



"Welcoming others to know God
& follow Jesus together..."



"To a remarkable degree, one could not help but see that the Christians were a different breed. Precept and example blended together in authentic witness...They had a graciousness in their manner of speech, yet a boldness in their testimony. Obedience was joyful. Compassion seemed to overflow from their fellowship. A purity of motive was evident in their helpfulness. Obviously that was not a trait learned from the world."

- **Robert E. Coleman**, The Master Plan of Evangelism and Discipleship

"We do not become disciples simply by satisfying the intellectual curiosity of the curious. We do not become disciples simply because we are convinced of the truth concerning the person and work of Jesus Christ. We become disciples when we, convinced by the Word of God, commit ourselves totally and completely to Jesus Christ to become His disciples."

- **J. Dwight Pentecost**, Design for Discipleship

"One aspect of 'the world' that I have been able to identify as harmful to Christians is the assumption that anything worthwhile can be acquired at once. We assume that if something can be done at all, it can be done quickly and efficiently. Our attention spans have been conditioned by 30 second commercials... The Christian life cannot mature under such conditions and in such ways."

- **Eugene H. Peterson**, A long Obedience in the Same Direction

"One does not surrender a life in an instant. That which is lifelong can only be surrendered in a lifetime. Nor is surrender to the will of God (*per se*) adequate to fullness of power in Christ. Maturity is the accomplishment of years, and I can only surrender to the will of God as I know what that will is."

- **Elisabeth Elliot**, Shadow of the Almighty

"In order to [become] 'fluent' in the gospel, we will need to create a culture where it is normal to speak the gospel to each other regularly, naturally. Every sin and issue that stands in the way of our faithfulness to God's design and Jesus' commands is ultimately a gospel issue. Since all sin is the outcome of unbelief in God, we can learn to apply the truth about him and the good news to every area of our lives...[In essence], discipleship is moving from unbelief to belief in every area of our lives."

- **Caesar Kalinowski**, The Gospel Primer

notes:

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Definitions

μαθητεύσατε
"Make Disciples"

to help others become followers who
learn by engaging in the process together

DISCIPLES commit to a life of knowing God
& following Jesus together.

DISCIPLESHIP is a process in which imperfect people
who have been given new life through faith in Jesus,
learn to trust God & follow Jesus in every area of life.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go{ing}** therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20 teaching** them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Acts 2:37-47

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for (*lit. "because of"*) the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." 40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" 41 So then, **those who had received his word were baptized**; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. 42 **They were continually devoting themselves** to the apostles' **teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of (the) bread** and to **(the) prayer(s)**. 43 **Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe**; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all **those who had believed were together and had all things in common**; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 **Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple**, and **breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart**, 47 **praising God and having favor with all the people**. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Colossians 3:17

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Reflections

Do you think that it is important to have shared definitions regarding discipleship? Why/ Why not?

What do you think are some of the biggest obstacles when it comes to making disciples?

... in general?

... for you personally?

Do you think that Jesus ever expected individuals to carry out the burden of making disciples alone?

What are some practical/ tangible ways in which we can work together to make disciples?

notes:

write down any thoughts/ questions/ ponderings

6 Descriptions of the Discipleship process:

It happens in real life:

Jesus said that disciple-making happens 'as you are going'. The Journey of discipleship in the Bible includes learning truth, asking questions, and seeing how others live out what they believe.

It is a life-long pursuit:

Our shared pursuit of becoming like Jesus will last the rest of our lives (Philippians 3:12-14 Col. 1:28-29; 3:41 John 2:3-6). There are difficulties & roadblocks for everyone along the way, but we will look to Jesus each time to help us overcome

(1 John 5:5; Romans 8:37). Understanding & discernment grows throughout our lives as we put the things that we learn into practice. *Note: This is sometimes referred to as progressive sanctification, because God sets us apart (sanctifies us) progressively throughout our lives as we learn from & follow Jesus.

There is a shared standard:

In Jesus, we have everything that we need to live a godly life. We access this through knowing, trusting, & living in obedience to God's word. The New Testament refers to this as 'Sound Doctrine'. It is important to grow together in our proper understanding of the Bible. As we do, we gain a shared framework, or grid through which we view life. Just as a trellis is used to direct growth in a plant, sound doctrine is used to direct growth as we follow Jesus.

As we follow Jesus, we discover new ways of living:

As we follow Jesus, we need to learn to develop some new patterns for life. Some of the fundamental patterns include patterns of Worship, Learning, Prayer, Engaging w/ Scripture, Building Healthy Relationships, Living generously, Resting in Christ...

There are contexts of discipleship:

Acts 2:46-47 (among other verses), shows that Disciples are called to follow Jesus in 3 contexts:

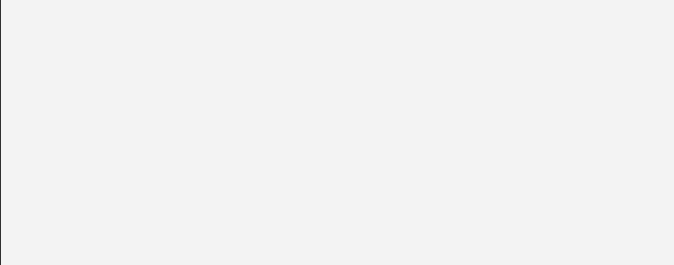
- **LARGER GATHERINGS:** We commit to follow Jesus in devoted relationship with our specific Christian Community ("church") by participating in the collective gatherings of the church.
- **SMALLER RELATIONAL SETTINGS:** We seek to grow in authentic and joyful relationships with others from the church in smaller relational settings throughout the week. We refer to our organized pursuit of this as "Life Groups".
- **EVERYDAY LIFE:** We seek to bring God glory in every aspect of our lives.

It is reproducible:

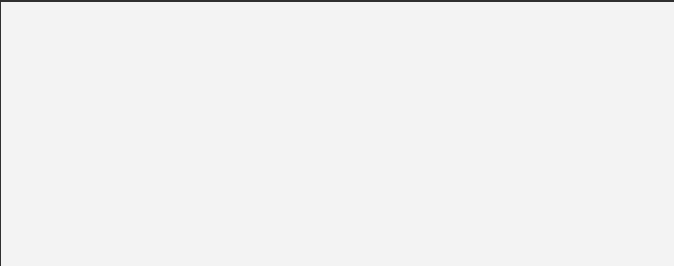
God wants us to be disciples who make disciples. All who follow Jesus have a role in bringing others along in the discipleship process.

Reflections

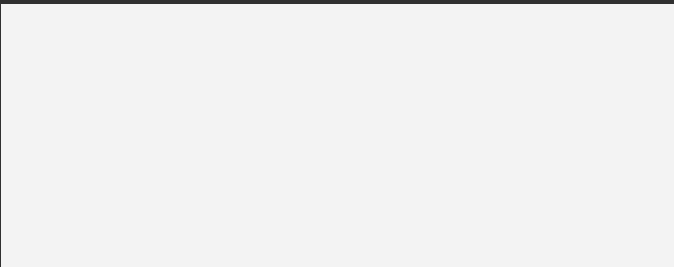
What are some benefits & drawbacks to a structured discipleship program?



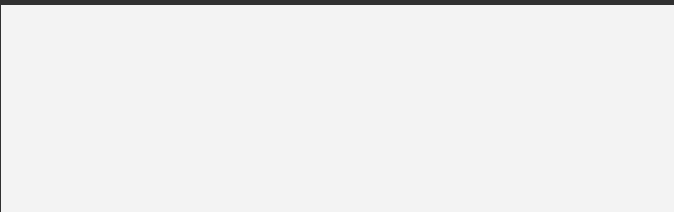
What are some benefits & drawbacks to a relational approach to discipleship?



Elisabeth Elliot said that: "One does not surrender a life in an instant. That which is lifelong can only be surrendered in a lifetime. Nor is surrender to the will of God (*per se*) adequate to fullness of power in Christ. Maturity is the accomplishment of years, and I can only surrender to the will of God as I know what that will is." **Discuss this together.**

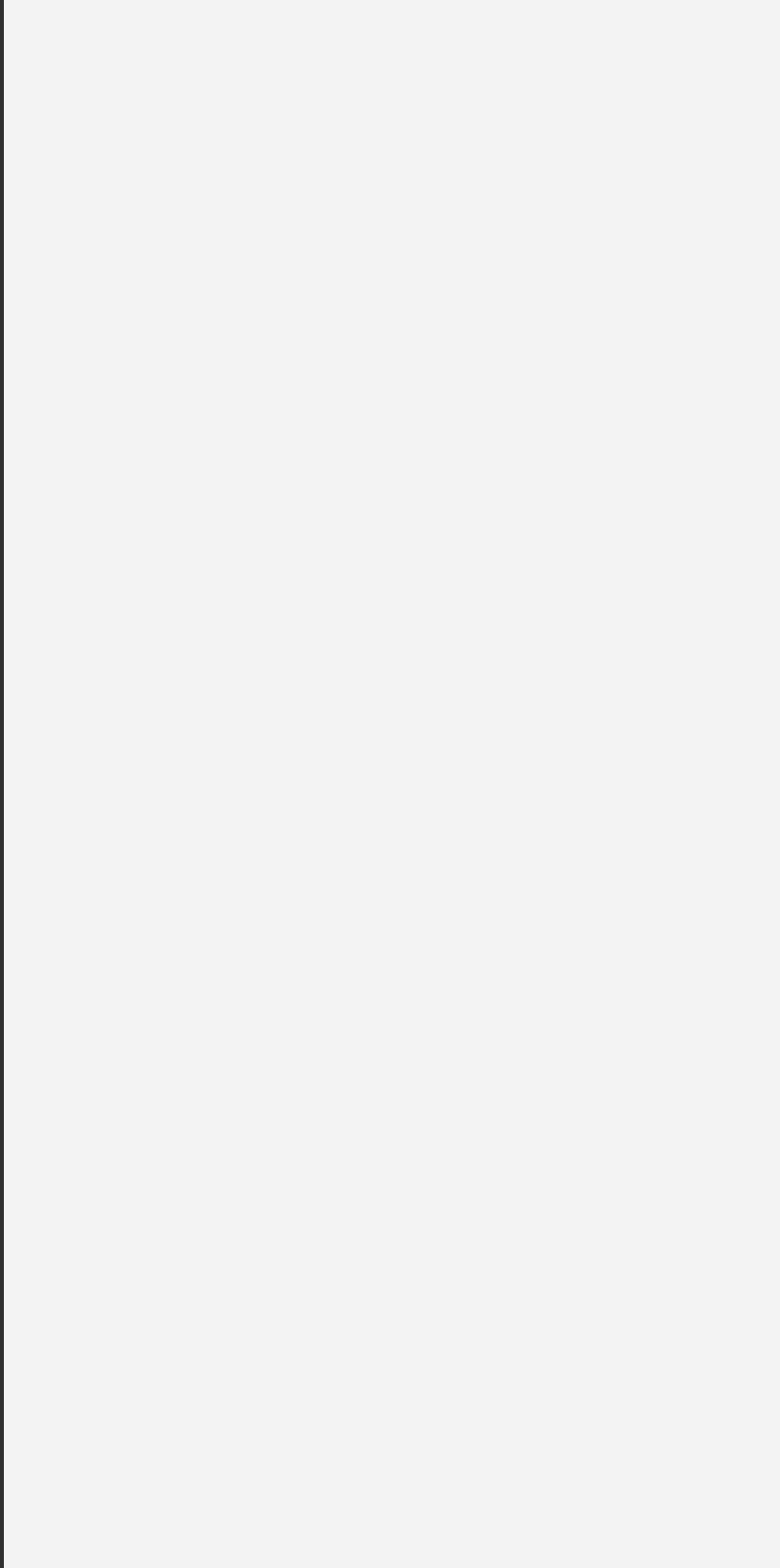


Discuss a time when you had to learn something new about following Jesus. What things helped you learn? Are there things you wish would have happened differently?



notes:

write down any thoughts/ questions/ ponderings



3

THE WORK of a disciple-maker

Matthew 28:16-20 Is an important Bible Passage to help define the work of making disciples. It says that "...the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go{ing} therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLE MAKING:

1. CAREFUL OBEDIENCE: In Matthew 28:16, the disciples (Jesus-followers) went to the place that Jesus had designated.

-**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Why do you think that careful obedience is important in the work of making disciples?

2. WORSHIP: Worship is ascribing worth to God. In worship, Jesus-followers give God their attention, and adjust themselves to align with God's perspective about life. The Bible lays out expectations for a shared/ collective weekly gathering for worship, as well as the worship of every day life. The work of disciple-making should flow from, and lead back to collective worship (Acts 13:1-5)

-**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Why do you think that worship is foundational to the work of making disciples?

3. AUTHORITY: Disciple-makers should not act as though they are their own authority. Those who make disciples must function in humility, recognizing that all of the authority belongs to Jesus (Matt. 28:18). This is different than one on one mentorship, and no one individual is the 'expert' or 'authority' on what it means to live a Jesus-centered life. Every Jesus-follower (disciple) has a role to play in encouraging one another on in the shared pursuit of loving God and loving others.

-**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Do you think that a pattern of ONLY one - on - one discipleship could create unhealthy dependency? Why/Why not?

- **DISCUSSION QUESTION:** How can we strike a healthy balance of individuals cooperating in the collective call to make disciples?

3 Necessary Components of Disciple-Making:

There are 3 participles in the original (Greek) text of Matthew 28:19-20. In observing these 3 participles, it is possible to understand what Jesus thought would be necessary in the work of making disciples.

1. GOING: The original disciples spent much time with Jesus, and then were told to go to all Nations with this good news. This remains the shared pursuit of the Church today. While God calls some to go to other nations & people groups, every believer will need to go to someone with the good news of Jesus.

2. BAPTIZING: This word means to "Immerse". Disciples are brought into a new relationship with the triune God. This is pictured as an act of obedience when a new believer is immersed into water in the name of the Father, and in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

3. TEACHING: This is not just about transfer of information. This is about implementation. Every Jesus-follower is called to a life-long pursuit of learning to obey Jesus in every area of their life.

4

Core Competencies of a disciple-maker

Gospel Fluency (1 Thessalonians 1:2-2:5)

A Disciple-maker must know, understand, and be able to communicate the Gospel (Good news of Jesus). Gospel fluency, however, is not only about transfer of information. 1 Thess. 1:5 shows that communication of content alone falls short of the work of disciple-makers. Much like fluency in a language, 'gospel fluency' comes most naturally, when a disciple-maker lives in the 'context' of the gospel. This means that we must work to understand how the gospel speaks into every area of our lives. The gospel is not only a message. It is the Power of God. If we treat it as only a message, we will not communicate in the power of the gospel to those we speak with, pray with, and seek to understand the never-changing truth of God's word.

Gospel Perspective (1 Thessalonians 2:6)

The Gospel message is authoritative, and so there's no need to coerce, flatter, or in any way manipulate in the work of disciple-making. Cults control & manipulate. Disciple-makers simply point to Jesus, and trust God to do the work, giving space for people to discover truth, and for God to work.

Relational/Personal Investment (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

Disciple-making is relational. It takes intentionality and personal investment. It also takes radical patience, and gentleness that flows from genuine care for the other person. An organization can't & shouldn't make disciples. Disciples need to cooperate together in the shared call to make disciples.

Sacrifice (1 Thessalonians 2:9)

There are times when a Disciple-maker should sacrifice time, talent, or treasure, in order to do what's best for someone else.

Vision (1 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

In the work of making disciples, often you will have a bigger vision of what God can do for the new believer (or pre-believer) than what they can wrap their head around. It's important to keep encouraging toward that vision. It is important to avoid 'acting like you're the Holy Spirit'. The focus here is simply to keep reminding of what kind of life can be lived because of the power of the gospel.

Faith (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

It is important to remember what God can do. It's tempting to try to simply persuade others with articulate words, or give up on others, when our words seemed to fail. A Disciple-maker must live by faith, however, remembering what God's word is capable of.

Endurance (1 Thessalonians 2:14-19)

A disciple who makes disciples must be willing to endure. This endurance is a gift from God (Romans 5:1-5). There are times in life when it becomes very clear how necessary & good it is to be strengthened by God's grace (Hebrews 13:9). Those who do not lose heart in doing good, will reap in due time if they do not grow weary (Galatians 6:9).

**"Discipleship is a long obedience
in the same direction"**

EUGENE PETERSON

A word about the Discipleship Pathway

North Shore Bible Church has developed some resources to help
Disciple-makers work together to make disciples.

We simply refer to this as our 'Next Steps' Pathway. We like to say that 'When it comes to knowing God & following Jesus together, we have a next step to take... What's yours?' Everyone will walk through some phases as they connect with our Church and commit to a life of learning to know God follow Jesus in every area of life. We've sought to give language to these phases to help:

PHASES WE ALL WALK THROUGH:

1. **Discover:** Every new Disciple will need to be given space, grace, and intentional prompting to discover who Jesus is, and why we're all about following Him together.
2. **Belong:** We learn to discern God's will best together in a worshipping, relational community. This isn't natural for the average individualistic American. We do not seek to guilt people into attending Church. We seek to build a community that understands that relationship matters: Our relationship with God, as well as our relationship(s) with each other.
3. **Engage:** God has given each of us a unique and valuable role to play in our shared pursuit of welcoming others to know God & follow Jesus together. We grow in our faith by engaging in our relationship with God & by engaging in meaning ministry with others. Again, this doesn't come naturally, and new disciples will need to be encouraged to know that they do belong, that they do have a place in the life of the Church. They will need to see this both modeled, and explained. Reminders & encouragement are crucial to this process, because we all need it at times!

PATHWAY RESOURCES:

We have developed a resource pathway. These are not perfect, but that are tools that we can use to pull in the same direction when it comes to carrying out the task of making disciples together. These resources will help you lead a disciple from their first questions, all the way through to this point of engaging as a partner in the disciple-making process. Many can work together to help facilitated groups who will walk through this together, or organically with individuals.

*Please see our pathway on the back of this page

Our Pathway



discover

Discover why we're all about knowing God and following Jesus together.

Discover NSBC Lunch
Discovering Jesus
Baptism



belong

We learn best in community together. Join the movement of imperfect people seeking to know God & follow Jesus in every area of life.

MY NSBC
MY FREEDOM
MY PLACE
MY FOUNDATION



engage

God has given each of us a unique and a valuable role to play. We grow in our faith as we engage in meaningful relationship with God, His people, and His world.

Join a Ministry Team
Join a Group
Learn
Leadership Track



7 Ideas to increase Gospel-Communication

1 Be a normal, imperfect Human who has been changed & is still being changed by Jesus.

It's ok to be human. Jesus-followers aren't perfect and shouldn't pretend to be.

2 Be a normal, imperfect Human who talks about verses, stories, or principles from the Bible that are helping you as you navigate life.

Share something as it fits, and pray for/look for more ways in which in can fit. Don't fit things in just to prove a point, or try to change the other person. That's Jesus' job. Simply tell about how He's helping & changing you.

3 Care about people and put yourself in contact with people you don't know.

Say hi to people. Ask them about something they're doing. Pick up a new hobby, or share a hobby that you enjoy with new people that you haven't gotten to know yet.

4. Show people that you care about them.

Find ways to say hi, help with needs, let them know that you're a praying person, and ask how you can pray for them. Meet a need they have, that they haven't even asked you to meet, simply because that's what Jesus has done for you...

5. Think about what verses, stories, or principles from the Bible could help the person in front of you navigate situations that they're struggling with.

Don't try to prove a point. God can speak for Himself through His word. Simply share an eternal truth that you know can help, even though they may not think that it can. Let God's eternally relevant word do it's work. You can, and should carry eternal truth over the bridge of love that you've been building. Seek to connect them to truth, and to other Jesus' followers so that they can hear more about how Jesus changes lives in a way that can make sense to them.

6. Communicate gospel truths (you may not always get to share the entire gospel, and it's often overwhelming when you do).

Think about how a part of the gospel addresses a thought, question, concern, or desire that the person in front of you has. For example, they may be struggling with the reality of death. You can help them see that "that was not the way it was meant to be". This can open up conversations about a God who created the world good (*A gospel truth*). , or about the existence of sin (*A gospel truth*). Someone may have a desire for something in life that aligns with what God would want. You can let them know that they agree with God, and that their desire is good. This may help them understand that they actually have more in common with God, than what they would have thought. This can disarm their assumptions about God, and open them up to hearing more. This is all about the ministry of helping them be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:14-21). Remember there is a moment of salvation, but our work is a process of preparing soil, planting seed, watering, waiting, praying, and ultimately, if God is drawing them, harvesting.

7. Help them find answers to real questions that they have.

The fact that you take their serious questions seriously may stand out. Many don't allow space for people to ask their honest questions about God. You may not know the answer, and that's fine. Simply let them know it's a good question, and you'd like to help them find an answer. Then help! You can research it yourself, or find someone in the Church whose gifting would make them a great person to bring into the conversation/ relationship.

MY CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

1 SIT QUIETLY WITH GOD (repeat regularly)

Who do I see repeatedly, but don't know yet?

Ask God to bring people to your mind, and list everyone you can think of that you see, that you don't know well yet.

Who do I know well?

Ask God to bring people to your mind, and list everyone you can think of that you know well.

This may include friends, family, neighbors, co-workers...

Who do I know less well?

Ask God to bring people to your mind, and list everyone you can think of that you know well.

This may include friends, family, neighbors, co-workers...

What activity, past time, or event would help me meet more people?

Ask God to bring ideas to your mind, and list anything that comes to mind. Let God lead your thinking regarding whether your schedule is full of the things that God wants it to be full of in order to make disciples, or not.

List possible ideas, resources/ next steps you can connect people to:

Find out the questions they have below the surface. Then, these tools can be used to help them see how Jesus is the answer to their questions. Discovering Jesus Discussion Guide, Discovery Group, Case for Christ, Case for Creator, other books, videos, sermons, ask if you can pray for them about something you've heard that they care deeply about...

2 SEE THE PEOPLE "WITH COMPASSION, AS SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD"

People

Possible Next Steps

3 DISCOVER SPIRITUAL HUNGER

Pray regularly for those people that God has pointed out to you. Begin asking questions to discover what they value, what they wonder about, if they have a faith background...

4 HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL & CONNECT TO OTHER JESUS-FOLLOWERS

Look for ways to expose them to possible next steps, new truths, and new relationships...

