



BAPTISTS ON MISSION



MEN, WOMEN AND STUDENTS
"SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH WORD AND DEED"

(G3 The Imperative Life of a Christ Follower)
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THE PREFACE

Can you imagine what your church would be like if your primary focus was making disciples? That is much deeper and more personal than simply making converts. Disciple making is life on life. It means spending time learning together, being involved in life, and building a friendship that is ever-expanding to impact others. Discipling someone is offering them a relationship that is Christ-centered, growing and multiplying.

Baptists on Mission wants to offer you a resource that will help in your disciple-making mission. We encourage you to weave together Bible study, small group interaction, and hands-on mission involvement. As a church or small group interacts during the week focusing on a spiritual truth that creates a pathway to discipling. *“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17*

Chuck Campbell has written an excellent study, **“The Imperative Life of a Christ Follower,”** that is a ten-week personal and small group study on the ten distinctives of a Christ follower. It includes discovery Bible lessons each week around one distinctive and it is designed that a disciple will meet weekly with those he/she is discipling to talk more deeply about what God has revealed during the week.

The following is a condensed version of his study designed to be used as a church-wide Bible study, Sunday School lesson, small group study or one-on-one discipling. We encourage you to use this as an introduction or alongside the full study. There are people across the state who will be glad to walk through this study with you to help you and others on your journey. Below is Chuck Campbell’s introduction to **“The Imperative Life of a Christ Follower”** is a version you can use to introduce your church to a disciple making model with proven results.

The goal is to help you start something that becomes part of your DNA so that discipling is as natural as breathing and effects everyone in your life.

INTRODUCTION



Jesus calls His disciples to go and commands them to make disciples. Yet, what is a disciple according to Jesus and how do we know when we have made one? How long will it take to fulfill this mandate? What should I share to accomplish this task? These and many more questions will be answered as you begin your disciple making journey.

The G3 Discipling Strategy is a simple but logical approach aligned with three phases of **Give Up**, **Give In**, and **Give Out**, naturally culminating with **Reproducing**.



The first phase in our discipleship journey is to **Give Up**. This involves surrendering, sacrificing and listening.



The second phase in our discipleship journey is to **Give In**. This involves abiding, obeying, and listening.



The third phase in our discipleship journey is to **Give Out**. This involves loving, serving, and sharing.



The result of **Giving Up**, **Giving In**, and **Giving Out** is **Reproducing**.

This process is established around ten distinctives of a disciple stated by Jesus Christ and founded on the over 300 imperatives (commands) of our Lord from the Gospels.

This work was developed to assist all who desire to fulfill Matthew 28:19-20 by providing a systematic approach to teaching all of the imperatives of Christ. The process is to achieve our Lord's instruction to teach them to live out all that He commanded in Matthew 28:20. This resource will begin by introducing 50 prioritized imperatives of Christ under ten distinctives. It is our hope this will encourage you and others to explore and live out all that our Lord has commanded.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20 N^{ASB})

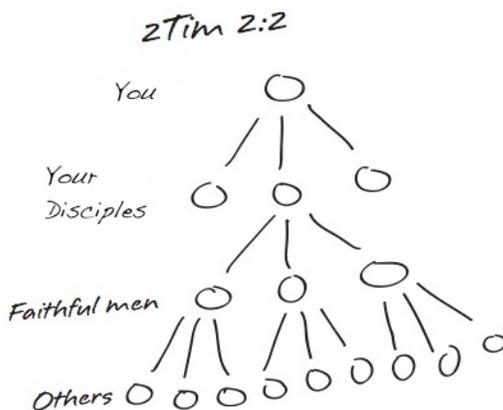
Jesus stated that a disciple is one who is fruitful (reproducing) and a disciple maker is one who is making fruitful disciples. This means we have not accomplished the command to make disciples until the one we are discipling is making disciples.

*My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.
(John 15:8 NASB)*

Jesus emphasizes this truth as he summarizes His thoughts in John 15. He shares that we have been chosen, appointed to go and bear fruit and the fruit we bear should abide. Meaning those we disciple will bear fruit as He commanded in John 15:4.

You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain. (John 15:16a NASB)

The goal throughout this study is to create a generationally reproducing lifestyle of disciple making. This was emphasized by Paul in 2 Timothy 2:2. The ultimate aim being to glorify Jesus.



Our focus throughout this work will be on hearing, knowing and following, spoken of by Jesus Christ in John 10:27.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (John 10:27 NASB)

As you read this introduction, what are you hearing? Jesus repeated many times to those who heard His voice “he who has ears to hear, let him hear.” What is Jesus saying to you? Listening leads to learning and transformation. Learning goes way beyond head knowledge but what I like to call heart knowledge. Is your life being so transformed that others are encountering Jesus through you? This will never happen unless we move to following. Where is Jesus going today? Will you follow Him? We may give the expected Christian answer of

anywhere, but what if it costs you something. If it costs you everything, would you still live for Him?

The time is now, the mandate is clear, the ministry is before us, the mission calls us to action. Will you join me as we seek to “share God’s love through word and deed.”

Notes to the Discipler

As you begin your journey with others you will notice at the end of each session there are “notes to the disciple”. Take time to read through these before you meet. This will serve as a reminder in helping you fulfill your mandate from our Lord to not only be a disciple but to make one as well.

You should first walk the learner through the outline. A copy of the outline is provided in the appendix. The purpose behind this is to provide an overview of the study you will be using in the next 10 weeks. Ideally it is best to meet as consecutively as possible, but understand life happens and it is not unusual for 10 weeks to turn into 20. Remember our goal is not just to get through a ten-week study but to create a lifestyle of making disciples.

*G*Disciple PATH



Each week you will be discovering a new distinctive of a follower of Christ. In each session you will find helpful questions, scriptures, parables, imperatives, tactics, etc. to assist you in teaching and living out that week’s distinctive.

You will also be given key imperatives every week to listen, learn, and live out. This is pertinent in order to accomplish the instruction of our Lord to “teach them to observe all that I commanded” in Matthew 28:20. When we live out all that Jesus commands us it will be evidenced by the ten distinctives being present in our daily lives. Remember the ten distinctives are simply how Jesus defined a disciple and follower of His.



It is important as you begin each session, to start with a time of reflection. Allow the learner to share what they are hearing. What is God saying to them?



What are they learning? How is Christ transforming their life as a disciple maker?



How are they following Christ in such a way that they are impacting the lives of others to be disciple makers? These inquiries give you key coaching points as you move through each distinctive.

One of the tactics in making a disciple is to have the person with whom you are working begin to reach out and work with someone else while you are still in the process. Mentoring as you go is one of the lost keys to generationally reproducing disciples. During the first three weeks you will be asked to push out to your spouse or best friend. I often say these are the birth relationships for lifestyle disciple making. The ultimate objective in this work is not just to help you to be a disciple, but a disciple maker. You will never stop discipling those you hold dear in your life.

My prayer for you is that God will richly bless you and grant you His favor as you seek to be what Christ has always intended for you to be. God speed as you impart the wonderful gift of disciple making to others.

Distinctive One, Surrenders



GIVE UP

Surrender - Followers of Jesus deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Him

And He was saying to [them] all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Luke 9:23

As you review the outline found on page 44 in the appendix, what is God revealing to you about being a follower of Jesus Christ?

Who have you shared this with?

What is your general definition of the word surrender?

Is there any difference in the way you define surrender in general as opposed to how you relate that word to Jesus?



Let's look at what Christ said in the Gospels

- Read Luke 9:23-25
- Read Luke 14:27

Jesus gives us three clear characteristics of a disciple as well as a definition of a surrendered life. First, one must deny himself. Secondly, one must take up his cross daily, and thirdly, one must follow Jesus.

Define the three imperatives in this text in your own words.

Why is Jesus asking us to take up our cross daily?

If we do not deny ourselves and take up our cross daily, are we following Christ?

Who are you following?



Let's take a moment to consider

Have you truly surrendered your life to Christ?

Do you sincerely desire to come after Jesus?

If so, what must change daily?

Do the concepts of denying yourself and willingly associating yourself with the cross of Christ characterize your lifestyle?

Of course, no person can claim perfection, but is full surrender to the Lord a reality in your life?

Do you have assurance of your salvation? Do you have those nagging doubts that slow you down and steal your confidence?

I encourage you to stop and take a moment to ask Jesus to show you the truth about where you stand in your relationship with Him. It is essential that you first become a Christian. Then you will have the capacity to follow Christ and lead others to do the same.



Let's look at an illustration from Christ

- Read Matthew 13:44-46

What does this parable say to you about your own life and the value you place on your relationship with Jesus?

Did Paul understand the concept of living a totally surrendered life? (Galatians 2:20)

What is a personal story you can share to illustrate surrender?

Who can you share your story with today?

Surrendering to the Lord is something you do initially and then continue to do for the rest of your life. Making progress in the area of surrender actually gives you the capacity to move on and make progress in the next distinctive.

Let's reveal what you have discovered



Hearing – What is God saying to you today?



Knowing – Have you totally surrendered your life to Christ?



Following - Is surrender a reality in the life of your spouse, child, others...?

Begin to think about a specific person with whom you can share what you are learning. Finally, what is your response to the Lord in prayer?



Take time this week to listen, learn and live out the following key imperatives:

Key Imperatives

Mark 1:15 **repent** (μετανοεῖτε), **believe** (πιστεύετε)

Luke 9:23 **deny** (ἄρνησάσθω), **take** (ἄράτω), **follow** (ἄκολουθείτω), Matt 16:24, Mark 8:33

Be prepared to share your thoughts next week.



Notes to the Discipler

- Begin this session reviewing the outline found on page 44.
- Be prepared to share a personal testimony of how God has been teaching you in the area of surrender.
- Don't rush! The goal is not to complete a study, but to carry out a discipling strategy that results in genuine transformation in you and the one with whom you are discipling.
- Always feel free to use other questions, scriptures, etc. that the Lord lays on your heart in order to communicate these concepts, but seek to primarily focus on one main truth at a time.
- Be a good listener.
- Be a good coach and mentor.
- Spend time each week on reproducing. Who are they pushing out to? Remember the ultimate goal is not just being a disciple, but a disciple maker.
- Review the tactics on page 46 in the appendix.
- Offer guidance in filling out the multiplication chart found on page 45.

Distinctive Two, Sacrifice



GIVE UP

Sacrifice – Followers of Jesus are willing to give up everything to follow Him

“So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all of his own possessions.” Luke 14:33

What has God been teaching you this past week?
Who have you shared this with?

To the degree you have an understanding of surrender you will have the capacity to sacrifice.
What is your definition of the word sacrifice?
What is the greatest sacrifice you have ever made?



Let's look at what Christ said in the Gospels

- Read Luke 14:25-33

Why did Jesus use such strong language in Luke 14:26?
What does the teaching of Christ say to you about your family relations as compared with your relationship to Him?
How does it make you feel to read Luke 14:33? Does Jesus mean that literally?
What does Jesus include when referring to possessions?



Let's take a moment to consider

What disqualifies one from being a disciple of Jesus according to this text?
How does this align with Luke 9:23?

Is the Lord speaking to your heart about any definite changes that He desires to bring about in your life? If so, what?
What will be your first step?



Let's look at an illustration from Christ

- Luke 14:28-32

What does building a tower or going into battle have to do with being a follower of Jesus?
What does the phrase “count the cost” mean to you?

As you have been learning to surrender to the Lord in specific areas of your life, perhaps there are also areas in which you need to be more willing to sacrifice.

These two concepts go hand-in-hand as you grow into a mature and fruitful disciple of the Lord Jesus. How much of you is Jesus asking for? 50%, 90%, 100%

Look at and pray about what you have discovered



Hearing – What is God saying you need to sacrifice?



Knowing – What has Christ been teaching you?



Following - How is the Holy Spirit speaking to others through you?

Prayer is key. How will you respond to God in prayer? Pray for the specific person with whom you will begin to share what you are learning.



Take time this week to listen, learn and live out these key imperatives:

Key Imperatives

Matt 6:19 "Do not **lay** (θησαυρίζετε) 20 "But **lay** up (θησαυρούς)

Matt 6:25 do not be **anxious** (μεριμνά'τε), Mark 13:11, Luke 12:22

Matt 6:33 **seek** (ζητει'τε), Luke 12:31

Read and be prepared to share your thoughts next week.



Notes to the Discipler

- Begin this session by reviewing the distinctive of surrender. How are you listening, learning and living it out?
- Be prepared to share a personal testimony of how God has been teaching you in the area of sacrifice.
- When discussing the parables in Luke 14:28-32, please emphasize salvation as being by grace alone. Many have hesitated to accept Christ as Savior because of self-doubts about their own ability to live up to what Christ requires of His disciples. Help them to understand the provision of power Christ has made through the Holy Spirit.
- To the degree that we understand how to surrender, we will have the capacity to sacrifice. This is an important concept to grasp in your disciple making journey. A key point to remember as you move forward is that it is not about perfection, it is about progress.

Distinctive Three, Listen



GIVE UP

Listen - Followers of Jesus hear His voice

*"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."
(John 10:27)*

What has God been teaching you this past week?
Who have you shared this with?

Jesus used the word hear many times in the gospels. It is often translated listen or hear in the English and one of the most used words in the imperative.
Why do you think Jesus used this particular word so often?



Let's look at what Christ said in the Gospels

- John 10:27

Jesus stated that His sheep hear His voice. Can you remember the last time you heard God's voice? What are the different ways the Lord speaks today?

In John chapter ten, Jesus used the analogy of the shepherd and the sheep to help us understand our relationship to Him.

Jesus used three words in John 10:27 to define His relationship with His sheep. What are they? Describe how you are living out **Hearing**, **Knowing** and **Following** Christ.



Let's take a moment to consider

- Read John 8:43, 47
- Read Matthew 13:13-16 – (Reference to Isaiah 6:9-10)

What do these passages say to you about the importance of truly listening to what God says to you? Could it be a matter of heaven or hell for unbelievers? Could it be a matter of blessing or loss for believers? What is your greatest cause of hearing loss in your spiritual life?



Let's look at an illustration from Christ

- Read Matthew 7:24-27

What does this parable say to you?

What is evidence someone is hearing the words of Christ?

What could happen if you chose not to listen?

Since you began this discipling process, have you learned any notable truths about what it means to surrender, sacrifice, and listen?

Look at and pray about what you have discovered



Hearing – What is God saying to you today?



Knowing – What has Christ been teaching you?



Following – How is the Holy Spirit speaking to others through you?

Never underestimate the power and importance of prayer in every part of your life. How will you respond to God in prayer today?



Take time this week to listen, learn and live out these key imperatives:

Key Imperatives

Matt 13:9 **Hear** (ἀκούετω) parable of the sower, Luke 8:8, Mark 4:3,9

Matt 13:18 **Hear** (ἀκούσατε) sower explained, Mark 4:23

Matt 6:9 **Pray** (προσεύχεσθε)

Matt 7:7 **ask**, (ἄιτεῖτ), **seek**, (ζητεῖτε), **knock**, (κρούετε) Luke 11:9

Read and be prepared to share your thoughts next week.



Notes to the Discipler

- Begin this session by reviewing the distinctive of sacrifice. How are you listening, learning and living it out?
- Be prepared to share a personal testimony of how God has been teaching you in the area of listening.
- Take time to review the first three distinctives and how they fit into the overall concept of GIVING UP.
- Re-emphasize the main goal of being a fruitful disciple and helping others to reach the same goal.
- Explain multiplication in relationship to making disciples.
- Stay ahead in the process of your own learning and growing.
- Review the multiplication chart on page 45.

Distinctive Four, Abide



GIVE IN

Abide - Followers of Jesus abide in His Word

“Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, [then] you are truly disciples of Mine.” (John 8:31)

What has God been teaching you this past week?
Who have you shared this with?

When we gain understanding of the GIVE UP phase, it will provide us the capacity to fulfill the GIVE IN phase. This again does not mean perfection, but understanding the principles as you live them out. Remember, Jesus was calling us to obey His commands not just learn them. In other words, the goal is to live them out in our daily lives.

Today, we will begin unpacking the GIVE IN Phase. This involves Abiding, Obeying and Lighting. When you think of the word *abide* what comes to mind?



Let's look at what Christ said in the Gospels

- Read John 8:31-32

As you read John 8:31, Jesus used the term *abide* or in other translations, *continue* to describe a believer's involvement with the word. How would you describe your relationship with the word?

With that in mind, what are some ways in which you can apply the idea of *abiding* to your everyday life?

Notice the conditional nature of John 8:31 – if...then.

What do you think it means to be set free by the truth? Define truth.



Let's take a moment to consider

- Read John 15:1-10

In John 15, you are told to abide in Jesus and His love. What does Jesus promise the one who obeys His command?

What does Jesus say the proof of your love for Him will be?

John 15:10 is somewhat like a circular statement: If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, and if you abide in my love, you will keep my commandments. Does that make sense to you? Why or why not?



Let's look at an illustration from Christ

Read John 15:5-6. Jesus stated two powerful truths:

- Joined to Him, we will be very fruitful.
- Separated from Him, we can do nothing.

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. (John 15:8)

In John 15:8, Jesus makes an important statement. In your own words what is Jesus saying?

As you begin to assimilate the truths of GIVING IN into your life, please remember how these new concepts build upon the foundation of GIVING UP.

Look at and pray about what you have discovered



Hearing – What is God saying to you today?



Knowing – What has Christ been teaching you?



Following – How is the Holy Spirit speaking to others through you?

Is the Lord speaking to you about any specific changes in attitude or action that need to be made? If so, please share.



Take time this week to listen, learn and live out these key imperatives:

Key Imperatives

John 15:4 **abide** (μείνατε) John 15:9

John 15:20 **remember** (μνημονεύετε)

Matt 11:29 **take** (ἄρατε) **learn** (μάθετε)

Read and be prepared to share your thoughts next week.



Notes to the Discipler

- Begin this session by reviewing the distinctive of listen. How are you listening, learning and living it out?
- Be prepared to share a personal testimony of how God has been teaching you in the area of abiding.
- Assist him/her in coming up with personal examples which he/she can share with others.
- Challenge them to begin discipling a family member or friend.
- Encourage them to work with more than one person on a regular basis (such as a family member at home and a colleague at work or school).
- Pray without ceasing for those with whom you are working.

Distinctive Five, Obey



GIVE IN

Obey - Followers of Jesus obey Him

“He said to him, Follow Me. and he left everything behind, and rose and [began] to follow Him.” (Luke 5:27)

What has God been teaching you this past week?
Who have you shared this with?
How would you define *follow*?

How do you think Levi felt when challenged to follow Jesus? What do you suppose you would have done in that situation? Do you have a natural desire to obey another person? God? What does it take to follow or obey someone?



Let's look at what Christ said in the Gospels

- Read Luke 5:11; 27-28
- Read Luke 9:57-62

Notice the remarkable obedience of these men toward Jesus. What did they have to surrender and sacrifice to follow Him? What do you believe accounts for their seemingly blind faith? Is that how you began your walk with Christ? What about now?



Let's take a moment to consider

- Luke 9:57-62

We can see those who professed a desire to follow Jesus. What was their reaction to His call? In this passage, we can see declared obedience (vv. 57-58), delayed obedience (vv. 59-60), and deficient obedience (vv. 61-62). What do these terms mean to you? Perhaps you have heard parents tell their children to “obey without delay.” Is delayed obedience truly obedience at all?

Is this what Jesus desires from His followers? What is the best motive for obedience?



Let's look at an illustration from Christ

- Read Luke 17:7-10.

What was Christ teaching about our motives for obedience? Again, what virtue is required to offer this kind of obedience?

Why is this type of obedience a foreign thought in today's culture?

Jesus doesn't want us to declare our obedience, but rather to demonstrate it.

Does this illustration describe your current walk with Christ?

Are there certain areas of your life in which you need to re-evaluate your level of obedience?

How about your motives or attitude?

Would you be willing to share an example?

Look at and pray about what you have discovered



Hearing – What is God saying to you today?



Knowing – What has Christ been teaching you?



Following – How is the Holy Spirit speaking to others through you?

As you look at what you have discovered, what response do you need to give to the Lord in prayer?



Take time this week to listen, learn and live out these key imperatives:

Key Imperatives

Matt 10:28 **fear** (φοβεῖσθε), **fear** (φοβεῖσθε) Luke 12:25

Matt 10:31 **fear** (φοβεῖσθε) Luke 12:7

Matt 5:12 **Rejoice**, (χαίrete)

Mark 6:31 **Come** (δεῦτε), **rest** (ἀναπαύσασθε)

Read and be prepared to share your thoughts next week.



Notes to the discipler

- Begin this session by reviewing the distinctive of abide. How are you listening, learning and living it out?
- Be prepared to share a personal testimony of how God has been teaching you in the area of obeying.
- Don't be discouraged if the person with whom you are working is not yet discipling another person, continue to encourage them.
- It takes time and maturity to do what you are doing. Be patient and let the Lord move in his/her life. Don't force it.
- Each week review all of the truths that we have covered so far. It may seem redundant, but it is necessary for learning and transformation to take place.

As we end this section, is there any area of your life that you have been reluctant to fully obey? What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Is there something you need to stop justifying and totally give in? Remember Jesus has given you everything you need to obey Him. Take time and seek the Father. Ask Him to reveal those areas that lack obedience to the Lord. Come before Him in sincerity and commitment. Only then can we move to the next step of being the light.

Distinctive Six, Light



GIVE IN

Light - Followers of Jesus walk in the Light

“Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

What has God been teaching you this past week?
Who have you shared this with?

Have you ever had to walk in complete darkness? How'd that go? How did you get light into the room? What was the source of the light?



Let's look at what Christ said in the Gospels

- Read John 8:12

What did Jesus mean when He said “I am the light of the world?”

How do you picture yourself in relation to Jesus as the Light? What sort of activities do you associate with walking in the light? What activities do you associate with walking in darkness? What are the two titles Jesus claims in John 8:12? Did Jesus come to the earth to be the light or pass it on to us?



Let's take a moment to consider

- John 1:1-5, 9-13
- John 12:35-36, 46

John begins his Gospel with the introduction of Jesus. What is the connection between light and life? What are the titles he gives Him? Who did John say was the light? What was the purpose for the light? How do we become the sons of light?



Let's look at an illustration from Christ

• Luke 11:33-36.

What do you think Jesus was trying to convey in this passage?
How does it relate to living your life as one walking in the light?
Back in John 8:12, Jesus said that His followers would “have the light of life”. How is that possible? How do you think Matthew 5:14-16 fits into this?
How are you letting your light shine?

As you continue to make progress in your walk with Christ, do you see the pieces of the puzzle coming together to form a picture of a real disciple?
Do you now better understand how an upward focus on surrender, sacrifice, and listening leads you to an inward focus on abiding, obeying, and walking in His light?
In other words, learning to GIVE UP gives you an increasing capacity to GIVE IN, ultimately enabling you to GIVE OUT.
What will be your next step in learning to walk in the light and be the light?
Are you glad to know that you are walking in the power of the Holy Spirit rather than in your own ability?

Look at and pray about what you have discovered



Hearing – What is God saying to you today?



Knowing – What has Christ been teaching you this week?



Following – How is the Holy Spirit speaking to others through you?

Don't forget to spend time in prayer, both speaking to God and hearing His voice. Why don't you go ahead and do that now?



Take time this week to listen, learn and live out these key imperatives:

Key Imperatives

Matt 5:16 **shine** (λαμψάτω)

John 12:35 **Walk** (περιπατεῖτε), **believe** (πιστεύετε)

Luke 13:24 "**Strive** (ἀγωνίζεσθε)

Read and be prepared to share your thoughts next week.



Notes to the Discipler

- Begin this session by reviewing the distinctive of obey. How are you listening, learning and living it out?
- Be prepared to share a personal testimony of how God has been teaching you in the area light.
- Don't be afraid to take time for reviewing what you have already covered.
- Do not assume that you have to move on to the next distinctive every time you meet, let the Spirit lead.
- Are you already working with others? Are you always praying for the Lord to lead you to the next person you can disciple?
- Remember that this is not a study to complete or a work that is ever finished. This is why God saved you. This is the Great Commission that Christ gave you to carry on until He returns.

REVIEW:

As you enter into the third section of this process, please take time to prayerfully reflect on what you have discovered so far in your journey toward being a fruitful follower of Jesus. You must continually focus on allowing God to work out the fruitful characteristics we have discussed so far.

Far too often, we expect to be able to accomplish the next phase of Giving Out (Loving, Serving, and Sharing), without first taking the time to develop the spiritual foundation of Giving Up (Surrender, Sacrifice, and Listen) and Giving In (Abide, Obey, Light).

Stand on the sure foundation of God's word and let the Holy Spirit work freely in your heart and life. He will produce His perfect fruit in your life and in the lives of those you influence.

Distinctive Seven, Love



GIVE OUT

Love - Followers of Jesus love one another

*"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:35*

What has God been teaching you this past week?
Who have you shared this with?

When we gain understanding of the GIVE IN phase, it will give us the capacity to fulfill the GIVE OUT phase. This again does not mean perfection, but understanding the principles as you live them out.

What is your definition of love?



Let's look at what Christ said in the Gospels

- John 13:34-35

What was the new commandment? What made it new? How did Jesus love us?
How are we to love each other? Do you see this practiced in the church today?
What did Jesus say the results of such a love would bring in the world?



Let's take a moment to consider:

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
- Read Matthew 5:43-48

On a scale of one to ten, one being almost never and ten being almost always, score yourself on the following characteristics of love based on the one that you say you love the most.

Paul describes love with sixteen characteristics:

1. Patient - long suffering, not getting upset, sympathetic

2. Kind - willing to come along side and help or support
3. Is not jealous - to desire, to want, or covet
4. Does not brag - to boast above others
5. Is not arrogant - to be prideful or to think too highly of oneself
6. Does not act unbecomingly - rude or behave in an unpleasant manner
7. Does not seek its own – Is not about self
8. Is not provoked - made angry or agitated
9. Does not take into account a wrong suffered - chooses to forget
10. Does not rejoice in unrighteousness - that which is wrong or evil
11. Rejoices with the truth - God's way
12. Bears all things - conceals the faults of others
13. Believes all things - have faith in or trust
14. Hopes all things - to expect fully
15. Endures all things - remains under the pressure
16. Never fails - it never gives up, it is eternal like God

How well did you do?

In Matthew 5:43-48, did Jesus really mean that we are to love our enemy? How can you fulfill this command?

Consider the example of Christ. Think about how perfectly He modeled this kind of love during His time on earth, especially during His arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Now, use the standard of 1 Corinthians 13 again to rate your love for the person you say that you love the least in this world.

Clearly, love is about much more than good feelings or simply being nice to others. It requires the work of the Holy Spirit. You cannot express Godly love without God's power.

You must have a strong foundation in the previous areas of discipleship before you have the spiritual capacity to Give Out this kind of love.



Let's look at an illustration from Christ

- Read Luke 10:30-37

What irony do you see in this story? How do you see agape love at work?

Did you notice any of the qualities from 1 Corinthians 13?

Who is your neighbor?

Spend some time practicing your listening to the Lord.

Are there areas of your life in which you need to change?

Are you willing to express your desire for God's help?

Remember, you are not expected to produce this kind of love. You are to abide in the Lord, Who provides it to you for use in loving and serving others.

Look at and pray about what you have discovered



Hearing – What is God saying to you today?



Knowing – What has Christ been teaching you this week?



Following - – How is the Holy Spirit speaking to others through you?

One of the most loving things you can do is share what you are learning with another person. Take some time to open your heart to God in prayer right now.



Take time this week to listen, learn and live out these key imperatives:

Key Imperatives

Mark 11:25 **forgive**, (ἀφίετε)

Matt 5:44 **love** (ἀγαπάτε), **pray** (προσεύχεσθε) Luke 6:27, 35

Matt 5:24 **leave** (ἄφεσ), **go** (ὑπάγε), **be reconciled** (διαλλάγηθι), **present** (πρόσφερε), **make** (ἴσθι)

Read and be prepared to share your thoughts next week.



Notes to the Discipeler

- Begin this session by reviewing the distinctive of light. How are you listening, learning and living it out?
- Be prepared to share a personal testimony of how God has been teaching you in the area of love.
- Please understand how crucial it is for Christians to truly grasp the concept of how much God loves us, and how much He wants to love others through us.
- A disciple will only surrender, sacrifice, listen, abide, obey, light and love in so far as he/she is in love with Christ Himself.
- Just as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, no matter how much good one does, it is all in vain if not done with love.
- Love is required to move on to serving, sharing and reproducing.
- Also, please understand how vital it is that the person with whom you are working is sharing what they are learning with someone else. Gently but firmly emphasize this at all times.

Distinctive Eight Serve



GIVE OUT

Serve - Followers of Jesus are servants of Him

"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him." John 12:26

What has God been teaching you this past week?
Who have you shared this with?

Allowing God to mold you into a true disciple has definite and observable results. The supernatural characteristics that Christ expects of His followers will not only become more evident but will become much more natural to you.

How would you define the word serve?

How are you serving today? Does this match your definition?

When you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you will act like one. A lifestyle of fruitful discipleship will be the overflow of your abiding relationship with Jesus Himself. With real love as the motivating factor in your life, it is much simpler to move on toward serving the needs of others with joy.



Let's look at what Christ said in the Gospels

- John 12:20-26

How will Jesus be glorified? How does this apply to you? Read Galatians 2:20, does this change your answer?

In verse 26 what are the three definite conditions Christ is saying will exist if a person serves Him? What do you think the word "if" implies? This verse suggests that a disciple is actively following Jesus, which means that he/she will be where Christ is at work and get involved in what He is doing. Are you ready to serve? In what way?



Let's take a moment to consider:

- Read Matthew 20:25-28.

Why did Jesus share this with his disciples? What was He trying to help them understand? What are we missing in our understanding today? Why is this so important to grasp? How did Jesus model this example in His life? How are you modeling this in your life?



Let's look at an illustration from Christ

- Matthew 25:14-30.

What do you think this story is really all about? As a Christian, do you think the Lord has entrusted you with any talents or abilities? What do you think He expects you to do with them? Do you believe that God has given every believer one or more spiritual gifts to be used in building up His kingdom? One of the most important concepts to grasp about serving God is that you serve Him by serving other people. He is the Almighty God who is in need of nothing, but He has created us and saved us to carry out the good works He has planned for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). What are some practical ways you can exercise your servanthood this week?

Look at and pray about what you have discovered



Hearing – What is God saying to you today?



Knowing – What has Christ been teaching you this week?



Following – How is the Holy Spirit speaking to others through you?

One of the greatest services you can ever do for someone is to share the love and truth of Christ with him/her. Continue to work with your chosen person or persons as they grow into mature disciples. Don't give up. Don't even slow down.

This would be a great time to spend some time in prayer.



Take time this week to listen, learn and live out these key imperatives:

Key Imperatives

Matt 25:13 **be on the alert** (γρηγορει'τε) Matt 24:42, Mark 13:33, 35, 37

John 6:27 **do not work** (ἐργάζεσθε) for the food which

John 21:15-17 **tend** (βόσκει), **shepherd** (ποιμαίνε), **tend** (βόσκει)

Read and be prepared to share your thoughts next week.



Notes to the Discipler

- Begin this session by reviewing the distinctive of love. How are you listening, learning and living it out?
- Be prepared to share a personal testimony of how God has been teaching you in the area of service.
- It may be a good time to model this distinctive by doing some Christian service together.
- Show the person with whom you are working that these are far more than theoretical truths to be learned. Walk it out with him.
- Remember, he has not actually become a disciple until he is bearing fruit. This means leading another person to faith in Christ and/or beginning this discipling process with them.
- Pray, encourage, challenge, and provide the needed accountability so that your friend can realize his full potential.

Distinctive Nine, Share



GIVE OUT

Share - Followers of Jesus are fishers of men

"And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matt 4:19

What has God been teaching you this past week?
Who have you shared this with?

Have you ever shared your faith with someone?
When was the last time you told someone how you became a Christian? What did you share?



Let's look at what Christ said in the Gospels

- Matthew 4:18-22

Jesus defines a Christian in verse 19. Do you see the three characteristics of a Christian?
How does Give Up, Give In and Give Out align with the three parts?
Does this describe your life?

We have often emphasized that we are commissioned to make more than converts. We are called to make disciples. This is true, but a person must become a convert before he can become a disciple, therefore we must be sure not to assume everyone is a Christian just because they are a good person or attends church.

Many have discovered that they are not truly a Christian as they learned what makes a true disciple.

Jesus promised to make His disciples fishers of men.

He trained them, modeled it for them, and then gave them the supernatural power, in the person of the Holy Spirit, to do it.

Jesus has done the same for you. He has even given you others to walk with on this path in order to learn this imperative skill of sharing your faith with others.



Let's look at an illustration from Christ

- Read Matthew 22:1-14.

Why do you think people refused the king's invitation to a royal wedding?
How does that relate to how people fail to respond to the Gospel today?
What do you think the rejection of the man without the wedding garment means?
What is the main thing you take away from this story?

Sharing the Gospel with others should be the natural overflow of your walk with the Master and your love for Him and others.

Be sure to continuously develop your understanding and practice of the previous imperatives, so that you will have the capacity and the desire to fulfill this vital part of the Christian life. Talk to your mentor or some other mature Christian about helping you break through the barriers that have held you back.

Look at and pray about what you have discovered



Hearing – What is God saying to you today?



Knowing – What has Christ been teaching you this week?



Following – How is the Holy Spirit speaking to others through you?

Take time to talk to the Lord. Give Him thanks for His faithfulness to you and His desire to use you for His glory.



Take time this week to listen, learn and live out these key imperatives:

Key Imperatives

Matt 10:6-14 **go** (πορεύεσθε), **preach** (κηρύσσετε)

Mark 16:15 **preach** (κηρύξατε)

Read and be prepared to share your thoughts next week.



Notes to the Discipler

- Begin this session by reviewing the distinctive of serve. How are you listening, learning and living it out?
- Be prepared to share a personal testimony of how God has been teaching you in the area of sharing.
- Sharing your faith can be a huge hurdle for many people because of fear.
- Emphasize to your friend that he is not responsible for the results of his witness. He is called to share the truth and leave the results to God. It is often helpful to relieve that fear of rejection or failure.
- This is definitely one of those things that require modeling and partnership. Take him with you as you share.
- Give your friend opportunities to grow into witnessing step-by-step. Then be sure he is doing the same for the ones with whom he is working.
- Take the time to stop and write out your personal testimony. Also, write out the Gospel.
- You may use the same presentation that led you to Christ. Many like to use the Roman road; Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-10, 10:13. Or you may use your favorite Gospel tract. No matter what you use, become familiar with it and be ready to share the Gospel as God gives opportunity.

Distinctive Ten, Reproduce



Reproduce - Followers of Jesus are reproducing

"By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and [so] prove to be My disciples." John 15:8

What has God been teaching you this past week?
Who have you shared this with?

When we gain understanding of the give out phase, it will give us the capacity to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord to make disciples. Remember Jesus was calling us to obey His commands, not just learn them. In other words, the goal is to live them out in our daily lives.

This final section is the culmination of everything we have learned so far. It brings us to the very core of what God created us and saved us to do.



Let's look at what Christ said in the Gospels

- John 15:8

What did Jesus say was glorifying to God?

It may be helpful to repeat that phrase from John 15:8 with a more personal pronoun, "that I bear much fruit".

What are some of the purposes for us to bear fruit? There are two in the text, but others may come to mind.

Do you currently consider yourself to be fruitful in your disciple making? Why or why not?



Let's take a moment to consider

- The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- The Fruit of Light (Ephesians 5:9)

- The Fruit of Righteousness (Romans 6:21-22; Philippians 1:11)
- The Fruit of Lips (Hebrews 13:15)
- The Fruit of Christian Converts (Romans 1:13)

Describe these five types of fruits in your own words.

With God's help as you live these out in your life, it will result in the fruit of converts.

The Fruit of Converts is obviously when you share your faith in Christ with others and help them to begin their own personal relationship with Him.

As we have emphasized throughout this process, it is absolutely crucial that we go beyond leading others to faith and lead them to experience real disciple making.



Let's look at an illustration from Christ

- Read Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

What are the main truths you get from this story? What type of soil are you?

What type of soil is the person with whom you have been sharing?

The good news is that Jesus can cultivate us into good soil, no matter where we are right now.

In John 7:38, Jesus said, "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" NASB

This refers to the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through you like the sap through the vine, which leads to the bearing of fruit.

Never forget that fruit is not something for us to struggle and strain to produce. As we abide in the Vine, we will naturally begin to bear the fruit that God is producing in and through us. Also, remember that you are a channel of God's living water. It is not for you to be a container, but a channel through which His love and truth flow.

It's critical to self-examine ourselves from time to time to make sure there is no stoppage in this flow. We need to confess any known sin and keep filled with the Holy Spirit. Seek to constantly remain in this process of spiritual growth for the rest of your life.

We must be disciples that make disciples that make disciples until Jesus returns to take us home to heaven. (2 Timothy 2:2)

Look at and pray about what you have discovered



Hearing – What is God saying to you today?



Knowing – What has Christ been teaching you this week?



Following - – How is the Holy Spirit speaking to others through you?

As always, you must take time to pray. Let's do that now!



Take time this week to listen, learn and live out these key imperatives:

Key Imperatives

Matt 28:19 **make disciples** (μαθητεύσατε)

John 4:35 **behold** (ιδου), **lift** (επάρατε) **look** (θεάσασθε)

Matt 9:38 **beseech** (δεήθητ) Luke 10:2

Read and be prepared to share your thoughts next week.



Notes to the Discipler

- Begin this session by reviewing the distinctive of share. How are you listening, learning and living it out?
- Be prepared to share a personal testimony of how God has been teaching you in the area of reproduce.
- Congratulations on walking through this resource with another believer in Christ. Keep in mind, though, that this is only the beginning. Discipleship is indeed a lifelong process.
- This booklet can never produce disciples, because only disciples can make disciples.
- Use this resource, and the others that are available, to set a pattern for your own ministry and the generations of disciples that are sure to follow.
- According to John 15:8, life's greatest purpose is to glorify the Father. Life's greatest product is bearing the fruit of disciples. Life's greatest proof is the evidence of your own disciple making as you help others to be fruitful.
- God bless you as you continue to grow and bring glory to our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus said,

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you." John 15: 16

Christ makes it very clear that he chose us and appointed us to go and bear fruit.

As we have seen throughout this study, we can only become a disciple if we daily "give up" through surrendering, sacrificing and listening. Then we will strive to "give in" through abiding, obeying and listening, which enables us to "give out" through loving, serving and sharing. This will bring us to a place where God can use us to produce fruit. We must always remember that no matter how great a discipling process may be, only God can produce eternal fruit through us. To God be the glory!



Conclusion

My hope in writing this work is to leave you with a practical, easily repeatable and reproducible discipleship model. If you have read through this work and only been inspired to be a disciple, I have failed. Disciple making will never be true until you are investing what you have learned in the life of another person. I close with four thoughts.

First, when I begin discipling someone, I often challenge him or her to begin praying about who they will intentionally disciple. Most often, this would be their spouse or best friend. This person, if possible, should be someone you already have daily contact with. Many would say, “Why should I do this if they already go to church?” Just attending church does not make one a disciple let alone a disciple maker. How did Jesus make disciples? Jesus made it a point to disciple someone every day, not just once a week. Disciple making happens as we do life together as Jesus did. This moves beyond going to church to being the church. Christ was very intentional about His purpose. His objective was to fulfill Matthew 18:11 and so should we through disciple making.

“For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost” Mat 18:11

Secondly, in the *GIVE IN* phase of disciple making, I encourage the one I am discipling to push out to intentionally begin discipling a family member. Likewise, during the third phase of *GIVE OUT*, I encourage them to reach out to their sphere of influence such as coworkers, friends, and those they lead to Christ. As we look around, we will realize God has given us many relationships to fulfill His imperative to “make disciples”.

Thirdly, begin to think how God has divinely been at work in your life to teach you these basic distinctives. You may think that you don’t have any stories to tell but if you have come to faith in Jesus Christ, you have a story to tell that includes every distinctive. When you came to Christ, you had to **surrender** (Luke 9:23) your life to Him completely. This came with **sacrifice** (Luke 14:33) as you turned your life over to Him as not only Savior but also Lord. You **listened** (John 6:44) to His call because “faith comes by hearing” (Romans 10:17, John 8:31) which came from a desire to know Him, **abide** in Him and call upon Him. (Roman 10:13) This compels us to want to please Him and **obey** Him. (1 Samuel 15:22) This leads to a change as Christ comes into our lives and causes us to walk in the **light**. (John 8:12) This drives us to **love** as Jesus loved us, and we desire to love others. (John 13:35) This in turn compels us to **serve** (John 12:26), and as we are serving, to **share** the Gospel (Matthew 4:19) which results in **reproducing** (John 15:8). Remember this is a lifetime endeavor.

Fourthly, be sure to keep your eye on the goal. The goal in “making disciples” as described by Jesus in John 15:8, has little to do with bodies, buildings, and budgets. Not that the 3 B’s are not important, but if we focus on just those things we will lose sight of God’s glory and mission. This moves us to seek out relationships that are motivated by a desire to make disciples. Jesus commissioned us to go into all the nations reaching out to every people group in the world with the Gospel. This Gospel reveals how we can come into a genuine relationship with

God through Jesus Christ alone. Now is not the time to be distracted, but it is the time to equip and send every believer into the harvest field. This is not a calling to just win converts in the field and leave, but to continue working until the ones you have led to Christ are reproducing. The goal is fruitfulness. When this is our objective, it changes our priorities, reorients our whole way of life, effects our church and impacts our community. Disciple making then ceases to be just a program or an activity, it becomes a lifestyle. A way of life that is patterned after the life and teachings of Jesus.

Are you willing to begin this lifestyle of making disciples? Who do you know that is far from God? Who can you share this study with? I challenge you to begin today.

The Imperative Life of a Christ Follower

Give Up – Give In – Give Out



Give Up

1. **Surrender** - Followers of Jesus deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Him
Luke 9:23 And He was saying to [them] all, If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. (NASB)
2. **Sacrifice** - Followers of Jesus are willing to give up -everything to follow Him
Luke 14:33 So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. (NASB)
3. **Listen** - Followers of Jesus hear His voice
John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (NASB)



Give In

1. **Abide** - Followers of Jesus abide in His Word
John 8:31 Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, If you abide in My word, [then] you are truly disciples of Mine. (NASB)
2. **Obey** - Followers of Jesus obey Him
Luke 5:27 He said to him, "Follow Me." and he left everything behind, and rose and [began] to follow Him. (NASB)
3. **Light** - Followers of Jesus walk in the Light
John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life. (NASB)



Give Out

1. **Love** - Followers of Jesus love one another
John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (NASB)
2. **Serve** - Followers of Jesus are servants of Him
John 12:26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. (NASB)
3. **Share** - Followers of Jesus are fishers of men
Matt 4:19 And He said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. (NASB)

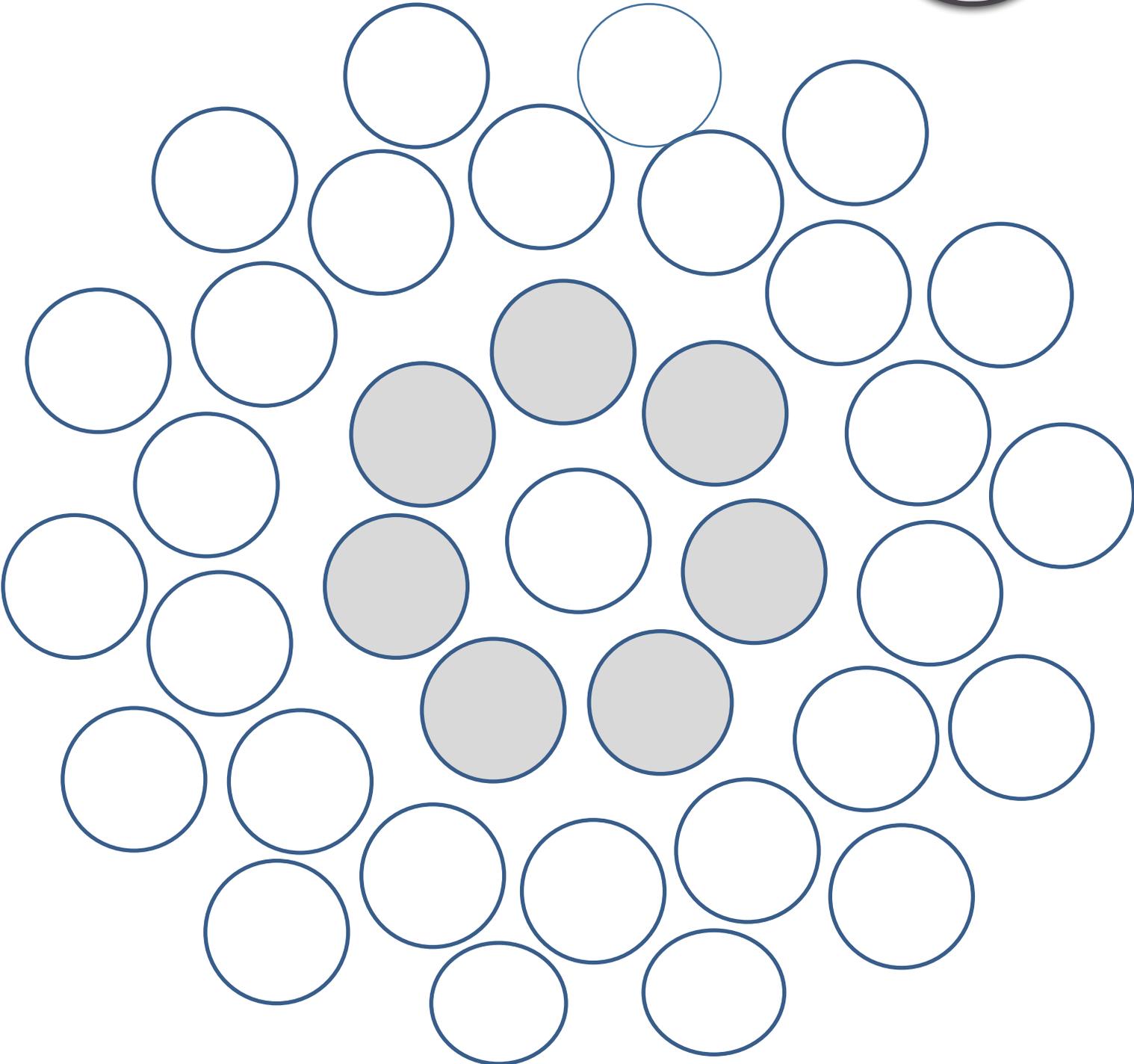


Reproduce – Followers of Jesus are reproducing

John 15:8 By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and [so] prove to be My disciples. (NASB)

Disciple Making Multiplication Chart

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2 NASB



G3 Discipling Tactics



1. Prayer - For guidance and direction, self and others
2. Know His Story and Know your Story
3. Stories—List your divine stories
 - What Phase = GU, GI, GO, R
 - What Distinctive = SSL, AOL, LSS, R
4. Intentionality—Make a list of family, friends, co-workers school, sphere of influence
5. Disciple making begins in the home
 - 1st 3wks share with spouse
 - 2nd 3wks share with a family member
 - 3rd 3wks share with a friend
6. Accountability—Hold one another accountable beyond behavior such as sharing, discipling, reproducing
7. Look for the following areas to mentor and coach
 - **Listen** – What is God saying?
 - **Know** – What has Christ been teaching you?
 - **Follow** – How is the Holy Spirit speaking to others through you?
8. Cast the vision to multiply
9. Lifestyle disciple making – Not a program but as part of your everyday life
10. Become a missionary to your neighbors
 - Find the person of peace in your community
 - Prayer walk your community, look for opportunities to connect
 - Be a good neighbor
 - Share your faith with others

About the Authors

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