

# **Empowering the Church—**

## **What every Disciple should learn**

1. Don't Forget the Fundamentals
2. The Four Voices
3. Why Disciples Don't Feel Joy
4. Where To Start
5. Make A Wish List
6. Your Testimony
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## 1. Don't forget the fundamentals

After Jesus rose from the dead He spent 40 days to teach His disciples and encouraged them to spread the gospel. In the book of Matthew, Jesus called the disciples to a mountain in Galilee. At this place, He gave them the main focus of his training in one last commandment—Matthew 28:18-20:

### A. Jesus is our **Commander in Chief** :

Jesus said plainly, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” He is the one with the highest authority in the whole universe and there is nothing that is not under his authority.

If you really understand his status, then you will most definitely obey his commands. For example, a soldier will listen to his captains' commands but if the Chief Commander himself were to come and give the soldier an order, then the soldier's obedience would unquestionably be 100%. This soldier would not give the command another thought but would obey and accomplish the task right away. Today, our Lord Jesus Christ has clearly revealed to us His status in authority and power so we must completely submit ourselves to Him.

### B. The greatest command:

Jesus said unto them, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The beginning of the command is to “go.” If we do not go, how are we able to lead others to the Lord? If you stay in your own place and do not go anywhere, no one is going to come to you. Therefore the first part of the command is to “go.”

Yes. This can be dangerous, just as the Lord said in Luke 9:3: “Go. I send you out as lambs among wolves.” But if we do not obey the Commander in Chief, then we make ourselves irrelevant to his purposes and bring shame upon him.

Friends, let us set our hearts to go now! Once we go, we will see the route the Lord has set for us. Once we go, we will see the many people that need us. If we just stay in place, there will be no change for these needy people, nor will we be touched. At the same time, this will reveal that we do not accept the authority of the Lord or we do not have a heart that is obedient to the Lord.

The Lord wants “disciples of all nations.” We are never commanded to make believers, converts, Christians or church members. The command begins with us, and if we are truly His disciples, then we will be His Disciple-Makers.

A “disciple” is a real learner, he follows the master's steps to learn everything the master teaches until the day he is able to go out and become a master himself. Therefore we cannot just lead people to be believers, church members, etc. But we must train our disciples to be a master that can train others.

## 2. **The Four Voices**--There are at least 4 different voices that tell us to go share the gospel:

**The voice from above** – this is Jesus' request.

- *He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Mark 16:15*
- *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Who shall I send? And who will go for us?' Isaiah 6:8*

**The voice from hell** – that comes from the people that are suffering in hell.

- When both the rich man and Lazarus died, the rich man went to hell and Lazarus went to Abraham's side. The rich man said to Abraham: *"I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment."* Luke 16:27 - 28

**The voice from inside** – the voice that comes from within every individual.

- Since Paul started to believe in Christ, he felt a calling from within himself that strongly urged him to go out and spread the gospel. He said, *"Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me."* 1 Corinthians 9:16-17
- Every one of us should be like Paul – we should all feel the call from within ourselves to go out and share the gospel once we come to know Christ.

**The voice from outside** – the calling from Macedonia.

- *"During the night, Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'"* Acts 16:9
- Once Paul got his calling from the outside, he brought the gospel from Asia to Europe and later on, we see that the gospel is spread from Europe to North America, and finally throughout the world.

## 3. **Why disciples don't feel joy**

- When we live according to our purpose, we have joy.
- Our purpose in Christ is to do good works (Eph 2:10). And what better work is there than to bring others into the Kingdom of God?
- If God uses us to carry the gospel to the next person, we will be joyful.
- Great satisfaction will be felt if a small group can be started.
- Just like a gardener, there is no greater experience for us than to see the fruit come in.

\*\*\* A metaphor can be given here using an average parent– they would want their children to marry and have kids of their own so they can enjoy the happiness of having grandchildren.

#### 4. **Where to Start?** – God loves you and wants to save your family through you.

➤ **NOAH—Genesis 6-7**

God loved Noah and commanded him to build an ark. Noah warned people about the coming judgment but no one listened to him. But Noah's wife, three sons, and three daughters-in-law believed and were saved.

➤ **LOT—Genesis 19**

God loved Lot and sent angels to him to warn him of the coming judgment. They told him to get his relatives together and flee the city. Everyone else in the city was destroyed, including Lot's wife who looked back instead of obeying God, but God saved Lot and his daughters.

➤ **RAHAB –Joshua 2:17-20**

Rahab provided protection for the 12 spies from Israel so God spared her and her family when Israel conquered the city.

➤ **DEMON POSSESSED MAN – Mark 5:1-20**

When the man of Gerasenes was healed by Jesus he asked if he could become one of his followers. But Jesus sent him home to tell his family how much the Lord had done for him.

➤ **CORNELIUS –Acts 10**

God told Cornelius to send for Peter that he might hear a message. When Peter presented the gospel, everyone in Cornelius' family, and even everyone who was in the house listening, received the Holy Spirit and were saved.

➤ **LYDIA –Acts 16:14**

As Paul and his friends were sharing the gospel down by the river, Lydia heard the gospel and believed. She, and her household, were saved and baptized. She then took Paul and his friends to her home.

➤ **JAILER AT PHILIPPI –**

Paul and Silas were released from prison by an earthquake and the jailer fell to his knees asking, "What must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord, Jesus and you will be saved—you and your household." That night he gathered his family together, they heard the gospel, they believed and were baptized together.

➤ **YOU AND YOUR FAMILY –**

God also loves you and wants to save your entire family through you.

## 5. Make a “wish list”

- List all of the people that you wish would be saved
- At the top of the list, remember your family, friends and co-workers.
- Each person can easily list 100 people (begin with at least 20)
- Pull out at least three names of the first people that you will share your testimony with.
- It is really best if these first three or more people are related or know each other already.

## 6. Your Testimony—You are an expert on *your* testimony and no one can argue with you about what God has done in *your* life.

- Write out an outline of your testimony
- Emphasize:
  - what you were like before you came to Christ
  - your encounter with God
  - how you have been changed by God
  - your expectations of your future with God
- Practice your testimony until you can share it naturally.
- This week, share your testimony with the three or more people from your wish list
- Tell them that you are learning many exciting things about God and ask them for permission to share a lesson with them next week.

## 7. The Seven Lessons—There is nothing magical about these seven lessons, but they do lay an excellent foundation for a disciple, and they are easy to share with others.

- See separate documents – The Seven Lessons
- Go through the first lesson.
- Memorize the verses in the lesson.
- Go to the people on your wish list that have heard your testimony, and share this lesson with anyone that is interested. These are the ones that the Lord is drawing to Himself at this time.

## 8. Disciple Chains

- If some of these people do not want to hear the lesson, then share your testimony with others on your wish list to bring the number of weekly contacts up to three or more.
- Again ask for permission to come back to share another lesson during the next week.
- For the next week, go through the second lesson and memorize the verse.
- Keep sharing the new lessons that you have learned if your contact will listen, or go tell your testimony to someone new if they do not want to listen. The point is to keep teaching people about Jesus every week.
- Try to get in the habit of teaching about Jesus to at least three people each week.

- Continue this process until you have gone through all seven lessons.
- In this way you are creating a chain of disciples.
- Introduce these disciples to each other and gather together for prayer and to encourage each other.

## 9. Chronological Bible Story-telling

Don't stop teaching about Jesus after the seven lessons! After laying a good foundation through the Seven Lessons, begin learning and teaching the stories of the Bible. By learning the major Bible stories, from Genesis to Acts, you can better understand who Jesus is, and why He had to come to earth.

Please see the document, "Spiritual Health Lessons" in the "Making Disciples" portion of the training.

- After each story, use the following six **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS**. When teaching the lessons to a group, do not answer the questions yourself, but let them discover the answers for themselves. If they don't understand, encourage others in the group to help them find the answers from the story. This makes it much more personal to them. The questions are:
  1. *What did you like/not like?*
  2. *What does this teach us about God?*
  3. *What does this tell us we should do?*
  4. *What verse or phrase would we like to memorize together and think about this week?*
- In this stage you are modeling a format to the people that you are training that they will use to learn Scripture in the future.
- This format encourages all to participate.

## 10. Forming Groups

- People are becoming disciples even before they are saved as the Lord draws them to Himself. People should also be formed into groups before they are saved.
- People that the Lord is drawing are seeking for answers and enjoy discussing these amazing things with one another.
- Continue to pursue God through the Seven Lessons and Chronological Bible Stories with a group.
- Remember, as each person becomes a disciple, they should begin their own "disciple chain" which will quickly become a group of its own.
- As people become disciples, they should immediately obey the first command of Jesus to be baptized. Baptism is preferably performed by whoever led them to the Lord.

## **11. Create your own Acts 29**

- What is your vision for the rest of your life? If you are really his disciple, then God wants you to join Him in His agenda of saving the lost.
- At this time, you must pray and think about the road of ministry you are taking. This includes where you are going to start, the difficulties you might encounter, who will be your co-workers, and the strategy you will use to spread the gospel.
- The measure of your faith will determine what your result will be like!
- Create a continuation to the book of Acts through your own ministry that might include the movement of the Holy Spirit, proclamation, acts of God, persecution and multiplied growth.
- The number of days you do God's work will be the same amount of Jesus' grace and the Holy Spirit's great power that is on you. Remember, the amount of Jesus' grace and the Holy Spirit's power is sufficient throughout the days of your life.