

TCOM

7/05

DISCIPLE MAKING SEMINAR

Purpose: To explain the biblical concept of disciple making and to provide the motivation, understanding, and confidence to become a disciple maker.

Objectives: At the end of the seminar you should:

1. Have a basic understanding of the four stages of disciple making, especially how Jesus recruited and trained his disciples.
2. Have a basic understanding of the types of mentors and mentoring relationships necessary in ministry.
3. Have a basic awareness of your own personal life journey as a believer and the discipling that has shaped you.
4. Be motivated to be discipled and/or to pursue a disciple making ministry, including the mentoring relationships that will enhance your ministry.
5. Be able to determine specific disciple making steps to pursue with specific individuals.

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INTRODUCTION TO DISCIPLE MAKING

I. DEFINITIONS

A. **Disciple:** Learner, follower. One who, as a way of life, learns and follows Jesus' example and teaching in order to grow to spiritual maturity in Him.

B. **Disciple Maker:** One who, in following Jesus, teaches and trains others to follow Him also so that they may in turn teach and train still others.

Disciples are *made*, not born (hence, Matthew 28:19, "Go and *make* disciples"). If disciples are born, not made, then a disciple is simply a convert, and disciple making is simply evangelism. But the gospels portray a disciple as one who in following Jesus has *learned* to abide in Him, to be obedient to Him, to bear fruit for Him (John 15:1-17).

C. **Discipleship:** The process of disciple makers making disciples.

Definition produced by the 1999 Eastbourne Consultation on Discipleship (leaders from fifty-four countries representing nearly ninety organizations, denominations, and churches):

We define Christian discipleship as a process that takes place within accountable relationships over a period of time for the purpose of bringing believers to spiritual maturity in Christ. Biblical examples suggest that discipleship is both relational and intentional, both position and process ... We will pursue the process of discipleship just as purposefully as the proclamation of the Gospel. Evangelism and discipleship must be seen as integral.

II. THE NEED FOR DISCIPLE MAKING

A. The “non-discipleship” form of Christianity in many (most?) western local churches versus the disciple making of certain parachurch ministries.

B. Illustration: the pain a parent must feel when a child is born but never grows or matures.

C. Problem: Church leaders who have never been trained and don’t know how to purposefully get disciples established in the basics and then equip them for ministry and for leadership.

D. Barna polls (George Barna, *Growing True Disciples*, chapter 3, “The State of Discipleship”)

- ❖ Only two out of ten believers are serious enough about their spiritual growth that they have defined specific goals for it.
- ❖ Six out of ten have no sense of what they want to achieve or become as Christians.
- ❖ Few have any goals for spiritual development, any standards against which to measure their spiritual development, and have established procedures for being accountable for their spiritual growth.
- ❖ Less than five out of ten believers say their church has identified any spiritual goals, standards, or expectations for the congregation in the past year.
- ❖ Nine out of ten say that if their church would help them identify spiritual growth goals to pursue, they would at least listen to the advice and follow all or part of it.
- ❖ Over one-half say that if they had a mentor or coach, they would be more likely to pursue the goals.
- ❖ Barna’s conclusion: “There is a tremendous need for a more intentional focus on the discipleship process and for the definition of our desired outcomes of such a process. Given the proper motivation, it seems that most believers would be willing to commit to a more demanding regimen of spiritual development.”

III. THE AIMS OF DISCIPLE MAKING: WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO PRODUCE?

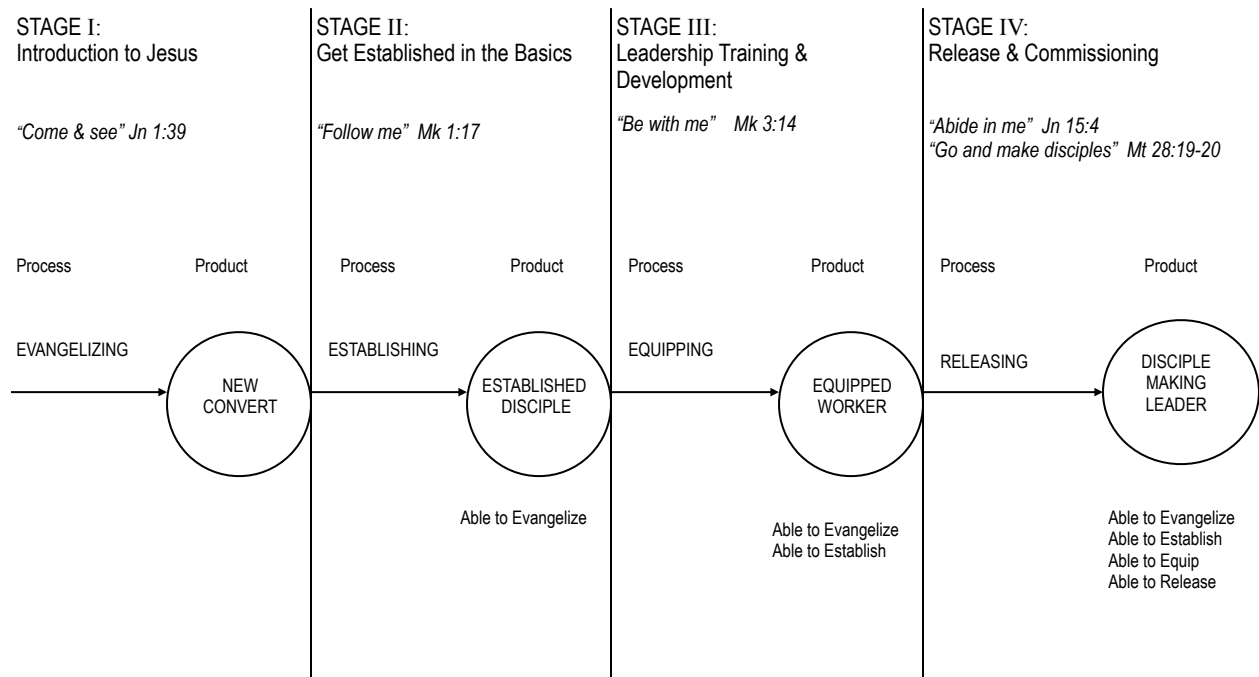
A. Commitment

B. Character

C. Conviction

D. Competence

IV. THE STAGES OF DISCIPLE MAKING: AN OVERVIEW



V. THE PATTERN OF DISCIPLE MAKING: MULTIPLICATION THROUGH REPRODUCTION CREATING SPIRITUAL GENERATIONS

A. 2 Timothy 2:2 Four spiritual generations

1. Me
2. You
3. Reliable men
4. Others

B. Evangelistic Addition versus Disciple Making Multiplication

EVANGELISTIC ADDITION		DISCIPLE MAKING MULTIPLICATION	
Strategy: win one person to Christ each day, then move on to the next person (365 per year).		Strategy: win one person to Christ and disciple him so that he becomes a disciple maker, who will in turn reproduce one disciple maker each year, and so on.	
YEAR	CONVERTS	DISCIPLES	
1	365	2	
2	730	4	
3	1095	8	
4	1460	16	
5	1825	32	
6	2190	64	
7	2555	128	
8	2920	256	
9	3285	512	
10	3650	1024	
11	4015	2048	
12	4380	4096	
13	4745	8192	
14	5110	16384	
15	5475	32768	
16	5840	65536	

VI. THE SPIRITUAL LEGACY OF BARNABAS (MULTIPLICATION)

ANANIAS

(Acts 9:10-19)

BARNABAS

(Acts 9:26-30; 11:22-30)

PRISCILLA & AQUILA

(Acts 18:1-4)

PAUL

(Acts 9:26-30; 11:22-30)

JOHN MARK

(Acts 15:36-41)

BELIEVERS IN:

Philippi (Acts 16:11-40)

Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9)

Berea (Acts 17:10-14)

Athens (Acts 17:15-34)

BELIEVERS IN:

Antioch (Acts 11:22-30)

Cyprus (Acts 13:4-12)

Psid. Ant. (Acts 13:13-52)

Iconium (Acts 14:1-5)

Lystra (Acts 14:6-19)

Derbe (Acts 14:20-21)

Perga (Acts 14:25)

APOLLOS

(Acts 18:21-28)

BELIEVERS IN:

Corinth (Acts 18:1-3)

Ephesus (Acts 18:18-19)

Rome (Rom 16:3-5)

TIMOTHY

(Acts 16:1-5)

TITUS

BELIEVERS IN ACHAIA

(Acts 18:27-28)

BELIEVERS IN EPHESUS

(1 Tim 1:3)

BELIEVERS ON CRETE

(Tit 1:5)

OTHER CO-WORKERS:

ARCHIPPUS (Phm 2) **ARISTARCHUS** (Acts 19:29; Col 4:10; Phm 24) **CLEMENT** (Phil 4:3) **CRESCENS**

(Col 4:10)

DEMAS (Col 4:4; Phm 24; 2 Tim 4:10) **EPAPHRAS** (Col 1:7; Phm 23) **EPAPHRODITUS** (Phil 2:25) **ERASTUS** (Col 4:11) **EUODIA & SYNTYCHE** (Phil 4:2) **JESUS/**

(Acts

JUSTUS

LUKE (Col

4:14; Phm 24; 2 Tim 4:11) **PHILEMON** (Phm 1)

SILAS/SILVANUS (Acts 15:40; 1 Thess 1:1; 2

Cor 1:19)

TERTIUS (Rom

TYCHICUS (Acts 20:4; Col 4:7; Eph 6:21)

16:22)

- ❖ Barnabas touched thousands of lives across the Mediterranean world, largely through discipling/mentoring/sponsoring Paul.
- ❖ Barnabas helped Paul rise to fulfill his calling and surpass him. “Barnabas and Saul” (Acts 11:26, 30; 12:25; 13:2, 7) became “Paul and Barnabas” (Acts 13:42, 43, 46, 50).
- ❖ Key Question: What are you doing today that will influence subsequent generations for Christ?