

“We train disciplemakers...”



Being consistent - or not!
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The heart of discipleship
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Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Using the Inductive Bible Study in discipleship

Interview with Mel Flaming

Making Disciples Naturally Podcast

The Case for Faith - a very encouraging film and book

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What should discipleship look like in reality?

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Mark your calendars for our Fall Conference October 13-14 (Friday night and Saturday morning) on “A Praying Life” with guest speaker Dave Hastings

Young Leaders Development Conference

We’ve had two conferences this year focusing on Young Leaders Development. Jim and Carrie Truax have a wonderful vision for encouraging the growth and development of the next generation in disciplemaking.

We met in February and again in June in Wichita and heard from Richard Spann, David Dennis, Chris Majors and Steve Turner as they shared various aspects of walking with the Lord and keeping our focus on obedience to Him in the area of making disciples. (You can watch the videos of each of these messages here: <https://kansasnavs.org/media/>).

We’ve had around 20-25 young people attend, typically those who have been involved in campus ministry in the past or with a heart for making disciples. Our goal is to provide encouragement and support for them as they explore their own ways of reaching others and helping them grow spiritually.

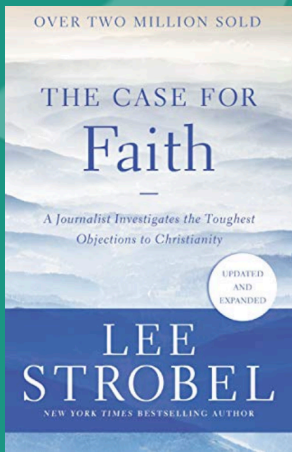


Plans are to hold another conference this fall in September. Won’t you pray with us that the Lord will prepare the hearts of those attending as well as walk with the speakers as they prepare? We are excited that the Lord is working in these enthusiastic young folks to carry on the mission of “Knowing Christ and Making Him Known”!

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“Always rejoice, constantly pray, in everything give thanks. For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NET Bible)

The Case for Faith



Who was Charles Templeton (1915 - 2001)? For a previous generation he was a leading evangelist, sharing top “billing” with Billy Graham. He toured the US preaching to large crowds. He was active in the 1930’s and 1940’s and was felt to be a dynamic pastor and evangelist. With Billy Graham and John Torrey, he had even co-founded Youth for Christ International. However, he began to question his faith, ultimately becoming agnostic and leaving the ministry in 1959.

Journalist Lee Strobel explores Templeton’s questions about science and faith in the book “The Case For Faith.” We recently watched a documentary based on this book. The film can be seen on the free service Redeem TV (RedeemTV.com). In follow up to the book “A Case for Christ,” Mr. Strobel shares his interview and interaction with Templeton.

In this documentary, Strobel discusses two of the classic objections to Christianity, two issues which plagued Mr. Templeton. These two questions are “Is Jesus the only way to heaven?” and “If God is good and powerful, why is there evil in the world?”

This documentary is very well-performed and thoughtful in its delivery. It would be a great tool to show and discuss for the beginning of an evangelistic Bible study. We were encouraged by the honest discussion and I think all would benefit from watching this intriguing film.



(A word about RedeemTV.com: redeemtv.com is from the Christian History Institute. The service is free although does require giving them your email to login. The Kansas Communities Ministry does not sanction every film on this site, but we do offer suggestions as to those which seem to be helpful and consistent with our mission.)

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“People are more interested in hearing what God has done for you, than what you have done for God.” -Lorne Sanny

— Vol. 3 pages 31-33

Over the last forty years I have heard many speakers from a number of organizations and churches. The messages that have had the greatest impact on my life have been those which focused on what God had done in their lives. Although challenged often by the lives of others as they describe the ministry given to them by the Lord, I cannot always identify with them. At times I am intimidated. After listening to some speakers, I have concluded that they have gifts that I don’t possess or networks of people I don’t have. If I would want to see the same things happen in my life that they have experienced, I would not know where to start.

When a person relates what God has done for them, it strikes a familiar cord. We can identify readily with their need, for we have experienced it ourselves. Whether the need was financial, a health issue, a family concern, a troubled relationship, or discouragement, it is something to which we can relate. ... II Corinthians 4:7 states “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” It is in our common experience as jars of clay that we can identify with others and witness the “all-surpassing power” of God.

Paul recognizes the power that is present in weakness and therefore relates in II Corinthians 12:9-10, “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” ...

Has the Lord comforted you by a special awareness of His presence, a reminder of one of His promises in the scriptures, by the presence of a friend, or his Mighty Hand to alter your circumstances? As God has comforted us in all our troubles, we need to comfort others by relating to them how God has comforted us. They are more interested in hearing about what God has done for us than in hearing about what we have done for God.

In Christ, Richard Spann

Why are our actions sometimes not consistent with our intentions? Part 2 by David Dennis

Last time we noted that our intentions, that which we want to do and know to be the right thing to do, don't always line up with our behavior. Today we want to explore this topic further.

This is easy to see in others isn't it? We see marriages hurting, where the ones we love the most are sometimes the very same people upon whom our wrath is poured. We lash out. We are irritated. We are short-tempered. Why is that? What can we do to change? Is it up to us or the Holy Spirit? (spoiler alert: It's both!)



When we place our faith in Christ alone for eternal life (John 3:16, John 6:47, 1 Timothy 1:16) our “inner man” is renewed. The Holy Spirit takes up residence in our inner man. The “inner man” is that part of us which is the spiritual part. The “outer man” is the body of flesh, the visible, external part of a person. (see GotQuestions.org: <https://www.gotquestions.org/inner-man.html>). The inner man is the true “me,” the real me. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul teaches that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The real me, the inner man, is a new creation. If that is true, why don't I behave like I know I should? Why don't I reflect Christ since my inner man is now made new?

Paul speaks of the “inner man” in at least three places:

Romans 7:22 NASB95 - “For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the *inner man*,”

Context: Here (Romans 7:21-25), Paul agonizes over the fact that he wants to do good, but he sees evil in himself. He distinguishes the inner man who delights in God's law and wants to obey it and his members (outer man) which makes him captive to sin.

Ephesians 3:16 NKJV - “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the *inner man*,”

Context: Paul prays the strengthening in the inner man, a process of growth toward maturity.

2 Corinthians 4:16 NASB95 - “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our *inner man* is being renewed day by day.”

Context: We will be raised with Jesus (2 Corinthians. 4:14). This truth gives us boldness (2 Corinthians. 4:16), not discouragement. Even though we see our outer man fading away, the inner man is being renewed day by day.

So even though our inner man is now the residence of the Spirit of God, our “outer man” (our body of flesh) doesn't change immediately. It didn't get the message! At first we are babes in Christ, requiring nurturing, encouragement and growth. It is very sad when we remain stunted in that immature state. That is what discipleship is all about. We need the body of Christ to help us grow. We need mature believers to pour into our lives to help us grow. Richard Spann has recently reminded us that God uses His word, other believers and difficult circumstances in our lives to help us grow into Christlikeness. *To be continued next month ...*

“We must believe that the world is really lost and that every non-Christian we meet is headed to hell. This determines our motives and whether we are going to be a spectator or a participant. There are too many spectators.”

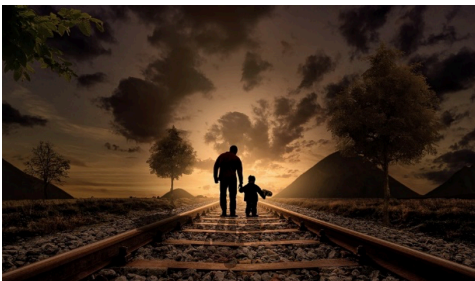
—Bob Boardman, longtime Navigator leader. Quote found at <http://discipleshiplibrary.com/pdfs/N397.pdf>

Discipleship - What should it look like in reality? by Larry Beck

When you hear the word discipleship, several thoughts and possibly questions come to mind. For example, when does it begin, who is involved, how long does it last, what should be the result.

In brief, discipleship should begin at the time God converts a soul. The new believer needs a spiritual mentor (a spiritual parent), preferably the person involved in evangelizing the new Christian, or someone qualified and with the heart to invest in the new life. And unless sovereignly interrupted, that relationship should continue at least until the new Christian is established in the habits and relationships necessary to ensure their growth going forward and they are able to minister in the same manner to others also.

The term “discipleship” is used in a variety of contexts in the Christian community, but the intended meaning and practical outworking is usually quite different. If you were to ask 100 Christians what the term meant or how it is manifest in ministry there would likely be some similarities in the responses, but the method of application would likely be quite varied.



I would anticipate that most envision discipleship as something carried on in venues like Sunday school classes and small group bible studies. But far fewer contemplate it in the context of a personal, one-on-one relationship where a less mature Christian is personally mentored by a more mature Christian. And while many may agree that this type of relationship sounds most profitable, far, far fewer will ever be involved in such activity, primarily because they never experienced it.

The environment we grow up in as children imprints ideologies of belief and patterns of behavior that usually carries into adulthood. Such beliefs and behaviors are learned through experience and firsthand observation, usually in the context of parents. Unfortunately, some children learn these things through some form of surrogate or foster parenting oversight or worse in an orphanage. Regardless, whatever is taught and modeled before a child can and likely will have a significant influence on their beliefs and conduct in adulthood.

The same is true of spiritual children. They need someone to personally take on the parental responsibility – to care for, teach, protect, and nurture into adulthood. To teach the younger Christian how to relate with God in His word and prayer (**Deuteronomy 17:19; Mark 1:35**), how to rightly divide the word of truth through effective study methods (**II Timothy 2:15**), help integrate them into fellowship with others who are wise and able to sharpen them (**Proverbs 13:20** and **27:17**), teach them how to share their faith (**Mark 5:19**) and ultimately able to invest their own life into the lives of others.

(article concludes on next page ...)

“Love knows no limits to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that stands when all else has fallen.”

—Elizabeth Elliott, Missionary, Author, Speaker. Quote found her book, “Let Me Be a Woman”

Discipleship — What should it look like, in reality? by Larry Beck (conclusion)

Dr. Richard Spann noted at our recent Navigator men's retreat that two of the most vulnerable times in life are just before and after birth. I believe the same is true for Christians, especially after birth. New Christians are impressionable and more easily deceived by false doctrines and emotional influences instead of sound doctrine. Thus, they need to be taught and protected until they are **“no longer children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine...” (Ephesians 4:14).**



In thinking about the principles of discipleship, Jim Morris, former Navigator Kansas Communities Ministry Leader, often said something to the effect that one-on-one discipleship ministry is caught not taught. In other words, it is replicated by personal experience not learned and repeated by classroom type instruction alone. In

I Thessalonians 2:8 Paul

emphasizes that he was well-pleased to impart to them not only the gospel of God, but his own life as well. He was personally involved at a more intimate level than just a “pastor to congregation - group type” level.

In his book entitled *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*, Leroy Eims states the following: “Why are fruitful, dedicated, mature disciples so rare? The biggest reason is that all too often we have relied on programs or materials or some other thing to do the job. The ministry is to be carried on by people, not programs. It is to be carried on by someone and not by some thing. We cannot drop people into a program and see disciples emerge at the end of the production line. It takes time to make disciples. It takes individual personal attention.”

Sadly, very few church leaders understand these principles and endeavor to practice them nor encourage the same from their congregation. But those who have experienced and profited from being personally discipled, are the ones most likely to go on and teach and mentor others also (**II Timothy 2:2**), a disciple who makes disciples.