



God has called every believer to a ministry of discipleship with those around him!  
It is not an option; it is a mandate. Jesus commanded that we make disciples of every nation. We are commanded:

**MATTHEW 28:20** *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.*

**2 TIMOTHY 2:2** *The things that thou hast heard of me... the same commit thou to faithful men.*

**ROMANS 15:14** *Admonish one another.*

**HEBREWS 3:13** *Exhort on another.*

And God warned us, “that those who ‘ought to be teachers’ based on the length of time they have been saved, but who are not actively teaching others, should place themselves under some basic instruction again. He charged them with becoming ‘dull of hearing’ and of being ‘unskillful in the word of righteousness’” (Hebrews 5:11-14).

**I. WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?**

Biblical discipleship is a relationship between two people with a specific spiritual goal in mind. Discipleship is helping another believer make biblical change toward Christlikeness; this is helping others in the sanctification process.

**Definition:**

Discipleship is investing your life in a relationship with another person for the purpose of reproducing “another” spiritually mature follower of Jesus Christ.

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**II. WHAT IS THE GOAL OF DISCIPLESHIP?**

The goal of discipleship is \_\_\_\_\_. God wants to make us like His Son, Jesus Christ.  
Examine these verses:

**EPHESIANS 4:13** *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

**PHILIPPIANS 2:5** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

**ROMANS 8:29** *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

**ROMANS 13:14** *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 3:18** *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

**EPHESIANS 4:24** *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

**1 JOHN 3:2** *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

We are to mature in Christ, becoming less like the unregenerate people around us and more like the Lord within us.

### III. WHY DO DISCIPLESHIP?

A. It follows Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_.

**MARK 3:14** *And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,*

B. New Christians are most \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Satan easily deceives them.
2. They may wrestle with doubts.
3. They face opposition from friends and family who don't understand them.

C. New Christians are establishing new \_\_\_\_\_.

1. They are at a pivotal point in life (change in lifestyle, friends, activities).
2. There is the potential of developing wrong "new" patterns of change. The "putting off" and "putting on" principles of Ephesians 4 and Colossians 3 are written to Christians.

D. The Great Commission does not teach us to evangelize without the subsequent responsibility of discipleship. We are to go and make disciples which necessarily first includes evangelism.

### IV. WHY IS DISCIPLESHIP EFFECTIVE?

A. The influence of \_\_\_\_\_

Studies show that unless a new convert or newcomer to church establishes one or more meaningful relationships within a few months, he is likely to quietly leave through the "back door."

B. Individualized \_\_\_\_\_

New converts and newcomers need special attention. The New Testament pattern for spiritual growth is learning from the example of a more mature believer. (Philippians 4:9) "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." The Timothy has an avenue to get his questions answered.

C. Open \_\_\_\_\_

In a personal friendship there is an atmosphere of openness, so questions can be discussed honestly. Topics and needs that would never surface in a group setting will do so in a one-to-one relationship. Then real learning starts occurring because you are dealing with the Timothy at the level on which he is experiencing life.

D. Personal \_\_\_\_\_

Each of us strives harder when we have made ourselves accountable to someone else. By its very nature, a discipleship relationship IS an accountability bond between two people. The discipler will be checking up on his Timothy's development of the Christian disciplines.

E. Mutual spiritual growth

The discipler as well as the disciple grows spiritually. Doesn't the teacher always learn more than the pupil? (Proverbs 27:17) "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." This process creates positive motivation for continued spiritual development.

## V. THE IMPORTANCE OF YOU

A. You are a \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 CORINTHIANS 11:1** *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

**MARK 3:14** *And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,*

**ACTS 4:13** *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*

As a Discipeler, you will be demonstrating the path to personal growth by modeling the following spiritual disciplines:

1. A daily Quiet Time
2. Daily prayer
3. \*Sermon note-taking
4. Scripture memory
5. Way-of-life witnessing (evangelism as a lifestyle)

NOTE: Since you will be training your Timothy by example, it will be important for you to demonstrate the value of using a Spiritual Journal.

B. You are a \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Help your Timothy develop a long-term spiritual growth process that will continue long after your meetings have concluded.
2. Provide your Timothy with a Biblical foundation through key Bible truths (lessons).
3. Encourage your Timothy to share his faith with others.
4. Lead your Timothy to strong commitment to God, His Word, and His church.

## VI. WHEN AND WHERE TO MEET

A. When?

You will meet for discipleship when yours and your Timothy's schedules best allow, though it will not be regular church service times. Try to schedule your weekly or bi-monthly meetings with the possibility of flexible endings so you can both relax and enjoy your time together.

#### B. Where?

1. A restaurant
2. Their home
3. Your home
4. The church building

There is one KEY to the location of your discipleship session; you must meet at a place that is uninterrupted by children!

### VII. SAMPLE DISCIPLESHIP SESSION

What exactly do you do when you meet with your Timothy? What do you NOT do? Although each session may vary a little, here are the invariables:

#### A. What to do

1. \_\_\_\_\_. Ask about his week. Find out what is going on in his life at home and at work.
2. Answer questions he may ask regarding his current struggles—family, work, personal.
3. Ask him about updates regarding prayers requests he has made. Let him know you have been praying for him.
4. Open your Spiritual Journal and share with him something God is teaching you from the Bible during your quiet time.
5. After he has learned how to use the quiet time section of his Spiritual Journal (learned in the D lesson), ask him to share with you one of his Spiritual Journal entries.
6. Exchange highlights of your sermon notes and ask him if there was anything in Sunday's sermon that he did not understand.
7. After he has been instructed in how to hand out a gospel tract (learned in the D lesson), ask him to share his efforts regarding this and share what happened when you handed out tracts.
8. Review the \_\_\_\_\_ using the margin boxes.
9. Review the next Spiritual Growth Assignment.
10. Encourage him by casting a vision for him regarding his spiritual growth.
11. Close in prayer.

#### B. What NOT to do

1. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the preliminaries above and get right into the lesson. Discipleship is not covering lessons.
2. Don't fill out the lesson answers together.
3. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ your Timothy's answers. He will not get them wrong.
4. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the margin boxes to him.
5. Don't be disloyal to our church's doctrine or leadership. If you disagree, keep it quiet and humbly come to the church leadership to discuss it. Protect the unity of spirit that God has blessed our church with. God warns us about sowing discord among the brethren.
6. Don't criticize your Timothy's efforts or make light of his discoveries; enter into his excitement with him.