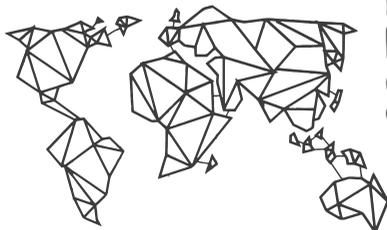




<sup>1</sup> David Platt, *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream* (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2010), 96.

Notes:

**GREAT  
COMMISSION  
LEADERSHIP**  
HOMEWORK  
PACKET  
TWENTY-  
TWO



## LEADERS HARVEST [PART 1]

### DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLES

*Disciple making is not about a program or an event but about a relationship.<sup>1</sup>*

**David Platt**

### BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

### MEMORY VERSE

*We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.*

**Colossians 1:28-29 [NIV]**

### LEADERS HARVEST

Discipleship must begin with a genuine love for those you are discipling and a willingness to come alongside them and help them grow closer to Christ. Priscilla and Aquila were a wife and husband ministry team who worked as tentmakers (Acts 18:3), traveled (Acts 18:18) and ministered (Rom. 16:3) with Paul. They led a church that met in their home (Rom. 16:5, 1 Cor. 16:19) and they were well known and respected in the early church. They were also focused on making disciples. In Acts 18: 24-26, we read that they met a man named Apollos, in Ephesus, who was passionate about Jesus but needed some correction and instruction. They invested their lives in him, inviting him to their home and explaining the truth to him more clearly. We know that Apollos went on to become an incredible leader in the early church (1 Cor. 1:12, 3:4-6, 4:6, 1 Cor. 16:12 and Titus 3:13) and this was a direct result of Priscilla's and Aquila's discipleship.

### HOW TO HARVEST

In our standard Exponential Harvest training, we remind people that the sower experienced a harvest (Mark 4:8)! When you sow seed you will too, often in proportion to the seed sown. We must be ready to disciple



<sup>2</sup> Dictionary.com, *Mentor definition*, <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/mentor> (accessed January 22, 2013).

<sup>3</sup> Dictionary.com, *Equip definition*, <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/mentor> (accessed January 22, 2013).

Notes:

new believers. We must harvest by showing that we care (Rom. 12:10). We must harvest by standardizing four contexts. We'll tell you key areas of fellowship that make discipleship thrive (Heb. 10:24-25). We must harvest by searching for FAITH Christians. We must invest in faithful people (2 Tim. 2:2). Finally, we must harvest by sticking with transferable tools (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The next two chapters will cover some of these important discipleship topics.

→ **What's been your experience with discipleship?**

## MAKING MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES

God commands all believers to make disciples (Mt. 28:18-20). There are two fundamental components to discipleship. These are mentoring and equipping. Dictionary.com defines a mentor as "a wise and trusted counselor or teacher; an influential senior sponsor or supporter"<sup>2</sup> and equip as "to furnish or provide with whatever is needed for use or for any undertaking; to furnish with intellectual or emotional resources."<sup>3</sup> Mentoring includes the personal and relational, life example component of your investment, while equipping includes the content, teaching, training, and substance component of your investment.

→ **Check each of the following discipleship components which you think is important:**

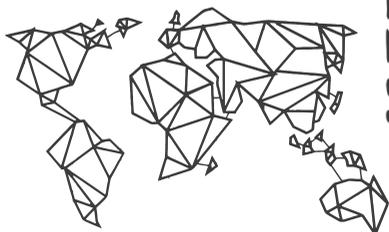
Mentoring Issues:

- Do life together
- Befriend those you disciple
- Have fun together
- Develop a sense of community
- Talk about all sorts of things
- Live as an example for others

Equipping Issues:

- Do ministry together
- Train those you disciple
- Teach others what you've learned
- Develop a Great Commission vision
- Talk about God's Word
- Equip others to live for Christ

Hopefully you noticed that each of these are important. You'll probably feel more comfortable with either mentoring or equipping but you'll never make disciples until you embrace both aspects of discipleship. Go back and underline the areas you are less comfortable with and trust God to develop you in both mentoring and equipping!



Notes:

→ **Read 1 Thes. 2:5-13. What aspects of mentoring do you see and what aspects of equipping do you see?**

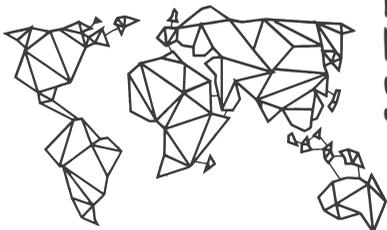
→ **Read 1 Thes. 1:2-10. What was the result of Paul's mentoring and equipping of the Thessalonians?**

## SHOW THAT YOU CARE

Discipleship requires a loving commitment on the part of the person towards the young disciple. It is vitally important that you truly love the person you're discipling, doing whatever it takes to support them and help them grow. You need to be their biggest supporter and encourager. Remember, the statements, "You must earn the right to be heard," and, "They don't care how much you know till they know how much you care," are lies when it comes to evangelism, but absolutely correct when it comes to discipleship. People will not allow you to invest in their lives until they really believe you like them, love them, and have their best interest in mind. That means that you must continue being a loving mentor as you equip those you're discipling. The relational and teaching components of discipleship must be integrated together in a single approach which neither overemphasizes, nor neglects, either.

→ **Have you burned your credibility with a younger believer by forgetting this? If so, how so?**

→ **What some ways you have showed those you are discipling that you care for them?**





<sup>4</sup> Steve Shadrach, *The Fuel and The Flame: 10 Keys to Ignite Your College Campus for Jesus Christ* (Tyrone, GA: Authentic Publishing, 2003), 299.

<sup>5</sup> Dave Early and Rod Dempsey, *The Pocket Guide to Leading a Small Group: 52 Ways to Help You and Your Small Group Grow* (Houston, TX: TOUCH Publications, 2007), 112.

Notes:

## FAITH CHRISTIANS

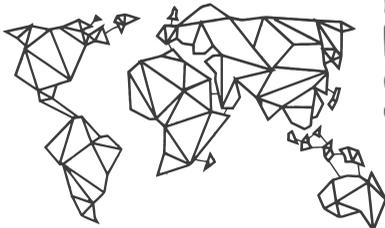
Paul told Timothy to find faithful men to invest in (2 Tim. 2:2), because they would be the ones who would “teach others also”. Based on that principle, we developed the **FAITH** acronym many years ago. Believers that demonstrate these **FAITH** characteristics are the ones most likely to faithfully continue the Great Commission, so we want to intentionally invest in their growth:

- » **Faithful.** A faithful person does what they says they will, and are trustworthy with that which they steward. This is especially true with how they handle Scripture (think 2 Tim. 2:15).
- » **Available.** An available person makes themselves available to learn and grow as a disciple of Jesus. They want to meet up to grow, so we must make time to invest in them.
- » **Intentional.** The intentional believer desires to make their faith their own—they are intentional with their personal time in the word, sharing their faith, helping others grow, etc. (Initiative<sup>4</sup> and integrity<sup>5</sup> have been proposed by others in surprisingly similar acronyms and we agree they’re both vitally important as well.)
- » **Teachable.** A teachable believer is willing to be guided in their learning by a more mature Christian, taking what they are taught to heart and applying it.
- » **Heart for God.** A heart for God is the most important thing to look for in someone you wish to disciple. While a new believer may not demonstrate all of these characteristics immediately, those with a heart for God are motivated by their love for the Lord and want to grow in their walk with Him.

Of course, we want to train up every believer to know Christ and make Him known. When we are intentionally pouring into believers that demonstrate these 5 characteristics—especially a heart for God—we can have confidence in them, as Paul did with Timothy and the men he poured into—that they will be faithful to carry on the Great Commission as well!

→ **Name 5 FAITH Christians that you know of that need to be discipled.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Notes:

4.

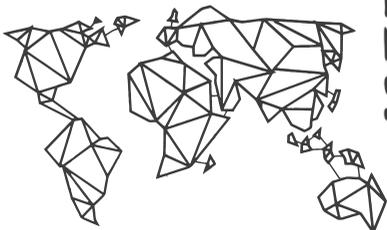
5.

- **Take some time right now and pray for these individuals you have listed, praying for their growth, asking God to remove any obstacles that might be in the way of meeting with them, etc.**

## TEN DISCIPLESHIP GUIDELINES

Russ Akins of Master Plan Ministries put together several guidelines for following up with people for discipleship. Keeping these guidelines in mind as you meet with believers for discipleship is key to creating a healthy and welcome environment for growth as a follower of Christ.

1. Be authentic, loving, relatable, friendly, encouraging, and sensitive to their needs and interests.
  2. Pray for this person, trusting the Holy Spirit to work in their lives.
  3. Keep the Jesus and Bible the central focus. Have a Bible on the table during your appointments.
  4. Schedule your appointments, call/text the night before to confirm appointments, and schedule the next appointment at the end of each appointment.
  5. Build a relationship and personal credibility.
  6. Balance your relationship with common interests and fun activities.
  7. Don't expect them to act like a mature believer if they aren't yet one. Show them grace, especially when they act or talk like a young, immature believer.
  8. Answer their questions first, then proceed to share more with them afterwards.
  9. Do not get discouraged if they quit growing.
  10. Remember, you're responsible only to be available to let God work through you in His Spirit's power, trusting results to Him.
- **Which of these guidelines do you need to grow in most of all?**
- **In what ways have you seen a discipleship relationship influenced by not following the above guidelines?**



Notes:

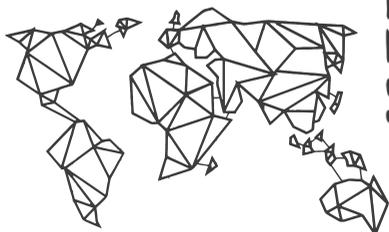
## ACCOUNTABILITY AND AFFIRMATION

In discipleship, we must cultivate a very unique ability—we must “correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Tim. 4:2b NIV). In regard to correction, these are the minor course adjustments as a believer is growing to help keep them pointed in the right direction—toward Jesus. Sometimes we will need to sharply correct someone in their walk with the Lord, but we are encouraged from this passage again to do so with great patience and instruction, stemming from our study and preaching of God’s Word. We also see that we must encourage with patience and instruction—building the believer up, calling them to walk closer and closer to the Lord. These topics were also covered more extensively in Homework Packets 9, 10, and 12. Feel free to review those sessions for more in these areas.

One of the most critical aspects of mentoring is accountability. Without access to healthy accountability, correction and rebuke—even genuine encouragement—are impossible, and the believer will not be able to grow in integrity. One of the big keys to healthy accountability is vulnerability. When we are vulnerable and honest about our own lives, this can establish an environment that encourages them to do the same. Another key here is confidentiality. This provides a safe environment for someone to grow and develop. Do everything in your ability to not betray their trust—keeping things shared in confidentiality, confidential. Accountability can involve anything from morning quiet time reminders to relational issues—or from application issues to areas that need attention for growth in integrity.

- **Read James 5:16. How does this relate to the discipleship relationship and accountability?**

Sometimes accountability includes some form of discipline—whether minor correction or major rebuke. If we want believers to grow in Christ-likeness, they will have to battle their flesh—and we will play an important part in that battle as their mentor/disciple: fighting their flesh alongside them. Remember the above verse, we must rebuke “with all patience and careful instruction.” Paul also encourages Titus with similar words. In Crete, there were believers teaching lies in order



Notes:

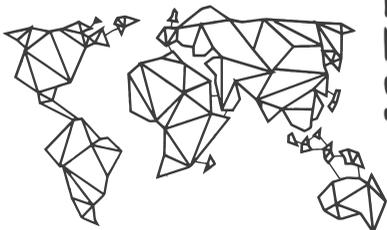
to fill their pockets, and Paul encourages Titus to sharply rebuke them (Titus 1:10-14). What is the purpose of the sharp rebuke here, though? "...[In order] that they might be sound in the faith" (v. 13b). Paul also writes to the Ephesian church, encouraging believers to speak the truth in love in order to grow into maturity in Christ and build up the Body – the church – in love (Eph. 4:15-16). The bottom line? There will be times you must confront things in the younger believer's life but remember, this must be done in love in order to build them up, not tear them down.

Discipline is a critical aspect of accountability in discipleship. Be concerned with character development first, then skills, and finally individual specifics. Again, think about the long term rather than the short term. Be more concerned with the next 30 years of their ministry than with the quality of the event you may have delegated to them this weekend. Help them see their potential in Christ and don't give up on them! Pray for the love to speak the truth in order to build them up into the person God is creating them to be!

- **Have you ever had to lovingly confront a younger believer about some character flaw or obvious sin? If so, how did it go and what would you do differently?**

Finally, encourage the disciple of Jesus you are teaching. Affirm the areas of growth you see in them, the victories against their flesh that God wins, the steps they take toward Him, etc.. Seek to see the potential each person you disciple has in Christ to join Him in the Great Commission. Encourage, remind, and build them up toward this end. If they doubt themselves (and/or think others do too), this encouragement could be the spurring on they need. Everyone is looking for acceptance and purpose. Communicate your acceptance of them and your excitement for who God is making them to be. Be their biggest supporter! Talk them up as often as you can, especially in public. God will use your encouragement in big ways in their lives.

- **List someone you will personally encourage this week and someone you will publicly affirm this week. Describe how will you do this:**



Notes:

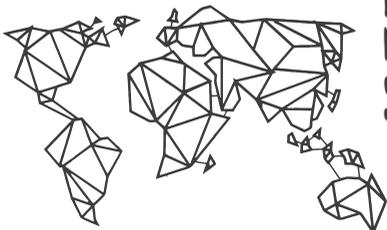
## THE FOUR STEPS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Similar to the *Four Sound Barriers of Evangelism*, the *Four Steps of Discipleship* require intentionality in order to help a believer grow as a disciple of Jesus. These are as follows:

1. **Initiate.** Set up an initial appointment. As with the first of the *Four Sound Barriers*, this step is the hardest step for many. Get their contact info, and schedule a time that works for both of you to meet with in the next week (if possible).
2. **Learn.** In the initial appointment, ask about their testimony, (even if you think you know them). Take some time to clarify the gospel. Share your testimony (be real about what God has done in your life; this is meant to be a relational time).
3. **Invite.** At some point in the initial appointment, ask if they would like to regularly get together to grow in God's word and their personal walk with Christ. Share about discipleship. You could suggest going through a resource together, like the *One-Year Discipleship* tool, or working through Scripture together, like a book of the Bible or a reading/listening plan.
4. **Build.** Commit to growing together for a set period of time to start. If you are working through a resource, till the end of the resource you have decided to work through, or for a semester, six months, a year, or more). Scheduling a regular time to meet up helps with consistency

Remember that the end goal with discipleship is to train up a believer to train others (multiplying Christ-like multipliers)—so build, equip, and encourage to this end! We've discussed a lot about mentoring individuals and investing your life in others through discipleship. When you're ready to take that step, go to the potential disciple and intentionally set up an initial appointment; don't expect them to come and ask you to disciple them, remember Jesus' example of initiating discipleship relationships (Mt. 4:18-22, Mk. 1:14-20, Lk. 5:1-11, Jn. 1:35-51).

- **Have you ever been discipled and/or discipled someone else? Explain how that went and what you would change next time:**





<sup>6</sup> Steve Shadrach, *The Fuel and The Flame: 10 Keys to Ignite Your College Campus for Jesus Christ* (Tyrone, GA: Authentic Publishing, 2003), 178.

Notes:

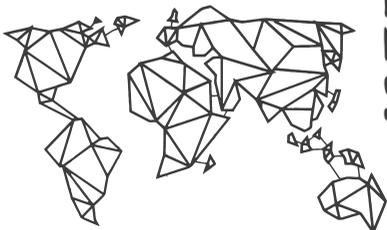
- List the name of someone, from the list of **FAITH** Christians you just wrote down, who you will initiate a discipleship relationship with next week (after working through next week's homework), and begin praying for them.

## PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH

More than anything else, as you disciple others, model a life of dependence on Christ. It's been said that discipleship must be "taught and caught."<sup>6</sup> Teaching them is important but getting them in the action will drive it all home. That will also help them take any next steps they are being led by the Lord to take. A heart for God is each of our greatest needs. When we model apathy for God, they'll be apathetic towards God. When we exemplify unbelief, they'll be unbelieving, unwilling to courageously follow Christ. When we lack integrity, they might too. They'll often become a lot like us. They need to see a person passionate about Jesus more than anything else. Be honest with them. Let them see your mistakes and weaknesses and let them see you relying only on Christ as you lead. If we want to disciple world-changers for Christ, it all starts with discipling people who will be passionate for Him—and that starts with showing them an example of someone who loves Jesus wholeheartedly.

## DISCIPLESHIP IS A PROCESS

You cannot and should not try to streamline discipleship. Discipleship takes time and energy and you must be willing to commit to this process. You must also be committed to "wrestling in prayer" for those you disciple, that they "may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured" (Col. 4:12 NIV). Mentoring can be difficult but it is vitally important that you come along side those you disciple, befriending them, and earning their trust while simultaneously cultivating a discipleship relationship. Invite them to join you in your hobbies and interests, and do the same with them. This will help you invest in this person, encouraging them to become who God made them to be. It will also give you an opportunity to equip them to multiply Christ-like multipliers until Christ returns.

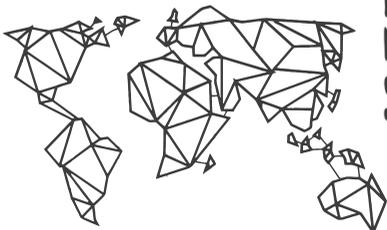




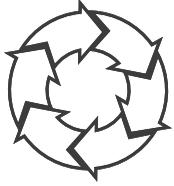
Notes:

We must harvest by showing that we care (Rom. 12:10), standardizing four contexts (Heb. 10:24-25), by searching for FAITH Christians (investing in faithful people (2 Tim. 2:2)), and by sticking with transferable tools (2 Tim. 3:16-17). This week we looked at the first and the third of these points, and dove into mentoring and how that relates to discipleship. Next week, we will look deeper at the importance of transferable tools, and look at the role that equipping plays in a discipleship relationship, including the *Four Contexts of Discipleship*.

*Remember, your weaknesses, inabilities, failures and past present no challenge to God's will for your life. Your willingness does. Be willing to be and do what God made you for. You don't have what it takes but God's Spirit in you does so be the leader He made you to be and turn this world upside down for Him!*



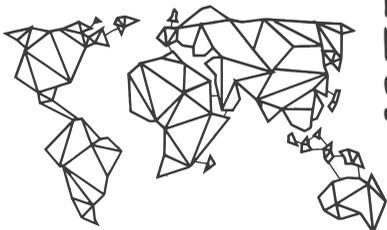
Notes:



## ACT NOW

### INTERVIEW A DISCIPLE-MULTIPLIER

- For review, fill out the Exponential Harvest Strategy diagram in the Notes column on this page, then circle "Harvest". What is one way you can grow in this area in your walk with the Lord?
  
- Interview a leader you know that is actively involved in making multiplying Christ-like disciples of Jesus. Do not interview a leader that is not actively involved in making multiplying disciples, as they'll probably do you more harm than good. Ask this disciple-making leader the following questions and take notes on all they say:
  1. Are you presently individually discipling others? Why or why not?
  2. Who were you discipled by and what did that look like?
  3. How long have you been doing one-on-one discipleship?
  4. Share a story of someone you've discipled who is now multiplying disciples?
  5. What role does discipleship play in the ministry as a whole?
  6. What are the most important mentoring and relational components of discipleship?
  7. What are the most important equipping and training components of discipleship?
  8. What has been your worst mistake in discipleship?
  9. What has been your greatest victory in discipleship?
  10. What biblical references and examples of discipleship drive your discipleship?
  11. What advice would you give me about discipleship?





<sup>7</sup> G. T. Doran, *There's a S.M.A.R.T. Way to Write Management's Goals and Objectives* (Management Review, Volume 70, Issue 11, 1981), 35-36.

Notes:

## PERSONAL GROWTH

→ Write out this lesson's memory verse (also, write it out several more times this week):

→ List a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & within a Time-frame) goal<sup>7</sup> for this lesson and action plans for achieving it.

SMART Goal:

Action plan:

Action plan:

Action plan:

→ How are you staying close to Jesus, walking by faith and in integrity, trusting Him and the power of His Spirit in life and ministry rather than yourself, and how can you more?

→ Jesus insisted that serving Him and serving others was the highest attribute of leadership (Mt. 20:25-28). How are you growing as a servant leader?

→ How will this lesson help you better accomplish the Great Commission and multiply Christ-like multipliers?

→ List any last thoughts and then put everything you learned in this lesson in God's hands, trusting Him to build these things into your life.

