



Part 2 | Crafting Your Discipling Plan

Session 6 | “How Do I Start?”

Book Chapter 14 | Matthew 4:19, Matthew 8:18-22, Matthew 9:9, Matthew 16:24-25

BIG Goal | To begin discipling our family and friends the way Jesus disciplines His followers in the gospels.

Today’s Goal | To craft a plan for starting a discipling relationship.

Watch video session #6 and then process questions and insights with the following:

Introduction to Part 2

Today we begin Part 2 of our training experience, “Crafting Your Discipling Plan.” In sessions 1 through 5, we gained insight and clarity about the way Jesus disciplines His followers in the gospels. We’ve been letting Jesus “show us how.” Now it’s time for sessions 6-10, where we will take what Jesus has shown us and use it to craft our own discipling plan.

On page 168 of the book, “Joining Jesus – Show Me How,” there is a template for what a discipling plan can look like (a copy is also included at the end of these processing materials on p.32.) The template brings together the discipling insights gained from Jesus in the gospels and lays them out in an organized way. The purpose of the template is not so people create cookie-cutter plans, but to help them craft plans that model Jesus’s plan. Jesus’ plan for Jesus’ results. The template helps you answer three main questions: Who will I disciple? Why will I disciple them? And how will I disciple them? As you answer the questions, you’ll see your discipling plan emerge.

- 1) Session 6 introduces us to best practices for how to start a discipling relationship. Susan called it the “art of the start.” The first best practice for starting a discipling relationship is to start with the end in mind.
 - What do the Finke’s mean by “start with the end in mind?”
 - How did Jesus start with the end in mind when He invited people into a discipling relationship?
 - What is your discipling goal? Where do you want your family and friends to end up?
(Think of it as a mission statement for your discipling plan. It answers the question, “Why are we in a discipling relationship?”)

- Once you've figured out the wording, fill in the "why" portion of the template on p. 168 of the book or on the template on p.32 below.
- Repeat the discipling goal each time you meet with your Missional Community to remind each other why you are meeting and where you want to end up. It's a simple but effective way to make sure you start with the end in mind.

2) A second best practice for starting well is to prioritize discipling time in your schedule. The Finke's suggest setting aside two hours for your weekly Missional Community. They suggest a little daily time for your family. Discipling doesn't require a majority of your time but it does require a priority of you time. So, you will need to be ready to reflect that in your calendar.

- What are some consequences of ignoring this advice?
- What are some challenges to you being able to heed this advice?
- How will you overcome these challenges?
- The discipling template has a place to fill in when you'll have your discipling time.

3) What are best practices for identifying who you can disciple?

- Susan says, "Believe it or not, the only people we can disciple are the people who want to be disciplined by us." How does that ring true to you?
- Who are you thinking of discipling?
(Think of who may be willing to be disciplined by you. Who wants to be with you? Who wants to imitate your faith and lifestyle? Start with them.)
- For parents with children in your home, the first priority is to disciple your children. You can never start too early and it's never too late to start. God designs human beings so that the best time to mold them and train them is when they are young. As parents your words, love, and daily example will train your children for a lifetime. How will you invite them to be disciplined?
- On the template, write down the names of those you will invite into a discipling relationship.

- 4) The next question is what's the best way to actually invite someone into a discipling relationship?
- The Finke's suggest that you be sure to clearly state what you can expect from each other in the discipling relationship. As you watched Greg model an invitation, what were your thoughts?
 - What would you do differently?
 - On the template, write out the invitation you will use. The key is to be winsome, but still give people the opportunity to make an honest choice about whether or not they're ready to be trained as a follower of Jesus.

Before We Go

(Note: It may be helpful to break into groups of three for this.)

Insight to Action

What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today's video and discussion? Can you take your insight and turn it into a plan for action in the coming week?

Write down your insight and plan for action:

Take **60 seconds** to have each person share their response with the group.

Ministering through Prayer

As we prepare to head out with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, "**How can I help you in prayer?**" After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor.