

# **Session 2**

## **Disciple Making**

1. What is a Disciple of Jesus?
2. Ministry Philosophy
3. Disciple Making

## What is a Disciple?

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A disciple is a *learner*, i.e., anyone who follows or imitates the teaching of another. It implies the acceptance of the teacher's ideas. A disciple or learner of Jesus Christ fundamentally must have the characteristic of being teachable. **Read Matthew 11:25-30.** We should learn from him.

A disciple is also a follower. A disciple follows where his/her leader leads. To do that, the disciple must be available. He/she decides that no matter the sacrifice, nothing will dissuade him/her from following his/her teacher. **Read Matthew 10:38 and Luke 14:27.** We must follow Christ wherever he leads, whatever it costs.

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is a process with dimension. Being a disciple does not mean we have arrived or matured. The process begins at conversion and continues for the rest of our lives.

Finally, a disciple is under Christ's authority. As Jesus is under the authority of the Father, so we are to be under the authority of Christ. He becomes the authority in our lives. Not our feelings, our circumstances, our desires.

### Notes

## Ministry Philosophy

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Jesus came and sacrificed himself for the world. He had the whole world on his heart. Jesus saw the world through his disciples. During his lifetime Jesus wept because there were too many needs and not enough need-members. Given the goal to reach the whole world, Jesus chose to accomplish that goal by pouring out his life into a few people. All he did was meet people at this point of need, and of course he spent quality time with those around him.

This is what one-on-one ministry is. We meet people where they are and go with them. Where was Peter when Jesus called him? Not in the synagogue (church), but as Peter was fishing. How about Matthew? Again, Jesus called him from where he was doing his daily duty. It is meeting people where they are; being with them; and helping them walk closer with God. Most churches provide help if people come. The New Testament teaches us to go and help them.

The objective of this ministry is to draw people in our group to the discipleship stage. In the process of getting people to this stage, we must center on their personal development and personal growth. We do not need to get them into this program or that, but meet them at their point of need. We must start with basics. Do they feel assured of their relationship with Christ, with the church? Do they know about quiet prayer time? Have they begun reading Scripture and spiritual literature? Can we help them learn more about the Catholic Faith? Can we help them share it? The key to this ministry is availability. We must pray for this and for God to use us in the lives of the people in our group.

Most important of all, we should have a heart God can use.

## Notes

## **Disciple Making**

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Disciple making is the process of training Catholics to be disciples of Christ. It involves building and building takes time.

Building means forming relationships that will make a permanent difference in the individual and produce a life long lifestyle of Catholic Christian living.

What does Jesus tell us to do? He said, “Go and make disciples...” (Matthew 23:19).

**The success of our Disciples of Jesus Group depends on the magnitude of disciple making which takes place in the group.**

Intrinsic to disciple making is knowing what a disciple looks like, what he is, what he does. Once we know these, we will be better equipped to work with the members of our group.

The word disciple means learner. We are all called to be learners. The way to become a learner is find a teacher - a model. The perfect model is Jesus. He tells us how he is a model (John 5:19; 8:28). Basically, He says he does not do anything he does not see the Father do. He does not say anything he does not hear the Father say. Jesus then tells us, “As the Father sent me, so I send you” (John 20).

We look to the twelve principles of discipleship.

### **Twelve Principles in Discipleship**

1. Find a model
2. Commitment to relationship
3. Submission
4. Self denial
5. Cross bearing
6. Teachable
7. Faithfulness
8. Obedient to delegated authority
9. Work under supervision
10. Follow assignments
11. Recognition by the leaders
12. Released for one's own ministry

## 1. Find a Model

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Jesus could do the work of discipling of every one of us? But all of us through baptism are disciples of Jesus. He has entrusted to us the responsibility of representing who he is and what he does.

St. Paul reminds us of this when he says, "...you follow me, as I follow Christ." And this is true. But I still need someone to lead me, to admonish me, to help me, to counsel me, correct me, minister to me and provoke me to good work. The Lord has entrusted that to people. I need Jesus to be fleshed out in somebody's life so that I can see Christ in the way that person lives, the way that person loves, and the way that person is a living example – a model. We are to become that model.

## 2. Commit to Relationship

Why must we commit to relationship? Because people will have to know that we love them. Building a relationship is a necessary principle. They need someone who will spend time with them, be available to them as they struggle through their growth in faith.

## 3. Submission

When we are selected to disciple someone, it is a great honor. That person has seen in us the characteristics required to disciple him/her. We become the model. But, some think that the person who is being disciplined (trained) is the one who serves and is submissive. Not true: one must look to the model of Jesus and see the truth - washing of the feet (John 13).

The person whom we are discipling (training) will never be convinced of our relationship or love unless he/she has a practical demonstration of our willingness to submit to him/her. How do we submit? Submission is humility expressed in love and service. - If I am the disciple maker, I have to be the servant first. The person I am discipling must see that in me. We must be available to disciple a person, to counsel and to correct. "We reproduce not what we know, not what we say, but what we do. "

We must remember the saying, "What you do speaks so loud I can't hear what you're saying."

## 4. Self Denial

Self denial is an inner attitude. Developing a willingness to serve, and this means sacrifice, for a servant basically has no rights. Self denial also speaks to taking control over those pleasures which do not reflect the model of a Christian lifestyle, e.g., excessive drinking, gambling, gossiping.

## 5. Cross Bearing

Cross bearing occurs when Christ's will crosses my will. Mine must die. "Lose yourself in me..." is the example. There are going to be sacrifices in areas of our life. We must be ready to say no to pressures put upon us by the world (Matthew 10:37).

## 6. Teachableness

This is not speaking of knowledge. In discipling, we are not just pumping people's heads full of knowledge. - Who wrote Romans, where do we find the Gifts of the Spirit, who is God, what is Eucharist?

We are not talking about information. We are speaking of formation - forming lives, forming disciples. We are all familiar with those who have a head full of knowledge but a rebellious heart.

We want to teach, we want our people to know, but we also want them to see clearly so that what they know produces a change of life. If this is not so, then we are not effecting a sense of discipleship. Being is much more important than saying or doing. What we are is fundamental. What we do grows out of what we are. Look to the model. Jesus never took the disciples and said, "Let us study the book of Genesis or Isaiah." When we speak of teachableness, what is being considered is "Are you teachable, open, so that we can change your life" - not information but the formation of a character of Christ likeness. In this way the Lord can become flesh in our flesh. St. Paul said, "It is not I who lives but Christ Jesus who lives in me . . ."

## 7. Faithfulness

A disciple must be faithful in all things. He/she must be faithful in finances. One cannot be a disciple if he/she is not a steward; cannot be a disciple if one does not pay his/her bills. The kingdom of God must be brought into our financial area. We are stewards of our money. If we are faithful in our money, we then qualify to be faithful in spiritual riches and gifts. If we are faithful in little things we can be faithful in bigger things.

Being faithful in another person's ministry enables us to be faithful in our own (As Servant Leaders we are responsible for filling out a report for the group, a little thing).

## 8. Obedient to Authority

Here we must address not just authority but delegated authority. If we have been recognized by the pastor to lead a group, we are the delegated authority in that group. If the group accepts us, it accepts the pastor. If it rejects us, it rejects the pastor. If the group listens to us, it listens to the pastor. It is a great

responsibility, and to the degree that we submit to authority is the degree to which we transmit authority. We must remember that we are the model.

### **9. Work under Supervision**

As one is being disciplined, he/she is called to work under supervision. On the job training is crucial. Persons should be able to work with individuals to learn how to handle certain situations. We should allow them to have responsibilities in the group and review their performance with them.

### **10. Follow Assignments**

We are obliged to follow the assignments given to us. We must use the teachings of the week and not decide to do our own thing. We must get our paper work in on time. We should be present and supportive of parish functions. We should communicate the information that we are responsible to communicate.

### **11. Recognition by Leadership**

A disciple serves and follows instructions. He/she studies and grows in the faith. Soon he/she is recognized by the leadership to assume responsibility for ministry. Once recognized the individual may feel that he/she has arrived, that he/she has matured in faith. We must remember that we are all called to be learners. The process never stops. We reach full maturity only when we enter the kingdom with Christ.

Patience and perseverance are the keys.

### **12. Released for One's Own Ministry**

Once released for one's own ministry, serving really begins. Now the one who has been disciplined is called to disciple others. He/she becomes the model. He/she is committed to reproduce himself/herself, to build relationships and help in the formation of others.

The disciplined returns to step one and becomes the person reflected in these stages.

We should say we are disciples and we will always be disciples, learning and growing in our relationship with Jesus.

## **Bible Study 1: Discipleship Trademark 1**

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Read the following passages of scripture, marking them as you read. As a group, briefly discuss how you would summarize each scripture, and then discuss a trademark of a disciple of Jesus.

1. Matthew 11:25-30

2. Matthew 10:38-39

3. Luke 14:27

**According to these verses, what is the main trademark of a disciple of Jesus?**

## **Individual Study 1: Discipleship Trademark 2**

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Read the following passages of scripture, marking them as you read. Write a one or two line summary for each scripture, and then write a brief summary for the second trademark of a disciple of Jesus.

1. James 1:22-25

2. John 15:5

3. John 14:21

4. Matthew 28:19

**According to these verses, what is the main trademark of a disciple of Jesus?**



## **Individual Study 2: Discipleship Trademark 4**

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Read the following passages of scripture, marking them as you read. Write a one or two line summary for each scripture, and then write a brief summary for the second trademark of a disciple of Jesus.

1. John 13:35

2. Matthew 20:26-28

3. Colossians 3:12-15

**According to these verses, what is the main trademark of a disciple of Jesus?**

### **Individual Study 3: Discipleship Trademark 5**

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Read the following passages of scripture, marking them as you read. Write a one or two line summary for each scripture, and then write a brief summary for the second trademark of a disciple of Jesus.

1. John 15:8

2. Galatians 4:19

3. Matthew 4:19

4. 1 Peter 3:15

**According to these verses, what is the main trademark of a disciple of Jesus?**

## Session 2: Study Checklist and Completion Sheet

Name:

Group Leader:

- Complete Bible Study 1 and 2
- Complete Individual Study 1, 2, and 3
- Read *Go and Make Disciples*: (1) Goals I, II, and III, and (2) “Invitation and Implementation”