

3. **Take advantage of those opportunities as they arise** – As we pray we should expect God to answer and provide opportunity. We should look for opportunities to share with people and learn different ways to engage them and move conversations toward the Gospel. There are many helpful teaching available about how to do this.
4. **Pray that God will open hearts, grant repentance of sin and faith to believe, and bring sinners into His kingdom.** – When we are focused on seeing others come to faith the Lord will use us to do exactly that. It certainly starts with a desire to be obedient and be a witness for Christ and all the good things He has done for us. Then let us bring that desire to God and ask Him for success. Many great evangelists in history have attributed much of their success to effective and fervent prayer for the ability to evangelize and the work of God in the hearts of those who hear them.

### **Consider Who You Should Disciple**

Since we are all discipling disciples of Christ, we should always be looking for opportunities to disciple others. It is our responsibility in the church to nurture new believers in the faith and see them learn to live effective and productive Christian lives. We should be **prayerfully considering** others around us and **look for newer believers** who need this vital help. Of course, **men should disciple men** and women should women whenever possible, as it would be inappropriate to develop the kind of close personal relations with members of the opposite sex required in discipling. Look for someone at work, within your family, your neighbors, your friends, or at church. Ask that person if they'd like to be disciplined. Or if they are an unbeliever, ask if they would like to meet regularly and read the Bible together.

Let us not disregard our responsibilities to evangelize and make disciples of people everywhere. It is the Lord's Great Commission to us.

**Matthew 28:18-20** - 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.  
19 "**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing

them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. " NASB

Here are some **important things to remember** once you have someone to disciple.

## **Commitment of Disciplemaking**

### **1. The Commitment of the Disciplemaker - To the task of**

**disciplemaking and being a godly example** - The disciplemaker must commit to carrying out all aspects of a healthy mentoring relationship. These include **teaching, praying, encouraging, rebuking, serving, counseling, befriending, and exemplifying Christian virtue**. The disciplemaker must also be willing to do whatever is necessary to help a Christian disciple grow to maturity. This commitment will surely involve conscientious investment of time, money, energy, resources, talents, and abilities in the disciplemaking process. Discipling will no doubt require many **sacrifices of time, talent and treasure (money)**. But this we do out of sincere love for God and neighbor. Christian disciplemakers should always be **motivated by fond and loving affection** for their **disciples**, striving always for their highest good – which is the formation of Christ in them. The Apostle Paul is an excellent role model for us.

**1 Thessalonians 2:7-12** - 7 But we **proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.** 8 **Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.** 9 For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and **so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;** 11 just as you know how **we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,** 12

**so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God** who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. NASB

See here how Paul was motivated by love and fond affection for those he disciplined. And this he did being a **godly example of Christian virtue** and also, “**exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you to walk in a manner worthy of God.**” See this godly example of how Paul follows Jesus which is a model for us in discipling.

**2. The Commitment of the Disciple - To the Lordship of Christ and to the process of discipleship** - The commitment of a Christian disciple is, most basically, a commitment to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who genuinely confess Jesus as Lord should fall into a pattern of submission to His leadership. That is why we consistently define a **disciple**, as a **follower of Christ**. Learning to follow Christ rightly is extremely difficult to do all by yourself, and going it alone is actively discouraged in Scripture. Just as Jesus commanded mature believers to make disciples, it is obvious he would encourage new believers to enter into discipling **relationships with mature believers**. They are to do this for the **purpose of learning to live as Christians** and become **effective, productive members** of the body of Christ. Following Christ, then, begins by **heeding His command to be disciplined**. Mature believers should be **consistently encouraging new believers to seek out godly disciplemakers** who will instruct, encourage, and hold them accountable to obeying all that the Lord commanded. Therefore, it will take a strong commitment to following the **instruction and exhortations** of the **discipler**. In our post-modern American environment, people are very autonomous and do not like submitting themselves to instructions, reproof and exhortations, especially to moral commands from the Bible! It is important therefore to get an **upfront commitment** from those whom you disciple that they will **conform themselves to the teaching of Christ and the Apostles** that you exhort them in. This is a **fundamental part of discipling** and it requires a **verbal commitment**, and even some **reminders** about it along the way if/when things get tough.

## **Have a Relationship with Your Disciple**

Have a close personal relationship of trust with your disciple. Work on the social aspect of your relationship as well. Walk with them, help them, love them in practical ways. Be their friend and invest your life into them and live as their brother or sister in Christ. Do them deliberate spiritual good by always encouraging them to trust God and Christ, and to honor God in all they do. Be their teacher and counselor and don't be afraid to exhort them or even correct them when need be. Be sure and tell them and show them in tangible ways that you love them and want what is best for them and teach them what that means from the Bible.

## **Teach Your Disciple God's Word**

1. **Make Sure Your Disciple is Saved** – To the best of your ability. Teach them all the fundamental parts of the Gospel and make sure they know it and can articulate it spontaneously.
2. **Teach them what God's Word is** – Explain what **inerrancy** and **infallibility** are to them. Maybe take a few weeks to read through **Grudem's Doctrine of Scripture** or a book like **“Taking God at His Word”** by Kevin DeYoung.
3. **Teach them what the Bible says** - Spend many months taking them through a **Gospel** (like Mark) and some epistles like **Romans** and **Ephesians, 1 & 2 Peter**. Show them how to be **careful** in interpreting passages and reading and **thinking** about scripture with **discernment**.
4. **Teach them how it applies to their life** – Explain to them how to do what the Word says and how important obedience to God is. **“teaching them to obey all that I commanded you.”**
5. **Teach them how to live by the Word** – Explain to them how you are making decisions in your life based on what God has said and show them how important it is to have integrity, humility, and virtue. Take several months to read a book on Sanctification with them like Jerry Bridges **“The Practice of Godliness”** or Bill Farley's **“Gospel Powered Humility.”**

6. Use resources that help them learn. **Brand new believers** can learn a lot if you walk them through the workbooks we have called **“Foundations”** and **“The Fundamentals of the Faith.”**
  - a. See “Book Recommendations for Disciplemakers”
7. Consider **what your disciple needs to learn** and teach them accordingly. Answer their questions. Be sure to ground them in the **Fundamentals of the Faith** and make sure they learn and become **disciplined** in the 3 Basic Disciplines of Christian Life.

## **Teach Your Disciple the Basic Disciplines of the Christian Life**

### **1.The Word of God**

- a. Teach them to **know the Word** by reading it everyday.
- b. Teach them the **importance of reading the whole Bible** all the way through several times.
- c. Teach them to **live by the Word**
- d. Teach them to **hunger** for the **Word** and **meditate** on the **Word**
- e. Teach them **how to study the Bible** and how to use Bible study resources

### **2.Prayer**

- a. Teach them **how to pray from Scripture** and by **modeling** it.
- b. Teach them the **importance of prayer** from the **Bible** – David, Daniel, Solomon, Nehemiah, Paul and others

### **3.Fellowship and Service**

- a. Teach them the about the body of Christ and how important it is to **be in church regularly to worship God** and give Him glory through singing, fellowship, and corporate prayer. Tell them how important it is to sit under the **Word preached** every week to have their **mind renewed in the Word**. Tell them how important it is to **love people in the church**. Teach them that people in the church are people with real problems and failings and to learn to be patient, forgiving, and accommodating to God’s precious saints.

b. Teach them how to **love and serve the church** for who Christ died. Explain from the Bible that they have gifts that God has given them to use in loving and serving the church. Help them understand what their gifts are. Exhort them to make sure they keep **life priorities** like marriage, family, church, work, etc. are all in the **right balance**. Show them and explain to them how you carefully live to balance your life priorities.

### **Train Your Disciple to be a Disciplemaker**

Don't forget that at some point your disciple will have **learned how to live the Christian life** from you. This would and should include how you have been committed to discipling them. Teach them that it will **soon be their time to help someone else follow Jesus**, and that this is the Lord's command. Explain that when you have finished with them, you will be looking for another to help follow Jesus, and this will continue until the Lord returns.

### **Why Do We Make Disciples?**

1. To obey Jesus' Great Commission
2. To teach believers to worship Jesus and follow Him as their ultimate priority
3. To emphasize the necessity of loving, enjoying, and glorifying Christ in all aspects of life, worshipping Him and submitting our life to Him in obedience.
4. To encourage believers to keep Christ and the Gospel at the center of their lives and that discipling is the means that God has chosen to train new believers in Kingdom living.