

Discipleship Seminar: Takeaways

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What is Discipleship?

Discipleship is, bringing people to maturity in Christ (Col 1) by modeling for them how to grow in knowledge, skill, and character of Christ. It's heeding Jesus' command to teach people to obey all that he has commanded (Matt 28).

Quote: *“My brother Wesley acted wisely. “The souls that were awakened under his ministry he joined in societies, and thus preserved the fruit of his labor. This I neglected, and my people are a rope of sand.” – George Whitfield*

“Impress people from a distance; impact people up close”

Who to disciple?

Well, everyone. Everyone needs to be discipled and discipling others. If you've been a follower of Jesus for 6 weeks, disciple someone who's been following Jesus for one week.

Pray for God to provide people for your own discipleship ministry. Identify people who God might be providing and pray for them. Invite them into relationship with you, and when the spirit so leads, into a discipleship group where they can grow in the context of community.

People are fighting internal battles. They have “chinks in the armor.” Look for these chinks; look for people who are on the margins, who are in isolation. Often these are people who, on the surface, are connected with others, but who are actually not deeply connected with anyone. Who is the person who can't seem to be able to talk about more than “news, weather, sports, and work”?

Look for people who have F.A.I.T.H.

- Faithful
- Available
- Intentional
- Teachable
- Hungry

The “how to's” of discipleship

Begin with the end in mind. Don't start with a program or a curriculum. Start with a goal and with who God provides. The goal is not just making disciples, but making disciple makers. The goal is to reproduce. How can we disciple people so that they are equipped to disciple others?

“Most people divorce Jesus' teachings from his methods and expect his results” – Jim Putnam

Why are we as pastors so much busier than Jesus ever was?

Jesus' method is discipleship. Note how the beginning of Jesus ministry is with big crowds, but then it shifts to the 12, and to 3. We often do ministry in the opposite direction. The "crowds" and/or "church programs" are where we draw disciples from.

He says "go and do likewise." At the "great commission" the disciples don't have to ask "how," because Jesus has already modeled it for them. How are we mirroring and modeling Jesus' methods?

The 3-part movement of Disciplemaking, Matt 4:

- Come and follow me (receive God's grace)
 - o And I will make you (be transformed/sanctified)
 - Fishers of men (make disciples)

Most importantly, teach others what you've learned through your own living, your own journey of faith.

"Tell me and I'll forget it; Show me and maybe I'll remember it; But involve me and I'll understand it" - Chinese Proverb

- Know
- Role play
- Go do
- Report
- Do again
- Teach Others

Your role is to both *challenge and support* those you disciple. If you only support them, you're their chaplain. If you challenge them too much, you're their former pastor.

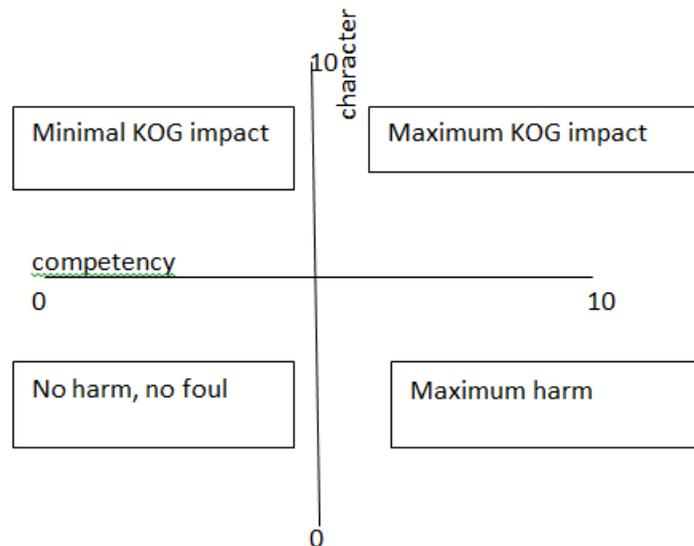
Over the course of a semester memorize a passage of scripture together. Romans 12 is a good passage to work through and memorize.

Focus on asking the right questions. Jesus never shows up spouting off information, but by asking the right questions that direct people to the center of their own life and their relationship to God's kingdom.

Self-assessment tools.

The goal of discipleship is the ongoing transformation of the heart over the course of a lifetime. The way you reach a person's heart is to find out where they are so that you can tell them where to do. If you've ever looked at a map in a mall, you know that the most important point on the map is the red star, because you can't go where you need to go if you don't know where you are in the first place.

This first assessment tool challenges individual to identify areas of growth as they seek to submit their life to Christ (character) and develop skills for pouring their lives into others (competency). Where is your intersection? Who else in your life might find this helpful?



The second tool challenges individuals to identify areas for growth by identifying where they are in their own process of maturity. Mark insists that these areas can overlap a lot, can sometimes be in a different order, etc. But in any case it's a simple straightforward way to have us think carefully about important aspects of our discipleship:

Where would you plot yourself on this flow chart? In what area might you have room for growth? What next steps can you take?

