

## I. What is Discipling?

“Disciple” = *mathētēs* (μαθητης) / *manthāvo* (μανθανω) = “learner”

↓ *Go therefore and*

*make disciples of all nations,*

↑ *baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

↑ *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.* (Matthew 28:19-20a)

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.* (1 Corinthians 11:1)

*Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.* (Phil. 3:17)

*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.* (Romans 8:29a)

## II. Why Disciple?—Displaying the Love of God

### 1. “The Inevitability of Influence” (©Mark Dever)

*A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.* (Luke 6:40)

*Bad company ruins good morals.* (1 Corinthians 15:33)

<sup>10</sup> *You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,* <sup>11</sup> *my persecutions and sufferings.* (2 Timothy 3:10-11a)

### 2. The Essential Relationality of the Church

*Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you.* (Romans 15:7).

*Instruct one another.* (Romans 15:14).

*Agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you.* (1 Corinthians 1:10).

*Serve one another in love.* (Galatians 5:13).

### **3. To Become Like Christ is to Become More Authentically Human**

*God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him. (Genesis 1:27)*

*He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Colossians 1:15)*

### **4. Obedience to Christ**

*<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20a)*

### **5. The Necessity of Holiness**

*No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. (1 John 3:6)*

*Strive for...the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14)*

*For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (James 2:26)*

### **6. The Future of the Church**

*What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:2)*

## **III. How to Disciple**

### **1. Avoid Common Mistakes**

- One-sided Discipleship

*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17)*

- Overselling Discipleship

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8)*

- Underselling Discipleship

*Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you.* (Philippians 2:12-13)

- Fear of Incompetence

<sup>11</sup> *[God] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.* (Ephesians 4:11-12)

<sup>16</sup> *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- Lack of Authority

<sup>18</sup> *...Be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.* (Ephesians 5:18b-21)

## **2. Where to find a Discipling Relationship**

- Your own church
  - ➔ Opportunities for natural connections
  - ➔ Affirm the same Statement of Faith / sit under the same preaching
  - ➔ Submit to the same elders / have already covenanted together (*Matthew 18:15-20*)

## **3. To Disciple: Find Someone Who is...**

- Hungry
- Humble

*Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."* (1 Peter 5:5)

## **4. To Be Discipled: Find Someone Who is...**

- Spiritually Mature

*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.* (Galatians 6:1)

<sup>13</sup> *And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, <sup>14</sup> he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men.* (1 Kings 12:13-14a)

- Hungry & Humble

<sup>13</sup> *Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way.* (Philippians 3:13-15)

**Other things to consider:** gender, age, proximity, availability, strategic

## 5. Doing the Work of Discipleship

- Be Committed
- Be Intentional
- Be Patient
- Use the Bible
- Use Good Books
- Pray together