

1st Century Discipleship Today



Book 1

Developing a Spiritual Posture

Lessons 9-16



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2023

SESSION FORMAT & KEY TERMS

SESSION FORMAT

How's Life? This portion of the meeting is part of the opening introduction. It's a brief, two-minute max update per person. Our focus is on making disciples. So, if more time is needed to talk through things happening in your life, it's best to plan another time to do so.

Loving Accountability: Review Mark 6:7-13, 30. Jesus gave the disciples a task and then they reported back regarding what had been done and taught. Growth comes with accountability.

Praise and Prayer: We invite each person to share one praise and one prayer request. If God could answer one prayer in your life right now, what would it be? This is also a great time to ask for prayer for people in your circle who are far from God, whom you plan to engage in spiritual conversation.

Jesus Story: What did Jesus do in your life this week?

Bible Reading/ Discussion: The lessons include important scriptural passages. However, if you find additional insights in your study and research, share what you learned with your group.

Reflection and Application: As you read the passages and answer the questions, reflect on what the Lord wants to teach YOU about who He is and about His call on your life to make disciples.

Hear and Obey: What did you learn from this lesson? What action do you need to take? The Obey Statement should begin with "I will..." and should always be a measurable goal. A good example: "I will fast during my normal lunchtime on Friday." *This is measurable.* A bad example, "I will do better at fasting." *This is not measurable.*

Memory Verses: We believe it's important that we hide His Word in our hearts, so we encourage group members to memorize the weekly Bible verse.

KEY TERMS

Disciple: The Greek term for "disciple" in the New Testament is *mathetes*, which basically means "student" or "learner."

But a disciple is also a "follower," someone who adheres completely to the teachings of another, making them their rule of life and conduct.

Merriam-Webster defines disciple as: *one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another.*

Being a disciple is becoming like the one you are a disciple of, learning about them, and then doing what they do/did.

Disciple-Making Movement: A disciple-making movement is a rapid and exponential increase of disciples who are actively engaged in making disciples. This type of movement spreads wide and deep to at least four generations of disciples.

Posture: The term "*posture*" represents the spiritual disciplines of a person who is preparing himself or herself for God to move in and through them.

Process: The term "*process*" represents the strategy of a person or group pursuing a disciple-making movement. At CBC, the process is called our 3D Mission:

- Demonstrate God's Love
- Declare The Good News
- Make Disciples Near and Far

Path: The term "*path*" represents the tools we will utilize to accomplish the work of a disciple-making movement.

We aren't called to sit in church; we are called to fill the world with disciples.

LESSON 1: DISCIPLESHIP AT CBC

Existing Groups: The preparation for this lesson includes daily time in the Bible and prayer, scripture memory, and to continue doing what you've already learned.

New Groups: Read the lesson, memorize the verse, and be prepared to discuss what you've learned with your Group.

<p>1 WELCOME</p>	<p>3 HOW WAS YOUR WEEK? Accountability</p>
<p>2 JESUS STORY, A PRAISE & A PRAYER</p>	<p> Did you spend daily time in prayer?  Did you spend daily time in the Word? Memory verse: John 14:21</p>

4 INTRODUCTION TO DISCIPLESHIP AT CBC

We are so excited that you are reading this page because it means you have either already begun a discipleship group or you are seriously considering the idea of joining or leading a discipleship group. We want you to understand the BIG picture and plan for initiating and pursuing a disciple-making movement.

Have you heard of the term "5Ws & 1H?" It's a simple acronym for "Who, Why, What, When, Where, and How." We will answer all six of those questions about launching a healthy disciple-making movement right here in Central Texas.

Exciting, right?



Who? That's simple: YOU! If you want to be a disciple of Jesus, then you will need to make disciples. Just as orange trees produce oranges, fish produce fish, and people produce people, we can easily see that the product, or fruit, of a disciple is more disciples.

Why? That's simple, too: Because Jesus said so! The final instructions of Jesus to His disciples were to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20) and to be his witnesses (Acts 1:8). Jesus wasn't making a suggestion; He was giving a command.

What? A disciple-making movement is the exponential multiplication of disciples in a relatively short amount of time (2-4 years in the USA). Disciple-making movements don't happen by chance or by accident but through people who have *postured* themselves for God to move in and through them.

When? NOW! We've begun to plant the seeds through our Gospel Conversations training and there are several individuals who understand the process. You can be next as we work together in this exciting ministry.

Where? It starts here and expands across the globe (Acts 1:8). "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

How? This answer can be described in two ways. First, we must understand that our personal discipline as disciples must be solid. We call this *POSTURE*. We posture ourselves spiritually so that God can use us for His Kingdom and His Glory. Second, we need a *PROCESS* that is shared (we use the same strategies, tools, and disciple-making language). We keep the process simple so that everyone can do the work of making disciples. Thirdly, we ensure that the *TOOLS* we utilize are reproducing (effective) and reproducible (simple to teach others).

5

THE PLAN:

Disciples Making Disciples. That's the plan.

Why?

Jesus commanded us to do so. As a church, we want to equip and send disciple makers into our community, our nation, and the world.

Our CBC 3D Mission Statement:

We point people to Jesus by DEMONSTRATING God's love, DECLARING the good news, and making DISCIPLES near and far.

The first two Ds necessitate the third D and vice versa.

1. To facilitate this mission, we will apply what we call the 3-Ps. This is ***Posture, Process, and Path***. You will learn more about the 3-Ps later in this study guide.
2. This study guide is designed to help you discover the spiritual disciplines (postures) found in scripture. Our hope is that through this process, each person involved in a Discipleship Group will strengthen their spiritual disciplines.
3. The second part of the Disciples Making Disciples guide will focus on the *Process* and *Path* of our discipleship plan. You will learn more about the *process* and *path* later in the study guide.
4. OPTIONAL RECOMMENDATION: Read *Growing Up* by Robby Gallaty as a supplement to this disciple-making study guide.

Many Christians want the benefits of their belief, but they hesitate at the cost of discipleship.

Billy Graham

6

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP EXPECTATIONS

1. **Remember that discipleship is not a race and there is no deadline.** Some lessons may easily be covered in one session while the group may spend multiple weeks on a more difficult lesson.
2. **Do the work for each session.** This might include Scripture study, answering questions, and doing the work assigned to make disciples. This isn't a "Do Nothing Bible Study" (DNBS)! As you study and take notes, your booklet will become your disciple-making manual for the time when you prayerfully start your own Discipleship Group.
3. **Contribute.** This means that each group member will invest time during the week working through the lesson and be prepared to share insight when the group gathers. For example, if the lesson is about forgiveness, you may want to find additional scriptures related to forgiveness but not necessarily included in the lesson. You might also listen to sermons or books about forgiveness. Be sure to take notes about what you are learning in your own study time and be willing to contribute and share these insights with others.
4. **Obey!** This is a discipleship group. This is not designed as a "Sit and Get Bible Study" (SGBS). Our purpose is to study the Word of God, share what we learn with our Group, and then obey and do what we learn.
5. **Bare Minimum.** If you are not spending time with the Lord each day, through reading the Bible and prayer, participating in a Discipleship Group will likely prove a very difficult commitment. As a believer, we must set aside time to spend time with the Lord each day if we hope for God to move in and through us. If you plan to move forward, start reading and praying daily... it's the bare minimum. You've got this. Go for it!

7 This week, your assignment is two-fold:

1. Memorize John 14:21 and John 15:9-10

John 14:21
The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him.

John 15:9-10
⁹ As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

2. Prayerfully consider your commitment level to continue in this Discipleship Group.

3. What do you hope to accomplish through this study series?



I hope to see you next week.

LESSON 2: OLD VS. NEW

<p>1 WELCOME</p>	<p>3 HOW WAS YOUR WEEK? Accountability</p>
<p>2 JESUS STORY, A PRAISE & A PRAYER</p>	<p> Did you spend daily time in prayer?  Did you spend daily time in the Word? Memory verse: John 15:9-10</p>

4 BIBLE READING: What characteristics do you see in the lives of the disciples?

Acts 1:14 _____

Acts 2:42-47 _____

Acts 4:1-4 _____

Acts 4:13-22 _____

Acts 4:32-37 _____

Acts 8:4-7 _____

Acts 12:1-5 _____

Acts 13:1-3 _____

Acts 14:19-22 _____

Acts 16:22-25 _____

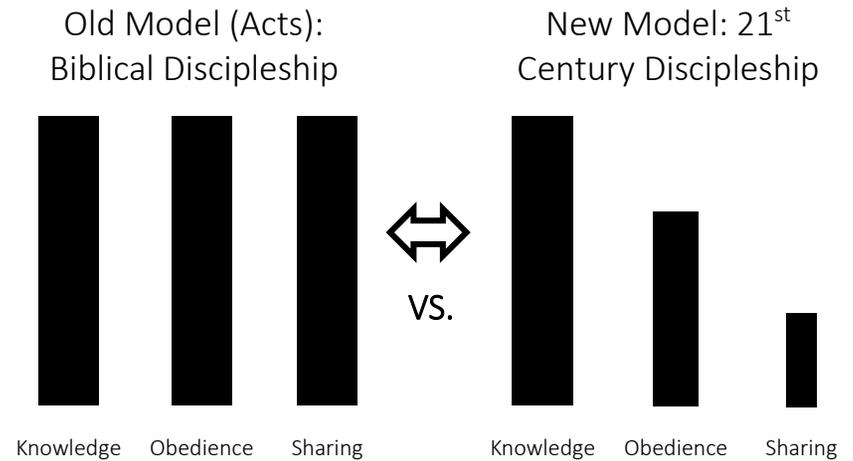
Acts 16:28-34 _____

Acts 17:16 _____

Acts 20:35-38 _____

5 DIAGRAM FOR DISCUSSION

Old Model vs. New Model



Knowledge:

This is a personal and intimate involvement with God and His Word.

Obedience:

To hear, trust, submit, and surrender to God and obey His Word.

Sharing:

Proclaiming the gospel to others and making disciples that make disciples.

6 REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

Below, draw the three bars (Knowledge, Obedience, Sharing) in relationship to what all three look like in your life today?

Knowledge Obedience Sharing

Reflect on your diagram. Are you satisfied with what you see?
More importantly, is Jesus pleased with what He sees in your life? If change is required, what needs to change in your life?

7 HEAR & OBEY OPPORTUNITY



From the Book of Acts Bible passages, what is the Holy Spirit saying to me?



Based on what the Holy Spirit is saying to me, what action(s) do I need to take? "I will..."

I will _____

"If you have a discipleship program that doesn't result in people who are learning to obey Jesus in every area of their lives, you are doing Jesus an injustice by calling what you're doing "disciple making". Maybe that is why we use the term discipleship instead. History has shown that we can do what we call discipleship without making disciples."

Roy Moran, Spent Matches

LESSON 3: OBEDIENCE TO WHOM?

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<p>1 WELCOME</p>	<p>3 HOW WAS YOUR WEEK? Accountability</p>
<p>2 JESUS STORY, A PRAISE & A PRAYER</p>	<p> Did you spend daily time in prayer?</p> <p> Did you spend daily time in the Word?</p> <p>Memory verse: 1 John 5:3</p>

Obey God and leave the results to Him.

4 BIBLE READING & REFLECTION:

As you read the passage, this might seem foreign to you because this isn't the norm for today. Why? We run from discomfort. We run from persecution. When we do, we miss out on an opportunity to suffer for the Lord.

Key Passage: Acts 5:12-42

- List the amazing things happening in Acts 5:12-16.

- In Acts 5:17-18, what was the reaction of the Sadducees? Why?

- In verse 18, did the Lord allow His disciples to be persecuted? Do we expect the Lord to rescue us in all situations?

- What miracle occurred in the public jail?

- In verses 19-20, what instructions did the angel give?

- In verses 27-28, what is the accusation? How did the apostles respond to the accusation?

- What do you think about Gamaliel's thought process? Who were the other men mentioned? It is worth it to do some research on the men mentioned in verses 35 and 37.

- In verses 40-42, what physical punishment did the apostles receive? What was their response?

- In verse 41, it reads, "Then they went out from the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to be treated shamefully on behalf of the Name." Are you willing to suffer for the Name? _____

LESSON 3: OBEDIENCE TO WHOM?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

Consider the importance of the words "obey" and "allegiance."

1. What is the definition of obedience?

2. What is the definition of allegiance?

3. From a believer's perspective, what's the difference between obedience and allegiance?

4. Is it possible to have obedience without allegiance...or allegiance without obedience? Explain.

5. How would you describe your obedience and allegiance to Jesus?

5 HEAR & OBEY OPPORTUNITY

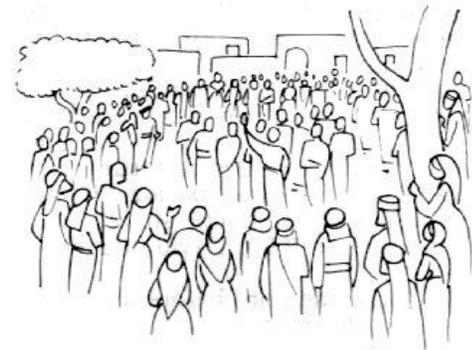


From the Bible passages, what is the Holy Spirit saying to me?



Based on what the Holy Spirit is saying to me, what action(s) do I need to take? "I will..."

I will _____



LESSON 4: WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

<p>1 WELCOME</p>	<p>3 HOW WAS YOUR WEEK? Accountability</p>
<p>2 JESUS STORY, A PRAISE & A PRAYER</p>	<p> Did you spend daily time in prayer?  Did you spend daily time in the Word? Memory verse: 1 John 2:3-6</p>

“When the church becomes an end in itself, it ends. When Sunday school, as great as it is, becomes an end in itself, it ends. When small group ministry becomes an end in itself, it ends. What we need is for discipleship to become the goal, and then the process never ends. The process is fluid. It is moving. It is active. It is a living thing. It must continue to go on. Every disciple must make disciples.” - Robby Gallaty, Growing Up

4 BIBLE READING: Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

Dictionaries define “disciple” as *one who accepts and spreads the doctrines of another*. So, who or what do you talk about most?

Let's look at how Jesus defines a disciple using Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. Keep in mind as you read that all of us are one of the four soils. **The parable explained:**

The first soil is described as a path. This seed never penetrates the soil because it is never understood the gospel. There are those, both inside and outside the church, who have been exposed to the gospel, but they don't produce fruit because they have never truly understood it. Satan snatches the gospel away and even the those who might think they are a Christian, really aren't – there is no fruit. Is this you? Have you truly accepted Jesus as your Savior AND Lord? Have you been transformed and are bearing fruit?

The second soil is described as rocky. This soil represents the seed of the gospel blossoming in a new believer. They are letting their newfound faith be known but are not at the same time being rooted in their faith. (Plants need roots & shoots.) External persecution dries them up and renders them fruitless. They're joy is gone, they stop speaking up about Jesus, and fear additional persecution.

The third soil is described as thorny. Sadly, this soil's potential fruitfulness is choked out by the thorns growing in their soil. The thorns represent internal influences or sins of the heart. The passage mentions *“cares of this world”* and *“the love for money.”* These are often accompanied by pride, lust, laziness, selfishness, greed, and envy.

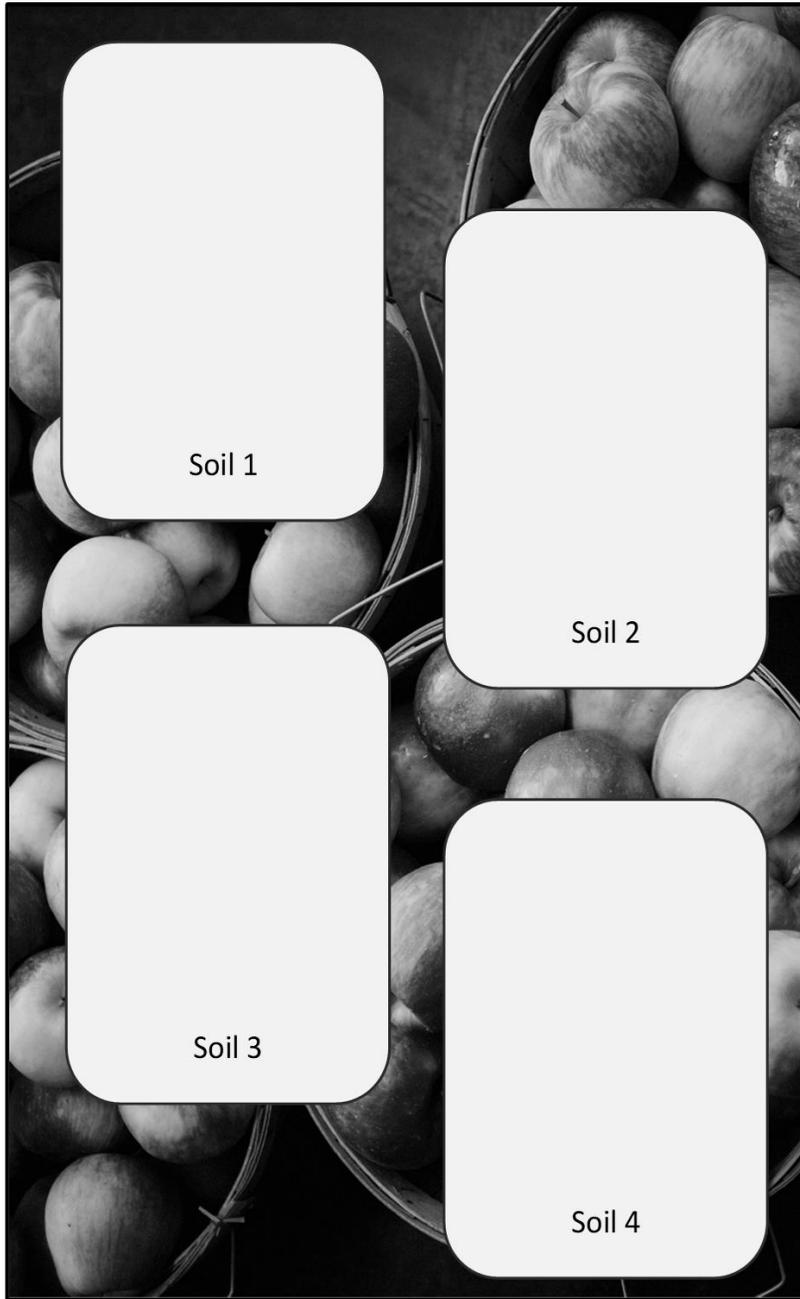
The fourth soil is good soil. This soil is the only soil that truly understands the gospel and produces fruit. Jesus describes this soil as producing 30, 60, and 100 times what has been sown. For us, this means that all good soil does not produce the same amount of fruit but that fruit **IS** produced.

What is the fruit of a disciple? If we consider that fish produce fish, horses produce horses, mango trees produce mangoes, cows produce cows, and humans produce humans, then we can conclude – disciples produce disciples.

We also realize through this parable that people will produce different amounts of fruit (30, 60, 100). The important thing to remember is that this soil understands the Gospel of Jesus and produces fruit. There is no qualification for “producing fruit.” Sometimes, people will say “I don't have the gift of evangelism.” Maybe you don't, BUT you're not off the hook. You may not produce 30, 60, or 100, and that's Okay. However, you are still expected to produce fruit with whatever gifts and skills God has provided you today.

So, what soil are you today?

Group Art Contest! Draw an illustration of each soil:



HEAR & OBEY OPPORTUNITY

From the Bible passages, what is the Holy Spirit saying to me?



What action(s) do I need to take? If I recognize I am not good-soil, what changes do I need to make? The response to this question begins with "I will..."

I will _____



LESSON 5: WHAT IS A DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENT?

LESSON 5: WHAT IS A DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENT?

1	WELCOME
2	JESUS STORY, A PRAISE & A PRAYER
3	HOW WAS YOUR WEEK? Accountability
	 Did you spend daily time in prayer?  Did you spend daily time in the Word?  Memory verse: Mark 8:34-35

4 BIBLE READING AND DISCUSSION

A disciple-making movement is a rapid and exponential increase in disciples making disciples. This type of movement spreads wide and deep to multiple streams of four generations of disciples. In 2010, there were a handful of disciple-making movements happening around the world. In 2022 there were more than 600 disciple-making movements actively pursuing the Kingdom of God! We often think that things like this happen in faraway places but that is not the reality of what we see. There are movements that are happening throughout the USA. And it is possible in Bastrop County, Texas – if our CBC Family has the correct posture, process, and path!

Read Romans 15:23.

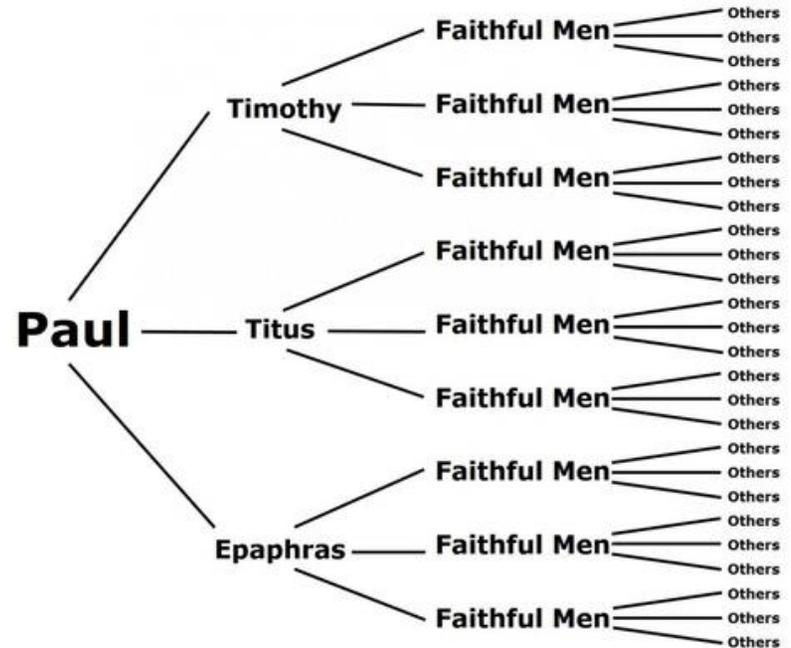
Notice that Paul states there is *no place left for him to work ... in ASIA!!*

Think about it. How can Paul, with no car, cell phone, internet, or airplane, cover such a large expanse in a period of 12 short years?

Well, how is it possible that there are people in Bastrop County, Texas that have never heard the gospel?

The Power of 3: 2 Timothy 2:2

What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

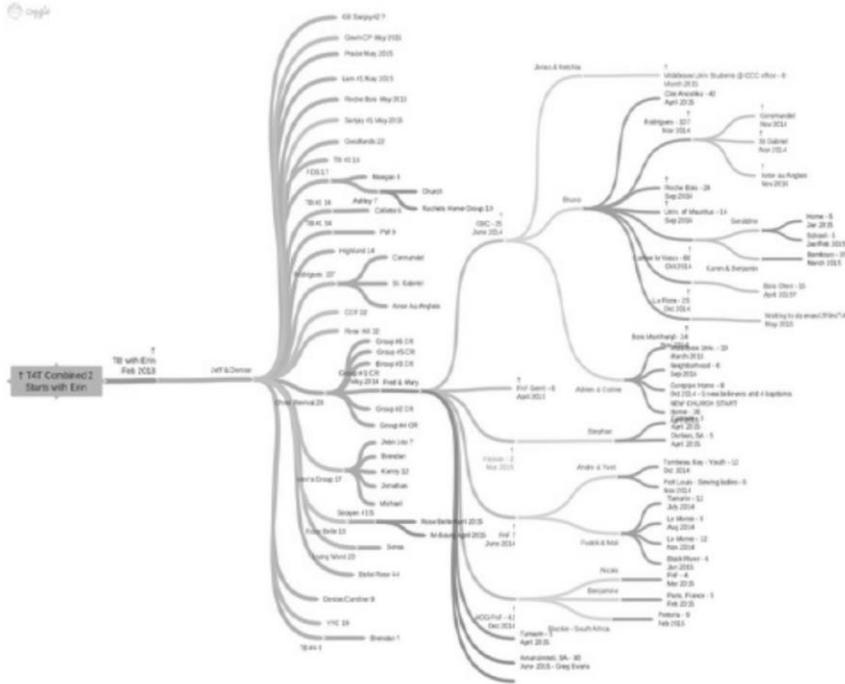


This diagram is an illustration of Paul's multiple streams of 4th generation disciples. Oftentimes, this is called a 1-3-9 model – every “1” has their “3,” which when repeated, leads to “9.”

As you can see, Paul disciples three. Then his three, Timothy, Titus, and Epaphras, each disciple three. The faithful men (9) disciple three each. (Keep in mind, the “others” may never know Paul.) The key to 1-3-9 success is finding people who want to pursue a disciple-making movement.

Question: What would happen in our church and our community if even a handful of believers, let alone every believer, accepted the responsibility of pursuing four generations of disciples?

LESSON 5: WHAT IS A DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENT?



The generational map above reflects two years of disciple-making movement work begun by one disciple-maker. This work is recent and was accomplished through people that had full-time jobs, kids, and other responsibilities. How? They pursued a spiritual **posture** for God to move in them and through them. They applied a **process** that was proven effective around the world, and they implemented a **path** with tools that were simple. More importantly, these people realized that the same Holy Spirit that was working in the Book of Acts is the same Holy Spirit that is working in, though, and among us today.

Question: Are you willing to do what it takes to see God move in the same big way?

What will you need to sacrifice to do this?

5

WHY SHOULD WE PURSUE A DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENT?

702

Why is this number significant?

It's not because it's the area code of Las Vegas.

It's not because it's a middle of the road credit score.

702 is important because it represents the number of Texas residents that die each day. * (25 per day in Bastrop County.)

That's 28 people every hour? Why is this important to know?

Sadly, 40% of the population of Texas has no religious affiliation. The percentage of lostness increases as we recognize that there are multiple false religions. To make matters worse, we also know that some professing Christians do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Over 70% of Texas who die daily die without Jesus. As sad as it is to think about the 702, it's also important to remember that **we have what they need: we have the Good News of Jesus Christ!**

702 Texans will enter eternity today, upwards of 70% will do so without Jesus. CBC, what are we doing about it?

The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Peter wrote this in a letter to the church! God is being patient with us for the sake of the lost.

Our CBC Vision Statement:

People are living without Jesus.

People who live without Jesus, die without Jesus.

People who die without Jesus, spend eternity apart from Jesus.

THAT NEEDS TO CHANGE!

- The next lesson is designed for group discussion. Please read Lesson 6 prior to our next meeting.

*2020 Census info.

LESSON 6: THE CBC DISCIPLESHIP PLAN- THE 3-PS

Meet for coffee or a meal and discuss the following information!

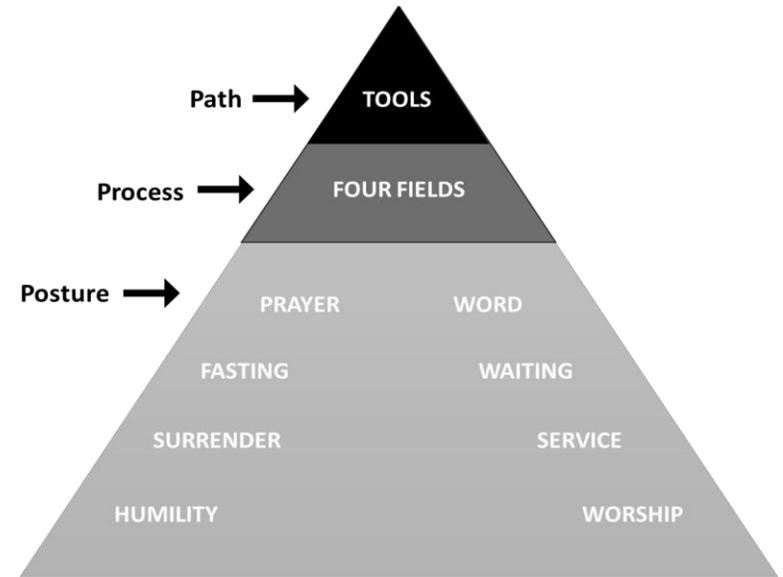
There are three categories that Disciple-Making Movements (DDM) typically use in simplifying the key characteristics of God-sized movements. We call them the 3-PS:

- (1) A **Path**, or tools, that any believer can use and follow.
- (2) A Discipleship **Process** to equip and unite believers so that we speak the same disciple-making language and use the same tools.
- (3) A spiritual **Posture** that prepares us for the Holy Spirit to move in us and through us.

1 HIGHEST PRIORITY: POSTURE

As Christians, most of us are aware of the eight postures mentioned in the diagram on the opposite page. All of them are important disciplines in the life of a disciple of Jesus. We know the disciplines, but do we apply them?

- We know we should *pray*...but how is your prayer life?
- We know we should read the *Word* of God...but how many hours did you spend in the Word of God this week?
- Jesus fasted. The disciples fasted. Paul fasted. We know *fasting* must be a healthy practice...but when was the last time you fasted?
- We know the word "*surrender*." We say, "Jesus is Lord"...but, is He? Or is there an area of your life that you won't surrender to Him?
- We know the word and definition for "*humility*," right? Are you humble before God, and do you show humility before others?
- How's your *worship*...not the Sunday morning singing version, but authentic, daily, personal worship?
- How are you *servicing* others? Life is busy and we're pulled in so many directions. Are you so busy that you can't find time to serve others?
- Finally, as we pursue the Lord, do we *wait* for Him to reveal His will and His plans for and to us? Are you "still" long enough to listen?



Posture is a set of personal disciplines that every believer must master.

If an area needs attention...start working on it NOW!

Here's How:

- 1) Own it.
- 2) Ask the Lord for forgiveness.
- 3) Ask your Group to hold you accountable.
- 4) DO IT!

2 HEAR & OBEY OPPORTUNITY



Which of the eight postures is the Holy Spirit telling me needs attention?



Based on what the Holy Spirit is telling me, what action(s) do I need to take? "**I will...**" (Is it measurable?)

Pray that each Group member would pursue a posture that will allow the Lord to move in them and through them.

3 POSTURE – GROUP DISCUSSION

The foundation for pursuing a disciple-making movement requires that we begin with healthy disciples.

The following lessons in this series will serve as a foundation for a person that is pursuing an intimate, spirit-filled life that honors Jesus Christ. As we pursue a correct posture, all other areas of life will be impacted. Be sure to take the time necessary to "get your house in order" as we posture ourselves for God to move in us and through us.

For each posture below, define the posture, as you see it, and then write how you plan to incorporate that posture into your weekly routine. Be prepared to discuss your definitions and plans during Group time.

Posture 1: Surrender: _____

I will _____

Posture 2: Word of God: _____

I will _____

Posture 3: Prayer: _____

I will _____

Posture 4. Waiting: _____

I will _____

Posture 5: Fasting: _____

I will _____

Posture 6: Worship: _____

I will _____

Posture 7: Humility: _____

I will _____

Posture 8: Service to Others: _____

I will _____

4 REMEMBER THE COMMITMENT?

1. Disciple-making is not a race and there is no deadline. Our goal is to take steps in the right direction.
2. Do the work for each session.
3. Contribute to the sessions.
4. Obey what you learn.
5. Share what you learn.

LESSON 7: SURRENDER

<p>1 WELCOME</p>	<p>3 HOW WAS YOUR WEEK? Accountability</p> <p> Did you spend daily time in prayer? (Did you pray for those "far from God?" 702)</p> <p> Did you spend daily time in the Word?</p> <p> Memory verse: James 4:8</p>
<p>2 JESUS STORY, A PRAISE & A PRAYER</p>	

Key Passage: Matthew 19:16-29

4 BIBLE READING & REFLECTION:

What do we learn about Jesus in Matthew 19:16-21?

What do we learn about the young man in verses 16-22?

What was his question to Jesus?

What was his financial situation?

What was his response to Jesus' question?

What did the young man lack?

SURRENDER

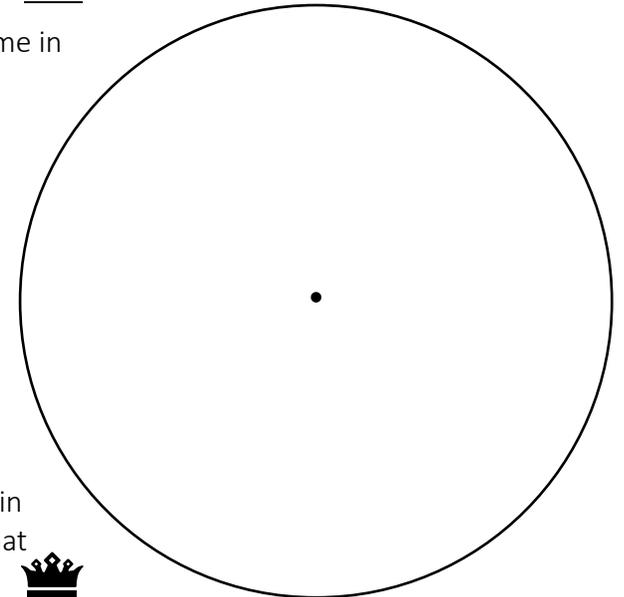
- List the 5-6 most important aspects of your life by the amount of time you invest in them each week. (Examples: work, spouse, children, church, relaxing, hobbies, discipleship, social media, etc.)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

- Create a pie chart reflecting the aspects you listed above. The pie pieces should reflect, in size, what aspects get the most and least amount of time.

- Write your name in the center.

- Think about each of the aspects. Is Christ Lord in each aspect of your life? Do any of the aspects come before God?



- Draw a crown in each aspect that you have fully  surrendered to Jesus.

- Share your diagram with the group.

LESSON 7: SURRENDER

We often look at the story of the rich young ruler and think, "Wow. He blew it. He had Jesus right there and he walked away!" What about you? Jesus continues to call us to follow Him and sometimes that means giving up a prized possession. Is there something in your life that you are not willing to surrender to be "ALL IN" with your relationship with Jesus? For example, some people struggle with having a daily quiet time (and the reason is typically because they are too busy), but this same person may be very regimented about watching television or another hobby that commands several hours each week.

In addition to Matthew 16:24-27, what can we learn from the following Passages?

Mark 8:34-38 _____

Mark 10:28-29 _____

Romans 12:1 _____

Galatians 2:20 _____

James 4:8 _____

A BIT MORE ABOUT SURRENDER...

Surrender means I relinquish my rights and give complete control to Jesus. Surrender is not the same thing as commitment. I wave the white flag.

Surrender means that I worship Jesus and not the gifts He gave me. People worship other people. People worship their children. People worship their work. People worship their money. People worship their vacation spots. People worship knowledge. People worship their pets. Only Jesus is worthy of our worship.

Surrender every nook and cranny of our lives to Jesus. What part of my life is still mine? Do we say, "Lord I'll give you 85% but I want to keep this small little piece for me."

Commitments can be self-centered and cause-centered. Commitment is fundamentally about my personal agenda. Commitment isn't always a bad thing, but it is a problem when it gets in the way of surrender. Surrender and commitment can work together for our good and His glory. For example, in Genesis 22, Abraham displays committed surrender to God because he trusted God. On the flip side, Peter made a commitment to go with Jesus to prison or even death...how'd that turn out for him? (Luke 22:33-34). In January, 40% of Americans made New Year's resolutions, and nearly half of them committed to lose weight or get in shape. Sadly, 80% of those New Year's resolutions failed by February.

We listen to a past word of God, not the latest word of God. This is a common mistake we make that we should avoid. It is a noble act to stay committed to instructions the Lord gave us until God gives us a fresh word. You see, being committed to the past but unyielding to the current voice of God is not surrender.

We cannot be filled with the Spirit unless we are emptied of ourselves. Will it be His will...or our will?

The trailhead for walking in the Spirit is marked with a sign, "Surrender." Surrender is the hardest place to start. But it's the only place to start.

Surrendering to Him is not only for His glory but for our pleasure and enjoyment. Psalms 16:11 Why is surrender so difficult? We think that if we say "Yes" to God, He will bring misery to our lives.

Refusal to surrender might mean that our theology of God's goodness is wrong. God is not looking for ways to punish us for past sins, current sin, or future sin. He's not looking for ways to harm us. He's a loving God, full of goodness and mercy with an incredible passion for being in relationship with each of us.

Surrender doesn't involve negotiation. It's total and unconditional. Unconditional surrender is a joyful enterprise when you trust that God has your welfare at heart.

COMMITMENT VS. SURRENDER

LESSON 7: SURRENDER

There's a story told by Adrian Rogers that perfectly illustrates the difference between commitment and surrender. Dr. Rogers interviewed Romanian pastor, Josef Tson, who suffered during the Communist reign in his country. Dr. Rogers asked of his impression of American Christianity. With some reluctance, Josef shared his impression.

"The key word in American Christianity is commitment. The word commitment did not come into great usage in the English language until about the 1960s. In Romania we don't even have a word to translate the English word *commitment*. If you were to use commitment in your sermon tonight, I would not have a proper word to translate it with." Joseph continued, "When a new word comes into usage, it generally pushes an old word out. I began to study and found the word that commitment replaced. Adrian, the old word that is no longer in vogue in America is the word *surrender*."

"Josef," Dr. Rogers asked, "what is the difference between commitment and surrender?" Josef said, "When you make a commitment, you are still in control, no matter how noble the thing you commit to. One can commit to pray, to study the Bible, to give money, or to car payments, or to lose weight. But surrender is different. If someone pointed a gun at you and asks that you lift your hands in the air as a token of surrender, you don't tell that person what you are committed to. You simply surrender and do as you are told. Americans love commitment because they are still in control. But the key word is surrender. We are to be slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ."

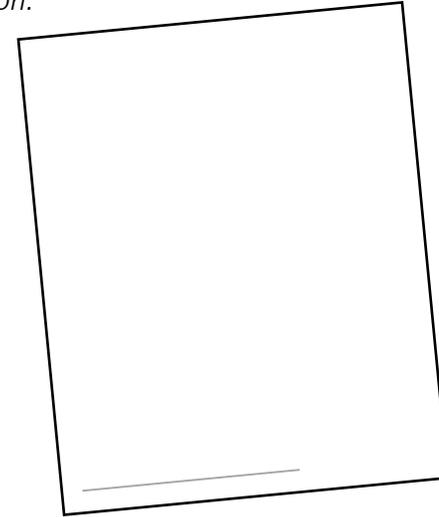
5 A BLANK SHEET OF PAPER

In your morning devotional, God prompts you to take a blank piece of paper. With anticipation, you pull it out and grasp your pen. You are ready to write because God is speaking.

God then says, *"This is a contract for the day. Sign the contract at the bottom of the page please."*

You look at the blank sheet. Nervously you respond, "Ok, Father. I will sign it. But what are the terms of the contract? The page is blank. Should we fill it out so I can sign it?"

Your Father pauses and then His gentle voice says, *"My child, I will not tell you ahead of time. Just sign it and I will fill in the details as the day goes on."*



Total surrender does not include negotiation. The terms are unconditional.

6

HEAR & OBEY OPPORTUNITY



What is the Holy Spirit saying to me about surrender?



Based on what the Holy Spirit is saying to me, what action(s) do I need to take? **"I will..."**

LESSON 8: WORD OF GOD

<p>1 WELCOME</p>	<p>3 HOW WAS YOUR WEEK? Accountability</p>
<p>2 JESUS STORY, A PRAISE & A PRAYER</p>	<p> Did you spend daily time in prayer? (Did you pray for those “far from God?” 702)</p> <p> Did you spend daily time in the Word?</p> <p> Memory verse: Colossians 3:16</p>

At CBC, we believe the Bible is the inerrant, infallible Word of God. The Bible is God’s Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God; it is the truth without error.

Reference: 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalms 119:105 & 160; Psalms 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

4 BIBLE READING & REFLECTION

Read the following verses and briefly summarize each:

Joshua 1:8 **...meditate on it day and night** _____

Psalms 1:2 _____

Psalms 119:9-10 _____

Psalms 30 _____

Psalms 105 _____

Proverbs 30:5 _____

Isaiah 40:8 _____

Isaiah 55:10-11 _____

2 Timothy 3:16 _____

Matthew 4:4 _____

Job 23:12 _____

Hebrews 4:12 _____

1 Peter 2:2-3 _____

Colossians 3:16 _____

THOUGHT: Is daily time in the Word optional...OR...is your time in the Word non-negotiable?

Prioritize daily time in the Word into your busy schedule!

"The very practice of reading [the Bible] will have a purifying effect upon your mind and heart. Let nothing take the place of this daily exercise." Billy Graham

5 HEAR & OBEY OPPORTUNITY



What is the Holy Spirit saying to me about God's Word?



Based on what the Holy Spirit is saying to me, what action(s) do I need to take? "I will..."

