

A Disciple Making Example

There are five key steps to take when forming a disciple-making group.

Step 1 - Listen: The first step when forming a new discipleship group is to get in step with the Spirit and listen to God. There is the step most people skip, but is by far the most important aspect of forming a group. If you want people in your group to grow, the Lord Himself must lead the group. Matthew 6:33, 2Chronicles 10:1-12;16, Luke 24:45
John 3:6-8, Luke 11:28, James 1:22, Prov. 16:20, Matthew 7:24

Step 2 - Recruit: Take your time and listen to the Holy Spirit and be intentional on who is to be a part of your group of disciples. Matthew 4:19-20, 2Tim 2:2, Luke 6:12-13, John 1:45, 15:16,

Step 3 - Prepare: After listening and then asking a person to unite with you in your group, invite them to a quiet, distraction-free place where you can share a meal or snack together and talk. Relationship building is primary. Relationships that are close, life-giving and distinctively Christ-centered. Remember, the Great Commission catalyzed by the most brilliant man who ever lived. He had a plan. He worked the plan. He commanded His disciples to continue with the plan. And the plan worked. People don't float into spiritual maturity. Your group won't come close after one or two meetings. Spiritual growth and relational depth is a journey, and you arrive at your destination if you are intentional and have purpose. While God can work spontaneously and unexpectedly, the fruit of the Spirit emerges from the soil of discipline and desire. Proverb 24:27, 1Peter 3:15, Luke 21:36, Luke 14:28, Proverbs 16:33
[Develop your group's covenant]

Step 4 - Engage: Now that you have recruited and prepared the group, it's time to engage. Like any community, a healthy group establishes rhythms that foster *unity* and *togetherness*. 1 Cor. 1:10, Eph. 4:11-13, John 17:23, Psalm 133:1, 1 John 4:12, Eph. 4:3, Rom. 12:16

Step 5 - Release: Disciple making is about reproduction and multiplication. It's about sending people out to disciple others, and it feels risky and scary. Why? Because when something works well, we are reluctant to mess with it. Sending people out also exposes our idolatrous need for control. We may have doubts about those we've discipled, if they can really do it themselves. They may have a different personality or different gifts, and they won't lead their group exactly the way "I" do it. There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all approach to making disciples. That's why we talk about principles and elements rather than techniques. We must empower the people we are investing in to make disciples in a way that's consistent with their unique personality and spiritual giftedness. And remember, we're not making disciples of ourselves. We are making disciples of Jesus. Matthew 4:19-20, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, Rom. 10:14-15, John 15:16, Eph. 4:16, 2 Tim. 2:2