

# DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

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## FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

(Literal translation)“Going therefore, disciple 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 ages.”  
(Matthew 28: 19-20)

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35).

### Mission Statement for Discipleship

To equip the saints to carry out *The Great Commission* as instructed in Matthew 28:19-20. To keep God at the center of every aspect of discipleship, realizing that it is only through His power and grace that we are able to accomplish His vision. To be willing to be used as a vessel of honor for the Lord. To help new believers personally experience God’s presence and power, by learning direct conversation with God and obedience to God in building a foundation on which to continually grow in their relationship with God. To assist mature Christians to grow as a believer in Christ through a commitment to study and apply God’s Word to their life - which will result in a stronger foundation on which to continue to build their Christian walk. To love one another so all will know we are His disciples. (John 13:34-35)

“Discipling is God’s primary way to prepare future leaders and ministries. However, it must not become a separate stream and emphasis, which will cause corruption of any truth. It must flow within the life of the present churches and movements. **Every “Paul” who does not have a “Timothy” is wasting a good part of their ministry, and failing to make what could be their greatest lasting contribution to the church.**” (taken from *Mega-Trends in the New Millennium* by Rick Joyner)

#### Material

**The Harvester’s Handbook - *Training Manual*** - by James H. Hall

**The Harvester’s Handbook - *New Christian Manual*** - by James H. Hall

Website – [www.newchristian.com](http://www.newchristian.com)

## **Beginning A Discipleship Ministry**

To begin a discipleship ministry within our church we first began by forming a core group that met once a week to review the discipleship material and apply it to their life. This group consisted of members of the church with a strong relationship with Jesus Christ and a desire to disciple someone else. The Pastor and Discipleship Ministry Leader, through prayer and seeking the Lord, handpicked this group. The core group consisted of one youth and six adults. A facilitator was appointed for the group. It is important to note that this person was the *facilitator* and not the teacher of the group. All within the group were to disciple one another. The facilitator's job was to keep the group moving.

### Purpose

The purpose of this core group was to:

1. Disciple one another as the Word of God instructs.
2. Review the discipleship material that the church had chosen to determine if this material was suitable and would meet the needs of new Christians and mature Christians equally. We did this by reviewing the material on a weekly basis and joining together to discuss it and apply it to our lives.
3. Upon completion of the material, each member of the core group was assigned a person to disciple.

## **Discipleship Ministry Leader**

The Discipleship Ministry Leader will be a Christian with a strong commitment to the Lord and a desire and passion to see others discipled and grow closer to the Lord. The Discipleship Ministry Leader will attend Services regularly, and be an active member within the church body. The Pastor of the church will determine the assignment of this position.

### **Responsibilities:**

1. To prayerfully seek the Lord on a consistent basis regarding the Discipleship Ministry and teams.
2. To keep the Pastor current on the status of the ministry by verbal communication as well as through monthly reports.
3. To bring to the Pastor discipleship teams and classes for his approval.
4. To explain Discipleship and the commitment involved to an individual wishing to be discipled.
5. To maintain regular contact with the Discipleship teams.
6. To determine if there are suitable circumstances to begin a class
7. To handle any issues within the teams that are not significant enough to bring to the Pastor.
8. To bring to the Pastor any issues of significance within the Discipleship Ministry.
9. To insure that adequate quantities of discipleship material are in stock.
10. To stay up to date on new material that may assist in discipleship.
11. To be a resource for questions concerning the discipleship material and the Bible.
12. To love the Lord and seek HIS will!

## **Discipler**

The Discipler shall be a Christian with a strong walk with the Lord and a heart and desire to disciple. They will have completed the training for discipleship ministry. They will regularly attend Sunday Services and be involved in ministry within the church.

### **Responsibilities:**

1. To have great expectations on how God will use them in the life of the person they are discipling.
2. To be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and disciple in love.
3. To use Jesus' example of discipling the twelve apostles in how they disciple.
4. To be open, transparent and trusting.
5. To complete the Guide to Prayer for the Harvest. (Training Manual – Section II)
6. To establish a weekly meeting schedule that is agreeable to all involved.
7. To complete all material for the weekly meetings.
8. To pray on a regular basis for the person they are discipling.
9. To be accountable and to keep the person they are discipling accountable in prayer and in the Word.
10. To challenge the person they are discipling to seek the Lord more diligently and to have boldness for the Lord.
11. To notify the Discipleship Ministry Leader or the Pastor of any questions or concerns or if discipleship is becoming a counseling session.
12. To assist them in becoming involved with the church family through ministry or attending different events/functions of the church.
13. To introduce the new believer to different tools that are available to help them enrich their spiritual life - i.e. devotionals, music, radio programs, books, etc.

## **Discipleship List**

If an individual is interested in being discipled they must personally approach the Pastor or the Discipleship Ministry Leader and indicate their interest. We do not allow someone other than the individual to sign up for discipleship (i.e. mother signing up daughter, wife signing up husband.)

We do make suggestions to certain people that they could really benefit from discipleship and suggest they pray and seek the Lord on what He would have for them.

When dealing with the Youth, they normally will not approach you for discipleship. I have found that they are very open if approached. Youth disciple youth and have a separate book (Young Christian Manual) that they use. It is awesome to see the way the Lord will use the youth to minister to one another.

Individuals are notified of how long it may be until they are teamed up for discipleship. The minimum 16-week commitment is clearly laid out to them.

Mature Christians will often ask if they can be in a class versus the one-on-one discipleship. Our immediate answer is “no.” It is explained that they must have a willingness to be discipled in order to be an effective tool for the Lord.

Discipleship teams are decided through prayer and seeking the Lord by the Discipleship Ministry Leader. The suggested teams are then brought before the Pastor for his approval. An updated list of all involved in discipleship is given to the Pastor on a monthly basis. (See attached for lists)

# ACTIVE DISCIPLESHIP STATUS

Date

DISCIPLER	DISCIPLE	START DATE	LAST STATUS	CURRENT LESSON	NOTES & Ministry Disciplee Has Become Involved In

## **Discipling Through a Class**

A class may be formed when there are several mature Christians waiting to be disciplined. The ideal classes are classes of either all men or all women. This allows for more openness and vulnerability about certain issues that may be especially relevant to either men or women.

The Discipleship Ministry Leader will bring before the Pastor a list of individuals that would be best suited for the class. Upon the Pastor's approval each individual will be called and asked to pray about whether the Lord would have them be in a class or should they wait and be individually disciplined. Everyone that is in the class will commit to doing the 16 week ministry with the group and also a commitment will be made for an additional 16 weeks of discipling another individual in the church on a one-on-one basis. The total commitment when entering a class format is 32 weeks. If an individual is not interested in discipling someone else when they have completed the sixteen weeks, they are not put in the class.

A Facilitator for the class will need to be determined. This can be someone who has already disciplined others or is a strong Christian who wants to be disciplined.

The Discipleship Ministry Leader will run the first class. The material will be distributed and the objective of the class will be discussed. The role of the Facilitator as well as each member of the class will be addressed. (See attachment for outline of first class.)

The Discipleship Ministry Leader will be in regular contact with the Facilitator as well as each class member during the sixteen weeks. The Pastor will be kept up-to-date on the status of the class. The Discipleship Ministry Leader should attend one or two classes during the 16-week period.

The final class will consist of a Discipleship Team who has completed the sixteen-week ministry together. They will discuss their experience and there will be a time for questions and answers by the class. The Discipleship Ministry Leader will wrap up the class with future expectations.

Note: Individuals who are part of a class do not receive a Bible and certificate.

# DISCIPLE IS A VERB

## Teacher's Version

### Why do you want to disciple someone else?

### What is a disciple?

- A disciple is a “learning follower.” A disciple in the New Testament sense is a “learning follower of Jesus Christ.”

### What is a discipler?

- Being a discipler is deliberately identifying yourself with God's interest in other people. It is seeing others as God made them and not how we would like them to be.
- Being a discipler helps to teach us what we can do for others - our Christian walk is not about us - it is about Jesus and other people seeing the light of Jesus in us. Discipleship helps us to not focus on ourselves, but instead to focus on what God's word states - to serve one another.

### What is discipleship?

- Discipleship is fellowship - it's seeing the love of Jesus in another person. It is bearing each others burdens.
- Discipleship is investing in someone's else's life.  
⇒ Hand out “Discipleship – Investing in someone else's life”
- Discipleship is building a relationship.
- Giving of your time
  - ◆ Everything worthwhile takes time – building relationships takes time and caring.
  - ◆ “Seek first the Kingdom” means we must make time for the exchange of friendship.
  - ◆ Make time for the love that God's spirit has poured into us to flow out through us in deeds and in truth.
- Ephesians 6:19 – 20  
“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”  
⇒ This is a big responsibility that cannot be taken lightly. This may be your contribution to the church!

- Great expectations:
  - a) Expect God to use you.
  - b) Pray to be used.
  - c) Prepare yourself to be used.
  - d) Love with His love.
  - e) Act on what He tells you.
  - f) Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as you work with Him.

### **Jesus the Master Discipler**

- Jesus' own example was training a group of 12 through ongoing PERSONAL ASSOCIATION with them.
- The Great Commission is a command from the Lord of the Harvest to devote ourselves to the Discipling process.
- God designed the process, not man. We must submit ourselves to the process. It is the method Jesus intends us not to depart from, or try to improve on.
- The Lord is personally responsible for the results of our labor. Only as we plant and water according to God's plan will God give the increase.
- Be excited about your relationship and love for the Lord!
  - ⇒ Show your excitement! Make them want what you have!
- Discipleship is a minimum of a 16 week process.
  - ⇒ Lessons should not be combined.
- Apply the material to your life.
  - ⇒ Don't just buzz through to give the answers. That is not discipleship - it is a Bible study.
  - ⇒ Make notes, and seek other sources that compliment the weekly study.
- Discipling is giving personal instruction to the one who is committed to learn and to be equipped.
  - ◆ Key is committed to learn
  - ◆ During first meeting, challenge your disciplee. Make sure they are willing to allow God to move in their life and be changed.
  - ⇒ Begin and end each discipleship meeting with prayer.
  - ⇒ You should start out with personal information first, and than proceed to the lesson. Read selected Scripture verses - not all of them. Reading all Scripture is done on your own.
  - ⇒ Total meeting time should be 60 - 90 minutes
  - ⇒ See handout of first meeting.
  - ⇒ Answer key & how to use it.

- ⇒ About the material being basic - you get what you put into it. Get excited and show them how it is not basic to you! Share what it has done for you.
- ⇒ Not all succeed. If it is not going well, the discipler should discuss things with the Discipleship Ministry Leader. He/she will interact with the disciplee.
- ⇒ A number of discipleship teams have taken 4 - 5 weeks to get together. Don't get discouraged or give up quickly.
- Jesus' example shows us that true discipling can only be done face-to-face – through ***direct personal interaction***.
  - ⇒ Meet once a week, and attempt to call them once a week
  - ⇒ It is better not to meet in the church. Meet elsewhere. Make this personal. The disciplee's home may be the best place. Make it as easy as possible for the disciplee to be at your meetings.
  - ⇒ Be consistent in your meeting. Don't miss too many weeks.
  - ⇒ Be alert to what God wants to show you through the new Christian you are discipling.
- It was common for Jesus to involve his disciples in his activities as assistants i.e. baptizing believers, distributing miracle lunches. We must encourage and help the people we are discipling to get involved in the church - to attend church on a regular basis. We must assist in keeping them accountable - therefore, we must be accountable.
  - ⇒ Introduce them to your favorite worship music or devotional.
  - ⇒ Question them when they are not in church.
  - ⇒ Everyone you disciple should be set up in a ministry before the 16 weeks has ended.

**God's motivation - love them with God's love. 1 Thessalonians 2:8**

**Like** them as a person and show personal warmth

**Open** your life to a two-way friendship – share your victories and defeats.

**Value** them as God's precious children – as your brother or sister.

**Encourage** them to stay faithful in contact and conduct with God.

**Fruits**

- Discipleship should have the biggest impact after class - not during the hour you will spend
- Ultimate purpose of discipleship is to glorify God

**Discipleship Timeline**

1. Decision to be disciplined and name put on discipleship list.
2. Assigned to an individual to be disciplined.
3. First Meeting – the discipleship team has an informal meeting in which the discipler gives the disciplee the material and explains the process and commitment. A mutually agreed upon day and location is determined for future meetings. This meeting is primarily for the purpose of getting to know each other.
4. Second Meeting – review and discussion of lesson one and how it applies to their life.
5. Meetings 3 through 16 – review and discussion of lessons. **BE PREPARED TO TAKE MORE THAN ONE MEETING ON ANY LESSON THAT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO THE DISCIPLEE’S WALK WITH GOD.** Be sure you are moving at a pace that allows the new believer to assimilate what they are learning.
6. Weeks one through 16 – contact with the Discipleship Ministry Leader.
7. Week 17 - Bible presentation and testimony in front of the church for completion of the sixteen week meetings.
8. One-on-one meeting with the Discipleship Ministry Leader and the former disciplee to discuss and review the responsibility of discipling someone.
9. Former disciplee teamed up with an individual to disciple and now becomes the discipler! (God is so awesome!)

## **FIRST DISCIPLESHIP MEETING**

Once the new discipleship team has been established, a letter is sent to the disciplee giving them in writing the name of the person they will be discipling and the contact number. They are reminded of the important part they play in Christ's ministry.

The following GUIDELINES are enclosed with the letter:

**First Discipleship Meeting** – this is a brief outline of the important items to focus on at the first discipleship meeting. This will assist the disciplee in gaining a better understanding of where their discipler is in the Lord, and it will also explain to the disciplee the expectations of discipleship.

**Discipleship – Put Theory into Practice** – this is an e-mail that shares the importance of not allowing difficulties with the logistics of helping and sharing with another person stop the process.

**Discipleship – Investing in Someone Else's Life** – this piece stresses that most of what we do in this life will decay and vanish with tomorrow. But, what we teach and build into other people's lives will last forever, especially if we have a strong passion for what we believe in order to transfer it to others.

**Ministry Involvement Survey** – one of the goals of discipleship is to get people involved in the church family. So often people are hesitant to get involved because they are unsure what ministries are available in the church or they don't feel capable. After the sixth week of discipleship, the person who is discipling will suggest that the disciplee get involved in the church and will review the ministry survey with them. This has proven to be very beneficial as it provides direction for the new Christian.

## Sample letter to a new Discipler

Date

Discipler's Name/Address

Dear

Thank you for being involved in the discipleship ministry. This is truly an important ministry in which Christ calls us to disciple one another (Matthew 28: 19 & 20). You will be blessed by your obedience to His word.

You will be discipling \_\_\_\_\_. He/she can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_. He/she is a fairly new Christian and will benefit from your guidance and assistance in applying God's word to his life. Please keep me informed as to how your discipleship meetings are progressing.

The essence of Jesus' training program with the 12 disciples was to let the disciples follow Him around. For two years, He gave away what the Father had given Him. Most of the time the disciples were absorbing things without even knowing they were being trained! As you begin discipling remember, what people really want is a demonstration. The effective discipler is the one who lives out his life in Christ in full view of the person he is discipling.

I've enclosed a **First Discipleship Meeting** list for you to review prior to your first meeting. This first meeting should be a get together over coffee just to explain your expectations, and to find out what Mike's expectations are. I've also enclosed a **ministry checklist**. As you progress in discipling, you are going to want to suggest to your disciplee that they will find it important to get involved in the church. This form is a tool to let them know what is available. Please walk them through this. Two additional enclosures are, Discipleship- Put Theory Into Practice and Investing in Someone Else's Life. I feel there are many important points expressed in both these pieces and it is worth taking the time to read them to help you understand the commitment you have just made.

Thank you again for being involved in this very important ministry. You have the opportunity to change a life by allowing Jesus to work through you. Please call me with any questions. I can be reached at...

In His Service

Jane Smith  
Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

Encl.

## **FIRST DISCIPLESHIP MEETING**

In the first discipleship meeting the workbook is given to the disciplee and explained to them. It is important to spend time getting to know each other. This meeting is normally held in an informal, friendly atmosphere i.e. over coffee, etc. The following should also be covered:

1. Give an explanation of what discipleship is and what the Lord has shown you through your own discipleship experience. Explain the material and the time commitment. Let them know that the lessons are instructions to help them have their own personal communication and relationship with God or to grow in their existing relationship with God.
2. Decide together on a mutually agreeable date, time and place for future meetings.
3. It should be stated that everything that goes on in discipleship is confidential. Both parties will be sharing and you must both feel comfortable that what is shared will remain between the two of you.
4. Discuss the importance of being open and transparent and willing to share.
5. The disciplee must know that it is important to commit to do the written work and reading the Word at the end of each chapter. Remind them not to wait until the last minute to do the work.

6. In order for discipleship to be effective, there must be a desire to grow. You should examine your heart for the following and in your first meeting discuss these points with the person you will be discipling as well:
  - ◆ Do you want more of Him?
  - ◆ Are you ready for what He may do in your life?
  - ◆ God knows our heart and will move according to our openness. We have to want more of Him in order to get more of Him.
  - ◆ Before we are born into the kingdom of God, we see life from our own perspective and biases. We need to see life from God's perspective. Discipleship will assist in doing this if we let God work in us and through us. He will use our external circumstances (both past and present) to bring about internal purification.
7. The goal of discipleship is to know God better. To have more of God in your life. To grow in the Lord. The goal is God – not joy, peace, blessings, but God Himself.
  - ◆ God does not exist for the sake of His house – His house exists for Him.
  - ◆ He is not our servant, we are His
  - ◆ “We will serve Him” means that we will no longer live for ourselves, but for Him.
8. Discuss the need to keep each other accountable
9. Let the person you are discipling know that God will teach you things through them. Discipleship is learning from each other.
10. Stress throughout the lessons the importance of daily quiet time – both prayer and reading the Word. This is one of the best habits a believer can establish. Keep them accountable! Each week you should ask them how they are doing with their quiet time. Invite them to keep you accountable by asking you the same question each week.

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

### **PUT THEORY INTO PRACTICE**

We've all been convinced of the need for discipleship (or mentoring) as a way to share your faith with a younger, less-experienced Christian. Don't let the difficulties of the logistics of helping and sharing with another person stop the process.

Consider these steps:

- Make sure you are up to the task. You will be helping to shape a life. Get your own spiritual life in order. Sharpen your listening skills.
- Protect yourself. Remember, helping another person should not - and cannot - come at the expense of your own spiritual life. Don't expend yourself in the lives of others so much that you crowd out your own prayer life and Bible study.
- Explore the relationship. Take one or two meetings to get to know each other. You will need to determine areas of strength or weakness, their level of spirituality. Ask lots of questions. Why did they come to you? What are their spiritual goals? Make it clear that you see spiritual mentoring as helping someone grow in their relationship with God, not just counseling, teaching, hearing confessing, or providing crisis intervention.
- This is not about friendship. Friendship is not a prerequisite, nor an outcome. It may be something that you already have, or may possibly develop into, but friendship is not a specific goal of discipleship.
- Draw the line when necessary. Be clear that spiritual help is no substitute for in-depth counseling (although it can be a complement.) If you feel like you're "in over your head," don't hesitate to refer your friend to a clergyperson or help find a counselor.
- Meet without distractions. Find a place for the two of you to meet where you will not be disturbed with phone calls or other interruptions. Avoid a noisy, public place such as a crowded restaurant.

- Begin with prayer. Not only is God's guidance indispensable to the enterprise, but praying with your partner can provide valuable focusing as you both begin.
- Have a specified time of meeting. An hour is probably enough. Anything over that, and the conversation tends to become repetitive and trivialized.
- Be alert to the feelings beneath the spoken words. Learn to read the soul of the other and listen with "love's third ear." Raise questions about the spiritual dimensions of what may seem like mundane concerns. Be aware that many people don't share their deep thoughts on issues right away.
- Encourage participation in church activities. Spiritual mentoring is no substitute for the regular nurture and challenge that comes from a body of believers. Your involvement will be much more fruitful if your partner's needs for fellowship, worship, and instruction are being appropriately met through a congregation.
- Suggest resources. Develop a reading list, consisting of devotionals, and study tools. Suggest the use of a journal as they explore aspects of the faith.

## **DISCIPLESHIP INVESTING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE**

Most of what we do in this life will decay and vanish with tomorrow. But, that which we teach and build into other people's lives will last forever especially if we have a strong passion for that which we believe in order to transfer it to others.

If we aim our ministry primarily in one direction, we will accomplish only what one person can do. If we aim our ministry at helping each other grow in Christ and multiplying the laborers, we will have a host of competent, trained and motivated men and women to go forth and reach many.

“Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.” 1 Thes 3:10. We must have the compassion, discernment, patience and skill to take a broken and beaten life and help them to make the necessary repairs to get them functioning again and growing in Christ.

A Discipler must help people grow in grace and the likeness of Christ. We must teach them to pray and read and memorize the Word in order for them to establish a meaningful relationship with the Lord. People must be taught means to mature in their relationship with Christ. You must help them to dig into the Word and write the scriptures on their hearts. Help them establish a Morning Prayer time.

Remember your reward is from Christ, not the person you are discipling. Equipping people to do and be their best for Christ is a tough, demanding and sometimes thankless job, but it is worth it.

Realize that you are making an investment into someone's life. You don't know what the results may be. You may never know until you stand before our Creator. You must be right with the Lord in order to disciple someone else. You must have a strong prayer life. You must diligently seek the Lord. You cannot give to someone else something

that you yourself do not have. Make sure your relationship with the Lord is strong and growing.

## Commonly asked Questions about Discipleship

### 1. What is discipleship?

Discipleship is personal interaction between two people who are committed to learn more about the Word of God and who desire to have a strong foundation on which to continually build and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

### 2. How well do I need to know the Bible before I can be involved in discipleship?

It is not necessary to have any knowledge of the Bible prior to discipleship. The person discipling you will assist you in understanding the Bible and learning your way around the Bible.

### 3. Are the discipleship lessons done with the person discipling me or do I do portions of it on my own?

There are fifteen lessons. The first two lessons may be done together - however, after that, you would complete the lesson on your own and join with your discipling partner to discuss Scripture and the answers to your questions. You would also discuss how the lessons could be applied to your everyday living.

### 4. What is my time commitment for being discipled?

In addition to the time spent at home completing the lessons, you will normally meet for 60-90 minutes a week. Both you and your discipling partner will agree on a time and place to meet.

### 5. What is the focus of the 15-week lessons?

The lessons are instructions to help you have your own personal communication, commitment and relationship with Jesus. They will assist you in building a strong Christian foundation based on the Word of God and allow you to hear the Lord speak to you from His Word and as you pray.

6. How will I get teamed up with someone?

Through prayer and seeking the Lord – and by Leadership. The Lord loves you and knows whom you would be best suited with.

7. Since I have been a Christian for a number of years, do I need to be disciplined by someone else before I can be a discipler?

Being a discipler is a very awesome responsibility. All disciplers must first be disciplined, regardless of how long they have known the Lord.

8. How will discipleship benefit me?

- a) You will have a closer walk with the Lord.
- b) This is the building block for a strong Christian foundation.
- c) Assist you in shining your light for Jesus.
- d) You will develop boldness for the Lord.
- e) It will help you study the Word of God and gain knowledge and grow closer to the Lord.
- f) You will develop friendships and relationships in the church and feel more a part of your Christian family.
- g) It will get you involved in the church.
- h) It will keep you accountable.
- i) You will enrich and bless the life of the person who you are meeting with weekly.
- j) You will bear fruit for the Lord.
- k) People will see Jesus in you!!!

## Testimonies

“Discipleship has taught me that the life and teachings of Jesus are the standard for our behavior. The love Jesus taught embraces more than obedience. For obedience to be real it should not be our first goal. The greatest commandment is to love the Lord, not to obey Him; if we don’t obey Him out of love, our obedience will not be from our hearts. For discipleship to take place for me there had to be a very sincere desire not to just know God’s truth, but to live by His standard. Exciting!”

“I have been a Christian for over twenty years. I have always been very involved in the church. I question if I ever really knew Jesus or if I just did work for Him through ministry. Discipleship has helped me to know Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior and to have a true relationship with the Master.”

“Through discipleship I have built a friendship that has affected my whole life. I have been given direction, encouragement and understanding. That has meant so much to me in my short walk with the Lord. Every step I take deeper in my walk I wonder how I ever made it living in the previous step. God is so good! I am continuing to grow in the Lord daily and have recently begun a prayer journal. I would suggest every new believer be discipled.”

“Discipleship has changed my wife. She is different. There is a bounce in her step and a joy in her heart. Praise God!”

“When I first accepted the Lord 25 years ago, no one showed me how to pray or helped explain to me what were the steps to help me with a closer walk with the Lord. Through trial and error I learned on my own. I wish I was disciplined when I first accepted the Lord. Being involved in discipleship for the past 16 weeks has helped me grow closer to the Lord and has assisted me in apply the Word of God to my life.”

“Discipleship has helped to build my relationship with God and to be accountable. I enjoyed being disciplined and than discipling someone else. Discipling someone else has made me very conscious of the need to keep my walk with the Lord strong.”

“Discipling a new believer has made me reexamine my walk with the Lord. It has helped me to seek a new level in my relationship with God.”

## **Important Points**

- We do not allow someone to pick whom he or she will disciple. Leadership decides all teams. Our suggestion is that they pray about whom God may want them with.
- We normally do not team up people who have a very strong friendship or relationship. The majority of the time, people will ask that they not be with someone who knows them very well.
- After completion of the 16 weeks, a Bible presentation is done at a Sunday Service. Both parties involved in discipling give a brief testimony of how discipleship has changed them. The Bible is presented from the Pastor to the person that was disciplined.
- For it to truly be discipleship, it cannot just be a review of the material. It is important that the Word of God be applied to their life. There must be a trust, openness and vulnerability.
- It normally takes three to five weeks for a discipleship team to really begin “gelling” together.
- Disciplers must be alert and willing to allow God to teach them through the new Christians they are helping. True discipleship is a discipling of both parties involved.
- Normally it will take between 16 and 20 weeks to complete discipleship. Dealing with the needs of the new Christian is more important than completing a lesson.
- The biggest impact of discipleship should be outside of the time spent together.
- Discipleship is not:
  1. A counseling session
  2. A study of the material alone
  3. Meant to build a friendship but to form a relationship (If a friendship comes from discipling, this is an added blessing.)

## Pastor's Wish List

1. Every Leader in the church would be required to be discipled
2. New Christians would not be allowed or encouraged to get involved in a ministry until they have been discipled or are in the discipling process. I believe this will firmly plant in them the importance of having a relationship with the Lord and not just doing works for the Lord. It would assist them in not confusing ministry with a relationship with the Lord.
3. Discipleship would be the foundation of the church not just another ministry within the church.
4. We would eventually have mini-discipleship groups that would be specific to certain needs within the church – e.g. mothers of teenagers getting together to discuss, pray and encourage each other; groups of men that may have dealt with - or are dealing with - particular issues.
5. That we would have testimonies in each newsletter of the impact discipleship has had on an individual's Christian walk.
6. That before someone discipled someone else, they would complete the "Guide to Prayer for the Harvester" (Training Manual – Section II).
7. That there would be a stronger commitment among the believers for discipleship (I just want everyone to feel very passionately about discipleship. I realize that this is not possible and God calls everyone to a different ministry - but this is my wish list.)
8. To develop a plan and path to get more Youth involved.
9. To have more new Christians involved in discipleship, and to watch them grow.
10. Team up with our evangelism ministry - to marry our two ministries together so that once someone gets saved, we plug them in to discipleship.
11. For our church to be a beacon in which John 13: 34 & 35 is lived out in our city – and our city knows our church members as Jesus' disciples.
12. Get together with all involved in Discipleship Ministry and have different people share testimonies about the relationships and the fruit of discipleship.









