

How to Disciple: Goals of Discipleship

Welcome to week 2 of 3 Tuesday night prayer ministry teachings on Discipleship: *The 4 Goals, with a focus on practical tips for achieving them.*

Practical Tips Getting Started:

- The goals are what we are trying to achieve. They are our measure of success. The lessons are our primary tools to accomplish this. Keep the goals in sight as you work through the lessons.
- Hit the brakes on the lessons when the Biblical expectation is unmet and it is clear the disciple's heart attitude is the reason why (at this point we can no longer call what is happening "discipleship"). Do everything you can including getting help from the discipleship team, but do not proceed. The 4 goals give us our Biblical expectations.
- Make sure the goals are real to you in an experiential way--established in your life, then _____ that in the life of the disciple. What worked for you should work for them, right? Be ready with a testimony in word and deed of how these things are established in your life. A mentor/leader must realize the importance in living what he proclaims- **NEVER forget to have the lesson speak to you _____ . Failure to do so leads to a _____ .**
 - **1Co 4:16** "Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. "
 - **1Co 11:1** "Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ."
 - **Phil 3:8-17**- Paul states he is pressing on to win Christ (not salvation but sanctification); he closes the verses in instructing the Philippians to then be followers of him (as he is following after Christ).

Point of Reflection: Can you tell someone "Follow me as I follow Christ?" Is your life characterized as following Jesus Christ? Not sinless perfection, but a separated pursuit.

Philosophy: Eph 4:11-16 (see also Col 1:9-14)→ a philosophy **provides** you a means of a vision, direction, purpose. Discipleship is the mission and every member should be a part of it. Make _____ philosophy _____ philosophy.

Discipleship is the mission and every member should be a part of it.

The example of Aquila and Priscilla:

- Acts 18:1,2- hooks up with them in Corinth; Paul spent time with. (established in Word and fellowship of believers)
- Acts 18:18 & 19- up to now they had been with Paul for at least 18months if not longer (v11); they all leave for Ephesus and they are left there to minister.
- 18:26-Aquila & Priscilla in dealing with Apollos "expounded (expose/declared) unto him the way of God more perfectly"- **they had to be established in the Word to accomplish this.**
- Rom 16:3-5- Established in (A) Fellowship of Christ's sufferings/cross bearing ("v4 "who have for my life laid down their necks.", (B) in Local church & fellowship of Believers, (C) in Ministry, and in (D)Word.
- 1 Cor 16:19 & 1 Tim 4:19- fruit that remains; God's word leaves us with them established in ministry. Unlike other believers whom Paul addresses, the closing words are words of a faithful legacy in following Jesus Christ.

The 4 Goals:**Goal 1: Establish the disciple in _____.**

- Worship is “Bowing down”. We worship in spirit and in truth not religion and ceremony. It goes beyond a 30-minute praise and worship set. We “bow down” to the Father spiritually (John 4:23-24) and “bow down” our ears to the W.O.G. (Prov 22:17-21).
- This goal speaks to the highest obligation of the disciple. (Rom. 11:36; Col. 1:16; Rev. 4:11). Seeing him for who he is and what he has done fills us with a desire to worship him.
- Establishing the disciple in worship protects the disciple from idolatry because worship includes separation. (Exo. 20:1-6).
- Being established in worship positions the disciple to bear much fruit to the Glory of God (John 15:1-8).
- The disciple is also protected from being self-absorbed. Our faith only makes sense when God is at the center (Laying down our lives is counterintuitive if you are at the center of things). (Rev 4:1-4).

Practical Tips for establishing the disciple in worship:

- Make sure you and your disciple can define worship. K.I.S.S.
- Teach the disciple to consider who God is, and what He has done as he studies the Bible and the discipleship materials. For example, have the disciple put a “W” in their margins or in their journal notes when they come across a passage in which they see God for who he is, or what he has done. Then have them share with you weekly.
- Pray prayers of adoration and praise together. Have everyone think of one or two things to pray about that glorify God each week.
- Keep God, his kingdom, and the two thrones in mind (yours and your disciple’s) as you work through the lessons. Isa 6:1-5; 14:12-13, Col 1:13.
 - For example: Perhaps a disciple used to hang out with his/her _____ (Devil’s throne) now they hang out with their _____ (God’s throne). The _____ (Devil’s throne) is now in the _____ (God’s throne), etc. All this because God is worthy of our worship.

**Encourage your
disciple to move
from one throne to
the other.**

Goal 2: You are to establish the disciple in _____.

- Jesus Christ established his word with his disciples (John 14:15,24; 15:3,7,14; 17:6-8). We must do the same—teach the words of the Father to the disciples. We do not have the Living Word bodily, but we have the written word. Just as the 12 received it, so must we and our disciples receive it. They will not be done after 18 lessons, but they can be taught this aspect of “discipleship”.
- It gives them the _____ to live their life by. The disciple must get his absolute authority from the Word of God. (2 Pe 1:19)
- It gives them a way to _____ in Christ. – spiritual food required for spiritual growth.
- It keeps them from the _____ of the world around them (Eph 4:14).
 - Col 3:16 “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”
 - Jn 15:7- “if ye abide in me and my words abide in you”

- Acts 17:3 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
- Jn 6:35, 51- Jesus- “...I am the bread of life...”, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven..”
- Ps 119:105, 130- God’s word is a lamp unto our path.

Practical Tips for establishing the disciple in the Word of God:

- _____: In discipleship, the key to success is accountability. When you meet, let the disciple know you mean business! Set expectations from the start. Make sure that they understand that this is a process that only succeeds as they follow in accountability!
 - You can have them keep a JOURNAL/NOTEBOOK
 1. Reading notes
 2. Unanswered questions
 3. Sunday services
 4. D1 assignments, memory verses, etc
 5. Prayer journal
 - Hold them accountable to learning from the Word of God:
 1. **Read:** Be in the book daily
 2. **Remember:** Memorize the memory verses at least.
 3. **Reflect:** Meditate, and analyze God’s Word. Their time in the WOG is like the 12 disciple’s time with Jesus—this is how they will see themselves in Christ, God for who he is, and what he has done! (which is the basis for our worship).
 - Ask “What is God showing you from Word?”; not just, “Did you read your Bible yesterday?”
- _____: The WORD OF GOD must be the disciple’s absolute authority. This will probably not be the case at the beginning of the discipleship process. It must be by the end of it. Over the course of the 18 lessons, the disciple must be repeatedly challenged to trust in God by trusting in the authority of God’s Word(s). Consider beginning each lesson with a determination to _____ what we will learn from the WOG.

Psa 34:8
O taste and see
that the LORD
is good:
blessed is the
man *that*
trusteth in him.

Point of Reflection: Where are you? Are you FIRST established in the Word of God?

Remember: Every tree produces after its own kind!

Goal 3: You are to establish the disciple in the _____ (Heb. 10:24-25).

- The Lord Jesus established a body of people to function as _____. Jn 17:11, 18-26
- It gives them an _____ in the Body of Christ. (1 Co 12:27)
- It gives them a place to _____. (Eph 4:11-16)
- It provides them with _____. (Rom 15:14)
- It provides them with a place and structure to be _____ for ministry! (Eph 4:16)

Practical Tips for establishing the disciple in the local church:

- Get gnarly! Deal with the real, hard, awkward, offensive, fleshy, problematic, and whatsoever other difficulties arise. Teach forbearing and forgiving as an ongoing and necessary process to get along with the people in the pew next to you. It is worth it to work through issues so we can serve God together! We teach this in the New Member's class, yet we lose members over insignificant perceived offenses anyway. Ask, "What challenges do we need to work through this week as you get plugged at MBT?" Then teach them to show grace as they have received grace
- Sit with them in church services
- Get them set up on MyMBT
- Bring them with you to attend ministry functions with you
- Invite them to spend time you with and other friends outside of the church facilities (dinner, movie, Royals game, etc)
- Challenge them to be obedience in baptism
- Encourage them to get involved in Sunday Fellowship/ D2 classes/Tue prayer/mid-week services
- Help them transition into a small group Bible Study
- Are they prioritizing the Lord in their resources? Teach them to tithe. (Lesson on giving).

**The disciple must have a
_____or_____
to work out God's plan for this
life. God's ordained structure
is the local church.**

Reflection: Where are you? Are you submitted to the structure of the local church?

Remember: Every tree produces after its own kind.

Goal 4: You are to establish the disciple in _____. (Eph 4:11-16)

- Just as the apostles first learned, then became the teachers, by the end of the discipleship process, we must have disciplers and/or ministers serving the body to support discipleship at MBT.
- It makes them effective.
- It will increase and edify this church body in the love of Christ!
- It includes them in our God-given _____.
- It brings them to the place where they can _____.

Practical Tips for Establishing the disciple in Ministry:

First: Are you established in ministry? **Remember:** Every tree produces after it's own kind.

- Show them how to do personal evangelism when you go out. (First Saturdays 11-1:30, meet at MBT. Mike Reneau and Clarence Mclaughlin lead this)
- Take them with you to a Bible study
- Give them responsibilities in ministry activities (community meals, cleaning, audio/visual, baptism, hospitality, etc).
- Encourage them to join a Bible study.
- Help them join a ministry team. Follow-up with them on their progress.

***KEY: Are they growing in a way that will allow them to invest their life and the Word of God in the life of another? Continually invest in them on a level that will enable them to grow to the point that they are able to bring others into the family of God (bear fruit- evangelism), and help them to grow in Christ (fruit remains-discipleship).**

You can then know that you have been obedient to John 15:16!

- Your job is not complete until your disciple has begun an active _____/_____ in the work of Jesus Christ. Actually, your job is never complete. You should be there for the person for many years to come.
- The Lord Jesus Christ produced men who were capable, functioning participants in ministry: Jn 14:12; 15:1-8,16

Take Note of this underlying concept you as mentor and disciple must understand: A disciple must

Q. What did Jesus say about following him?

Mar 8:34 *And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. (Lk 9:23, 24; Matt 16:24, 25)*

Mar 10:21 *Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*

“sufferings of Christ” in a believers life:

2Co 1:3-7: (v5) *For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.*

1Pe 4:12-16 *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

Other references in NT on suffering and enduring hardships:

- **2 Tim 2:3** “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ”
- **Ph 3:10** “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death”
- **Joh 15:19** “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. **V20** Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. **V21** But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me
- **Rom 12:12** “...patient in tribulation...”
- **Rom 5:3-** “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience..”
- **2 Th 1:1-12** (entire chapter); look at v4
- **2 Tim 4:5** “...endure afflictions...”

As I pray, let me be willing to accept my place with Him, crucified to the world, to sin, and to self.

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- **Acts 14:22**- Paul and his band “Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”

2Co 12:8 *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

See also: James 1:1-4; Prov 17:3; 1 Pet 1:7; Ps 119:67, 71, 75, 107 (afflicted)

Why?

- It draws them closer to Christ

→ Our weakness allows God’s greatness to be revealed! Our little/lack of strength is an opportunity to see God’s power.

- To allow the dross of their life to be removed so the beauty of the image of Christ is more clearly seen.
- It strengthens them for ministry and for spiritual warfare.

How?

- First strive to reflect not react.
- Use times of hardships to reflect upon what God may be trying to teach them, refine them in, or strengthen them in.
- Ask: Did I cause this (my stupidity/mistakes- not following God)? Or is this beyond my control?

Remember that we are in a spiritual battle. things do not happen by accident