



 **Mobberly**  
BAPTIST CHURCH



# DISCIPLE-MAKING

## QUICK START GUIDE



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People leading people into a  
**LIFE-CHANGING, EVER-GROWING**  
relationship with Jesus Christ.

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# THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to review this quick start guide to making disciples. Having this resource in your hand is a positive step toward obeying the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) that Jesus gave the church.

We created this guide to help those who desire to get involved in the disciple-making process. I hope you will spend a few minutes to read through these brief, but important first steps. Discipling others is God's ingenious plan for bringing all nations to know Him. This process helps mature the faith of believers and continually reproduce new followers of Jesus.

**Our hope is that this quick start guide will encourage you and help you engage in the disciple-making process.**

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"Discipleship is not an option, it is a command of Christ"

**BRANDON WATSON, CONNECT PASTOR**

# WHAT IS DISCIPLE-MAKING?

Disciple-making isn't just a helpful suggestion in the Christian walk—it's a commandment. In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20), Jesus instructs His followers to not merely spread His name, but to make disciples of all nations. Making disciples requires going beyond evangelism and service to intentionally invest in the lives of fellow believers and see them reproduce it with others. **It's teaching and modeling biblical truths in the context of a genuine, personal relationship.**

Let's be honest. As you pour truth and life experience into others, you will find that disciple-making is messy. Everyone has baggage and circumstances that they'll need to work through. Help them through those times. Be patient and persistent.

Most importantly, let your disciple-making be "rooted and grounded" in love. In 1 Thessalonians 2:8 the apostle Paul wrote, *"Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."*

It's something we are commanded to do. I never thought I would be fully equipped to do it, but it isn't that hard. It's incredible to see others grasp what is being taught through our time in Scripture. —PAUL

## WHAT IS THE GOAL OF DISCIPLE-MAKING?

It is thrilling in that we were designed by God to do it. It is challenging in that it demands your focus, creativity, time, and gifting. It is effective in bringing about fully devoted followers who make other disciples.

—DANNY

From the very beginning of human life, we see God's design for people to need other people. The same is true spiritually. Both believers and non-believers need others for support. Whether you are engaging someone through evangelism or helping a believer to mature, disciple-making is God's design for growth. Healthy discipleship relationships provide teaching, godly examples, accountability, support, fellowship with others in the gospel community and equipping for reproducing kingdom work.

Through discipleship, God desires to see His gospel shown and spread throughout the world. 2 Timothy 2:2 says, *"...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."* Disciple-making is a lifestyle of reproducing. As we help grow others in truth, we must emphasize their responsibility to reproduce what they have gained into another.

Dr. Robert Lewis defines it like this, "Disciple-making is pouring God's truth and your life into someone else until they 'get it' and go do the same with others."

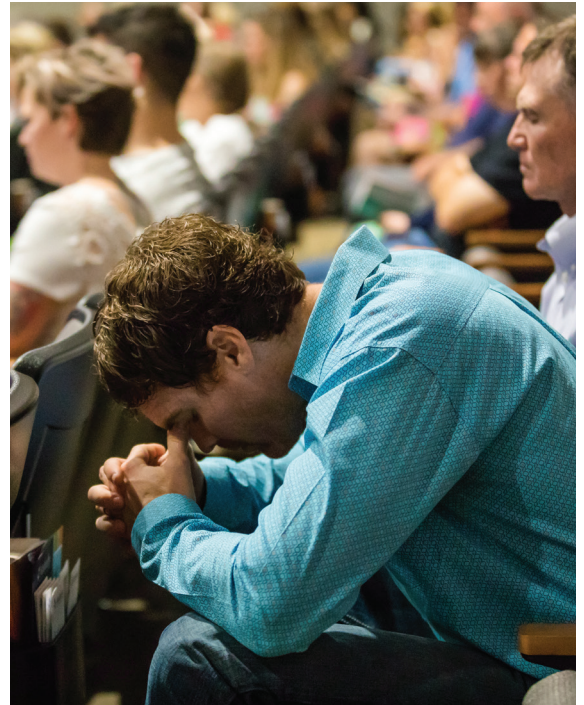


# WHO CAN BE A DISCIPLE-MAKER?

Any believer can be a disciple maker. Disciple making is not reserved for the spiritually elite. Wherever you are in your walk with Christ, you can identify someone who is a spiritual stage behind you. If you can commit to be consistent in giving of your time and to live a life of example, then you can disciple. You just need to be one step ahead of those you pour into.

Disciple-making is so vital for our spiritual walks. Accountability and encouragement are key for growth. I've had times in my life when I felt the absence of those two things, and I never want someone to be without!

—MORIAH



## REQUIREMENTS

- Commit to be consistent
- Commit to live a life of example
- Invest time and effort into your relationship with God
- Pray for others
- Pour truth and love into those you invest in
- Invite them into your life to see you model your faith
- Understand that this is a lifestyle, not a "one and done"

# BOUNDARIES

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**Like any relationship, a healthy discipleship relationship needs established boundaries. Boundaries give relationships stability and longevity and are set to mentally, spiritually and emotionally protect you and those you disciple.**

## BE FLEXIBLE, YET INTENTIONAL

While not every time together will be a structured meeting, make sure that your relationship is based on discipleship. A lack of focus can shift a discipleship relationship into more of a friendship with mere coffee meetings or hang-outs. Be intentional in your use of time. Spend time catching up and enjoying each other, but keep in mind the purpose of your relationship is to grow in Christ. Be flexible as needs and other topics arise, but set aside regular time for accountability questions, Bible study and prayer.

## BE HONEST, YET GUARDED

As a disciple-maker, you want to be authentic, open and honest. However, use your discernment on the depth of which you explore some personal topics. Remember, you are a spiritual leader to whomever you disciple. This relationship may not be the best place for you to air your grievances. Model godly habits in the way you discuss your difficulties, especially when others are involved.

## BE CONFIDENTIAL, YET CAUTIOUS

The person you disciple should be able to trust you completely. This relationship should be a safe place for them to be open and honest with struggles, joys and griefs. However, some things should not be kept secret. Let your disciple know up front that you will not share anything they've told you unless it's potentially harmful or illegal or unless they give you permission.



Whenever I feel a discipleship meeting is lacking in substance, I open the Bible. Reading God's word transforms your time with someone from a mere conversation to a life impact. God's Word is supernaturally powerful to challenge, refresh and teach.

—BETH



## BE AVAILABLE, YET PROTECTIVE

As a disciple-maker investing in the life of another, your relationship will extend beyond weekly meetings. You want to become a trusted confidant and advisor, and that often leads to communicating more than once a week. However, don't let your disciple monopolize your time with family, friends and the Lord. Decide beforehand what times you will not be available and what needs you cannot meet. Don't let your discipleship relationship be taken advantage of, and never other relationships suffer as a result.

## BE COMMITTED, YET DISCERNING

In this relationship, you, the disciple-maker, should have a higher level of spiritual maturity than the person with whom you are meeting. That means often you will be found more reliable and faithful than the one you are teaching. If your disciple begins to show a lack of commitment to your meetings, whether it is in not respecting your time (missing meeting or arriving late) or in not exhibiting an effort to grow in their faith, show grace. Remind them of the importance of following through with their commitments and of the importance of your discipleship meetings. However, if the lack of commitment is consistent, re-evaluate your relationship. It may be better for both of you to end or postpone formal discipleship and consider other ways to support and encourage one another.

# 10 HOW-TO'S OF DISCIPLE-MAKING

(FROM DOWNLINE MINISTRIES)

When one couple went through a tough time, our discipleship group really rallied around them, and it was a true testament of the relationships we had created and the love we had for each other.

—LAURIN



1

## IDENTIFY THE RIGHT KIND OF PERSON

- **Faithful** - committed to investing time and energy into growing in Christ
- **Available** - have regular time to get together
- **Teachable** - Hungry to know Christ and make Him known

2

## MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE

- Get to know your disciple. Find out what they need, where they are in their spiritual walk, what's going on in their life, learning styles, etc.
- Contextualize their teaching and discipleship (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

3

## START SMALL AND RAISE THE BAR

- Don't agree to disciple indefinitely; set an end date.
- Begin with a six-month commitment and set goals for your time.
- Reevaluate at the end of the time and either continue and set new goals or conclude your time together.

4

## BE RELATIONAL - SPEND TIME TOGETHER

- Discipleship is not merely educational.
- Brainstorm ways in your regular schedule that you can do life with your disciple.
  - Go to the gym
  - Run errands
  - Go to a sporting event
  - Share a meal



5

## TEACH FOR LIFE CHANGE

### IN YOUR TEACHING, ADDRESS THREE AREAS:

- Belief - anchor the gospel in their heart.
- Behavior - an anchored gospel should affect their life.
- Purpose - changes in belief and behavior are not for the sake of correction, but for a higher mission and purpose.

6

## BUILD A FUTURE LEADER

- As a leader, cast a vision for a lifestyle of disciple-making.
- Help them reproduce what they learn to someone they disciple.
- Encourage them to pour into other people.

7

## STRETCH THEM

- Encourage your disciple to find ways to share what they've learned, serve their community and spread the gospel.
  - Mission trips
  - Evangelism
  - Teaching opportunities

8

## EXPOSE THEM TO THE FAITHFUL

- Introduce them to other strong, encouraging believers.

9

## INVOLVE THEM IN THE LOCAL BODY OF CHRIST

- Explain their need for the local church and the local church's need for them.
- Model the importance of the local church through your own habits and priorities.

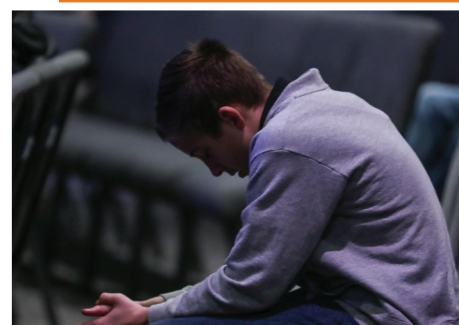
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## BE A BUILDER OF RESOURCES

- Actively study God's Word and Bible-based resources to compile teachings you need to share (i.e. Taking good notes during worship is a great way to build some of those resources).

It's important for me to stay in the Word because the Lord will bring Scripture to my mind as I am discipling someone, and it can be just what they needed when I share.

— LINDSAY



# DISCIPLE-MAKING IN THE HOME

If you're a parent, your children are your primary disciples. It's not the church's responsibility; it's yours. Mobberly is here to support your disciple-making efforts and provide the opportunity for you to worship, serve and grow with a gospel community. It's also essential for your children to witness your discipleship efforts outside of the home. A good rule of thumb—kids first, others during/after.



Discipleship at home is not about doing more, it's about inviting Christ into what you're already doing."

—CHRISTINA EMBREE

merge 

combining the influence of church and home





# 8 TIPS TO HELP YOU DISCIPLE YOUR KIDS

BY BRIAN DEMBOWCZYK,  
MANAGING EDITOR, THE GOSPEL PROJECT

We know that we should disciple our kids — it is one of our primary ministries as parents (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) — and we want to, but when it comes to actually doing it, we feel lost. Where do we begin? What do we say? Do I really know enough myself? And so, because of our overwhelming feeling of inadequacy, we tell our kids to listen to their leaders at church and do what they say.

This is understandable, but it doesn't have to be this way. It can't be this way. Discipling our kids is far too important to hand off to others — as godly and loving as they may be. And that takes us back to our primary concern — we know we need to disciple our kids and we want to do it, but how?

## HERE ARE EIGHT TIPS TO HELP YOU DISCIPLE YOUR KIDS:

If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.

### 1. Set realistic expectations.

One of the main problems we have as parents is that we expect way too much of ourselves when it comes to discipling our kids, and when we can't live up to them, we feel like failures and often quit. Family worship doesn't have to look like worship with your church family with singing, prayer and lengthy and in-depth Bible teaching. Gospel conversations don't always have to end with some profound theological gem from you. We need to be realistic of what our family discipleship will look like. Perhaps that means talking about a Bible story for 15 minutes one night a week at dinner and trying to find one or two times each week to move conversations toward the gospel. Wherever you are, start there and develop rhythms and habits that work and then build on them to get to where you want to be.

### 2. See family discipleship as a way of life, not a program.

There is nothing at all wrong with having a more organized time of family worship—it is a great idea to do that. But we can't see our role as disciplers as a program; we have to see it more as a way of life as Deuteronomy 6 describes. That means that you want to strive to talk with your kids about Christ naturally as much as possible. Look for themes in shows, movies, music and talk about how they relate to the gospel. Talk about the character of God, especially as you experience them in your own life. We have natural opportunities to talk about the gospel every day—we just have to look for them.

You cannot give what you do not have.

### 3. Focus on Jesus.

Our goal should be always to point our kids to Jesus. It is easy to fall into the trap of moralism—focusing on our kids’ behavior and wanting them to act right. But that is not God’s heart for them. God is less concerned with their behavior and more concerned with their hearts. The way our kids will develop hearts that love Him and want to obey Him is through the gospel transforming them. This is why we always need to point our kids to the gospel and allow that to inform how they live. Their behavior matters—but why they behave the way they do matters far more. Focus on heart change through Christ.

### 4. Be a guide, not a general.

As parents we often think of ourselves as generals—we have the authority to tell our kids what to do and point the direction they are to go. There is certainly a place for this at times, but when it comes to discipling our kids, we are better off seeing ourselves as guides instead. Think of a trail guide who travels with you and beside you. He or she doesn’t stay back at camp and just point the direction or give you a map—he or she goes with you. That is what we need to do with our kids on the journey of discipleship. We aren’t supposed to be the experts with all the answers boldly pointing the way our kids should go; we are to travel with them as guides—who have more knowledge, wisdom and experience of our journey but who are still learning ourselves. Positioning yourself as a guide means you don’t need to have all the answers and that is important because none of us do. But it does give you the freedom to tell your kids you don’t know something and want to seek the answer together.

### 5. Feed your own growth.

The best teaching comes from the overflow of what we are learning. If you are looking for the one way to improve the most as your kids’ discipler, this may be it. Spend more time feeding your growth and growing in your understanding of, and joy in, the gospel. Dive into God’s Word more deeply. Read books that will build your faith. Worship in meaningful ways with others and by yourself. As you grow your confidence will increase, and you will also have more to share with your kids.



REPEAT THEM TO  
— *your* —  
**CHILDREN.  
TALK**

ABOUT THEM WHEN YOU SIT IN

**YOUR HOUSE  
AND WHEN YOU**

**WALK**

— *along the road,* —

WHEN YOU LIE DOWN  
AND WHEN YOU GET UP.

**DEUT. 6:7**



There are only three ways to teach a child.  
The first is by example, the second is by  
example, the third is by example.

—ALBERT SCHWEITZER

## 6. Teach by your example.

It's said that people will remember more of what we do than what we say. We often focus our discipleship on what we tell our kids—and that certainly matters—but we cannot forget our kids are learning far more from what they see us do, for better or for worse. As a follower of Christ, you need to be working out your salvation through God's power (Philippians 2:12-13), but this is even more important as parents. How is the gospel framing how you live each day in the home, in the community, at work and beyond? Are God's love, grace and mercy working their way out of you? Is the Fruit of the Spirit evident in increasing measure? Are you obeying God with gospel gratitude and joy? Model gospel transformation to your kids.

Listening to your kids pray  
gives insight on what a  
true "child-like faith" is  
and it reveals the depths  
of their hearts.

—CLAIRE

## 7. Connect them deeply into your church.

While God designed parents to be the primary disciplers, He did not intend for us to be the only disciplers. He has given us the church — our local community of faith — to come alongside us, encourage us and echo what we are teaching in our homes. Just as it is essential for us to be part of the church, our kids need to be as well — for their good now and in the future as well as the church's vitality. Prioritize involvement in church, not because you have to or should, but because you want to. This is one reason I love The Gospel Project so much — the heart of this resource is not only to help individuals see the gospel story throughout Scripture but also to position parents to have meaningful conversations in the home based on what they are talking about at church. The church and home aren't to work in isolation of each other—they are to work hand-in-hand in partnership.

## 8. Pray with them and for them.

Just as you want to have meaningful gospel conversations throughout the day with your kids, you also want to pray with them and for them. Think about the opportunities you have each day, such as in the car on the way to school and as part of your bedtime routine, and use some of that time to pray together.

*You can find the whole article here:  
<https://www.gospelproject.com/8-tips-to-help-you-disciple-your-kids> Used  
with permission.*



## WHEN IS IT TIME TO RELEASE THOSE YOU'RE POURING INTO?

Disciple-making comes in seasons. We can't spend a lifetime pouring into just one person. Just like Jesus, there must come a time when you release those you're pouring into because you have taken them as far as you can. Ultimately, we want those that we have poured into to reproduce that relationship with others. Stay in touch with them and check on their progress and their growth. Love and continue to pray for them.

Remember, we all need to have a Paul and a Timothy throughout our life. Just as you are called to make disciples, you are called to be a disciple. Have someone pouring wisdom into you even as you are pouring your wisdom into another. As a disciple of Christ, we never "arrive," and we never stop learning!

Be with those you are discipling. "Being" encompasses everything: be honorable, be a disciple to someone else, be available, be vulnerable, be visibly growing.

— RYAN



## POSSIBLE FORMAT FOR DISCIPLESHIP TIME

Use the C.L.O.S.E.R. acronym as a guide for how you can spend your time together when you meet for disciple-making. (from the book *Growing Up: How to Be a Disciple Who Makes Disciples* by Robby Gallaty)

- C**ommunicate with God through prayer
- L**earn to understand and apply God's Word to your life (dig in Scripture together)
- O**bey God's commands
- S**tore God's Word in your heart (memorize scripture)
- E**vangelize (share Christ with others)
- R**enew yourself spiritually every day (stay accountable with your quiet times with God)

I believe memorizing Scripture is critical in any discipleship process. That's a major emphasis in the discipleship groups I have led. Studying, memorizing and applying God's Word is the way to hold on to the promises of God. — BOB

## BASIC SCRIPTURE WALK-THROUGH

Read a passage, discuss aloud and journal your responses.

- What does it say about God?
- What does this passage teach about God's character?
- How do I know God better because of this passage?
- What does it say about man (me)?
- What does this passage teach about man's character and tendencies?
- Where do I see myself in this passage?
- How do I apply it to my life?
- What do I need to memorize?

## ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

- Where have you been finding joy?
- Have you stayed pure this week (physically, mentally and visually)?
- What's an area of your life in which you need encouragement?
- What has God been teaching you?
- What have you been praying about?
- What have you been reading in Scripture?
- What's one thing you want to work on this week?
- With whom have you shared your faith this week?
- Are you sharing with someone else what you are learning with me (truth and life)?
- How have you invested in leading your family this week?
- Have you lied about any of your answers today?

My favorite way to disciple others is to read through and study a book of the Bible. Apart from that, reading through books together can be a great way to discuss truth and specific topics. Several of my favorites have been, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, *Mere Christianity*, *The Case for Christ*, *I'm Glad You've Asked*, and *The Man in the Mirror*.

—SCOTT



# RECOMMENDED DISCIPLE-MAKING RESOURCES

## WEBSITES

[mobberly.org](http://mobberly.org)

[discipleship.org](http://discipleship.org)

[replicate.org](http://replicate.org)

[vergenetwork.org](http://vergenetwork.org)

[downlineministries.com](http://downlineministries.com)

[rightnowmedia.com](http://rightnowmedia.com) (Mobberly offers a free membership)



## BOOKS

*Growing Up: How to Be a Disciple Who Makes Disciples*  
by Robby Gallaty

*The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Dr. Robert Coleman

*30 Days to Understanding Your Bible* by Max Anders

*The Complete Book of Discipleship* by Bill Hull

*The Lost Art of Disciple-Making* by Leroy Eims

*Disciples Are Made Not Born* by Walter Henryrichsen and  
Howard Hendricks

*Revolutionary Parenting* by George Barna

*Multiply* by Francis Chan & David Platt







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