

## Biblical Discipleship: Life Together

### Eight Guiding Principles for discipleship & mentoring like Jesus:

From: *Master Plan of Discipleship*, Coleman

#### 1. Selection – Selection involves:

- Identifying people who are willing to learn and who will make a commitment.
- Select people who are faithful, available and teachable.
- Concentration on just a few people in which to invest (i.e. three to seven people).
- Commit to people who are committed to duplicating your investment into others.

#### 2. Association – Association involves:

- Being with people on a regular basis.
- Knowledge is gained by *association* before it is by *explanation*.
- Dedication is needed for personal investment in living life with those being discipled.
- Discipleship involves constant personal attention, much like a father gives to his children.

#### 3. Consecration – Consecration involves dedication to and from people:

- Mutual loyalty, confidentiality and trust are essential.
- Require obedience to the cross and the teachings of Jesus Christ. This involves -denial and dedication that replaces a “do as you please” philosophy.
- Expect truth, holiness and integrity with one another.

#### 4. Impartation – This involves:

- Mutual sacrificial love in making one another a top priority.
- We must give ourselves away in service and devotion to our Lord.
- The Bible, prayer and spiritual disciplines must be a focus in the time together.
- Teach and cast vision for one’s calling and mission as part of the Great Commission.
- Read good books together.

#### 5. Demonstration – This involves:

- Showing your disciples how to live through the practice of prayer and living out the Scriptures.
- Emphasis is on *demonstration* not *explanation*.
- Spend time doing life together, not just a formal meeting.

#### 6. Delegation – This involves:

- A commitment to study, ministry and life application assignments.
- The best way to be sure that this is done is to give practical work assignments and expect disciples to faithfully carry them out.

#### 7. Supervision – This involves:

- Holding one another accountable to responsibilities and witness
- It is crucial that those engaging in the work of discipleship have personal supervision and guidance with those being taught until such time as they are mature enough to carry on to disciple others.

8. Reproduction – This involves:

- The expectation that the life of Jesus Christ is being exemplified in character, action, family life, thought life, motives and attitudes.
- Specifically evaluate the fruit of one another's lives.
- We are to teach people to follow Jesus and to emulate Jesus—not a person.
- People are God's method to reach the world with the Gospel. It's not a program but people reproducing the life of Jesus Christ with others who are reproducing the life of Jesus Christ with others.

Practical applications:

1. Love-people. Truly love those you mentor and disciple.
2. Pray for those you disciple.
3. Be gracious. Disciple with “complete patience and teaching.” (2 Tim. 4:2 ESV)
4. God doesn't *need* you. He chooses to *use* you with the focus on *His* Kingdom.
5. Remember that people are always watching you. Imitate Jesus Christ.
6. Be a source of encouragement to the people you spend time with.
7. Be faithful and consistent.
8. Be authentic and transparent with confidentiality as a foundation.
9. Be accessible and available.
10. Ask the hard questions. (e.g. “How are you struggling?”)
11. Be a good listener.
12. Ask thought-provoking questions.
13. Study the Scriptures and read and discuss good books together.
14. Hold each other accountable.

**Format for Meeting as a dGroup**  
*Discussion Questions for Each Gathering*

- 1 LOOK BACK - What is Jesus doing in my life?**
  - What are you celebrating?
  - How has Jesus been at work in your life?
  - How did your commitments go?
  - How did you give away what you learned?
  - How is your relationship with Jesus?
  
- 2 PREPARE FOR MORE - What stands in the way of Jesus doing more?**
  - Are there any issues you need to deal with?
  - What needs to change in your life?
  - What problems or struggles have you had?
  - What challenges are you experiencing
  - Do you need to confess any sins?
  
- 3 LEARN FROM JESUS - What is Jesus teaching me?**
  - Study the scriptures together
    - What does the passage say and mean?
    - What does it show you about God and man?
    - How is it important for you today?
    - What do you feel God is speaking to you through this passage?
  
- 4 DO SOMETHING - What will I do about it?**
  - How will you respond to what Jesus is teaching you?
  - How will you obey?
  
- 5 BETTER TOGETHER - What help do I need?**
  - How can this group help you?
  - What do you need to start living out what Jesus is teaching you?
  
- 6 GIVE IT AWAY - Who will I share this with?**
  - Who can you tell about Jesus?
  - Who can you tell about what Jesus is doing in your life?
  - Who needs to know this truth Jesus has taught you?
  - How will they benefit?