

Making Disciples and Spiritual Fathering

Making Disciples of Jesus Today





Welcome to
Making Disciples and Spiritual Fathering:
A Brief Study of How to Make Disciples of Jesus Today

1. **Course Overview:** This course is designed to introduce you the critical task of MAKING DISCIPLES. In it you will learn. . .
 - The New Testament Model of Discipling People
 - Jesus' and His followers methods of training mature followers and sons
 - Practical guidelines and principles of discipling and fathering
2. **Course Goals:** By the end of this course, we would like you to:
 - Have a great desire to become a disciple of Jesus Christ and raise up other disciples
 - Gain a greater understanding of the biblical method of discipling others
 - Gain practical insights into how you can begin a life of discipling & fathering others
 - Begin to disciple others and grow over the years into a spiritual father/mother.
3. **Follow-up Study:** To obtain full benefit from this course, you must complete:
 - Study through the entire manual once more and do all Bible studies and answer all questions.
 - Read the follow-up reading on the website www.prepareinternational.org under this course title.
 - Write a 3-5 page paper answering the following questions:
 - What is a disciple of Jesus and in what ways do you need to grow as His disciple?
 - Describe the life style you would need to lead if you chose to become a discipler and father to others.
 - What do you need to do to begin this life of discipling/fathering or to continue to grow?
 - Describe how you will build your ministry in the years ahead on these principles.

Sources of Information

1. ***The Lost Art of Disciple Making***, Leroy Eims, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1978.
2. ***Where are the Fathers***, Duncan Watkinson, Frontier Publishing & Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore, India, 2002.
3. ***The cry for Spiritual Fathers & Mothers***, Larry Kreider, House to House Publications, Ephrata, Pennsylvania, 2000.
4. ***The Orphan Spirit***, Jack Frost, Shiloh Place Ministries.

HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

This manual is full of valuable information and is designed to be interactive in nature, that is, it is designed to have you, the student stop, and learn on your own by interacting with God, His word, others, or the training materials themselves. Read back through the manual, studying the materials, doing the Bible studies and answering all questions.



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LESSON 1: The Great Commission

No matter how successful and accomplished a person you may be, you can never give yourself to any cause greater than the great commission. This is the greatest challenge ever placed before man by the greatest person who has walked the earth.

Jesus could have chosen any method to change the world, but He chose one primary method of ensuring that God's Kingdom would come and His will would be done - **making disciples!** We know that He had at least 70 of these peculiar people called disciples and then out of these 70, He chose 12 men to give His all to in order to make them like Him.

The Great Commission.



Bible Study: **Matthew 28:18-20** records some of Jesus' final words to his disciples. Everything Jesus had taught had been important, but these instructions were given just before he left them for heaven and they have special significance for God's plans for His people.

Describe in your own words what this commandment means and how we should carry it out

The Final Task: Jesus gave His men a final task to completely consume them for the remainder of their lives - going to the nations and making disciples of all. These men gave their lives to this all-consuming job the Lord Jesus had given to them.

What is the Great Commission?

In this great commission to make disciples, the Lord Jesus both commands us and invites us into His life's greatest work - making lovers and followers of His Father and Himself.

The basic command is to **GO & MAKE SOMETHING** - DISCIPLES. **Jesus didn't say. . .**

- go and preach *go and pray *go and teach *go and worship

Making disciples is NOT just. . .

- a class in the church *a program you put people through
- a set of teachings you give to people

Making disciples is. . .

- reproducing Jesus Christ in others through relationship, modeling, correcting, teaching, praying, and doing.



- a learned skill. It is not an ability some are born with and others are not. Since He commanded, we can all do it.
- a life process of transferring passionate love for Jesus, values of the Kingdom, attitudes, skills, and motives from one life to another.

Two Sides of the Great Commission

When you study the teaching of Jesus concerning this Mission, you find two sides to the mandate:

- **WINNING** – The ministry of getting out of the four walls of church life into the lost world and relating to the unsaved in such a way that they come to Christ. Paul also calls this the Ministry of Reconciliation in 2 Cor. 5.18-21. He says that we have ALL been given this ministry.
- **MAKING** – When people come to Christ, the second side of the commission begins. Taking their lives and teaching them Christ and His kingdom life in such a way that they become passionate followers of Jesus.

All Ministry **MUST** be evaluated in light of this basic ministry command. There are many in the church today that do all kinds of activities, but none of it helps to fulfill this great commission. Jesus will not judge us according to our ministry activity, He will judge us based upon our fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Did we make disciples?

Why is Making Disciples the First Order of Business?

Jesus made the making of disciples the first order of business in the ministry because He was the ultimate strategist. His goal is worldwide takeover, not having people fill seats in a church service.

Disciple making takes us from the realm of addition into the realm of multiplication and multiplication can change the world! Jesus understood the power of multiplication - multiplying men and women totally given over to Jesus and His cause who will themselves become sacrificial laborers in the fields like Him. This will change the world.

Multiplication starts small in the initial phases, but over time it begins to build like a mountain of momentum until it sweeps everything around it into Christ's Kingdom.

An Example of Multiplication

In the illustration below, the left column represents years of ministry and the middle column represents evangelism without discipleship. The right column represents make one disciple in Year 1 who disciples another in year two, who both in turn disciple one more in year three, etc.

Here's how it would look:

	ADDITION	MULTILICATION
	Souls Saved	Disciples of Jesus
Yr 1	1000	1
Yr 2	2000	2
Yr 10	10,000	512



Yr 20	20,000	524,288
Yr 30	30,000	268,435,456

Jesus was not interested in adding a few guys. He was interested only in multiplying disciples. Christians go to church and then go to heaven. Disciples change the world around them. They are untamed, radical, lovers of Christ Jesus who are full of faith and the Holy Spirit who give themselves to His work.

Paul's "Commission" to Timothy

Just before he died, Paul wrote to Timothy, a younger man whom he had discipled and described as his "dear son". This was Paul's last letter, so he must have been very careful about its contents.



Bible Study: Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7 and then write down verse 2:

Paul was probably the most widely traveled Christian of the early church and was committed to discipling people. He saw it as a way of impacting future generations. Write down the four generations he refers to in 2 Timothy 2:2

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Please note that Paul told Timothy to "entrust" teaching to such men. In the financial world, this word would be translated "invest" and it describes the heart of discipling. If a person invites you to be discipled by him, he is offering to make an investment of his life and experience into you. Paul emphasized that it would be hard work, that certain disciplines would have to be followed, but that discipling would produce results - into future generations.



Application:

- 1. Think about your own life. Who is/was important in discipling you?
- 2. How did it effect your life?
- 3. When you think about your life in ministry, are you giving your life to fulfill Jesus' great commission? How?



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Lesson 2: The Call for Fathers Today

We live in a world today where there has been a massive breakdown in the family and home. Many children grow up without a father in their lives daily and those who do have a dad in the home, suffer from a dad who is present in body but absent in spirit. This has taken a tremendous toll on society as we know it.

The Church Today. . . The story is no different in the church. Our churches have become places controlled by programs, events, and meetings rather than deep, meaningful relationships where people can grow up in Jesus Christ. Something must change. We have many pastors and teachers, but where are the fathers and mothers who are making disciples? All across the world, there is a cry arising for spiritual moms and dads to take their place so that mature sons of God take theirs.

NOTE: *In this course we will use three words to describe the process of discipling: Fathers Disciplers Mentors*

At times, we will use these words interchangeably, although we will also make a distinction between these in certain lessons. The term fathering or the term spiritual father will be used more than any other, for we are seeking to describe the relational, long-term aspect of this discipleship process. This term will be used with NO RESPECT to gender also.

The Bible & Fathering

Spiritual Parenting is the language of the Bible. It is the words God has chosen to describe nurturing relationships between the mature and those growing up in the Lord.



Bible Study: 1 Cor 4.15; Malachi 4.6-7; 2 Tim. 2.2;

Key Passage: *1 Cor 4:15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.*

This verse describes the state of the church today:

Instructors = The Greek word translated 'guardian' is 'paidagogos' or 'boy-leader' - a servant who took the children to school. Once he'd got the child to school, the guardian could relax until school was over. He was not expected to be concerned about what the child was learning or how he behaved at school.

Paul says that there are many of these types of ministries in the church but that only he was really a father to them. He reveals that there is a very big difference from a fathering influence and a tutorial influence in the lives of the people. A father is passionately concerned for every aspect of his son's well-being. Paul obviously saw a big difference between a father and a guardian.



Discussion: In groups of three, fill in the table below, listing any differences between a Guardian and a Father:

FATHER

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

TEACHER/TUTOR

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Examples from the Bible:

The Bible is full of examples of those who were fathers to younger people and raised up disciples of the Lord. It is also full of examples of those who did not and the results of not producing the next generation of followers.

Good Examples:

Moses/Joshua Elijah/Elisha Jesus & the 12 Paul & many sons

What was the result of these good fathering relationships?

Bad Examples:

Eli Samuel David Joshua

What was the result of these bad examples of fathering relationships?

From History

George Whitfield & John Wesley were close friends and began their spiritual journey together at Oxford University. Whitfield ended up leading the mighty revival known as the First Great Awakening in the United States and preached many powerful revivals in England while Wesley was content to build a grassroots revival movement based upon spending time with small groups of people and bringing them into the fullness of Christ. By the end of their lives, Whitfield the mighty revivalist commented to Wesley that he feared that he had built on the wrong foundation and Wesley the right. Already the fruits of my life are waning, but yours are only beginning! Wesley's movement spread rapidly and shook not only England but nations beyond. It was a movement built upon Fathering others into maturity. Fathering pays off!

Key Promise for these last days



Mal 4:6 *"And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to {their} children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse."*

- God promises in these last days to send the spirit of Elijah to work in the hearts of people and several things will happen.
- Fatherhood will be restored. It will certainly happen in a natural way but also, God promises to restore a group of people who know how to make disciples through close relationship - fathering.
- He will also turn the hearts of spiritual sons to fathers and the two together will accomplish amazing things upon the earth.
- Key: If fathering is not restored, there is a curse resting upon the land. What is the curse that rests upon this land because of a lack of fathers?

The Story of Paco

In Ernest Hemingway's *The Capital of the World*, we find the heartbreaking story of a Spanish father named Carlos and his rebellious teenage son named Paco. After years of a difficult relationship, Paco finally leaves home and the relationship is broken. Carlos eventually discovers that Paco has gone to Madrid and he soon follows to find him and reconcile. After many frustrating days, the desperate father places an ad in the personal column of the Madrid newspaper which read, "Dear Paco, please meet me in front of the newspaper office at noon. All is forgiven. Love, Father." According to the story, the next day at noon 800 'Pacos' showed up seeking to meet their father!

In the Church of Jesus Christ, we have 1000s of Pacos today crying out to come and meet with a father or mother who will love them, give their time to them, and see them grow up into remarkably mature people who can live life well and serve Jesus fully.

A Great Example of a Disciple Making Father

A missionary went to Africa many years ago and sought out a strategy from the Lord to change the region God had given him to work in. After time in prayer and attempts to do several things, he chose the simple method of Jesus for making disciples. He led men to Christ and when he had 12, he became a friend and father to them and spent one entire year teaching them and helping them in every regard. At the end of the year, he sent them out to plant a small church and do the same thing that he had done with them with 12 others. A very simple strategy, but how did it work. At last count there were over 1200 churches that had been planted and were thriving through this simple strategy of making disciples.

Why was this strategy so effective? It started slowly but had a multiplying effect, for the entire strategy was built upon the principle of fathering a few with a view to multiply and send them out. The beautiful thing about this is that from the very start, these new churches had a supernatural DNA called spiritual family and discipling through fathering built right into them.

So What's Stopping You?

1) Ignorance



Many of us have only experience organizational, program based Christianity and we don't know anything different. We might have thought better programs, better sermons, more anointing was the key, but the Key is Jesus' style - fathering. We have no more excuses. The Bible is full of examples and now we have discussed together a new way of making disciples.

2) Selfishness

It is easier just to teach a class or lead a life-group meeting. We really don't want our segmented lives disturbed. We have only so much time for God and His kingdom's people. We just don't want others to impose on our lives. To be a teacher or cell group leader or pastor is one level of commitment. You can turn it on and off, but to be a father costs you all. Fathers don't turn it off. They don't get to stop being a father. They are always there, always available, always fathers.

3) Busyness

Many of us are so wrapped up in our busy lives that we miss the truly important things of God and His kingdom. Busyness of the world often results in apathy toward God and His work. Being busy about the Lord's work does not mean we will have any reward in heaven. Perhaps we are busy in the wrong things. Perhaps we have bought into a lie and are doing things every day that Jesus never meant for us to do.

4. Insecurity and Fear

Maybe you are filled with fear and insecurity saying to yourself, "I don't know enough. I have had no good role models. I don't even have a spiritual father or mother. Join the club. When you become a natural parent, do you really know what to do? No, the job is thrust upon you and you learn as you go along. You are never perfect, you make mistakes, but somehow God uses you to raise children that love Him and serve Him. You cannot wait until you arrive at some magical place in God. The amazing thing about Him is that He takes us where we are and begins a work through us if we are just willing. The Lord is a Redeemer and is just waiting for us to stand up and be used even if we have a long way to go and a lot to learn.

5. No Long term Kingdom Vision

So many of us have no long-term vision. All we see is our family, our work, our ministry, our church, etc. We do not see that fathering keeps the Kingdom moving into the next generation and makes us multipliers. It takes the ministry beyond us into the lives of many more in the next generation. This was a weakness of many in Bible days:

Hezekiah in 2 Kings 20:13-19 reveals that he has no long-term vision. It had just been prophesied that things would be at peace in his life, but the next generation would have hardship. He then says, "**The word of the LORD you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied. For he thought, "Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?"**

- All he could see was his lifetime. He had lost sight of God and His Kingdom



- Only through raising up the next generation of servants of Christ can we keep the Kingdom moving powerfully into the next generation.

6. Hurts from the Past

One last thing that might be holding you back is hurts from the past. These can take many forms such as: Family hurts, Spiritual Abuse of authorities, a past failure in life or ministry or some other hurt. Isn't it time we let the past be the past and move on to do God's will. God will not excuse you from bearing His kingdom fruit of mature sons and daughters because of your past. There is no excuse, because if Jesus Christ we can be made whole.

STORY: Young Bull Elephants: In the 1990s, in the South African Pilanesberg Park wildlife refuge, they began to find many White Rhinos dead, 39 in fact in a short period of time. The immediate reaction was poachers. But as they examined each carcass, they discovered that nothing was taken from the dead rhino bodies. They had been killed by young bull elephants. 20 years earlier, Kruger game reserve had been overpopulated with bull elephants, so they killed the mature males and transported all the young males to Pilanesberg. These young bull elephants grew up with no mature males - they had NO Fathers and as a result, had no models to follow or mature males to bring discipline.

The Solution - they killed the five worst, and then imported mature males into the herds who brought natural examples and even discipline to the younger bulls. The result: not one more rhino was killed. Moral: Where there are no fathers - the young bulls run wild or they don't run at all.



Application: SO WHERE DO WE START? HOW DO I BEGIN?

By Making a Life Decision

#1 I will put away any excuses or problems that hinder me from discipling others!

No matter what our life has been like, we must decide to take the path of Jesus Himself. We have already learned that He could have changed the world in many ways, but He decided on the very method of the Father Himself: Find a few honest hearted men or women, give myself to them, and then send them out to live as I have lived and do as I have done.

#2 Decide Today: I will be fathered and I will be a father. This is what was important to God, to Jesus, to the Apostles, so I will live this life beginning today.



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Lesson 3: Sons or Orphans

There is a story of a young man who stood at the court of justice to be sentenced for forgery. The judge had known him from a child, for his father had been a famous legal writer and his work on the Law of Trusts was the most exhaustive work on the subject in existence. "Do you remember your father?" asked the judge sternly, "that father whom you have disgraced?" The prisoner answered: "I remember him perfectly. When I went to him for advice or companionship, he would look up from his book on the Law of Trusts, and say, 'Run away, boy, I am busy. ' My father finished his book, and here I am."

The Great Lawyer had been a success in his work, but had failed as a dad. His son was cursed with a curse, the curse of growing into manhood with no father's love, guidance or touch.

The Promise and the Curse

The last statement of the Old Testament speaks of a mighty promise of God that He will carry out in these days, but the very last words speak of a curse:

"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to {their} children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse." Mal 4:5-6

The Promise: God will send the Spirit of His servant Elijah, a man who was a great father to Elisha, and this Spirit would restore fathering and sonship in the last days. Elijah was able to impart so much to Elisha that when Elisha took over, He began his ministry with a double portion of anointing and he completely finished Elijah's task that Elijah could not finish. Elijah seemed a failure to some, but he had raised up a son that started where he left off and the work was finished.

This is what God is promising! Father/son, Mother/daughter relationships that get the job of making disciples done - where our spiritual children begin with greater anointing than we finish and the great tasks that God has given to us, they complete with His power and authority!

The Curse: Lest I come and strike the land with a curse!



Reflection: What is this curse that God speaks about? Describe its symptoms and effects? How do you see it operating in your nation today?



The Orphan Spirit

I believe the curse upon many of our lands and many of our lives can be termed the Orphan Spirit. The Orphan spirit is . . . an attitude and atmosphere that people, churches, and even cities live under. It is an attitude of heart that keeps people from ever being all they can be in God. It is characterized by having grown up without ever having true discipleship or parental input or impartation. ***"I grew up on my own."***

Satan has attacked fatherhood both in the natural realm and the spiritual in order to rob us from the powerful force of loving parenting and to release into our lives, churches, and society this orphan mentality. "So many Christians have to fend for themselves in an 'orphan' lifestyle and they then in turn struggle to reproduce Spiritual family themselves. The church seems great at building orphanages, but very weak at building family."

Many if not most believers who have never been properly discipled and can point to a person or group of people who served as spiritual parents for them possess an Orphan spirit to some degree. It is hampering the body of Christ greatly in these days. Only consistent, loving discipleship can break the curse of the Orphan spirit off the church.

Marks of the Orphan Spirit

- 1. See God as your Master:** The relationship with God is not based upon His great love and mercy, but He is your Master. There is usually an unhealthy fear of God and very little true trust or faith.
- 2. Independent and Self-reliant:** These people very often had to make it on their own and will continue to do so. The deep interconnection of loving relationships and a true sense of need for others is not displayed. It may be outwardly, but when things get tough, the I will make it on my own attitude comes out.
- 3. Insecurity:** Most people with an orphan spirit are very insecure. It shows in them if they are leaders or followers. Their self-worth is fragile and is damaged easily. This can be expressed in people being very loud and aggressive or quiet and very shy. There is often a big fear of failure. They see themselves as a failure many times.
- 4. Fight and Grab for what they want:** People who grow up with an orphan spirit must learn to grab for what they want. They become great manipulators often twisting the truth to get their needs met. They are often grabbers and manipulators just like Jacob in the Bible was.
- 5. Don't trust authorities over you:** Another mark of the orphan heart is a lack of trust of spiritual authorities or even governmental authorities. These people don't exist for your good, they merely exist to get things out of you and to tell you



what to do. Don't see them as wonderful minister's of God placed over you for your good.

6. Relationships with peers is often marked by competition or jealousy:

Because there was never proper family you grew up in, the relationship with other people is often marked by negative feelings and negative attitudes rather than love, humility, and unity.

7. Handling Criticism: People with an orphan spirit often will be very critical of others (especially authorities or people who are succeeding) but cannot handle it themselves. Any criticism or correction (even in love) tends to wound their fragile self-image and they withdraw, shut down, or react in anger. They desperately need others approval.

8. When they are talented, they are often plagued with character issues:

Often, people with the orphan spirit show great talent, but are plagued with all kinds of character issues. Many of the basic traits in relationships, organization, decision making, and other areas of character they never developed. Very often, their lives are driven by self serving at the core.

9. Living with little purpose or direction: A common trait of many who grow up with no father is purposelessness - living a life from day to day with no sense of real vision, destiny or purpose.

10. Stunted Growth - they never mature fully: The overriding trait is a constant immaturity and they never mature in their character, calling or faith. They are stunted in growth and unless something happens will always be so.

It seems that we have churches full of these types of people - fragile, weak, undeveloped, insecure, purposeless people.



Application: Read back through the list and ask yourself the following questions:

Are any or many of the traits in your life? Do you see them in the lives of others around you? What is the answer to this curse upon our land?

Breaking the Curse

In Malachi 4, God gives the solution to the curse of an orphan hearted generation - Fathers and Mothers. He says that in these last days, He will move by His Spirit to bring about a great revival both in the natural and the spiritual in the area of making disciples and fathering. This and this alone will break the curse and bring His blessing back upon the land.

Spend some time in prayer with a partner for the next 10 minutes asking God to keep this promise in your nation. Ask Him to begin with you in your own life. Ask



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Him for your personal healing and maturity. He will hear and grant our requests if we will only ask.



Lesson 4: What is a Disciple?

Before we go further in our study, we must first try to understand what a disciple of Jesus Christ is. Jesus calls us to make something. What would you think of someone who was making something, but had NO idea of what it was he was making?

A Disciple in Jesus' Day

Jesus was considered throughout the land to be one of the great rabbis of His day. These great rabbis would choose Jewish boys between the ages of 15-18 to "follow them," learn all that that they knew and become completely like them. These boys would leave all and then follow their rabbi for up to 15 or more years with one goal in mind. . . ***to be with him so much that I would become completely like him.***

Most young men in Israel were never chosen by one of these great men and therefore would work a secular job usually with their father by the time they were 15 years old. Only 1 out of 1000 ever became a disciple. These were the elite boys of society!

A disciple was one completely given over to his master. His goal was NOT to learn from his master, but to become just like him.

The Twelve Followers of Jesus

What did it mean to Follow Jesus? This was the basic call of a great rabbi to young men to be his disciples and Jesus Christ was NO different.

- It meant they had to make a decision to whom their life belonged,
- They had to leave all behind
- They had to give their time to be with Him
- They had to go where He went always learning from Him
- They had to give full loyalty and obedience to Him
- They had to give their lives to His work

We see the deep nature of this commitment to follow Him in the story of the Rich Young Ruler in Matthew 19. The young man is given the invitation to come and follow Jesus, but he refuses. It seems too costly a life commitment to him, but then Peter says, "***Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?***"

In this simple statement, we see the depth of this relationship and commitment. **We have left everything and followed You!**



Reflection: So what is a disciple of Jesus Christ? Write out your own definition of a disciple of Jesus? In what ways does this describe your life?

Jesus Call to Discipleship

Throughout His ministry, Jesus is always calling those who come to Him and believe in Him up to a higher level, that is, to become His disciple. Many of us have come to Him and believed in Him, but many believers today have never made the choice to follow Him. Here are some things Jesus said about being His disciple:

- Matt 10.24-25 - A disciple is to become just like His teacher
- Luke 9.57-62 - A disciple is to let NOTHING get in the way of absolute loyalty in following Him. This deals with our TIME.
- Luke 14.26-35 & Matt. 10-34-39 - No relationships or work must hinder your love and loyalty to Jesus. Even the closest family ties. This deals with our RELATIONSHIPS.
- Luke 14. 33 - Jesus Christ must own and control all of your possessions, and money. This deals with our MONEY AND THINGS.
- John 8.31,32, 36 - To be His disciple, we must give ourselves to becoming absolutely immersed in His words! This deals with our MINDS, HEARTS AND WORDS.
- Mark 8.33-38 - We must lose our very lives in Him and for His Gospel work to be His disciple. This deals with our very LIFE.

Spiritual Sons – Another Way of Looking at it

Another way of looking at a disciple is the Bible term of becoming a mature son of God. A disciple is a Mature Son of Father God! In Jewish culture, when a son reached that age of 30, he was considered a mature son and at that point he could begin to ask for his inheritance from the father. This is a disciple of Jesus Christ – a mature son of the Father who can be trusted with the Father's goods.

It is our role in the great commission to make disciples – mature sons of God who can fully inherit and use all that the heavenly Father has for them.

A 21st Century Disciple Looks Like. . .

Does this mean that you must quit your job, leave your family and become a traveling minister to be Jesus Christ's disciple today? NO WAY! Jesus had disciples in every walk of life then and He needs them today! What it does mean is. . .

- He owns all of your time
- He owns all of your money
- He owns all of your relationships
- He has you completely captive to be His and do His will
- You have given your entire life to study, meditating upon His word that you might know Him and be like Him.



- Your heart is absolutely consumed to be with Him, to follow Him, and to be like in all you are and do.
- You are completely committed to His Great Commission on the earth and you have taken up YOUR own cross and are following Him.

The Disciples Promise

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matt 4:19

For those who find it in their hearts to follow Jesus, there is a massive promise - Jesus Christ Himself will make us. He will take our lives and make us something that we could never dream of – a **fisher of men**, one who has passion and power to fulfill His Great Commission!



Reflection: Think about these questions for your life and ministry:

1. In what ways are you a disciple of Jesus?
 2. Are you a mature son? Why/why not?
 3. In your ministry of discipling others, are these the kind of people you are bringing forth?
 4. What should you do to make disciples?
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Lesson 5: Discipling Jesus' Style

ILLUSTRATION: Imagine you had just entered the trade of home building. You have no idea how to build a home or of all the tools and types of trades involved. What would be the quickest way to learn? By becoming an apprentice to a Master Builder. If you could learn for a few years under the hand of a Master Builder, you could gain a great knowledge of the skills, abilities, knowledge, and tools needed to build a house.

If we are going to make disciples of Jesus Christ, we must first learn from the Great Master Discipler Himself - Jesus. He spent vast amounts of His time in this exciting work of making disciples. After the redemptive work of the cross, this was the center of the Father's will for His work while He was on the earth.

When you study the life of Jesus, you discover that He had a great toolbox of tools He used when He disciplined the men and women who followed Him. Each tool had a purpose in fashioning and forming the follower with special abilities, insights, motives, and priorities. If we are to make disciples, we must learn to use the same tools that Jesus used in making His first twelve.

Jesus' Tools of the Trade

#1 The Tool of Prayer - Prayer was the first and greatest tool Jesus used to shape men's lives around Him. Hudson Taylor, the great missionary to China, once said, "I move men by prayer alone!"

Jesus used prayer in three different ways. He first prayed **about** His disciples. That is, which of His followers were to be His closest companions in whom He could share the most intimate friendship and the deepest training with. Luke 6:12-13

Jesus secondly prayed **for** His disciples. His life is a life filled with prayer and we often see Him praying for His disciples. (See John 17 & Luke 22:31-32) He formed and fashioned His men by the power of the Holy Spirit in the place of prayer. He prayed them into becoming lovers and followers who would be full of faith and absolutely loyal to Him and His Kingdom mission.

In prayer we can. . .

- * Bring God's presence into people's lives
- * Break the power of sin and satanic control
- * Bend their hearts and minds toward the Lord
- * Release the power of the Holy Spirit to work in them

Thirdly, He prayed **with** His disciples. This is one of the greatest tools in discipling others - praying with them. (See Luke 9:18, Luke 11:1) When we pray with those God has given us to disciple, our heart and passion is revealed. Our faith is exposed, our desire and motives come out and there is a great transfer from one heart to another. In this business of making disciples, there is so much more caught than taught and prayer is one of the great tools Jesus used.



#2 The Tool of Teaching - The second great tool Jesus used in making passionate followers and laborers which He called disciples was teaching. As we study the life of Jesus, He was completely consumed with God's word and He was completely committed to transferring the word to His disciples in many ways. Jesus Christ was a man of the word!

As we have taught earlier, Jesus was called a rabbi with authority over and over. To be considered this level of a teacher in His day, you had to have the entire Old Testament memorized word for word. Think of it, 37 books of the Bible memorized! How many hours did that take Jesus? He didn't just memorize it, He devoured it and He became the greatest teacher the nation had ever seen.

Jesus taught His men in many ways. He taught them formally, He explained to them parables after the formal teaching was over, He taught them while walking along the road, while eating, when they were arguing, etc. He was always teaching. He never missed an opportunity to teach and bring them the Father's words. Look at what Jesus says is one of the requirements of being a disciple. . . **"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, {then} you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8:31-32**

At the end of His life, Jesus was able to say to His Father. . . **"for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received {them} and truly understood . . . : John 17:8**

#3 The Tool of Modeling - The third great tool Jesus used in making disciples was the tool of modeling. He learned this from His father on earth, Joseph. Joseph was a builder, perhaps a stone mason or a carpenter, and he apprenticed Jesus in his work. Jesus watched him over and over shape stone with his powerful hands while Joseph all the while talked with him about each step of the process. Jesus learned by watching a master at work.

In the same way, this is how He trained His disciples - He showed them how to live, love and work together with the Father.

They learned more by watching than even by what He said. This was one of His great power tools of making disciples. People learn more by what they see from us, than by what they hear from us. We cannot raise people to the level of what we can teach them orally, but we can raise them to the level of what they see in us working practically every day in our lives.

Just as our natural children watch us and eventually become what they see in us, so will our spiritual children. **WE CANNOT FAKE IT!** Although our teaching is critical as was Jesus', our lives are even more important in the process of making disciples. We teach with our lives.

In order for this kind of teaching to really occur, Jesus had to spend much time with His disciples. Every area of His life was open before them. They didn't just



see Him when He had the ministry button turned on, they saw Him at all times. They were constantly with Him!

Many of us will allow people to be with us when we have our spiritual guard up and our ministry switch turned on, but they never see the you behind the scenes. They never see YOU! This cannot be if we are to make disciples. We must open our lives in full to those God has given us and model life with Christ and ministry with Christ openly and honestly.

#4 The Tool of Friendship - Perhaps the most powerful tool in Jesus bag was the tool of friendship. He became the closest companion to those who chose to follow Him. He changed lives through being with His disciples! Look at what the Scriptures says about Jesus. . .

"And He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him,. . .: Mark 3:14

Jesus chose twelve men and then gave them an assignment, to be with Him. They would learn through sharing life together, laughing, working, loving, and living together. They would become friends and through the power of this friendship that would invest everything into them, Jesus planned to change the world! Toward the end of their time together, Jesus said. . .

"You are My friends, if you do what I command you. "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, . . ." John 15:14-16

This was NOT just a casual friendship though. It was a focused friendship in the mind of Jesus with one purpose - to give them everything that I have received from the Father. He knew that a classroom could not do it, it would take all of their time and their lives and only friendship would open that possibility.

We cannot leave it to a classroom or a sermon. We must give them our time and our lives. Just as Jesus lived life with His men, so must we. Paul said of the Thessalonians. . . ***"Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us."*** 1Thes 2:8

#5 The Tool of Practical Ministry Assignments - In discipling His twelve, Jesus constantly gave them practical ministry assignments. To be truly His follower was NOT to learn from Him, it was to JOIN Him in His life and work and Jesus worked His men hard.

His discipling wasn't just their heads and hearts, but it was also their hands. He brought the gospel and life He was preaching down into simple reality and good works. Here are some of the things He gave them to do. . .

- * He had them feed 5,000 people
- * He sent them to preach
- * He had them heal and cast out demons



- * He had them care for the poor
- * They prepared rooms and meals for the group and others
- * He had them pray for others

#6 The Tool of Faith Challenges - One of the most important areas to help followers of Jesus to grow in is in the area of faith. Faith is the all important ingredient in the human heart which will cause a man to fail or succeed. Without faith we cannot please God, follow Him, or love Him.

One of the great secrets of Jesus' life of discipling is that He constantly placed His men in situations to test their faith; that is, could they believe Him and believe the Father or would they doubt. Could they reach into the realm of the Spirit and get supernatural answers or would they only react in the natural power and wisdom of their own flesh. These faith challenges were some of the most life transforming moments in the 12 disciples' lives.

As we disciple others, we cannot miss this all important ingredient. When He was done with His 12, they could live and move in the power of faith. That was one of their great secrets. In the same way, we must, under the leading of the Holy Spirit, place those we are discipling in the most difficult situations where they have NO alternative but to trust Him so that the genuineness of their faith might come forth. There is NO other way to maturity!

Jesus Method of Discipling - Spiritual Fathering!

When we try to summarize all that Jesus used and did with His 12 men, we can summarize it in one term - Spiritual Fathering. Although He was a friend with them, He was like a father to them. The same way a father relates to his natural son in order to mature Him and raise him up, is the way Jesus related to and trained the 12.

On the last night of His life, this conversation took place. . .

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and {yet} you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'? . . . John 14:8-10

They were asking to see the Father, but what they did not realize, was that all that Jesus was doing with them as He was making them into disciples was the work of the Father. He was being their spiritual Father all this time.



Application: Small Group Assignment

Break into a group of three and let each one in the group give the name of some real person in their life that could possibly be a potential disciple/son candidate. Create a mock discipleship group and write out a strategy with how you might



use all six of the tools Jesus used in discipling this group of young believers. Be very specific and clear on how you might use these things practically.

Be ready to report back to the large group your conclusions and ideas.



Lesson 6: Principles of Fathering

Raising up mature sons and daughters of God is the biggest need of our nation today and God has given us a pattern in the Scriptures of how and what to do. If we accept His challenge, in the next few years, many lives are going to be changed (especially ours) and a whole new group of laborers are going to be prepared for work in His fields. It's time to begin the work, but first, let's learn a few principles to guide us in the process.

#1 Being a spiritual father is first an attitude, a process and a lifestyle instead of an event or a project.

#2 Choosing Whom to Father or Disciple

As you begin a life of discipling others, the first step is choosing whom to disciple or father. Don't make this process too difficult. Some people teach that only the father chooses. I don't think this can be backed up biblically. Jesus did choose some of His disciples, but several other times, we see people come to Him and say that they want to follow Him. Here are some thoughts on whom do you choose:

- Look for the hunger
- Look for availability
- Look for those who are teachable
- Look for potential – this does not always have to be the criteria though
- Who is in your life already?
- The relationship should be somewhat mutual in feelings – I want to help you and you want to be discipled

#3 Be Intentional

- Don't be accidental be intentional - you choose to initiate the process
- Be Pro-active - Jesus didn't just hope something happened. He acted deliberately and consistently in the lives of His disciples. Paul was the same way. We see him regularly with groups of guys he is mentoring and training for life and work in Christ.
- Meet Regularly
- How should you meet - in a small group + one-on-one
- How often should you meet - depends on the group
- A One Hour Format - 20 min. talk about life, 30 min. input of something planned, 10 min. prayer together

#4 Be Relational

- Friendship - "You are My friends, if you do what I command you."
John 15:14-15
- Fathering – "to Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy {and} peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord." 2 Tim 1:2



- Relational Living - "Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us." 1Thes 2:8
- The Open Home Policy - open your home to those you are ministering to and have meals together, let them see parenting, marriage, your character, and your life. The difference between students and sons is made here.
- Plan trips together, vacations, fun times, etc.
- Above all, don't turn people into your projects make them your friends.

#5 Do It Your Way

- Must fit your lifestyle - No two families or parents in the natural are the same and that is true about discipling people also. Two families can take the same principles and apply them, but it will look very different and unique in every case.
- Must fit your personality & gifts - The way you disciple and train others must fit your personality type and your spiritual giftings. If someone is a teacher, then teaching will be very prominent in the process. If someone is a server, then serving will be a major element. Allow God to lead you in your unique way and don't get put into some religious box.
- When you begin to disciple someone, you need to know a few things about how they are going to mature. Here are some thoughts to begin with:
 - They will not all mature at the same rate or in the same areas
 - There are stages of maturity the Bible indicates
 - What you do at each stage is different in the disciples/son's life

#6 Understand their Stage of Maturity



Bible Study: Read 1 John 2.12-14 and note the levels or stages of growth John is addressing in his ministry.

a. Little Children: (Teknion - infant, very young baby) - These are those who are brand new in the faith or have come to Christ and have not grown past the beginning stages. They are like little babies who either need constant care or need nothing at all because if they have been in Christ for any length of time and are still at this point, they have ceased to grow or function spiritually. Forgiveness is the major attribute, that is, I am forgiven, I am going to heaven, I am in the kingdom and that's all I am concerned about. These can be characterized by the statement: It's all about me. Isn't that how little babies operate?

b. Children (Paidion - young boy or girl) - This age of child goes up to about thirteen years old. This next level of a person's growth is characterized by the



fact that they know the Father. These are people who are growing and have genuinely began a relationship with God as their Father. Notice that it does not say MASTER. We come into the Kingdom through receiving Christ as Lord and Master, but to stay only in that relationship is NOT normal. We begin to know the Father and know what it is like to be a son of God. This is the natural progression for maturity in Christ. They begin to be set free from that Orphan mentality and live as a true son. These can be characterized by the statement: It's all about the Father and Me.

c. Young Men (Neaniskos - Under the age of 40) - This phrase denotes that age of young adulthood from teenage years to about 40 years old. The primary traits given here are strength, the word of God abides in you, overcome the Evil One. These were those in society who fought the wars, built the cities, ran the farms, and had the children. These were the ones that life and productivity was built upon.

- Strong - One becomes strong through much hard work. There is no other way both mentally, spiritually, emotionally, etc.
- The Word of God abides in you - Something has happened in these lives to the point where they don't just know God's word in their minds, it has become a part of them.
- Have Overcome the Evil One - This speaks of warfare. These have learned to engage in warfare and have learn to win. They not only can win in their own lives, but also in the lives of others.

This is our goal. To produce "young men." We need both male and female young men! These are the ones who will give their lives for Christ and His work and be effective in it. We must have young men! These are characterized by the statement: It's all about Him and His world!

d. Fathers - These are men and women who have walked with Him for many years and know Him intimately. They have given their lives to Him and to producing sons who will do His will. Where are the fathers today?

As you begin to invest in the lives of others, we should have a good idea of who and where they are in the progression of maturity. We do not want to stereotype people, but knowing the process and where people are will help us begin to serve, love, and invest in them effectively.



Discussion: IN A GROUP OF THREE

Think of and agree on at least one person in each level of spiritual growth. What would you do with each person to help them continue to grow?

1. Little Child -

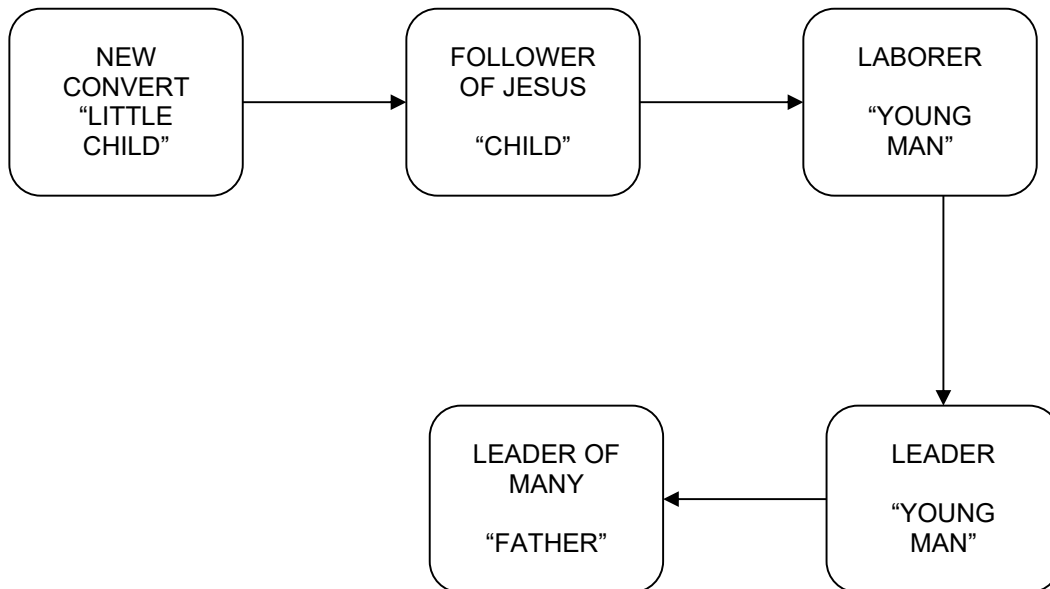


- 2. Child –
- 3. Young Man –
- 4. Father -

Lesson #7: Ministering to the Different Stages of Growth in a Disciple’s Life

Ministering to the different stages

The following diagram describes the growth we want to see in those we are discipling:



Ministering to New Converts: The Ministry of Establishing

New converts are what John called *Little Children or Infants*. Just as when a new baby is born into a family, the early care of that child is critical to its life and development, so it is with a new born babe in Christ.

Goal of this process: *Bring them to being established in Christ and the church.*

We want to produce mature children in the Lord who are **solid followers of Jesus** and **consistent in the church**.

What do we teach them?

- 1. **Prayer - the need to learn to breath properly.** In Christ, prayer is the very breathe of a Christian’s life. In the very beginning stages, a new convert



must be taught how to simply and consistently communicate with the Father. This is prayer. As we teach the young Christian about prayer, here are three essentials:

- How to confess sin (1 John 1.9)
- How to make requests based upon promises
- How to listen and hear His voice.

2. The Bible - the need to learn to eat and take in nourishment. If a baby does not eat, it will not grow, and so it is with all believers. We must teach these young ones in the Lord to eat the word of God. We don't need to teach them the word of God so much as how to eat for themselves. We don't want to create a totally dependent baby, we want mature sons of God. Here are three practices we must teach:

- Daily Bible reading
- How to memorize scripture
- How to study and meditate when God begins to speak out of a passage.

3. Family - the need of a loving, consistent family. All children need two kinds of family relationships – a loving father and mother (the discipler) and good brothers and sisters. We must teach the new convert about the church and their relationship to others in the body. At the same time, we must create the environment of acceptance and love for them to grow up in.

All babies make a lot of messes when they are first born. They mess their diaper and often everything around them and so do baby Christians. We must be there to clean them up when they make a mess.

Different people come to us with different levels of problems in their lives. We need to be there for them. Some will have so many problems that we don't quite know if we can help clean them up. Time and consistency is on our side.

4. Obedience and Faith - the need to exercise its new muscles. One of the mistakes many make when they disciple new converts is to expect too little of them at first. We must teach them to exercise their spiritual muscles immediately! Three ways we can do this are. . .

- Teaching them to obey all that God shows them
 - Teaching them to find His promises and claim His supernatural answers
 - Teaching them to bring their lost friends and loved ones to the Lord.
- Often, the new converts are the greatest evangelist we have and we must learn to encourage them in these early days.

Ministering to Followers of Jesus: The Ministry of Motivation & Calling

Once we have established the new converts in Christ and the Church, our next goal is to work with the Lord in their lives to see them become young men –



laborers in the Kingdom of God. It seems as Jesus preached the gospel of the Kingdom, He always called men to the next level- serving to God.

In Matthew 9, as Jesus is moved deeply with compassion for the needs of all the people, He said, “ ***The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.***” **Mt 9:37 –Mt 9:38** Jesus is passionate for workers, laborers in the world. This is our next goal in making disciples.

In this stage of the discipleship process, we see several important factors:

1. The Call of the Great Commission – As we disciple those Jesus brings into our lives, we must from the very beginning share the wonderful call of the great commission – The God of heaven would use US to work together with Him to change the world. We must seek to develop both **deep conviction** and **heartfelt motivation** in those we disciple toward Jesus call to serve.

2. The Attitudes of a Servant of Jesus – Here are some basic attitudes that must be developed in the life of a servant of Jesus:

- A servant’s spirit
- A heart for people
- A passion to multiply
- A willingness to volunteer
- A passion for the lost

3. The Skills to begin to serve – As the motivation, commitment and attitudes develop, we should then seek to see them gain basic skills in ministry such as:

- The ability to share their testimony
- The ability to share the gospel
- Practical service in congregational meetings
- Praying for the sick and casting out demons
- A lifestyle of intercession and prayer

4. Discovery of their personal gifts and ministries – We must remember in this process that we are NOT creating ministry robots, but every person is an individual with special God given gifts, abilities, and callings. They are NOT our disciples first, but disciples of Jesus and sons of God the Father. He has a specific will for them in His service and as good spiritual parents, we are to help them discover and develop that which God has placed within each one of them. Because of this, we cannot treat this as a rigid formula but rather as a basic path to take people down in the route to discovery.

5. The need for bringing inner healing and deliverance – When people come to us, they often come to us broken and wounded in many areas of life. In the discipleship process, we must be willing and able to get very involved in these “MESSY” areas of life. We will often need to lead them through forgiving others, the healing of wounded hearts, the breaking of lies they have believed about themselves and others that have created strongholds, and often we must be ready to lead them through deliverance from the powers of darkness.



Ministering to Laborers – The Ministry of Discovering and Empowering

Once our spiritual sons and daughters begin to serve God and others in basic ministry, our next goal is to discover the leadership gifts and abilities within them. When people become committed to multiply, that is, to give their lives to make disciples of Jesus, they have entered the realm of leadership. Some can lead many and others can lead a few, but most every person committed to Christ can lead.

In this stage of our ministry, it is important to understand the Jethro Principle of Exodus 18.12-24. Jethro taught his son-in-law, Moses, that God has given different people different levels of leadership. It was Moses' task to discover, develop and release people in these different levels of leadership.

Leaders of 10 – The leader of a small group or a small ministry

Leaders of 50 – The leader of a small church or a part of a church

Leaders of 100 – The leader of a growing, expanding congregation

Leaders of 1000 – The leader of a movement or Antioch Church

Ministering to Leaders – Spiritual Fathering

Even leaders need a father! Never forget this. They may not need the same level of involvement or the same things, but they still need someone more mature, further down the road to:

- Encourage them
- Challenge them
- Keep them on the right course in accountability
- Help them solve problems as they arise
- Give counsel in times of major decision making



Application: In the same group you shared with earlier in this session. Discuss each person and what strategy you might use and practical steps you could take in discipling them to see them grow into the next stage of maturity.



Lesson 8: More Principles of Fathering

#7 Learn to ask questions and listen a lot:

- How is your relationship with Jesus? What are you doing to grow?
- How is your relationship with your spouse? Your kids?
- What have you been doing to minister to others this week?
- Have your thoughts been pure? What are your biggest struggles?
- How can I help you?
- In what ways have you been stepping out in faith?
- Are you serving others? Have you shared Jesus lately with another?

#8 Take Them With You As You Minister

- Let them see you do it
- Give them responsibility that stretches but does not overwhelm
- Let them do it even when you can do it better
- Give positive and constructive feedback. Encourage like crazy
- Good Questions after ministry situations: What did you do well? What can you do better?

#9 Speak the Truth in Love

- Don't be afraid to confront- As your relationship with others develops, you will see character problems, sins, and other things that must be addressed.
- A good parent brings loving discipline and correction into the lives of their sons and daughters
- Timing is everything though. People change much faster when they see the problem within them first. Give God a bit of time, pray for them, ask Him to begin the work and then move when He directs.
- Make sure your heart is to bring blessing and wholeness and not judgment or criticism.

#10 Don't build over dependency upon You

- Don't be a substitute for Jesus or the word of God. Allow them to seek out for themselves things they need to learn from Him. Remember, He is the teacher and they belong to Him. In John 1. 35-37, John the Baptist is standing with two of his disciples. He points them to Jesus and they leave him and follow Jesus. This is the goal of our discipling. People following Jesus!
- Don't make decisions for them (4 Lighthouses)
- Allow them to fall and fail at times
- Encourage them to seek ministry from others. Even if God allows you to have a primary role in discipling another, remember that they need much more than you for their fulfillment. Watch out for ownership or jealousy of others in your heart.

#11 Be willing for the relationship to change and release them to go



- Picture of natural parenting - When our children become grown, we don't expect them to stay in our homes. We expect they to move out and have a house of their own. We don't raise up sons just to carry out our vision. Some will serve long-term in our ministry, but others will develop vision of their own. Shouldn't we help them get out there and succeed.
- Don't be dependent on them either - Very often, we become dependent on them and develop dependency on those we are discipling.
- Release them to fulfill their destiny in God --Some of them will achieve more than you, some will do things very different from you, allow God to form them through you.
- Make it easy for them to leave, even push them out at times
- After release be there for them when they need you (Your relationship over time goes from being pro-active to re-active)

#12 Be Ready To Be Wounded

- Be sure of this, if you give your life to raise up sons in the faith, you will get hurt - many times - in many ways - hurt very badly. This is the nature of close relationships. When we get close to people, we become vulnerable and at times in our lives we get hurt.
- Jesus had his Judas. How must it felt when the Son of God dipped hand in that bowl with Judas only to be betrayed with a kiss a few hours later. Then 10 of the others deserted Him also.
- Barnabus must have been cut to the heart when the one he raised up in the Lord, Paul, had a sharp disagreement with him and left his side only to open his own ministry without Barnabus.
- Paul experienced it many times. Listen to his words in 2 Tim 4:10,
- ". . . Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. . ."

#13 It's Not All Spiritual – Life Mentoring

It is NOT all about spiritual things or making ministry robots. It is about seeing our sons and daughters mature in **ALL** areas of life. The Father does not just want us to produce good servants of Jesus, but rather mature sons of God! If we don't see, love, and disciple the whole person, we will merely be treating people as ministry projects rather than people!

As trust is gained in the relationship, we move from just being a **spiritual discipler** to also filling the role of a **life mentor**. At this stage, the person or persons God has entrusted into our spiritual parenting will open many other areas of life to us and we must begin to encourage, teach, share and mentor them in practical daily life.

Here are some other areas we should eventually move into ministry on:

1. **A successful marriage**
2. **A successful and solid financial life**
3. **Raising godly children**



4. **Being a good worker/employee**
 5. **A long-term healthy life**
 6. **Whole emotions and thinking patterns**
-

**Reflection:**

1. Why are these areas critical to see people become whole and successful followers of Jesus?
 2. What are the potential problems as you minister in these practical areas of life?
 3. In what ways might you share with those you disciple in these areas?
-

#14 Encourage them like crazy

- Praise them incessantly
- Speak forth dreams and vision to them
- Be their greatest cheerleader

#15 Pray As a Father over them and speak a blessing all the time!

- There is incredible power in praying and speaking blessing over people. The early fathers of our faith believed in it wholeheartedly
- The Hebrew word to bless means to impart upon or put upon someone the ability and capability to have a rich and full life. When God blesses us, it is not just words. Within the words are the very life and power of God coming upon us to live out the blessing.
- When Isaac blessed Jacob by mistake in Gen. 27 and Esau comes in to get a blessing, Jacob tells him that more than just words went out. "With my words, I have given Jacob something, I have made him something, I have provided something for him and it shall happen!" Isaac says.
- At the end of Numbers 6, we see God telling Moses to have Aaron bless the people with a certain blessing. Then God goes on to tell Moses, "So they will put My Name on Israel and I will bless them." The speaking of the blessing was genuinely putting something on the people.
- Paul prays over and over blessings on his churches and spiritual sons. (See Rom. 15.13, Eph. 1.18-20, Eph. 3.14-20, Phil. 1.9-10, 2 Cor. 13.14, etc.)
- We must learn to both pray and bless those God brings into our lives. A prayer or blessing offered in faith will literally put something upon people's lives and will change things forever.

#16 Even Fathers Need Fathers



- All across the world today, there is a cry coming from pastors and leaders for a more mature man or woman who has walked the path and done well to help them navigate the next steps in life. Leaders today feel very lonely and unsure of how to move forward.
- Our denominations have often only offered administrative support but not helped us with fathers. The day will come when it does not matter what denominational mother gave us birth, but what apostolic father adopted us.
- In the Bible, the apostles became fathers to the leaders of the local congregations and were there to help, guide, encourage, and serve these leaders. Paul was a father to many as was Peter, John, Timothy, Titus, and Barnabus.
- We see three levels of fathering in the New Testament Church
 - a. Local elders led and fathered the flock
 - b. Regional apostles such as Timothy and Titus loved, served, and cared for the local elders.
 - c. Traveling, trans-local apostles such as Paul, Peter, Barnabus, cared for these regional apostles and also helped with the local elders.
- An apostolic father provides the following things. . .
 - a. An example of life and ministry
 - b. Security, stability, and guidance when needed in difficult or decision making times. It is good to have someone wiser and more mature to help.
 - c. Can bring a powerful touch of God's power and word into your ministry or your local church.
 - d. Teaches and imparts doctrine that lays a foundation in leaders' lives and in their ministries.
 - e. Above all, they serve and help - not lord it over and rule.

#17 There is No Formula

- Above all, you need to know there is no secret formula. It is just like parenting in the natural. Every child is different, every relationship is different, things change as they grow older and you don't know how to help, and you never have enough knowledge or experience to feel like you have it all together!



Application:

Which of these principles are already operating in your life?

Where do you need to grow and apply God's word?

What do you expect to happen in the next few years as you apply these things?

What do you think the results would be?



With two partners, discuss what it would look like (actually write out the picture you describe) in a local church and in a region if these principles were applied and lived out.

A Comprehensive Picture of How Fathering could work

1. A man leads a church, but has 5-8 key men or couples that he is meeting with pouring all of his life, time and energy into through small groups and one to one. They are maturing and growing rapidly in Christ.
2. Team ministry flows out of this group. They are right beside the pastor and serving the vision faithfully. They lead many other kinds of ministries in the church.
3. These key people are leading small groups and fathering a few behind the scenes also and there is a chain of fathering going on. The presence of Christ is moving, small groups are multiplying, people are being saved. Things are getting out of control.
4. Some of the leaders gain their own vision and the pastor sends them out to other villages and helps them plant and grow new works there. They lead people to Christ and father them. The miracle begins in the new villages.
5. The pastor himself never feels alone. There are regional and traveling apostles that he is friends with and they are constantly helping him as a person, his family, and his ministry. Many different gifts are brought in to help.
6. There is a movement growing across the nation. It is a grassroots movement built upon relationship and discipleship imparting Christ and His great kingdom values heart to heart.

Story: Several years ago, there was a small church in a small central Texas town called Denton. Its pastor decided that he would just do what Jesus did and become a father to young men. He built a few extra rooms on the back of his house and had five or six young men living there for two years at a time. The pastor and these young men meet every morning for an hour for prayer, studying the Bible, discussion about life, ministry, etc. It seems like such a small thing each morning, but what has been the result? Today, the church numbers 5000 and there are young men all across the world changing things because of a little pastor in Denton, Texas who took the ministry of Jesus serious to Go, and make disciples. . .by fathering them. He has changed his world!

The dream is waiting on you! Let's Go!



It's Time To Move

In this course, we have learned many valuable things:

1. Jesus has called us all to fulfill the Great Commission
2. Multiplying disciples of Jesus – mature sons of the Father is the heart of that Commission
3. We must choose a **lifestyle** of making disciples. It is not **A** ministry of the church, it is **THE** central ministry of the church.
4. There is a mighty cry from both heaven and earth for a whole new generation of spiritual fathers and mothers.

Let's look at one last Scripture that we have already mentioned several times:

"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to {their} children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse." Mal 4:5-6

There is a mighty promise of a move of spiritual parenting in the last days. It will remove the curse off the land, and release a mighty wave of mature sons and daughters that the dark regions will tremble at. These mature "young men" of the Lord will. . .

- Be true servants
- Move in signs, wonders, and miracles
- Carry a powerful evangelistic fervor
- Push back the gates of hell

HERE IS THE QUESTION:

WILL YOU BE ONE OF THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS FULFILLING THE PROPHECY OF THE END TIMES?

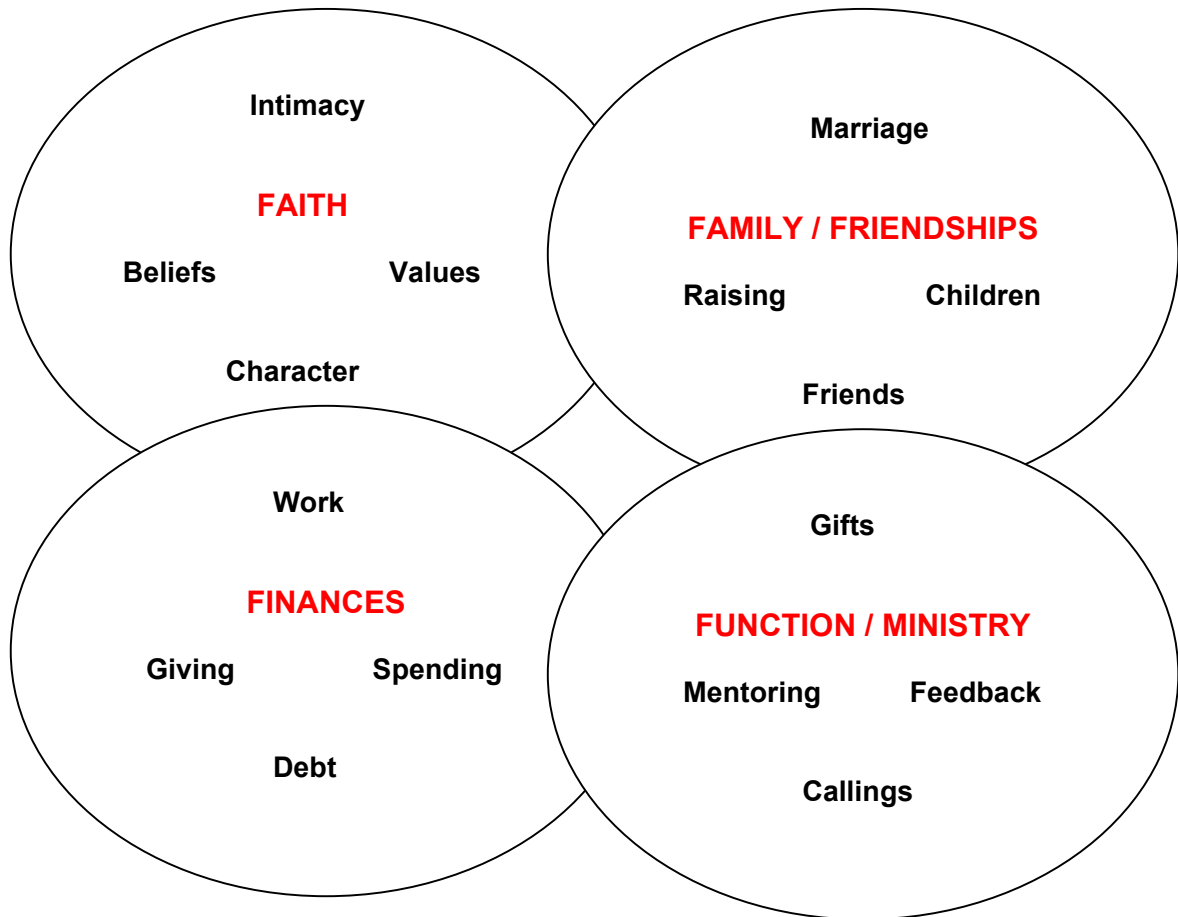
WILL YOU GIVE YOUR LIFE AND BUILD YOUR MINISTRY OF THIS FULFILLMENT OF THE GREAT COMMISSION?

YES YOU WILL! TOGETHER, WE WILL CHANGE THE WORLD!!!



APPENDIX: The Circles of Fathering

As we begin to disciple and move later into becoming a father or mother to others, below is a comprehensive look at the different areas you will want to invest yourself into those you father.



EXPLANATION:

As we disciple others, we need to serve them in four basic areas of life:

- 1) The development of their life of faith in Jesus.
- 2) The relational life
- 3) Their relationship to and use of money
- 4) Their function and ministry in the Kingdom of God

The reason these are circles and are all touching is that we do not just work in one area of life at a time. We must take a comprehensive approach being ready and able to help them in whatever area of life comes to the surface as we are together.

We usually begin in the discipling relationship in the area of their faith. As time passes, they will trust us more and we will then move into these other foundational areas of life.



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Making Disciples and Spiritual Fathering

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