Bible, and in particular, to acquaint him with the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This study covers some of the basics that are necessary to help a person grow as a Christian.

The second phase focuses on Bible doctrine and character growth. The central curriculum is *Basic Bible Doctrine*. This is an exciting study, which will help lay a solid foundation for a person’s understanding of key Bible doctrines. Comprehending what the Bible teaches in these different areas is essential for the growth and maturity of the believer. We are to be teaching our disciples to observe all that Christ commanded (Matthew 28:20). Some of the subjects covered include studies on salvation, what the Bible teaches about itself, the Trinity, spiritual gifts, witnessing, and the Christian life. For a more in depth study in any one of these areas, other books are available. There are also a number of good books in this phase that focus on building godly character. These usually include a study guide, which is used in conjunction with the reading. See the attached book list, starting on page thirteen.

The goal of the third phase of discipleship is reproduction (2 Timothy 2:2). After a disciple has grown and matured, he is ready to invest what he has learned in someone else. The key curriculum is *Basic Disciple Making*. This study focuses on the method of our Lord Jesus as He went about making disciples.

Going through these three phases might take one year or several years, depending on each individual’s growth, but the goal of each disciple is to get to the point where he can be a disciple for Christ.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Bible As Our Foundation

The Bible is foundational in our ministry to change lives and help Christians grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do not believe it is biblical nor useful to mix biblical truth with humanistic theory or psychology in resolving life's many "ups and downs." The Holy Spirit's power in the life of the believer who obeys the Word of God is sufficient to bring resolution or to help persevere in the trials of life. (2 Timothy 3:16; Philippians 4:13)

We also believe that the teaching of solid biblical doctrine must be guarded and preserved in the discipleship ministry as well as the entire ministry of the church body. This is why we must be careful in appointing brothers and sisters to any position that involves a teaching ministry in the church. We are exhorted in God's Word to persevere in sound doctrine. (1 Timothy 4:15-16) This is why all disciplers must take and pass a doctrinal questionnaire.

With all of the above in mind, all curriculum and material used in the discipleship ministry must have prior approval from the elder overseeing Adult Ministries. A list, which is a part of this manual, has been developed for this purpose. If you have material or curriculum that is not on the list which you would like to use, please talk to the elder of Adult Ministries before beginning to use it.

Fulfilling the Great Commission

As a church body, our primary purpose for existing is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by "making disciples." When one becomes a disciple, he is now expected to make a disciple. This is why the "multiplication process" is foundational for this ministry. Discipleship begins with outreach or evangelism. The Lord Jesus, who has all authority, commands us to "go...and make disciples" and every discipler is expected to have this mandate of God before them continually. This is the goal we are trying to accomplish (Matthew 28:18-20).

Disciple making is best defined as learning to be a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. All believers are commanded to be involved in the disciple making process. It is a commitment of a discipler to meet with one or two believers of the same sex on a regular basis to encourage them and hold them accountable to become "doers of the Word, and not hearers only" (James 1: 22-26) in every area of their lives including but not limited to:

1. Learning how to love God and develop Christian character.
2. Learning how to be a godly husband, wife and/or parent.
3. Learning how to minister to others with the spiritual gift God has given them (Romans 12:3-21)
4. A commitment to grow in the knowledge and practice of the great doctrines of the Bible.
5. Reproducing and making disciples of others.

A Servant Of Christ

The mark of a servant of Christ is the ability of a believer to "not only look to (our) own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4). Disciplers are believers who desire to serve others and are committed to learning how they may "decrease, so that Christ may increase in their lives" (Matthew 16:24-26). They are willing to take on the awesome responsibility, with the help of God, to shepherd and minister to their disciples. By setting this example, their disciples will in turn minister "one to another."

QUALIFICATIONS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

I. QUALIFICATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

A. As a discipler, you will be expected to complete the following qualifications:

1. Agree with the Doctrinal Statement of the church. Any differences in conviction should be noted on your form before turning them in to the church. Minor differences are not significant, but must be noted.
2. Faithfully attend Worship services at the church (Sunday school, morning and evening worship services and a home fellowship group).
3. Prayerfully become a member of Community Bible Church.
4. Show basic understanding of Biblical and theological truth by passing a doctrinal test.
5. Manifest a stable, consistent Christian lifestyle.
6. Demonstrate a teachable and submissive spirit.
7. Has been discipled or is being discipled.

B. As a disciple

1. A regular attender of church services
2. Has demonstrated a commitment to be discipled by meeting consistently with his discipler and fulfilling minimum standards and requirements. Evaluation will be made by the discipler in four weeks to determine whether or not the individual is ready to be discipled.

II. ACCOUNTABILITY

Being a discipler is a great responsibility for which the Lord will hold you accountable. Your commitment entails the following responsibilities:

- A. Understanding and applying the biblical material, being taught, to your life.
- B. Being diligent in attending all discipler training meetings.
- C. Demonstrating love and compassion to your disciple and holding him accountable for:
 - 1. Preparation and study for each lesson.
 - 2. Attendance of each meeting on a weekly basis. If your disciple fails to meet with you, you are expected to call him immediately to find out what happened.
 - 3. Achieving personal goals he has shared and asked you to hold him accountable to fulfill.
- D. Ask the assistance of the discipleship coordinator in resolving any kind of difficult problem with your disciple. Biblical counseling is available.

III. THE DESIGN OF THE MINISTRY

The design of discipleship is not solely to increase Bible knowledge. Discipleship and maturity is more than transmitting facts to another person or persons. The program is designed to assist the discipleship maturity process in a number of ways.

- A. It gives the disciple opportunity to discover for himself truth from the word of God.

- B. It assists the disciple in developing a regular disciplined reading and study of the word of God.
- C. It ensures a regular contact with another person with whom an open relationship can be developed where there is prayer and sharing of trials, victories, and mutual encouragement.
- D. It provides through the discipler a model in the Christian life which is so essential to developing qualities of growth.
- E. It can develop confidence in the disciple, having seen it modeled by his discipler, to go on and disciple someone else himself.

IV. SPECIFIC GOALS TO PRAY AND WORK FOR

- A. To lead the disciple to acknowledge (confess) their faith publicly. (If they have not done so already)
 - 1. To give them assurance of their salvation.
 - 2. To follow Christ's directive in being baptized.
- B. To exemplify application of biblical principles of Christian living in one's daily life style.
 - 1. The Word of God: daily reading, studying, applying.
 - 2. Memorization of the Word.
 - 3. To manifest a consistent prayer life.

4. To practice evangelism as a way of life.
- C. To build Christian character (faithfulness, patience, love, giving, etc).
 - D. To become part of a local body of believers.
 1. To see the need and to become faithful in attending the meetings of this local church (Sunday School, morning and evening worship service, and a home fellowship group).
 2. To accept some ministry responsibility in an area of service.
 - E. To get them to the point where they can disciple someone else.

V. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE MINISTRY

- A. Meet together once a week for about 90 minutes.
- B. Your meetings should include these three areas.
 1. Fellowship and sharing - 20 minutes.
 - a. The goal is to get to know and build a strong relationship.
 - b. Control direction of conversation by asking questions.
 - (1) Identify needs

(2) Evaluate progress

2. Memory review and discussion of lesson- 60 minutes.

a. Go over memory verses

b. Prepare for each lesson by developing a lesson plan

(1) know the point and purpose of each lesson

(2) ask questions to stimulate thought

3. Prayer - 10 minutes

C. Build Your Relationship.

1. Get to know them (birth date, phone number, children, spouse, job, hobbies, etc.)

2. Once a month do something extra (shopping, dessert, crafts, etc.), be creative.

3. Participate in the same Home Fellowship Group.

APPROVED LIST OF MATERIAL

PHASE ONE DISCIPLESHIP MATERIAL

<u>Title/ Author or Publisher</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Basic Discipleship/ Cornerstone Books (REQUIRED)	Salvation
Totally True/ Youth for Christ	Salvation

NOTE: Basic Discipleship is required to finish this phase

PHASE TWO DISCIPLESHIP MATERIAL

DOCTRINE

<u>Title/ Author or Publisher</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Basic Bible Doctrine/ Cornerstone Books (REQUIRED)	Basic Bible Doctrine
How to Get the Most From God's Word/ John MacArthur	Bible
Knowing Scripture/ R. C. Sproul	Bible
Truth & Power/ J. I. Packer	Bible
Battle For The Beginning/ John MacArthur	Creation vs Evolution
Attributes of God, The/ A.W. Pink	Attributes of God
Here is Your God/ Robert A Morey	Attributes of God
Love of God, The/ John MacArthur	Love of God
Knowing God/ J. I. Packer	God
Pleasures of God, The/ John Piper	God
Pursuit of God, The/ A.W. Tozer	God
Sovereignty of God, The/ A.W. Pink	Sovereignty
God in the Manger/ John MacArthur	Incarnation
Glory of Christ, The/ John Owen, R. J. K. Law	Christ
Our Sufficiency in Christ/ John MacArthur	Christ
A Price for a People/ Tom Wells	Atonement
Five Points of Calvinism, The/ David Steele & Curtis Thomas	Salvation
Regeneration/ Steve Fernandez	Salvation
TULIP/ Duane E Spencer	Salvation
Doctrine of Election, The/ Steve Fernandez	Election
Baptism and Fulness/ John R. W. Stott	Holy Spirit
Mystery of the Holy Spirit, The/ R. C. Sproul	Holy Spirit
Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare/ Steve Fernandez	Spiritual warfare
How to Meet the Enemy/ John MacArthur	Spiritual Warfare
Power Encounters/ David Powlison	Spiritual Warfare
The Role, Responsibility, & Recognition of Elders/S Fernandez	Eldership
Biblical Church Discipline/ Daniel E Wray	Church Discipline

The Body Dynamic/ John MacArthur	Church
The Master's Plan for the Church/ John MacArthur	Church
Are You Ready For The End Of Time?/ J. C. Ryle	End Times
Daniel's Prophecy of the 70 Weeks/Alva J. McClain	End Times
Glory of Heaven, The/ John MacArthur	Heaven

PHASE TWO DISCIPLESHIP MATERIAL

CHARACTER

<u>Title/ Author or Publisher</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Topic</u>
A Mother's Legacy/Geanne Hendricks	Women	Mothering
A Steadfast Heart/ Elyse Fitzpatrick	Women	
Alone With God/ John MacArthur	Both	
Attitudes of a Transformed Heart/Elyse Fitzpatrick	Women	
Becoming a Titus 2 Woman/ Martha Peace	Women	Training Younger Women
Becoming A True Woman/Nancy Leigh DeMoss	Women	
Christian Living in the Home/Jay Adams	Both	Christian Living
Desiring God/ John Piper	Both	Pursing Pleasure in God
Discipline of Grace/ Jerry Bridges	Both	Grace
Disciplines of a Godly Woman/ Barbara Hughes	Women	Disciplines
Disciplines of a Godly Man/Kent Hughes	Men	Spiritual Disciplines
Essential Truths of the Christian Faith/ R. C. Sproul	Both	
Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God/ J. I. Packer	Both	Evangelism
Excellent Wife/ Martha Peace	Women	Marriage
Faith Beyond Reason/ A. W. Tozer	Both	
Faith Works/ John MacArthur	Both	Sanctification
First Love/ John MacArthur	Both	
Found: God's Will/ John MacArthur	Both	Will of God
Fruit of Her Hands, The/Nancy Wilson	Women	
God: Coming Face to Face with His Majesty/ J. MacArthur	Both	
God's Words/ J. I. Packer	Both	
Golden Key of Prayer, The/ Charles Spurgeon	Both	Prayer
Helper By Design/Elyse Fitzpatrick	Women	
Her Name is Woman/ Gien Karszen	Women	
Hidden Smile of God, The/ John Piper	Both	
How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian?/ Donald Whitney	Both	Assurance
How to Pray/ R. A. Torrey	Both	Prayer
I Gave Dating a Chance/ Jeramy Clark	Both	Dating
I Kissed Dating Goodbye/ Joshua Harris	Both	Dating
Know the Truth/ Bruce Milne	Both	
Know What You Believe/ Paul Little	Both	
Know Why You Believe/ Paul Little	Both	
Idols of the Heart/ E. Fitzpatrick	Women	Idolatry

Legacy of Sovereign Joy, The/ John Piper	Both	
Life Principles from the Women of the Bible/ Barber, et al	Women	Christian Living
Life in the Father's House/ Wayne Mack	Both	Christian Living
Overcoming Fear, Worry and Anxiety/E. Fitzpatrick	Women	
Praying Successfully/ Charles Spurgeon	Both	Prayer
Point Man/ Steve Farrar	Men	Disciplines
Power of Integrity/ John MacArthur	Both	Integrity
Practice of Godliness/ Jerry Bridges	Both	Godliness
Pursuit of Holiness/ Jerry Bridges	Both	Holiness
Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ/ John Piper	Both	
Self-Confrontation/ Biblical Counseling Foundation	Both	Overcoming Sin
Shepherding a Child's Heart/ Tedd Tripp	Both	Child Training
Spiritual Disciplines For the Christian Life/ Don Whitney	Both	Spiritual Disciplines
Spiritual Disciplines Within the Church/ Donald Whitney	Both	Participating in the church
Spiritual Leadership/ Oswald Sanders		
Spiritual Mothering/ Susan Hunt	Women	Training Younger Women
Thoughts for Young Men/ J. C. Ryle	Men	
Transforming Grace/ Jerry Bridges	Both	Christian Living
Trusting God/ Jerry Bridges	Both	God's Sovereignty
Ultimate Priority, The/ John MacArthur	Both	Worship
Ultimate Questions/ John Blanchard	Both	
Valley of Vision/ Arthur Bennett	Both	Prayer
Walking With God/ J. C. Ryle	Both	Trials, Christian Living
What Angels Wish They Knew/ Alistair Begg	Both	
Whose Money Is it Anyway?/ John MacArthur	Both	Money
Withhold Not Correction/ Bruce Ray	Both	Child Training
Womanly Dominion/Mark Chansky	Women	
Worldly Saints/ Leland Ryken	Both	Puritans/ Disciplines
You Can Trust the Bible/ Erwin Lutzer	Both	
Your Home a Place of Grace/ Susan Hunt	Women	

NOTE: Basic Bible Doctrine, one doctrinal book and one character book from the above lists are required to finish phase two

PHASE THREE DISCIPLESHIP MATERIAL

Title/ Author

Topic

Basic Disciple Making/ Cornerstone Books

Evangelism/Discipleship

A Call to Prayer/ J. C. Ryle

Prayer

Master Plan of Evangelism, The/ Robert E. Coleman

Evangelism/Discipleship

Words to Winners of Souls/ Horatius Bonar

Evangelism/Discipleship

NOTE: All four books are required to finish this phase

DISCIPLER'S MONTHLY EVALUATION

Your Name: _____ Evaluation for: _____
(Month)

Disciple's Name: _____ Date: _____

DISCIPLER'S PREPARATION

- 1. Did you pray consistently for your disciple each week?..... YES NO
- 2. Did you see or call him/her to encourage each week?..... YES NO
- 3. Did you prepare for each session by:
 - a. Memorizing the verse(s)?..... YES NO
 - b. Completing the lesson booklet?..... YES NO
 - c. Making a lesson plan?..... YES NO

DISCIPLESHIP MEETING

- 1. Did you meet each week?..... YES NO
- 2. Have they completed the lessons?..... YES NO
- 3. Did they memorize the verses?..... YES NO
- 4. Did you pray with your disciple each week?..... YES NO
- 5. How far have you gotten in the study booklet? Lesson _____ of _____.

DISCIPLESHIP EFFECTS

- 1. Have you received any answered prayer for your disciple?..... YES NO
- 2. Has your disciple received any answered prayer?..... YES NO
- 3. Is your disciple active in church?..... YES NO
- 4. Is your disciple building relationships with other believers?..... YES NO

DISCIPLESHIP NEEDS

Questions/problems/comments:

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT AGREEMENT FORM

_____ I agree with the doctrinal statement of Community Bible Church

_____ I disagree with the doctrinal statement of Community Bible Church in the following areas: (Please list what you disagree with and briefly explain your position)

NAME: _____

DATE: _____