

Building a Disciple Making Culture

Pastor Marc Estes

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Book of Acts is our NT Blueprint for building the local church. Luke eloquently defines the characteristics that God had in mind for building a thriving church.
2. There are two predominate component that should saturate every aspect of the entire NT and every chapter of Acts. That is, Evangelism and Discipleship.
3. Some of the last words spoken by Jesus while on earth were the most significant for His followers to embrace. (Very familiar, yet equally challenging). This is our focus; this is our mission.

Mark 16:15 NLT He said, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.”

Matthew 28:19-20 NLT “Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & the Son & the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.”

4. These two kingdom-components are why we exist! They are our mission. We must be committed to being the church that Jesus dreamed; A thriving church that impacts all people. This requires focus!

II. FOCUS ON MISSION – WHY WE EXIST!

One of the most **important questions** we should ask ourselves, “What are we building?”
This question must be focused on building people and not just programs.

A. What are we NOT building

The first step is to determine what We are NOT building: (though we all have to deal with these)

1. A consumer-oriented culture that pacifies the pleasures of those who attend.

We aren't here to just appease people but build people into disciples.

We must build our churches for what people need, not what they want. Truth in relevant way.

#Ninety-five percent of all believers acknowledges their church promotes some form of spiritual growth. Yet less than 50% felt that discipleship was an important part of the church's leader's priorities and passion to disciple others.

2. A spectator-oriented culture where the church staff and leaders do all the work.

Ephesians 4:11-13 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 Until we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

#Ephesians 4 focus = vs. 11,12,13 which is Mentors + equip ministers(church) = Maturity
Some have it backwards. Vs. 11,13,12. Mentors waiting for maturity before they let them minister.

We must engage them as soon as they are saved. Maturity is not a pre-requisite for discipleship. Discipleship is not just a leadership mandate; it is every believer mandate!

#MH Dream Team Culture – Three aspects that EVERY person is to do; Pastor the people, coach the serve and equip the people to reproduce.

Q – Hodges to staff, “If I catch you doing the work, I will fire you... LOL!”

3. A **program-based** culture that compartmentalizes the Christian life to services and events. What do we promote? What do we value? What do we celebrate?

Jesus modeled that disciples were built using a different model than programs, classes and events. We need to be careful to not focus too much on building programs, events, meetings. Need time for people/disciples. Discipleship is based on relationships not a class or program!

4. An **introverted-pastoral** culture that focuses only on making good Christians better. This may be easier...but not as much fun. New convert discipleship is messy but rewarding.

#SO much time spent on just “perfecting the saints” and not equipping them to disciple or on raising new disciples. Small Groups? Youth? Children?

#Five-Fold Mentions in NT = 29 pastoral, ____ evangelism, ____ apostolic.

5. A **quantity-only** culture that measures success by numbers and not by the quality of the believer’s disciple-focused lifestyle.

Success is not measured by how many attend weekend, but how many disciples you have!

#THE BOWL ASSESSMENT VS THE FUNNEL ASSESSMENT = measure those who go through funnel not just those that are sitting in the bowl = Disciple behaviors, grow, commit, connect, serve, give, reach.

Scripture mentions:

-Christian	3 times	-Believers	26 times
-Followers	4 times	-Disciples	282 times.

B. What we ARE Building

1. **WE are called to build an ACTS 2 church** - that means we focus on two things; Reach people and make disciples! Everything else is secondary. New Testament predominate focus are these two!
2. Not just on paper, but in practice – We do it not just believe it. All of us from leadership down.
3. Disciple defined: The word *disciple* in the New Testament is the rendering of the Greek word, *machetes*, which means “**learner**.”
4. The meaning of the word, *disciple* applies to “one who professes to have:
 - a. Learned certain principles
 - b. **From another**, and
 - c. Maintains them on that other’s authority.³⁹

- d. Not only accepts the views of the teacher but also integrates those values into daily life.

#A Man who understood it – He was known for famous statement, “Give me a handful of young, dedicated men that will give me their lives, and I will teach them to conquer the world!” He did just that. In 1903 he had 17 followers, 1918 he had 40,000 followers influencing 160 million people, and less than 70 years later he impacted 1/3 of the planet. His name was Lenin. Instrumental in the spreading of communism in the modern world.

III. A DISCIPLESHIP CONTEXT

A. The current success of Discipleship in the church today

1. The formula Jesus modeled actually works and we must reproduce it. However, there has been a real challenge for most leaders in actually producing the end product that Jesus desires.
2. (THEM) How is the Church abroad doing in fulfilling the mission to make disciples?

Survey BA Christians

- 26% desire to grow spiritually.
- 19% want to work harder at living a life that is pleasing to God.
- 18% say making effort to be like Jesus is their highest priority.
- 15% want to be involved in more spiritual activity.
- 15% have committed to read and study the Bible more.
- 13% want to attend church more consistently.
- 11% are working harder to develop a stronger prayer life.
- 10% desire to change their schedules so they can serve more.¹

“Most believers say their faith matters but few invest much energy in the pursuit of spiritual growth **simply because they just don’t know how!**” – George Barna

3. (US) How do people feel about being involved in a personal discipling relationship?²

- only 6% feel threatened.
- only 17% feel mildly uncomfortable or insecure.
- only 18% not worth the effort.
- 26% say too time consuming. (74% want to give the time)
- 46% an answer to prayer.
- 48% a risk worth taking.
- 67% exciting.
- **77% a valuable proposition they would take if offered the opportunity.**³

CURRENT METHODS =
It takes 100 church attendees, a pastor and \$100,000 to win one convert in America.
– Bill Hull

B. Changes needed to develop a whole-person discipleship culture.

Those stats are a challenge. The church abroad is not producing the fruit God desires. Good news is people desire to change it. As leaders, we must be willing to change as well.

Here are **top eight “Mindset Shift.”** These should be a part of our ENTIRE church culture:

1. **Relational-based discipleship vs. program-driven discipleship.**

- a. The Western church has focused much of its training on programs, classes and schedules; little time on relational-driven mentoring. (simply... we are just too busy running church).

¹ *Growing True Disciples*, George Barna c.2001, p. 37

² People were allowed to vote for more than one category if they so chose.

³ *Growing True Disciples*, George Barna c.2001, p. 53

- b. Jesus modeled a relational-based discipleship model – He spent more time with 12 men than all humanity combined. He traveled with them, ate with them, boated with them, ministered with them and suffered with them. All relational based. It was in this environment that he chose to make disciples.
- c. Our focus must be on building people, not programs. Our time must be spent with people, not just programs, administration and meetings. Challenge for us all!!
#Classes w/coaches!
- d. Relationships are where true mentoring takes place, because true disciples learn from what their mentor models. Only way to see the model is to be WITH the model. That happens in relationships; time spent together doing life.

2. Whole-person discipleship vs. spiritual-only discipleship.

- a. Jesus also modeled holistic (Whole Person) discipleship. He wasn't just interested in them knowing scriptures, how to pray and witness, but He also mentored them in relationships, money, vocation, morals, character, and health.
- b. The challenge has been that much of what churches do today in Christian development is one-dimensional; spiritual only.
- c. The focus of our discipleship should be a **holistic (Whole Person)** approach that aims to assist the new disciple in developing a life that represents Jesus in every area.
 - Spiritual life: foundations, spiritual disciplines, freedom, faith, and fruitfulness
 - Church life: grow, commit, connect, and serve. Reach and disciple. Give.
 - Personal life: thoughts, emotions, actions, health, and Christian character
 - Family life: marriage, parenting, finances, and community
 - Vocational life: career, marketplace impact, etc.
- d. Our future discipleship model must start with relationships, SO THAT we can THEN see all of the areas in a person's life that needs development and correction.
Joe Garibay and me, Dylan, Walter and me - We Lived together, traveled together, work together. Do Chores together, etc.

3. Holy Spirit-led discipleship vs. sequential-structured discipleship.

- a. Jesus seemed to know what to say at the right time. It was never a 'cookie-cutter' approach
 - Rich young ruler's issue was his possessions.
 - The women at the well had her relationship issues.
 - Peter needed help in putting his wisdom before his zeal.
 - Every ministry situation was different.
- b. Having a sequential structure is important. It makes sure you don't miss any of the foundation stones. These truths and practices should be in place. #Believe, Belong, etc.
- c. Layered with this, must be a Holy-Spirit-Led approach so that we aren't so focused on steps, that we miss the blatant crises that may be paralyzing a person.
#Relational, financial, emotional, bitterness, addiction. Know what they need at the moment.

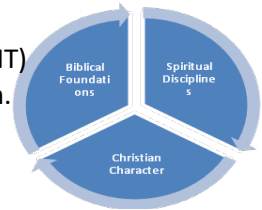
4. Life-on-life discipleship vs. scheduled discipleship.

- a. (1) Jesus not only built relationships, (2) discipled the whole person and (3) knew the needs in their lives... (4) He also was available beyond the 'instruction time.'

- b. That is a challenge for us all. Life is busy, but relationship does take time. Our disciples need to have time with us beyond a scheduled weekly meeting.
Me and disciples – Yardwork, follow me during services, go on trips, football games,
- c. Look for ways to include them in relational time, family time, entertainment, ministry, etc.

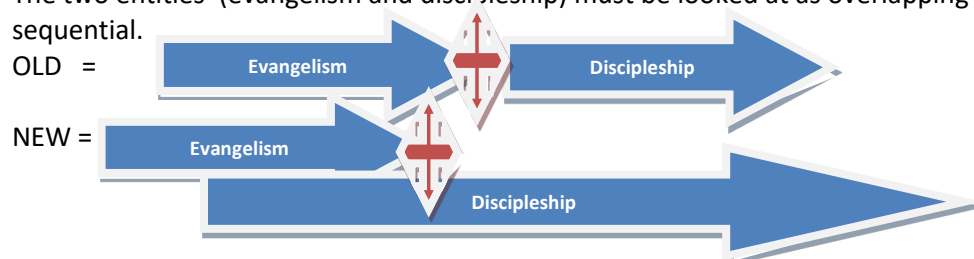
5. **Transformational-focused discipleship vs. educational-focused discipleship.**

- a. Must broaden beyond educational approach - Our academic culture has created the mentality that education transforms people. We would all agree that education plays a crucial role in the development process of any individual. However, **education without application will never produce transformation.**
#Pharisees had memorized first 5 books of bible - more! Yet model of how NOT to live.
- b. Must move to transformational approach.
Q - Martin Luther often stated that he wished the book of James wasn't canonized, because it forced him to live out his faith and not just believe it. He stated, *"Faith that is not wholly integrated into every aspect of our life, and lived out consistently is nothing more than a pathetic charade."*
- c. We must see transformation in three key areas: (MORE IN A MOMENT)
 - Biblical foundations – Saved, baptized, Holy Spirit, planted in church.
 - Spiritual disciplines – Grow, commit, connect, serve, give, share.
 - Christian Character – integrity, humility, purity, example.
- d. The fruit of our discipleship as a church cannot be measured by the numbers of people attending a service, or how many groups that we have (although important), but must be measured by the transformed lives of those entrusted to our care; reproducing disciples!!!



6. **Evangelism/Discipleship inclusive vs. Evangelism/Discipleship separate.**

- a. Westernized Christianity has taught us that evangelism precedes discipleship.
Old/Traditional Model = Believe, Disciple, Belong.
Biblical Model = Belong, Disciple, Believe.
- b. Discipleship should start before a person gives their life to Christ. Therefore, we must have relationships with unsaved people and model to them a different lifestyle.
#Avg. person comes into contact 7-10 times before gospel conversion. Many years!
#John Clinton- Weekly discipling, mentoring, example, salvation to come soon!
- c. The two entities' (evangelism and discipleship) must be looked at as overlapping and not sequential.



7. **Leadership-modeled discipleship culture vs. a leadership instructed-only discipleship culture.**

- a. This is the most important, **yet most challenging mindset shift for us.**

- b. This is the one that requires the most of each of us. We are all busy, challenged with time, schedules, pressures, programs, etc.
 - c. Yet this is the key to our future. We can't work harder; we must work smarter! We need to do whatever it takes to create and model a culture to all of our teams what it means to be a Disciple Making Leader.
8. **Build for Growth and Not Control** –
- a. You will build for one or the other. As leaders we love to be in control.
#Why most churches are smaller in size. Say with Respect!
 - b. It wasn't like that in the Book of Acts. 8120 people were added in two weeks!!!
How many of you have ever used Nupedia? Wikipedia?
In 2000 two guys named Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger started an online encyclopedia called Nupedia. The goal was for it to include contributions written only by experts. Before an article could be posted on Nupedia, it had to go through an extensive scholarly seven step review process which proved to be painstakingly slow.

In 2001, one year after Nupedia launched they only had a few articles. So, Wales and Sanger also started Wikipedia. The idea was to allow non-pros, non-scholars, and non-experts to write articles that the Nupedia scholars would review. The articles would then go through the extensive Nupedia approval process. By the end of 2001, volunteers had submitted more than twenty thousand "wiki" articles. It took the experts three years to create twenty-four articles and the non-experts one year to create twenty thousand articles.

Nupedia has been dead for 11 years. They are only ever produced 24 articles and had 74 that were in review when Nupedia pulled the plug in 2003. CNET listed Nupedia as one of the greatest defunct websites in internet history, noting how the strict control had limited the posting of article. There work was very scholarly and professional but had little influence.
Wikipedia, led by Jimmy Wales, as of fall of 2013:
 - 30 million articles in 287 languages
 - 4.5 million English articles
 - World's largest and most popular reference site.
 - Most articles are as accurate as traditional encyclopedias(according to independent resources)
- Unfortunately, many churches today function more like Nupedia than Wikipedia. They allow only credentialed professionals to lead evangelism and discipleship efforts while volunteers are expected to show up and pay up but not engage in serious ministry. Imagine if the situation were reversed

IV. THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

1. Once there has been a shift in our discipleship culture, a definite process must be understood and embraced in order to fulfill the complete process of discipleship.⁴
2. Remember, we have an end-goal in mind, DISCIPLES! Active, Healthy, Reproducing members.
3. That means that our process must take them BEYOND getting them just saved and attending. These are only the first two steps of the process (Evangelism and Establish).
4. Let's look closer at diagram, with concept by Steve Murrell.
#Little successful. 62K ppl. 15 locations, 105 services weekly, 10,000 discipleship small groups.

⁴ Taken and modified from, *Making Disciples*, Steve Murrell, c. 2005 pp. 13-14.

LOOKS DIFFERENT STRUCTURALLY IN EACH CHURCH – CBC BIG FOUR + PBC Engine

- a. **Evangelize** the unsaved
 - b. **Establish** new believers
 - c. **Equip** believers to minister (move beyond Belong and volunteering, to leading and discipling)
 - d. **Empower** believers to make disciples and reproduce.
5. Most churches do well in a few but rarely is a church excellent in all four. If we are going to advance the kingdom and build a thriving church, we must contend to have all four working efficiently.
6. We will need this strategy as a part of our growth strategy for the continued growth we are experiencing.

V. Building with Proper Discipleship Components

Our lives can be compared to building a house. God has given each of us the opportunity to build whatever we desire (**A HOME EXPO SHOPPING SPREE WITH A LIFETIME PASS**). We can have a cardboard shack under a freeway bridge, a simple studio apartment or a custom-built mansion.

There are three ingredients that determine the strength and value of our spiritual lives:
He supplies the materials; you've got to do the labor! **#ALL IN PURPLE BOOK**

A. Christian Foundations – WHAT WE BELIEVE

These are the building blocks to our house. Need firm foundation in which to handle life's weight, trials, tribulations, circumstances and opportunities that may come your way.

#My House foundations – Footing on back wall 4ft x 3ft, walls 18" thick.

1. Being born again (John 3:3; John 3:16).
2. Being baptized in water (Mark 6:16; Acts 2:38-39; Romans 6:3-5).
3. Being filled with the Holy Spirit (Mark 16:17; Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44-46).
4. Being planted in a local church (Matthew 16:18; 18:15-20; Hebrews 10:25).

B. Spiritual Disciplines – WHAT WE DO

Spiritual disciplines are the quality of the materials and workmanship used in building the structure. These are the greatest costs of construction and most challenging for the believer's life.

1. Reading your Bible regularly (1Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Col. 2:7).
2. Having regular quality times of prayer (Jer. 29:12-14; Ps. 5:1-3).
3. Attending church services weekly (Acts 2:1; 2:42; 1 Cor. 5:4; Heb. 10:25).
4. Serving in an area of ministry (Matt. 20:28; Eph. 4:15-16; Rom. 12).
5. Belonging to a small group-community (Acts 2:42-47; 20:20).
6. Being faithful to give tithes and offerings (Gen. 14:18-20; Matt. 23:23; Heb. 7:1-21).
7. Sharing your faith with spiritual seekers (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Pet. 3:15).
8. Discipling others to grow in Christ (Gen. 22:17; Eph. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 2:2).

C. Christian Character – WHO WE ARE

This is the part of the building that everyone sees. The paint, carpet, wood trim, cabinets, fixtures. You can have all the right building blocks in place, have the right materials and

workmanship, but still have one ugly looking house! #green shag carpet, baby blue painted walls

Same is true in your Christian walk. Your character is a huge part of your growth, equally important. Having Christian character means you could say:

1. I apply God's Word to every situation (Ps. 119; Josh. 1:7; 2 Tim. 3:15-17).
2. I find myself praying more than complaining (Dan. 6:10; Acts 1:14; Eph. 6:18).
3. I find it easy to serve others (Matt. 20:28; John 13:4-17; Phil. 2:4).
4. I enjoy helping those in need (Luke 10:25-37; Matt. 18:33).
5. I am a good example to those around me (Rev. 12:11).
6. I am submissive and loyal to authority figures in my life (Matt. 8:8-9; Mark 10:42-45).
7. I have a great attitude toward life and its circumstances (Philippians 4:11-13).
8. I am not easily offended (Prov. 14:29; 19:11; Eph. 4:26).
9. I am part of the solution, not the problem (Prov. 11:13; 16:28; 26:20).
10. I like to give more than receive (Is. 32:8; Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 9:6-8).
11. My finances are in order (Prov. 6:6-11; 1 Cor. 4:2-3; 2 Cor. 9:10-11).
12. I abstain from damaging addictions (Gal. 5:16-23; 1 John 2:15-17).
13. I am constantly working to change bad habits (Rom. 6:12-13; Col. 3:8).
14. I am able to overcome compromising thoughts and temptations (Rom. 12:2).

VI. THE DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

The three Discipleship Components should be translated to EVERY AREA of a person's life. The three foundations stated above must be translated into application in all areas.

The focus of our discipleship should be a **holistic (Whole Person)** approach that aims to assist the new disciple in developing a life that represents Jesus in every area.

- **Spiritual life:** foundations, spiritual disciplines, freedom, faith, and fruitfulness
- **Church life:** grow, commit, connect, and serve. Reach and disciple. Give.
- **Personal life:** thoughts, emotions, actions, health, and Christian character
- **Family life:** marriage, parenting, finances, and community
- **Vocational life:** career

VII. Nine Keys to Building Disciples

You may currently be working with someone in a discipling relationship, or God may be about to bring someone your way. In either case, it is imperative to discover who this person is and what he or she has been through. By taking the time to do that, you will find what tools are necessary to build him or her into a great Christian.

Here are nine steps that will help you in shaping them into healthy Christians.

A. Key #1: Establish a plan.

Those who fail to plan, plan to fail. Make sure to have specific goals in mind.

Here are five simple steps to establishing a plan:

1. **Explain** the gospel and pray. Many don't understand this can be an emotional time.
#Four components – God, Man, Problem, Solution.



2. Set up a time immediately for further contact.

One of the most trying times of a Christian's life is the first 24 hours. There are thoughts of doubt, regret, confusion, intimidation, etc.

#Much like a real newborn baby – Critical to check their 'vital' signs.

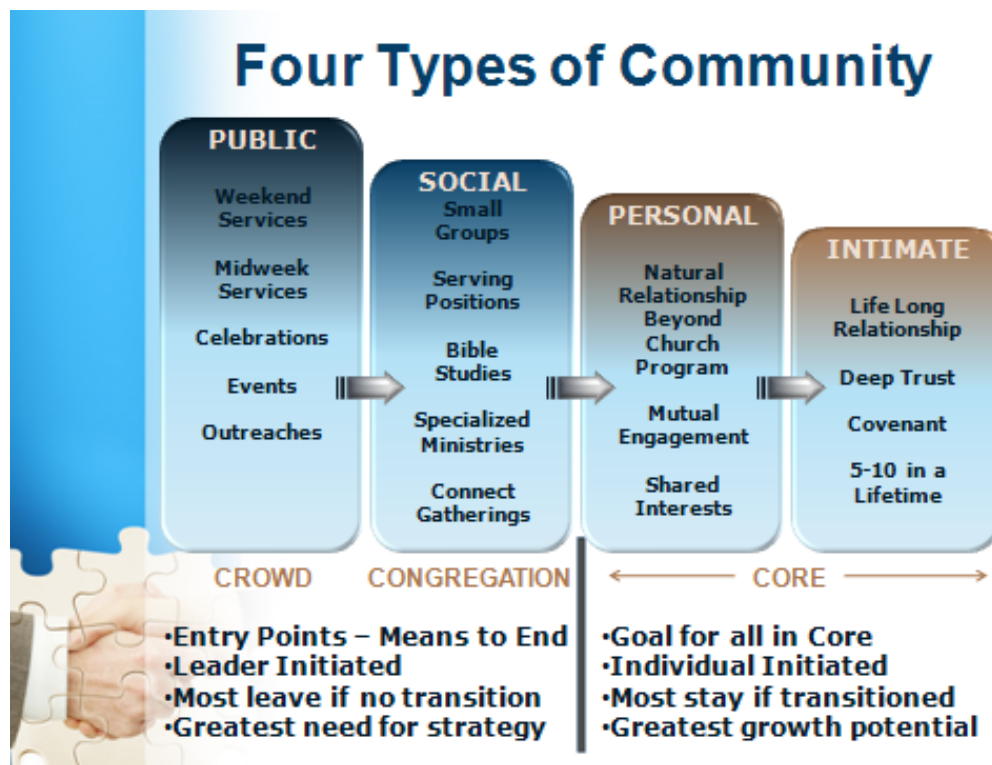
3. Go through the pre-approved [follow up](#) material. **#Church materials – PURPLE BOOK**
4. Set up a regular, ongoing time to meet. Meet until disciplined or assimilated. Life is busy. There will always be something that gets in the way unless you plan. Make it the same time and place every week. Three things to include:
 - a. Relationship - **#They think you like them. #John Clinton journey**
 - b. Mentoring/Modeling/Instruction
 - c. Experience
 - d. Prayer
5. [Understand](#) what you are trying to build into the life of your new convert.
#List just mentioned

B. Key #2: Follow Through

1. Consistency and discipline are two important components to model to your new disciple. Make your time with them a priority. The enemy will always bring distractions! Call them during the week, see how they are doing. Remind them of your meeting with them.
2. Don't flake out! Don't let other priorities, excuses, hobbies, etc. Get in the way. Their life may depend on it. **#Anthony Wilson – Youth Group, Prison visit 600 miles, PBC, MBA, lived w/Him.**
3. Here are a few things that would be important to remember in discipling a new person.
 - a. Help them find seven new friends. **#6month rule: 3 or less gone/7 or more stay**
 - b. Know the goals and vision of the church. People get excited about a cause!
 - c. Know their gifts, talents, passions and abilities.
 - d. Serve Somewhere. **#Spectators make great critics. Baseball game**
 - e. Get in a group.
 - f. Practice generosity.
 - g. Attending Church Regularly. Importance of Local Church, One day better than 1000
 - h. Reach unsaved and teach them to reproduce. **#First 2 years most fruitful -RLI Syndrome**
 - i. This is also a great fishing hole for you to tap into their sphere of friends.

C. Key #3: Build a lasting relationship.

1. This might surprise you, but those you lead to Christ actually think that you care about them! Relationship is the foundation to discipleship. You can't build a disciple without it.
2. [Four Community Environments](#) – Sociologist, Edward T. Hall in 1960's identified four "Physical Spaces" of an environment that greatly affected the outcome of the people.



- Jesus modeled the importance of intimate, lasting relationships with His disciples. During the ministry, He spent more time with those twelve men than with anyone else. In order to accomplish the goal of producing active, healthy, reproducing members of the church, we must be ready to build lasting relationships with our disciples.

D. Key #4: Be obedient.

- We are not called to be successful, only obedient. Our reward is a result of our obedience, not our fruit. We are rewarded by the fruit, but by no means are we measured by it. This one truth will help you in days of testing and will lift you up in times of discouragement.
- There will be times when you pour your heart, only to see them fail. I have talked with many who have felt guilty as if they failed. YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL.
- Your efforts will not be in vain. You planted seeds. They may just come around again!

#Patty Farley Story

E. Key #5: Work hard.

- Not only are we required to build lasting relationships and follow through, but our desire should be to do it with excellence and with fervency.
- Evangelism and Discipleship is compared to Fishing. Fishing in modern times is much different than biblical times. #The Deadliest Catch TV Show #Crab fishing in Alaska.
- The disciples risked their lives, went out into the tempest Sea of Galilee. Stayed up all night, it was draining, hard work, even discouraging at times.
- Refrain from “Westernized” view of discipleship. One hour a week in a classroom. It just doesn’t work! Discipleship is spelled “Hard work.” #Jason Patton

F. Key #6: Discern

1. Discipleship requires direction and discernment. We must know something about the person whom we are discipling, and we must have a divine strategy in working with him or her. Without these two elements in the discipleship process, we may grow frustrated with it.
2. Discipleship is not linear. Every person has different issues, comes from different walks of life, different life-experiences and varying levels of repentance and revelation.

#Kevin Krieter- 19 years, homosexual, homeless, male prostitute, heroin addict.

3. Must be Spirit-Led! Different issues may cause you to focus first on:
 - Finances
 - Laziness
 - No follow through
 - Marriage
 - Addictions
 - Getting a Job
4. Pray and ask God to give you wisdom and understanding. Carefully watch their actions and emotions. Look for bad habits, wrong reactions, character flaws. These are areas you can assist them with. Discipleship is not linear.

G. Key #7: Be an example

1. Like produces like. It is called the “Law of Causation.” Nature shows us that creation always reproduces after its own kind. An apple reproduces an apple and an orange an orange. Monkeys make monkeys and fish make fish.
2. Your example will have a major effect on the life of your new disciple.
#Alex, Anthony Good/Bad – Like children, they follow what you do, not what you say
3. Your disciple will follow your example, good and bad. Much of the discipleship process is learned through example and not just through instruction. Not only will they learn by the amount of time you spend in prayer and reading the Bible but will also pick up on your character traits as well.

#Richard Warmbrandt – God is like me.

H. Key #8: Encourage Them

Proverbs 25:11 *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.”*

1. New converts and those coming back to Christ need encouragement, encouragement, encouragement. They do not need to be beaten down.
#70's Hippie in Portland: “What I am about to say you will never remember, what you just saw you will never forget.
2. Change takes time. The harvest will come in with a great deal of problems. Our job is to show them we love them and care for them.
3. Tips for the Discipler:

- a. Be patient **#Brother Steve, "That was the greatest F..ing message."**
- b. Don't rush people **#Parking tickets. Repairs can be costly and take a while**
- c. Don't be surprised with problems. **#Anti heathen smoking fan, ear plugs cuss**
- d. Love the sinner and hate the sin.
- e. Understand relationships take time. Determine Level 1- Level 4
- f. Give non-threatening recommendations. NOT flaws, but untapped potential.
- g. Be personable
- h. Don't control them. YOU AREN'T THEIR PARENT!

I. Key #9: Reproduce

2 Timothy 2:2, "and the things you have heard from me from many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others to do also."

Ephesians 4:11-13, "And He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry."

1. In both these scriptures you see a multi-generational equipping mandate. Both scripture allude to four generations of reproduction.
2. You will never totally fulfill the call on your life, until you have spiritual grandchildren.
#ME with having grandkids. ME with Alex, Paul, current guys.

#Reach the World in 4 ½ Years if everyone caught the vision to reproduce.

Don't go getting a vision for the entire city, get a vision for one! And REPRODUCE!

3. God didn't say, be fruitful and "add" he said be, "be fruitful and multiply."

Closing Story: The Ripple Effect: In 1858 a man name Kimball, a Sunday school teacher lead a Boston shoe clerk, Dwight L. Moody, to Christ, who became an evangelist. In New England in 1879, D.L. Moody awakened an evangelistic zeal in the heart of a man named F.B. Meyer, the pastor of a small church. Mr. Meyer then went preaching on an American college campus and let a student to Christ, named J. Wilbur Chapman. Mr. Chapeman engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to help with the evangelistic meetings. Mr. Sunday held a series of services in the Charlotte, N.C. areas and a group of men were so enthusiastic as a result of the series that they planned another campaign, bringing Mordecai Hamm to town, as the preacher. During the meeting, a young 14-year-old teenager strolled into the tent and gave his life to Christ. His name was Billy Graham...and the stories goes on and on!

God has called us to Preach the Gospel and Make Disciples. The choice is yours; God is waiting for you to respond.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

IV. Eleven Character-Shaping Tools for Successful Discipleship

A. Integrity

Building a trust relationship with your new disciple is vital. You are asking this person to trust you to lay a spiritual foundation of truth in his or her life. Make sure to saturate your example with integrity. In every aspect of your life, be sure that you are as good as your word. You are representing your church, your brothers and sisters and the name of Christ!

B. Humility

It is necessary, while building trust, to show humility. Humility allows others to receive what you say. Realize that without Jesus you could not have made it as far as you have. There is no difference between us and the prostitute. We are just beggars leading another beggar to bread. Serve them, lift them up... be interested and impressed, not interesting and impressing!

C. Sensitivity

Maintain a high level of sensitivity. Most people come to Christ because of a significant need in their life. Discerning their needs and being sensitive to them will help you offer comfort and counsel in the appropriate areas. Discern the need and *minister through it*, don't be ignorant to it.

D. Patience

Working with new converts requires great patience. They do things they shouldn't do, say things they shouldn't say, and think things that are not Christ-like. Remember, they are newborn babes and require special attention. Be patient and loving at all times. Don't rush people: The Holy Spirit brings the change; you bring the love and the understanding.

E. Persistence

It is difficult for most new believers to talk freely about God, to pray, or to worship. Because of this, you must be persistent, but not obnoxious. Allow the Holy Spirit to show you the proper level of persistence needed, while being careful not to turn your new convert away from you, the church, or God.

F. Respect

One of the quickest ways to repel people is to be condescending. In doing this, you create a teacher/student relationship. You should instead create a friend/friend relationship. Talk about areas that interest them and that they are good at. Be interested and build them up. Introduce them to others, don't be embarrassed to have them hanging around you. Show them you respect them.

G. Listening

It has been said, "Gain permission to speak by first listening." Once you begin a conversation with someone, ask him or her open-ended questions about job, family, or social life. Try to find common ground and allow the person to speak. You were given two ears and one mouth for a reason. The best way to get to know someone and understand them is to just sit and listen. Don't monopolize time. Ask many questions and let them talk. It helps build relationship as well.

H. Gracious and Understanding

There will be times when people will reject what you say. Often Christians react negatively in these situations. Getting upset can cause confusion and bitterness in a new convert and make it difficult to move forward in the follow-up process. When someone is unwilling to listen to you, smile, love them, leave them with a positive, caring perception, and wait for

the proper time to share your concerns. The harvest is messed up with multiple, very complex problems. It took years to get into the mess they are in, and it will take years to get out.

I. Exhorting in Love

As your relationship deepens, you may feel led to confront an area in this person's life. Be sure to combine your exhortation with love. People need more strokes than pokes. Often, the person already knows that the area of sin is wrong. Exhortation without love is hard-handed judgment. Exhortation with love is compassion.

J. Enthusiasm

Enthusiasm is contagious! Successful companies have enthusiastic employees because enthusiasm attracts people. No one wants to listen to dull, uninteresting people. Effective disciplers have enthusiasm as well. Allow God's light to shine through you. Use expression when you speak about Jesus. Let the person see that Christianity is not just a religion, but a relationship.

K. Friendliness

Eighty percent of people who come to Christ are influenced through friends, neighbors, relatives, or co-workers. If a relationship does not already exist, your goal should be to build a relationship with your new convert as quickly as possible. Don't disciple out of obligation.