Making Disciples

Who

Make Disciples

In Small Groups Live or Online

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Introduction For Leaders

Disciples Making Disciples

I and many others believe there is coming the biggest harvest of converts the world has ever seen. I know that we do not have buildings to contain all those that will want to be part of His body on Earth. We must plan and prepare for that harvest so as not to be overwhelmed. What follows is a plan, it is just part of God's plan to bring that harvest in. It is a plan to disciple people in small groups; online, in homes, in parks, in cafes or in schools if allowed. It does not require a church building or professional staff.

Even though the church has for centuries-built buildings and invited people to come to worship, hear a sermon and fellowship on Sunday mornings our God does not need buildings for any of those things. "He is in the midst when two or three are gathered in His name." (Matthew 18:20 KJV) When He is in the midst He is healing, speaking, and touching His people in many ways. Some churches have grown into huge mega congregations, and they have not always felt the touch of God that can come from gathering in a small group. Money, time, and workers are needed to sustain these large buildings but at times the connections between God and us and with each other have been missing in these large busy places. I am not criticizing big churches, but I am saying they are not necessary to make disciples. These materials are a simple method for disciples to make disciples.

The twenty-six weekly sessions cover the basics of following Jesus, they are not just for learning scripture, but are about the disciples applying the word to their lives. Each session has goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and to be accomplished in that session. The body of the lessons are scriptures relating to the topic covered. Little commentary is given, questions and discussion are encouraged, and disciples learn to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to them too. The sessions have action steps to help disciples to apply the information given to them. The following week there is an opportunity to share any difficulties with the application and pray for each other. If preferred the course can be divided into three portions. The first portion uses the first ten sessions, then a break can be given between sections, then the second ten, and lastly, the final six sessions to reduce the length of the time commitment.

I would recommend that groups do not exceed six members and a leader. Making disciples requires a relationship between the leader and those being discipled, and it is beneficial if the members also relate to each other. That allows for openness

and honesty within the group. Also, the open expression of members gives an opportunity for other members to pray for them. The groups should be closed, meaning they should not have visitors coming and going as it is important that everyone covers all subjects. Members need to commit to attending each session and will need time with the leader to discuss material if they have an emergency and cannot make a session. Groups can be mixed male and female members or a specific age range and gender. These materials have intentionally been kept simple so can be used with a variety of individuals.

When a group has completed the course, or the shorter portions, beginning with the first, members should be encouraged to disciple others if their leader feels they are ready. They may disciple a group or just one or two others. Those disciples will then disciple others. Multiplication of disciples results in a brief period. The leader will assist the disciples they worked with if help is needed. These groups may be friends or family members or even online connections. The following step is that those six or less each will each take a group. They also must ideally be willing to lead a group and reproduce what they have learned and practiced.

It is time for the Great Commission to be fulfilled. After Jesus' resurrection, "the eleven disciples went to Galilee to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshipped him, but some doubted it. Then Jesus came to them and said 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always to the very end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:16-20 NIV) That command was not just for the original disciples but for us too.

We must use every tool we have to fulfill that commission. The internet is available even in remote parts of the world. There is an opportunity to make disciples, to teach others to obey Jesus and to express God's love for the entire world right from your phone or computer. Or if you have a place, you can meet in use whatever it is to be the venue to make disciples.

Making Disciples

Subjects for Six Months, Twenty- Six Sessions

1. Introductory Session
2. What is a Christian?
   Faith, Repentance, Confession, and Water Baptism.
3. The Difference between a Convert and a Disciple,
   The Cost of Discipleship.
4. Who is Jesus? What does His Atonement mean for us?
   Who are We?
5. The Trinity, Father God, Loving and Obeying Him
6. Who is the Holy Spirit and What is His Role?
7. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
8. Gifts of the Holy Spirit
9. The Bible and How to Read it
10. Studying the Bible
11. Memorizing and Meditating on Scripture, Praying Scripture
12. Prayer and Fasting
13. Prayers in Scripture
14. Faith
15. The Beatitudes
16. Loving and Forgiving Others, Communion
17. The Fruit of the Spirit
18. Tithing, Offerings and Giving to the Poor
19. Ministries in the Church
20. The Armor of God and Other Protection
21. The Enemy and Spiritual Warfare
22. Spiritual Authority
23. Deliverance from Evil Spirits
24. Walking in Freedom
25. The End Times and New Beginning
26. Sharing Your Faith and Making Disciples

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Notes for the Introductory Session

Session Goals

1. The disciple will commit to attend the group weekly or in case of illness contact the leader, a time will be agreed on that the disciple can manage.
2. The disciple will explain why he/she wants to disciple others or why he/she has reservations about leading a group.
3. The disciple will be able to repeat three expectations of the group.

What to Expect from this Training

Welcome to being a disciple and being prepared to make disciples. You may be a new believer or maybe someone who has been saved a while but wants to grow closer to God. Either way you have not come to Jesus by accident, you came to Him and accepted His love and forgiveness because He loved you first. In fact, in John 15:16, John tells us Jesus said to His disciples, and it applies to us too, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." Earlier in this same chapter of the Bible, He described Himself as the vine and His disciples (and us) as the branches, saying (John 15:4) "Remain in me as I also remain in you, no branch can bear fruit by itself. It must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." Just as Jesus chose His disciples, He chose you. He chose you not just for yourself but that your life would be fruitful, and the fruit of your life will last. We all want our lives to matter, and He promises us they will. John 15:9-12 quotes Jesus as saying, "As the father has loved me so have, I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love just as I have kept My father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this. Love each other as I have loved you."

He has told us this so "His joy may be in us and our joy complete!" Bonhoeffer a Christian martyr during World War II said, "Discipleship means joy." It is the joy of living life to the fullest, led by the Holy Spirit and daily following that leading.

Some think that being a disciple means “taking up your cross” and fulfilling only His desires, that is part of it. We are no longer living for ourselves. The really wonderful thing though is that His joy is within us, as we live for Him. We can live in complete joy no matter what is going on in the world. Being a disciple is not a burden, it is a life full of joy and making disciples is a deeply satisfying, joy giving thing to do.

You are hopefully noticing this course is not just about being a disciple, it is about making disciples when you are a disciple. The Great Commission is still unfulfilled. Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you and lo I am with you always even till the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV) We are his disciples, and that command speaks to us even as it spoke to His first disciples. It is time for us to make disciples and to make disciples who will make disciples who will then make disciples. Welcome to a training that will not just prepare you to be a disciple but will prepare you to be a disciple maker. So, your life will also be fruitful.

You are part of a small group, that is how this training is designed to be used. The group may be meeting via the internet or maybe meeting in a home or in a cafe. There are probably six members or less and a leader in your group. The group will be meeting weekly for 6 months and in that time, you’ll cover different subjects, foundational to being a disciple. You will get to know each other and be open with one another. That may mean at times confessing your faults one to another. James 5:16 NIV says, “Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” When people share personal things, you are not to judge them or talk about what they said. Instead, you will pray for each other, love each other, and help each other over the difficulties in your lives. When you’re ready, hopefully when the 6 months are completed you will train others in the same foundational subjects and show them how to be a disciple by your example and your words.

Some of the subjects you will learn about in the group are water baptism, being baptized in the Holy Spirit, the trinity, Father God, the Bible, how to pray, our authority, and the second coming, some of the things you will see are: the exercise of spiritual gifts, God’s love being expressed through others and answers to prayers. Some of the things you will practice are studying the Bible, praying scriptures, meditating on bible verses, finding things in the Bible, praying for healing. ministering deliverance and making disciples. These subjects and more are chosen intentionally because they will help you grow in the Christian life. This group is more than about training though it’s about relationships with a leader and with people that want to become disciples like yourselves. Jesus loved his disciples, and he didn’t just teach them,

He showed them how to serve his father and each other. He demonstrated casting out demons and healing the sick and they saw Jesus doing those things. That small group of disciples changed the world because of the time they spent with Jesus.

Being a disciple is more than just raising your hand and asking Jesus to come into your heart. When Jesus called his disciples, he often told them to give up everything and they left the lives they were accustomed to and followed him. Their encounter with Jesus changed their futures and their priorities and altered their lives completely. They left their families and professions and became followers of Jesus. Jesus said to his disciples; “If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me for whoever desires to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the entire world and loses his own soul? What will man give in exchange for his soul.” (Matthew 16:24-26)

Becoming disciples is not just about learning the Bible but it’s about learning to allow the Holy Spirit to work in you and through you. God wants to have a personal relationship with you, He wants you to get to know Him, not just know who He is or about Him because you’ve heard preachers or prophets but to know Him personally. As we are discipled and we are making disciples ourselves we don’t want people just to hear from us, but we want them to hear from God themselves. To feed themselves from the word and to listen to the Holy Spirit as he speaks to them in a personal way, both through the scriptures and through spiritual gifts. When we become disciples and make disciples, we ourselves must dig deep into the word by reading the word, meditating on it, by studying it and we also need to teach others to do the same themselves and not just rely on our instruction. It is not just about gaining knowledge. We must not just read the word and study it but obey it. “But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22 NKJV) It is about LIVING the word.

Making disciples should of course include teaching from scriptures particularly from the Gospels and Paul’s letters however knowing the word is only part of the picture making a disciple is about teaching a person to read and study the Bible for themselves. It involves leading them into the baptism of water and the spirit, encouraging them to seek God and hear his voice directly. It’s about learning to worship him and to pray as he taught. It’s about abiding in him because he is the vine and we are the branches and without him we can do nothing. It is experiencing the miraculous and growing in faith to pray and see people healed and delivered. It’s about learning to love each other and connect deeply as Jesus taught and so much more. It’s about preparing disciples that will become disciple-makers.

Prayer must be a high priority in the leader’s life and in the lives of the disciples.

Probably you have met the leader of this group, perhaps he/she is a friend or a family member, or someone who interviewed you for the group. Each group leader has been part of a small group that has been discipled like yourselves. So, they now have chosen to make disciples of others. Meanwhile they'll stay in touch with the people who were their leaders. They have chosen though to take three, four, five, or six people to make disciples so that those people can then lead groups and make more disciples. Take time now to get to know the leader a bit and hear the details of the group that you have become a part of.

Note to leader: Share your testimony, decide days and times of meetings with your members and discuss how you will connect with them outside of sessions.

Action Steps

- Prepare to share your testimony very briefly next week, be ready to tell us for about 5 minutes how you came to Jesus.

- Make a list and share with the group next week what subjects that were mentioned that are especially interesting to you.

- Start to read your Bible and pray every day. The Gospel of John is a good place to start, you can find a Bible on the Internet.