

## Discipling Strategies that Work

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### What is “discipleship”?

“While there are valid differences of perspective on what constitutes discipleship, **we define Christian discipleship as a process that takes place within accountable relationships over a period of time for the purpose of bringing believers to spiritual maturity in Christ.** Biblical examples suggest that **discipleship is both *relational* and *intentional*, both *position* and *process*...**” (The Eastbourne Consultation on Discipleship, 1999) (Ron Bennett)

### Principle one: “*Discipleship is more caught than taught.*”

1 Cor. 4:14-17 NKJV - “I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn [you]. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet [you do] not [have] many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. ***Therefore I urge you, imitate me.*** For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

1 Cor. 11:1 NKJV - “Imitate me, just as I also [imitate] Christ”

Hebrews 6:11-12 NKJV - “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

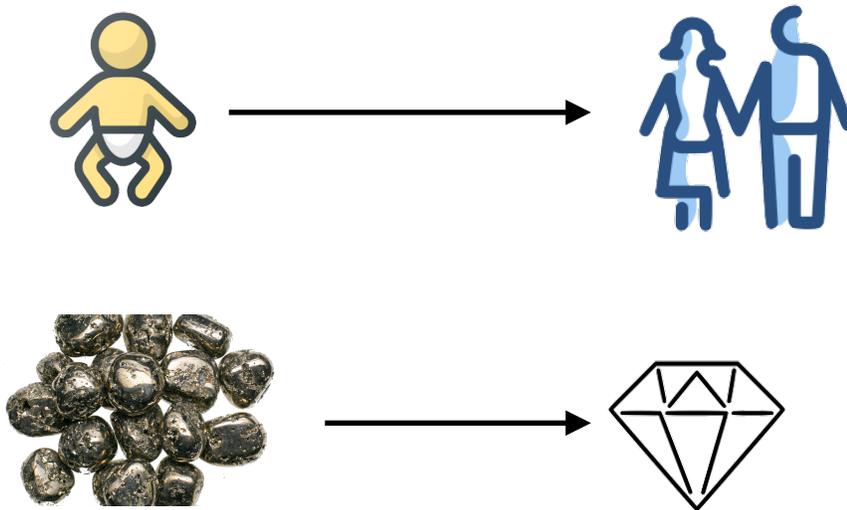
Luke 6:40 NKJV - “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher”

Walk with Jesus daily  
Reading and studying His word  
Praying  
Scripture memory

### Principle two: “*Be convinced of the critical necessity of spiritual maturity.*”

Matthew 28:18-20 NASB20 - “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 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 follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

It is absolutely essential that we grow in our walk with the Lord, that we mature. And it is, in the same way, essential that we invest in the maturation of others.



**Our souls must burn with the desire to see others mature into Christlikeness. It is not optional. It is essential.**

“The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.”  
— C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Col 1:28-29 NKJV : “Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect [mature] in Christ Jesus. To this [end] I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”

Gal 2:20 NKJV - “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the [life] which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

A spiritually mature person has the opportunity to reflect Christ and serve Him in ways that an immature believer can not yet do.

**Principle three: “Disciplmaking must be relational and based on an authentic love and caring for those to whom we minister.”**

True transformation requires both doctrine and relationship.

1 Thess 2:7-8 NKJV - “But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing [mother] cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”

1 Thess 2:10-12 NKJV - “You [are] witnesses, and God [also], how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father [does] his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

### **Principle four: “We must be convinced of the vital importance of prayer.”**

We must speak to people about God. But we must speak to God about people more!

1 Thess 3:9-10 NKJV - “For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?”

### **KISS principle: “Keep It Simple, Saint!”**

1. Pray about someone to invite to meet with 1:1
2. Set a date and time
3. Structure of a simple meeting:
  - How are things going in your life?
  - Read Scripture together and talk together about how to apply it
  - Pray with each other

### **Other practical thoughts:**

1. Memorize Scripture together: Beginning with Christ, Topical Memory System
2. Start with focused time around the different points in the Wheel Illustration (<https://www.navigators.org/resource/the-wheel-illustration>) (Christ the Center, Obedience to Christ, The Word, Prayer, Fellowship, Witnessing)
3. Do quiet times together

### **Helpful resources:**

Apprentice Approach Podcast:

Ron Bennett podcast interview 1: <https://gleneyrie.org/podcast-episode-017/>

Ron Bennett podcast interview 2: <https://gleneyrie.org/podcast-018-growing-to-spiritual-maturity-part-2-with-ron-bennett/>

<https://kansasnavs.org/podcasts/>

Discipling your children: Podcasts 154, 155, 156 (Leah and Ryan)

Discipling high school girls: Podcasts 150, 151, 152 (Michelle)

Getting started in investing in someone’s life: Podcasts 120, 121, 122 (Richard Spann)

**Questions for discussion:**

1. What are some challenges or hindrances you see as you try to invest in others spiritually?
2. Why might doctrine without an authentic love relationship not be transforming?
3. What are some reasons you see as being motivations for helping someone grow in their walk of faith with Jesus?
4. What is one thing that stood out to you from this presentation?