

Fifth: There Is a PRACTICE to Discipleship

I. Getting Started

A. How do you receive someone to disciple?

- Win them to the Lord and sign up to disciple them!
- The discipleship leader or pastor assigns them to you

B. What do you do the first time you meet?

1. Location, Location, Location

- Invite them to your home
- Meet at a restaurant or someplace located between your homes
- Meet at their home

2. Getting to know you

3. Put out a “Welcome Mat” and set the vision

CHEAT SHEET FOR YOUR FIRST SESSION	
INITIAL BRIEF OVERVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Give your name ■ Give a three-minute testimony (You are a career woman, student, ordinary person, and STILL involved in ministry. Explain what these lessons accomplished in your life.) ■ Go over the discipler's responsibilities with them <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DEDICATED: Make the disciple a priority 2. KNOWLEDGEABLE: Know the Bible material in the lessons 3. RESPONSIBLE: Make sure you are committed 4. PATIENT: Expect growth, not perfection 5. FAITHFULNESS: Live what you teach ■ Explain the procedures <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistent time & place for meeting 2. Time frame for each lesson 3. How there is sequence and progression in the lessons 4. Why they should look up all the verses to become familiar with God's word ■ Go over the disciple's responsibilities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CONSISTENCY: In church and in discipleship 2. DEDICATION: Answering questions, memorizing scripture 3. ACCOUNTABILITY: Learning each lesson in such a way as to apply it to their daily walk ■ Explain the format Take time to go over every verse. Review the most important points and give guidelines.
LESSON ONE—SALVATION	
Focus of the lesson: (What we want to communicate)	What happened when I got saved, and what is my new relationship to God?
Function of the lesson:	How we accomplish that goal: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are only two families in the world 2. Being in God's family separates us from the Devil's family 3. I have a new relationship to God now 4. The presence of two natures in the believer 5. Basic questions
Main points:	Two families New Relationship Two Natures
Teaching hints:	Explain Gen 5:3 (in ADAM'S image) And John 3:5 (it is not describing baptism) List personal illustrations (put your own personality into it)

C. How to Set Up Your Notebook

Your discipleship notebook should contain the following.

1. *The 16 Lessons*

2. *Introductory material your first night*

- The Philosophy of Discipleship
- The Biblical Pattern of Discipleship
- The Four Goals of Discipleship

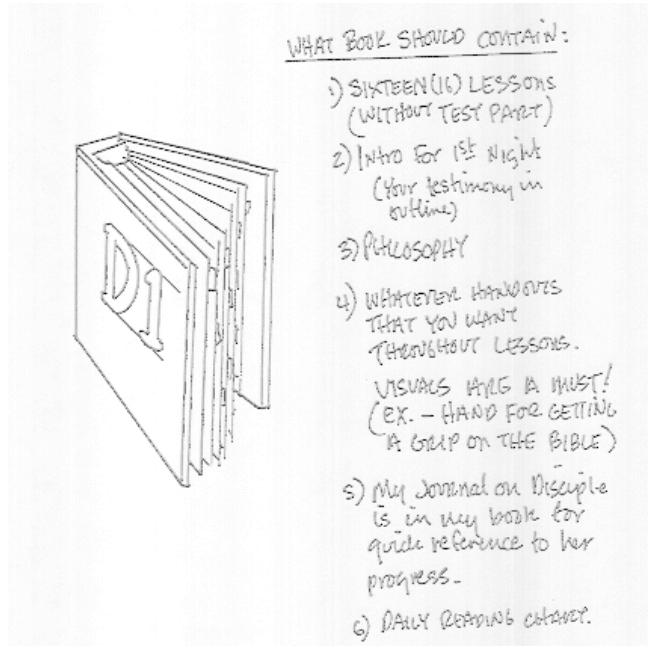
3. *The Responsibilities*

- Church attendance
- Your weekly meeting

4. *A “Maturity Map”*

5. *The Prayer Diary and Daily Reading Chart*

6. *A Journal*



7. *Handouts*

D. How to Instruct Your Disciple to Set Up THEIR Notebook

Encourage them to keep lined paper handy, or a separate 3-hole punched notebook for

1. Questions they want to ask
2. Notes from their own Bible reading
3. Preaching and teaching notes
4. A journal, diary or record of prayer and of their growth
5. Develop their own one-word and one-sentence summary of each lesson (or adapt or borrow yours)
6. Ideas they want to record about how to teach the lesson when they disciple someone else

E. Reminders

- Construct a reasonable structure for yourself and stick to it
- Be accountable to your disciple
- Watch for tests God is giving your disciple, which reveal his or her heart. *Patience* is displayed by completing a task over time. *Faithfulness* is doing it against opposition. God seeks opportunities to develop both—and do it in us as well as in our disciple!
- Ask about their Bible reading (Goal #2)
- Communicate with them during the week to build a relationship, not to check-up on them
- Sit with them in church
- Always encourage them (edification is a key aspect—this is discipleship, not preaching)
- After they are through the lessons stay in touch.
- D1 is not really finished until they are established in ministry like you.
- Encourage them to get baptized and become a member of the church at lesson three. Re-visit the issue at lesson eight if they are still not a member. If this is still an issue at the end, notify the pastor or D1 ministry leader.
- Encourage them at lesson ten to trust God, and start tithing as an expression of God having first place and their firstfruits
- Encourage them to sign up for a service area, and get involved in ministry
- Encourage them to take D2 to help continue their growth, both spiritually and in the Scriptures
- Have them participate in your ministry with you as they enter the later lessons

F. Responsibilities

THE DISCIPLER

- Be dedicated – make it a priority
 - Be consistent – be there when your disciple is
 - Be knowledgeable – know your lessons
 - Be responsible – you must memorize verses if you request it of them
 - Be patient – expect growth, not perfection
 - Be faithful – live your lip and walk your talk
 - Be motivating – inspiration is addictive; build momentum by focusing on personal revival
 - Be flexible – remember that transition to a new life takes time
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THE DISCIPLER:

- Be consistent – coming to church, arriving for lessons
 - Be dedicated – utilizing memory verses; answering questions at the end
 - Be accountable – learn the lesson, make the application, and give your discipler the right to ask how you did so
 - Be diligent – complete the 16 lessons
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Select Bibliography

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***Recommended**

II. Getting Going

A. Procedure and Structure for Meeting

1. Establish consistency – same time, same place, same process
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2. Establish the timeframe – take up to a couple of hours to cover the lesson. The time you take is based on your disciple’s ability to track with you.

3. Establish the relationship – fellowship together, but make sure you cover the material when you meet and do not let “talk time” squeeze-out your time in the Bible.

4. Teach them about building a structure – the lessons build on one another. Stick to the lessons!

5. Look up all verses directly in the Bible so they will rely on the word of God and not on you. Have them do some of the reading; they become more comfortable with their Bible that way.

6. Establish expectations – we will first review memory verses, then do the lesson, finally deal with questions, false teaching, relationship issues, etc.

B. Preparation to Teach

- **Pray.** Always open your time together by asking God to be a part.
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- **Verses.** Before you meet with your disciple review all the verses in the lesson.
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• **Focus.** Explain the focal point (at the asterisk) and how it ties to the question that begins the lesson.

• **Function.** Preview the lesson. Have them explain the lesson briefly.

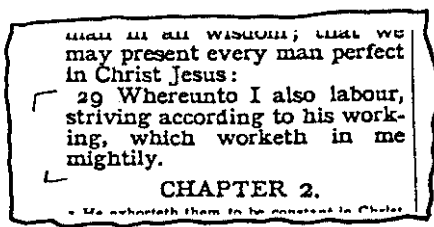
• **False teachings.** Why are these wrong?

• **Any problems** with the lesson?

• **For next time:** involve them. NEVER just read the lesson to them! Make it interactive. (See Appendix: The “Four Philosophers” of Discipleship.)

Attempt to cover one lesson each time you meet, and attempt to meet every week unless providentially hindered.

PRO TIP: When you go through the passages in the Bible you can have them make small marks to enclose the verses. This will help them remember where they have been in the word of God as they travel through the lessons. Here is an example.

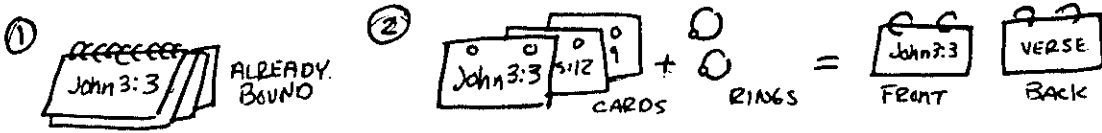


• **Be patient** to see application.

Let the Holy Ghost do His job through the scripture, and then they will be able to see the word of God do the work in their life!

• **Pray.** Thank the Lord for what He has given you.

C. Scripture Memorization



There are various apps available for memorizing Scripture.

- Scripture Typer
- Fighter Verses
- Bible App Verse of the Day
- Verses – Bible Memory

D. Reporting Procedure

Discipleship Progress Reports need to be turned in on your disciple, typically after lessons 4,8 and 16. This keeps the pastor informed on the state of his flock. If you encounter a problem, make sure you bump it up the line to the discipleship leader, and your pastor if necessary.

The Discipleship Ministry Mindset

I. A TEAM CONCEPT IN DISCIPLING

- A. The watchcare of the person you have
- B. The responsibility for them
- C. Being diligent to stay with them
- D. Being the example of the believer to them.
Live out what you teach.
- E. Being faithful to pray for them

II. A TEAM CONCEPT IN GOALS

- A. Establish them in the Worship of God
 - 1. Worship is not just attendance at church
 - 2. Worship means their own quiet time in the word, praise, giving, and thanksgiving
- B. Establish them in the Word of God
 - 1. Allow them to participate in finding scripture references and reading the passage. Encourage them to memorize verses that deal with salvation and the discipleship teachings.
 - 2. Many questions will come up as they grow, face the world, and naturally as they are involved in Bible study and hear the word of God taught
- C. Establish them in the Fellowship of Believers and Structure of the Church
 - 1. Introduce them to Christians who are involved in ministry and who will be an encouragement to them
 - 2. Build the meeting in your home, with times of fellowship around friends and the word of God, but always with these four goals in mind
 - 3. They need to be under the preaching and teaching of the church
 - a. Sunday services
 - b. Adult Classes
 - c. Outreach
 - d. Events, activities or trips
 Get them into these areas with you, to help change their ideas from the mindset of the world. This helps them build a Christian worldview.
- D. Establish them in Ministry
 - 1. This can be accomplished by following the other three goals and through the word, fellowship, church, and your example
Help them naturally into a ministry.
 - 2. Introduce them to the ministry leader when observing other ministries

III. A TEAM CONCEPT IN SCHEDULE AND SUCCESS

- A. Time and Schedule
 - 1. The time *frame* should be to **meet weekly unless providentially hindered, and have it as a goal to get through a lesson each time you meet**
 - 2. The time *duration* does not depend on the lessons, but rather accomplishing the four goals
 - 3. When the four goals are met you have discipled, and phase II is ready to start, which is duplication of the same process with their participation, or them discipling someone while being able to rely on you for help
- B. What Constitutes Success
 - 1. The success of this ministry does not depend on the person who is being discipled, but entirely on the discipler, however,
 - People will quit—that is a fact of life. You must accept that. So,
 - 2. Your success is not in those completing the process, but rather your attitude and determination in taking their watchcare seriously
 - Example: If you do all you can and they still do not make it, you are successful!

III. Strategic Details on Discipling

This is a general guideline to assist you in the presentation of discipleship. The information is based upon experiences from previous disciplers. This guideline will help you in **your** preparation, and hopefully answer questions you might have as you start discipling. It will also provide a general “standard” by which we all operate.

A. Before Teaching

1. Determine where and how many people will be part.

2. Determine how much time you have to teach.

3. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as you teach.

Be prayed. Be prepared. Be soul-conscious!

Lesson/Goal Overview and Review

GOAL #4 Ministry	#12 Ability	#11 Priority	#10 Generosity	#9 Family	GOAL #3 The Church
#13 Flexibility					#8 Stability
#14 Opportunity					#7 Opportunity
#15 Credibility					#6 Entreaty
#16 Accountability					#5 Authority
GOAL #1 Worship	#1 Eternity	#2 Safety	#3 Identity	#4 Unity	GOAL #2 The Word

B. The Focus and the Function

The lessons all revolve around one key or central issue per lesson. This central issue should be designated in each lesson as the answer to the question formed in the title of the lesson. The lessons then unfold like a wagon wheel. Picture your central issue as the hub or center of this wheel, and the points in the rest of the outline as the spokes off the hub. **Everything in the lesson should be presented as accenting, defining, or complimenting the central issue.**

C. Handling Questions, Issues and Problems, 2 Tim 2:23-26

New Christians are babes in Christ and will naturally have questions. As the mature discipler/mentor, you should refocus them on the topic at hand, and not let them control your session time. Every question deserves an answer. We cannot refuse to answer questions, but by careful handling we can stay focused on our objective—which is to communicate the points of the lesson. In some cases, the answers need to be deferred until after the presentation, or referred to the pastor.

In answering questions, NEVER argue or take contention personally. You cannot jeopardize their spiritual growth just to win an argument. If you see the possibility of this arising, nip it in the bud by deferring the matter to the discipleship leader. Change the subject and get back to your lesson!

Tips (and Texts) for Keeping on Track

- Have the disciple write questions in their notes while you are teaching, and save them until the end.
- Defer questions that will be answered in future lessons until the time you get there.
- **Never use a question as an excuse to ride a personal, political, or preferential hobby horse! Titus 3:2; 2 Tim 2:14.**
- Never argue with your disciple. Maintain a humble and teachable disposition throughout the discipleship process, Prov 9:9-10.
- Do not try to answer questions you are not sure you know the answer to. “That’s a great question. I don’t know the answer, but let me study it and I will get back with you next week.”
- When covering a D1 lesson, teach the material first and answer questions second. Problems you cannot deal with, send up the line by notifying your discipleship leader.

D. Tying the Lessons Together

Not only are the lessons designed individually as a wagon wheel, but the package of sixteen is also designed like a brick wall. Paul said in I Cor 3:10 that to be a successful discipler you must build upon a foundation as a wise master builder.

- When you tie in a lesson **not yet taught**, simply mention the connection, then drop it and go on with your lesson.
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