



# THE COMPASS

A TOOL FOR DISCIPLERS

## A Primer on Discipleship

### Conversation On the Journey

#### Ask your disciple:

1. In your own experience of being disciplined, what are a few of the best things a previous discipler has done that helped you grow?
2. As you think about the life of Jesus, what did He do to disciple the 12 apostles? Try to make a list of several ways He built them.

#### Look up Mark 3:13-14

This passage teaches the most important first step in discipleship – selection (choosing wisely who you disciple). Jesus didn't disciple everyone. He selected 12 out of a multitude of disciples (see Luke 6:12-19). You can't disciple everyone, either. In fact, probably as a full time student only two or three, so choose who you disciple wisely. For perspective on this, read the lesson on spiritual multiplication and listen to the audio by Roger Hershey in The Compass entitled "The Right People." Choose disciples who will be faithful and able to teach others (II Tim. 2:2).

#### What to Do When You Disciple

Discipleship is more than being friends - more than hanging out. It is building into someone so that you are taking her somewhere. Where are you taking her? Toward becoming a Christ-centered laborer. That is our mission– to develop disciples into Christ-centered laborers who will walk with Christ and serve Him for a lifetime. Someone who can walk, communicate, and multiply their faith.

#### Read Mark 3:14. Jesus selected the 12 for two things:

1. That they might be "with Him."
2. That He might "send them out to preach."

Jesus spent time with them. They learned by being around Him and observing His life. They observed His relationship with the Father, and prayer life. He modeled both the heart, and how to, of ministry to others. Discipleship is caught - not taught. To keep it simple and easy to remember, below are the five components to good, balanced discipleship.

### This Week's Excursion

In this lesson, you want to help your disciple learn to disciple someone else. You can help them understand and embrace the key components of good discipleship, and to talk through with them where, and how to get started.

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### Five Things to Do with Your Disciples

#### 1. Build a relationship

Read about Paul's relationship with the believers in I Thessalonians 2:8. Spend time with them, not only in Bible study or on a discipleship appointment, but informally as well. Possible ways are to study together, eat together, go to church together, go on creative dates, shopping, sports events, etc. "People don't care what you know until they know that you care." Does your disciple know you love him and care about him as a whole person? There are many aspects to a good relationship, but here are a few to consider:

- a. Learn to listen, not just give out pat answers.
- b. Be an encourager, build others up.
- c. Be loving enough to confront.
- d. Have fun together.
- e. Do ministry together.
- f. Offer accountability in areas of growth.

#### 2. Renew a disciple's mind with the Word

Read Romans 12:2. The key to a transformed life is the Word of God renewing the mind, replacing the world's perspective with God's perspective, so you are seeing life from God's perspective. This happens on discipleship appointments, in Bible study, but also when just hanging out and talking about life together. It happens through other movement events also - community activities, parties, retreats, conferences, summer project, prayer events, etc.

As a discipler you can't impart everything your disciple needs - you don't have all knowledge nor all the spiritual gifts. You must remember this. "You are discipling someone in the context of a whole movement." He or she will learn from many others besides you, as you expose him/her to a whole body of believers.

#### 3. Train and involve them in ministry

Paul trained Timothy by taking him along on his missionary journeys. Jesus' disciples learned how to minister by watching Him. Your disciples will develop compassion for the lost, and a heart to build others, as they see you minister.

Take them with you on appointments to share your faith, or as you do follow-up. They will learn from your model of faith and obedience. They will grow in faith as you lead them to take steps of faith and see God work.

Decide together with your disciple what steps of ministry are appropriate for where he is in his walk, and where and how on campus would be the best way for him to reach out to others. Then, lead him into that ministry with whatever practical steps are needed to get started.

#### 4. Involve him in the larger movement

"Involvement breeds commitment" - Involve disciples in some movement responsibility, giving them opportunities to serve and contribute. Get them connected with other believers besides you and your Bible

## Next Steps

1. Who am I going to begin to disciple?
2. Evaluate the five aspects of discipleship
  - a. In which of the five will you be strongest?
  - b. Which one will be the most difficult for you, and how can I help you in that?

It is important to be reminded that no one does all five in perfect balance. You will grow as a discipler and get better over time. Just get started and you will develop as a discipler as your disciple also grows.

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study. As said earlier, you can't give them all they need, so use the whole body to help them grow. Take them with you to your weekly meeting, to community events, and retreats or conferences. You are inviting them into an environment of growth - like a plant in a greenhouse which flourishes because it is in an environment of the right elements that produce growth.

### 5. Pray for them

Paul prayed continually for his disciples ( Phil. 1, Eph. 1 and Colossians 1). Pray for their growth, that they would live out of their position in Christ. Pray often. Why? I Cor. 3 says that God causes the growth. He uses us and all of our efforts to disciple someone, but it is a partnership between us and God. These five things mentioned above are our part. God does His part in their hearts, including ordaining circumstances to bring about growth. We can't control that - God can and does. Our part is to pray and ask Him to cause growth.

†End

## Side Trails

The Master Plan of Evangelism.  
Robert Coleman. Baker.

Order at [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com)

"The Right Components of Discipleship."  
Roger Hershey.

Available at [centerfieldproductions.com](http://centerfieldproductions.com)



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