

# Some Thoughts on Discipleship

From Fred Nelson 7/11

## **Matt 28:19-20 NASB**

**"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

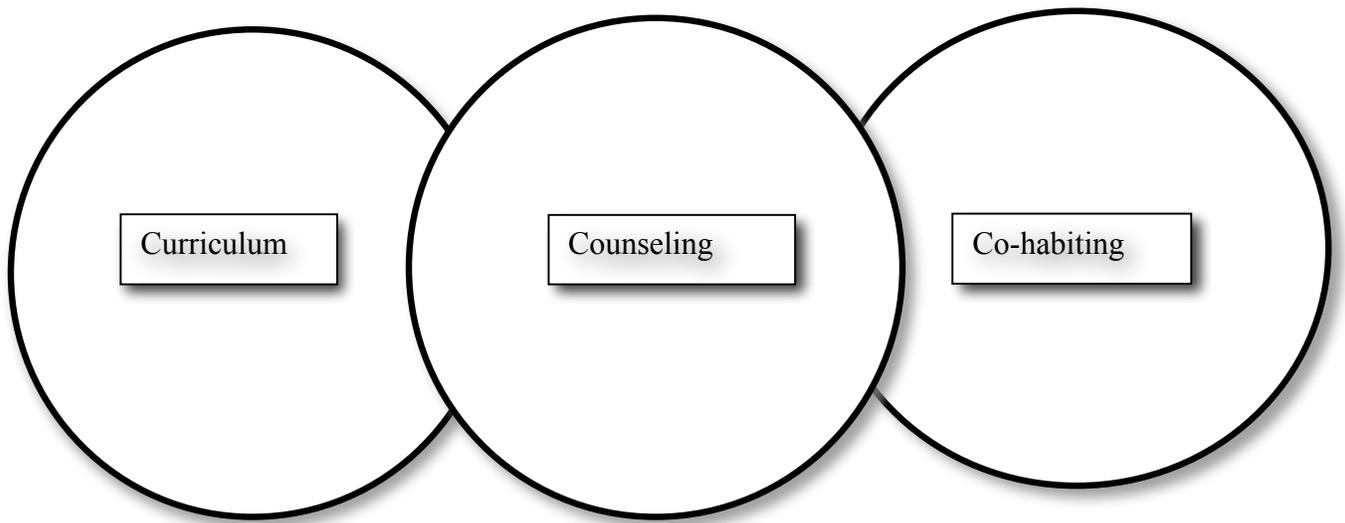
*A disciple of Jesus is both a "leaner on the way" and "an imitator of their Lord." As such, this true believer will eventually embrace two wonderful freedoms that will allow him to live an abundant life in God's Kingdom on earth.*

**#1- Freedom from the need to have the approval of others.**  
***(Pleasing Jesus will be the only thing necessary for their happiness.)***

**#2 – Freedom from the desire to secure themselves with material wealth.**  
***(Living free from an excess of activities and things and trusting Jesus to supply everything that is truly needed in this life.)***

# The 3 Aspects of Discipleship

\*Since Jesus was the only one who could completely disciple a person, you and I will need to think of this powerful process as a team effort.



*“Like raising children, true discipleship is inconvenient, time consuming, expensive, and accomplishes one of mans’ greatest purposes on the earth.”*

*About once per month a friend in vocational ministry visits my office with the purpose of picking my old brain about “discipleship.” During that conversation the word “program” is often mentioned by my godly co-worker and I do my best not to look discouraged. **The more I read the Scriptures that more I am convinced that making disciples of Jesus Christ is not a program but an incredibly intense life style that includes three vital ingredients.***

**Ingredient #1 – CURRICULUM** -- a Biblical course of study that includes the basics of what we need to know in order to survive, thrive, and reproduce in a spiritually dangerous world (see the attached sample). We need to become educated in the great truths of the Bible.

**Ingredient #2 – COUNSELING** – nearly all of us come to Jesus in a very broken state – we think like the world and not like our Heavenly Father. We nurse what one author has labeled “hurts, habits, and hang-ups.” In order to enjoy the abundant life that Christ has planned for us, we need to get well (see the attached 3 goals of wellness).

**Ingredient #3 – CO-HABITING & CO-LABORING** – this is the costly one for the disciple. This is living life with your students – involving them in your family, in your play, in your work, and in your ministry. Without this key element the other two components rarely gain traction. I love Paul’s words below:

*1 Thess 2:8 NIV*

*We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.*

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# The Counseling Component

(Getting Well – Learning to do everything for the Glory of God)

## SPIRITUALLY

Dealing with the deeds of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21)  
(Developing a hatred for sin and understanding  
its power to separate one from God and diminish the quality of one's life).

## EMOTIONALLY

Dealing completely with grudges, grief, guilt and fear  
that open the door to Satanic deception.

## PHYSICALLY

Improving one's rest, diet, exercise, and  
medical attention.

## EXTERNALLY

Finding balance and order with finances  
& time (i.e., with family, work, school,  
friends, recreation, & ministry).

\*These four key areas are best addressed by a team of skilled  
caregivers (i.e., pastors, disciplers, mentors, counselors,  
physicians, financial planners, trainers, etc.)

***“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all  
wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To  
this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so  
powerfully works in me.” Col. 1:28-29***

## 2 Tim 2:2 NIV

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

### Discipleship Curriculum

(Subjects our Apprentices Need to Know)

1. God's character and attributes
2. Sin and mans' depravity
3. Hell - the consequence of sin
4. Jesus the Lord and savior - born of a virgin
5. The plan of salvation - the atonement (the Bridge)
6. Heaven
7. God's grace
8. Election
9. Truth
10. Confession & repentance
11. The Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
12. Assurance of salvation and eternal security
13. Water baptism
14. The Bible (God's inerrant Word) & how to study it
15. Prayer and meditation - daily devotions
16. Intimate friendships in Christ - the local Church and small groups
17. Worship
18. Miracles
19. The importance of controlling our thoughts
20. Forgiveness - receiving it and granting it

21. Obedience (the Wheel)
22. The fruit of the Spirit
23. The gifts of the Spirit
24. Getting along with others - communication skills
25. Gratitude
26. Love - for God, one's neighbor, and one's enemy
27. Purity
28. Humility
29. Integrity
30. The Rapture and Christ's return
31. The Judgment Seat and eternal rewards
32. Receiving God's guidance
33. Dating/marriage/sex
34. Good works and living as a servant of all
35. Finances including giving, saving, and spending
36. Submission to authorities
37. Witnessing - sharing the faith
38. Apologetics - defending the faith
39. Creation and evolution
40. Opposing world views
41. The work place
42. The Great Commission - making disciples

**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Cor. 5:17**

## ***Why the “Wheels Come off of your Life” Either:***

***1. You have never truly surrendered to Jesus Christ as Lord “boss” of your life and are without the Holy Spirit. God loves you and wants desperately to save you and has allowed this misery to enter your life to “grab your attention.”***

***2. You have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ but are simply unaware of the wonderful principles in His Word, the Bible. You continually make your decisions based on your emotions and are miserable.***

***3. You have a relationship with God and know His commands but are presently disobedient and are consequently miserable.***

**The only thing in life that matters is *obeying* God;  
*obeying* God is *always* in our best interest.**

## The Most Common Reasons that People Come to Our Office

They have problems with:

1. marriage conflicts - 65%
2. guilt from the past - 10%
3. child raising issues - 7%
4. money problems - 7%
5. extended family conflicts - 5%
6. job related issues - 3%
7. conflicts with friends - 2%
8. health problems - 1%

**\* In the majority of cases the real issue is "idolatry." The person has broken the first commandment to "have no other God's before Him."**

*Deut 30:15-20 NIV*

*15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.*

*16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.*

*17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.*

*19 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*

*John 5:5-6 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" NIV*

### **Why Some People Receive Counsel and Are Healed**

(Over the past 41 years I have observed some common factors in the behaviors of those who are healed of their emotional problems. These people ultimately enjoy abundant lives and close personal relationships with others including their spouses, children, family, and friends.)

Those who *get well* and *stay well* inevitably:

1. **Develop a deep trust in their "counselor/mentor" and submit to his or her advice**
2. **Experience a "big yes" - *a strong desire to change* (generally this occurs when the person realizes that they are about to lose something of great value)**
3. **Truly receive God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ**
4. **Stop blaming others for their problems**
5. **Accept responsibility for their own behavior**
6. **Feel deep remorse for their sin and repent of it**
7. **Develop healthy friendships within the "church"**
8. **Develop a daily habit of prayer and journaling**
9. **Develop the disciplines of meditating upon and obeying God's Word**
10. **Diligently forgive all those who have hurt them in the past**
11. **Develop a plan to improve each area of weakness in their life**
12. **Never give up; they will not allow setbacks to deter them from their goals**

**"I have found that if a person truly connects with God and "keeps on swinging," he will in the end *always* prevail." FMN**

*John 8:9-11 NLT When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to her, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."*

**Matt 4:17 NIV From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the**

## ***kingdom of heaven is near."***

The Kingdom of Heaven – the rule of God in the hearts of men.

### **The Signs of Wellness**

**(the blessings of living in compliance to the teachings of Jesus)**

**As a Christ follower regularly engages in the study of the Word, in prayer, and in intimate fellowship with other sincere believers who will pour into his life, God brings about some wonderful changes in the person's character. I have found that these three characteristics combined are often a signal that the believer is ready to go "make disciples" himself. As best I can describe them, the three characteristics of people who demonstrate this mental and spiritual wellness in their lives are:**

#### **1. an inability to remain offended from slights, criticism, & gossip**

Rom 12:14-19 NIV

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

#### **2. an inability to worry about the future**

Matt 6:28-34 NIV

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

#### **3. an inability to feel insecure**

Ps 139:13-16 NIV

3 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

2 Cor 5:9-10

*Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.*

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. NASU*

## **Many Aspire, but Few Attain** *(The Basics Needed to Succeed Spiritually)*

### **A. FELLOWSHIP**

- 1. a good Bible teaching church**
- 2. a life-giving small group**
- 3. a committed mentor**

### **B. PRAYER**

- 1. God talks to you - listening prayer**
- 2. you talk to God - ACTS**  
*Adoration - Confession - Thanksgiving - Supplication*

### **C. THE WORD**

- 1. read**
- 2. hear**
- 3. study**
- 4. memorize**
- 5. meditate**

**John 15:5**

*"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. NASU*

**A Frequent Question about "the Church"**

**Church - NT:1577 ekklesia, ekklesias**

1. an assembly of the people called out from their homes convened at the public place of council for the purpose of deliberating: Acts 19:39 In the Christian sense, a. an assembly of Christians gathered for worship: 1 Cor 14:19,35 b. a company of Christians c. the whole body of Christians scattered throughout the earth; Matt 16:18 d. the name is transferred to the assembly of faithful Christians already dead and received into heaven: Heb 12:23 (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

**Heb 10:24-25 NLT** *Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.*

**Do I have to go to church?** The answer is *yes*: in Hebrews 10:25 true believers are commanded not to neglect their regular "church meetings." But, to see this command as burdensome is truly missing the point. It is much like observing a young child who protests the tasting of home-made ice cream for the first time because its appearance is unfamiliar. As with nearly every command in the Bible, God's charge to gather regularly is simply a gracious and caring Father looking after the best interests of his children. He wants us to be safe from the world and the devil; He wants us to grow and flourish in our walk with Him; and He desires that we would engage in eternally significant activities with our close friends in the body of Christ. These three goals are most readily addressed by the fellowship of other believers in the setting that we call "church." Among the greatest benefits of yielding our lives to the Lord Jesus, are the rich, deep friendships now available to us. Regarding the actual format of church meetings, our wise father has allowed for great individuality. To continue our previous analogy, we believers have all been given the same wonderful "ice cream," but our Father allows us a choice of toppings. I acknowledge that all church bodies have problems. (Christ followers can still be mean and petty!) But, if we are honest in comparing the church with all other social organizations, we find that no other institution on earth accomplishes as much good for so many people. Pastor Bill Hybels of Willowcreek Church in Chicago is correct when he says "the local church is the hope of the world."

Below is a sample of the many services that a local church body provides to its congregation and its community on nearly a daily basis:

Corporate Worship	Spiritual Instruction	Mentoring Programs	Pastoral Care
Weddings	Funerals	Dedications/Baptisms	Discipleship
Child Care	Social Engagements	Recreational Opportunities	Evangelism
Children's Ministry	Hospital Visitation	Car and Home Care	Financial Aid
Addiction Programs	Community Service	Care for the Elderly & Ill	Missions Etc.!!!

**Acts 2:42-47 NLT** *They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had. They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity-- all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.*

# **The 3 Primary Purposes of Our "Mind of Christ" Groups**

\*The phrase "in Christ" appears 89 times in the NIV New Testament; the term "Christian" appears twice  
My favorite expression for living in the Kingdom of God is having "the mind of Christ" 1 Cor 2:16

**We honor the Bible and hold to its inerrancy and infallibility as God's Word, but our purpose on earth is not to be "Bible Scholars" but to love God with every fiber of our being and our neighbor as our selves. Therefore, the objective of all our small groups is to assist people to be "in Christ" and to have His "mind" by providing:**

**#1 - Physical, emotional, and spiritual health - "how are you doing?"**  
(most of the really important things in life are fragile)

*James 5:13-16 NIV*

*13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

**#2 - A venue where honest questions about matters of faith can be asked**

(Jesus used people's legitimate questions as one of his primary teaching methods)

*Mark 10:17 NIV*

*17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

**#3 - A place for spiritual instruction**  
(the mind of Christ is generally both "taught and caught")

*1 Thess 2:6-8 NIV*

*As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, 7 but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. 8 We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.*

Heb 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

## **Sample Mentor Couple's Agreement**

As part of our mentoring/discipleship arrangement, I promise that I will be readily available to you to discuss anything you deem important --- "the good, the bad, and the ugly." I will not allow an issue that is important to either of you to be *swept under the rug*.

In response to my promise I am asking both of you to covenant with me and one another that you will, from this day forward, refrain from speaking unkindly about your spouse or your marriage with any other person but me. With me I ask that you be totally honest and thorough regarding your feelings about your spouse and their behavior --- even if they are negative.

And, lastly I would have you assure me that if either of you desires my assistance, that request will be met with an enthusiastic "yes" by the other spouse.

If you abide by the above guidelines, I believe that God will use me to keep you safe and help you grow.

We the undersigned agree.

Husband's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*The Eleos Group 2/09*

*"With passion, skill, and diligence we will endeavor to help our beloved couples and small group friends to know and apply the teachings of Jesus to their marriages, their parenting, their friendships, and their finances. It is our hope and belief that as they know and apply God's principles to these key areas that they will live the highest caliber lives that humans can live on this earth. Their lives will be rich and full and will cause countless non-believers to ask them about "this Jesus" whom they love and serve."*

*Fred and Joan Nelson*

## The Importance of Prayer

1. "We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results." R.S. Torrey
2. "I'd rather be able to pray than be a great preacher; Jesus never taught his disciples how to preach, but only to pray." D.L. Moody
3. "It is a great thing to talk to men about God, but it is a far greater thing to talk to God about men." E.M. Bounds
4. "No one comes to Christ but that another prays for him." John Wesley
5. "The purpose of prayer is to get into step with God, not to manipulate or coerce Him into blessing personal plans. Prayer is not a preparation for work. It is work. Prayer is not a preparation for the battle. It is the battle. Prayer is two-fold: definite asking and definite waiting to receive." Oswald Chambers

### **"Too Busy to Pray"** from Destined for the Throne by Paul E. Billheimer

No angel was ever invited to share this high privilege. No archangel was ever invited into the throne room of the universe. Only redeemed humanity. And many of us are too busy—watching television, following sports, hunting and fishing, bathing and boating, engaging in farming or business, moonlighting, etc., etc. We are so busy with the cares and pleasures of this life, trying to keep up with the trend in new cars, new homes, new appliances, and new furniture that we do not have time to pray.

Someone has described a modern American as "a person who drives a bank-financed car over a bond-financed highway on credit card gas to open a charge account at a department store so he can fill his Savings and Loan financed home with installment-purchased furniture." May this not also be the description of many modern professed Christians? And may this not be one reason why modern Christians have so little time to pray?

Perhaps some may be thinking: Are we to have nothing at all for ourselves? The answer is NO. Christ is to be ALL and in all. You are bought with a price (I Cor. 6-19-20). "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the Glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31). If you can buy the new car, the new home, the new furniture, the new gadgets, and hold down two jobs, for the glory of God—Well and Good. But if we did not have to have such a high standard of living, would we not have more time to pray? If we were not so enamored of sports and entertainment, would we not have more time to pray? We have more leisure than ever before—but less time to pray? We are not only cheating God and the world but we are cheating ourselves. By our failure to pray we are frustrating God's high purpose in the ages. We are robbing the world of God's best plan for it and we are limiting our rank in eternity.

**Ezek 22:30 NIV**

**"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none."**

Ps 139:23-24 NLT Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

### ***Listening Prayer - Making the Lord Your Psychotherapist***

It is interesting to me that so many of us Americans will spend millions of dollars on supportive drugs and on employing psychiatrists, psychologists, coaches, and a myriad of other capable professionals to address our hurts, habits, and hang-ups. We will wait weeks on end to see a well regarded therapist and disrupt our daily routine to spend sixty minutes with him hoping to gain freedom from some problem that God's Word defines as "sin." Counseling and anti-depressants can and do often work, but I wonder how many of our emotional problems that ultimately affect our physical health and our personal relationships could be addressed more quickly, deeply, and inexpensively by simply spending disciplined periods of quiet time with the Lord of the Universe. This healthy activity that I call *listening prayer* can take many forms, but the thirty minute *daily quiet time* plan below can be very effective.

1. 10 minutes of thoughtful reading in the Scripture or  
10 minutes of meditation on memorized Bible passages.
2. 5 minutes of praise and thanksgiving
3. 5 minutes of confession (write down in a journal those areas of **sin that you know have been un-addressed – ask God's guidance and be thorough). Determine to turn from those sins with the Lord's help.**
4. **10 minutes of sitting quietly listening for the promptings of the** Holy Spirit and journaling what you hear. Begin this time by asking your Heavenly Father to "*point out anything in me that offends you.*" (Hint: he will often bring to mind: 1. lies that you have believed about Him, yourself, and others; 2. people you have failed to forgive from the heart; 3. guilt over past sins that you have failed to trust have been completely covered by Jesus' blood; 4. fears you have been entertaining about the future that insult God's love for you; 5. generational sins from your family of origin that *predispose* you to those same sins. Then:

**Recognize** the sin and understand how it offends God.

**Responsibility** – take it; don't blame others for your sin. Confess stubborn sins to a trusted friend in Christ.

**Repent** - of the sins you have heard from the Lord and trust Him to deliver you from their power. **Live free in Him!**

2 Tim 2:15 NIV

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

## **How to Own a Passage in the Bible**

**PRAY! “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.” Ps 119:18**

### **Part 1 --- Investigate (in context)**

Read the text slowly several times.

Make observations by asking questions:

Ask pertinent questions. The following 8 questions will generally be very helpful:

1. *When was this passage written?*
2. *What was going on in the culture at that time?*
3. *Who was in charge?*
4. *Who is writing this passage?*
5. *To whom was it written?*
6. *Where did the author and the recipients reside?*
7. *Why was this passage written?*
8. *How would it have been understood by its recipients?*

Answer the questions above.

Define key terms (use both English and Hebrew/Greek dictionaries).

### **Part 2 --- Application**

Draw conclusions --- make deductions --- look for practical applications to your life

Memorize and meditate upon a key passage of the text you have just studied.

**PRAY! “Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.” Ps 119:37**

## Navigator Topical Memory System

*(To Know Christ and to Make Him Known)*

*\*Memorize one new passage/week and meditate on it; review the passage from the week before*

### A. LIVE THE NEW LIFE

- |                        |            |              |
|------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Christ the Center   | 2 Cor 5:17 | Gal 2:20     |
| 2. Obedience to Christ | Rom 12:1   | John 14:21   |
| 3. The Word            | 2 Tim 3:16 | Joshua 1:8   |
| 4. Prayer              | John 15:7  | Phil 4:6-7   |
| 5. Fellowship          | Matt 18:20 | Heb 10:24-25 |
| 6. Witnessing          | Matt 4:19  | Rom 1:16     |

### B. PROCLAIM CHRIST

- |                           |             |            |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. All have sinned        | Rom 3:23    | Isa 53:6   |
| 2. Sin's penalty          | Rom 6:23    | Heb 9:27   |
| 3. Christ paid penalty    | Rom 5:8     | 1 Pet 3:18 |
| 4. Salvation not by works | Eph 2:8-9   | Titus 3:5  |
| 5. Must receive Christ    | John 1:12   | Rev 3:20   |
| 6. Assurance of salvation | 1 John 5:13 | John 5:24  |

### C. RELY ON GOD'S RESOURCES

- |                           |             |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. His Spirit             | 1 Cor 3:16  | 1 Cor 2:12  |
| 2. His strength           | Isa 41:10   | Phil 4:13   |
| 3. His faithfulness       | Lam 3:22-23 | Num 23:19   |
| 4. His peace              | Isa 26:3    | 1 Pet 5:7   |
| 5. His provision          | Rom 8:32    | Phil 4:19   |
| 6. His help in temptation | Heb 2:18    | Ps 119:9-11 |

### D. BE CHRIST'S DISCIPLE

- |                               |                |               |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Put Christ first           | Matt 6:33      | Luke 9:23     |
| 2. Separate from<br>the world | 1 John 2:15-16 | Rom 12:2      |
| 3. Be steadfast (loyal)       | 1 Cor 15:58    | Heb 12:3      |
| 4. Serve others               | Mark 10:45     | 2 Cor 4:5     |
| 5. Give generously            | Prov 3:9-10    | 2 Cor 9:6-7   |
| 6. Develop world vision       | Acts 1:8       | Matt 28:19-20 |

### E. GROW IN CHRIST-LIKENESS

- |               |               |             |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Love       | John 13:34-35 | 1 John 3:18 |
| 2. Humility   | Phil 2:3-4    | 1 Pet 5:5-6 |
| 3. Purity     | Eph 5:3       | 1 Pet 2:11  |
| 4. Honesty    | Lev 19:11     | Acts 24:16  |
| 5. Faith      | Heb 11:6      | Rom 4:20-21 |
| 6. Good works | Gal 6:9-10    | Matt 5:16   |

**2 Tim 3:16-17 NIV**

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

The disciple or apprentice of Jesus, as recognized by the New Testament, is one who has firmly decided to learn from Him how to lead his or her life, whatever that may be, as Jesus himself would do it. And, as best they know how, they are making plans---taking the necessary steps, progressively arranging and rearranging their affairs---to do this. Dallas Willard

***The Spiritual Disciplines - Door to Liberation***

(from Richard Foster's Celebration of Discipline)

**A. The Inward Disciplines**

- 1. Meditation - Psalm 119:78**
- 2. Prayer - Mark 1:35**
- 3. Fasting - Matthew 9:15**
- 4. Study - Deuteronomy 11:18**

**B. The Outward Disciplines**

- 1. Simplicity - Luke 12:15**
- 2. Solitude - Mark 6:31**
- 3. Submission - Philippians 2:8**
- 4. Service - John 13:14-15**

**C. The Corporate Disciplines**

- 1. Confession - James 5:16**
- 2. Worship - John 4:23**
- 3. Guidance - Acts 13:1-3**
- 4. Celebration - John 15:11**

## **Some Ideas for Living Life with Your Students**

### Co-habiting with ones Students

There are hundreds of options but the following have worked well for us:

1. **Eating together informally**
2. **Hiking**
3. **Fishing**
4. **Shooting**
5. **Exercising**
6. **Cross country skiing**
7. **Working on a home project**
8. **Sharing in a "Mind of Christ" Dinner club**
9. **Attend weddings and funerals**
10. **Be available to them 24/7 when the "wheels come off"**

### Co-laboring with ones Students

Some ideas that have been useful for us:

1. **Co-leading a fellowship group**
2. **Going on a short term mission**
3. **Working on a project helping a church or non-profit organization**
4. **Helping friends move**

*2 Kings 3:11 NIV*

*But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD through him?"*

*An officer of the king of Israel answered, "Elisha son of Shaphat is here. **He used to pour water on the hands of Elijah.**"*

*Luke 6:40 NLT A student is not greater than the teacher. But the student who works hard will become like the teacher.*

## **The 3 Stages in the Life of a Disciple**

What should happen to a person after "**getting saved**?" Eph 2:2-10

He becomes a disciple who is first a

### **#1 LEARNER - HELPER**

Rom 12:1-2

("Getting Well" - learning what God thinks about life)

*Characterized by a devotion to prayer, the Word, intimate fellowship, holiness, and worship*

then a

### **#2 WORKER - INFLUENCER**

Matt 9:37-38

("Getting Going" - becoming an active part of the "discipleship process")

*Characterized by a passion for sharing the Gospel and bearing the burdens of others*

and sometimes, as God directs and provides, a

### **#3 LEADER - VISIONARY**

2 Tim 2:2

("Getting Others Going" - becoming a completely committed Christ follower)

*Characterized by initiative, personal vision, the ability to motivate others, and single-mindedness in his efforts to serve God's Church and further His Kingdom*

## Why Jesus Commanded Us to "Make Disciples?"

**Example #1:** Jane at age 34 introduces two friends to Christ and devotes her life to them. She diligently teaches them Jesus' commandments and models His character to them through her own behavior. She prays for her students fervently. At the end of three years they are *both* able to introduce two new friends to our Lord and begin this powerful process. Jane does the same. This geometric progression continues until Jane joins the Lord in Heaven at age 70. How many people will she have influenced significantly for Christ at the time of her death?

1. Number of People Discipled Per Session  $\left( \frac{\text{Number of Years Total}}{\text{Number of Years per Session}} \right) = \text{Total Number Discipled}$
2. 2 people per session, 36 years total, 3 years per session
3. 2 raised to the 12<sup>th</sup> power (or on an HP12 C calculator --- 2 enter 12 yx)  
= **4096**

**Example #2:** Imagine the same scenario above except John begins at age 26 and serves the Lord until his death at age 80. He is blessed to disciple 4 at a time, but it takes 6 years before they are able to disciple others. How many souls would he influence? **262,144**  
(\*if one of the original 4 fails to become a disciple maker, this number is reduced by 65,536 souls)

**Example #3:** Bill, age 54, lives to be 78. Because he is retired, he is able to spend time with 6 friends and co-labor with God in discipling them so that in 3 years they are able to do the same for 6 friends each. How many people will Bill influence in his "winter" years if he continues this process?

**1,679,616**