

DISCIPLESHIP STAR

This tool is helpful as we discern what discipling a particular woman should look like. It'll get us thinking about investing in others SO that they in turn begin to disciple others.

So where does discipling begin?

Discipling begins with us being a disciple of Christ.

Mark Dever puts it well, "Being a disciple of Christ, in other words, does not begin with something we DO. It begins with something Christ DID."

So this reminds me that:

Because Christ died for me, I've been set free from sin

Because Christ rose for me, I've been given a new life, abundant life in Him with the Holy Spirit

Because I have the Holy Spirit within, I have all I need to help others follow Christ

Because I'm a disciple-maker, I make disciples.

In Dever's book DISCIPLING he says,

"To be a Christian means to be a disciple. There are no Christians who are not disciples..."

And I love his simplified definition of disciple-making to

"helping others follow Jesus"

Other ways to say it:

- Discipling is taking what we've learned and pointing someone else towards Christ.
- The very foundational mindset I can have in discipling, "Am I pointing her towards Christ"

Am I pointing her to Jesus? Literally that's the foundation of what I need to think about when I disciple.

Disciple-maker to 2 different people in our lives

1. Non- believer/seeker/skeptic/young believer

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* ¹⁸ *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;* ¹⁹ *that is, in Christ God was reconciling^[b] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.* ²⁰ *Therefore, we are **ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.* ²¹ *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

- Ambassadors for Christ
- Christ making appeal through us
- Implore you

2. Another growing believer (infancy to more mature) – we are all in this boat; all can learn; but God uses other believers to disciple one another

Colossians 1:28-29

²⁸ *Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.* ²⁹ *For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.*

- Him we proclaim = gospel
- Temptation to proclaim self, but keep HIM at center
- “warning” = noutheteo (new thu tey o) – admonish (advise or urge (someone) earnestly, put in mind,

- Present everyone mature = goes back to, “am I pointing her to Christ?”
- Toil = expectations of struggle, work
- BUT with HIM working in me. Again, reminder of WHO is doing this

Gospel Fluency quote:

“It is God’s intent that every person who comes into a relationship with him through Jesus Christ eventually will grow up into maturity. And maturity looks like Jesus. He is the perfect human, providing an example of what we are meant to be.” P 28

Disciple-makers point others to Jesus!!

Now if you are wanting a “how-to” manual, I want to remind you that Scripture itself speaks to this a variety of ways

- Titus 2:4— Older women are to train younger women.
- 2 Timothy 2:2— Paul trained Timothy to train others to train others.
- Eph 6:4 — Fathers are to train their children.
- Hebrews 3:13— All Christians are to exhort each other every day to avoid sin and to stir each other up to love and good works (see also Heb 10:24-25)
- 1 Peter 4:10 — All Christians are to use their gifts to serve others.
- Acts 18:24-26 — Priscilla and Aquila, explaining the way of God more accurately to Apollos.

John Piper sums up what I have just said this way:

“Every Christian should be helping unbelievers become believers by showing them Christ. That is making a disciple. And every Christian should be helping other believers grow to more and more maturity. That is making a disciple.”

John Piper

So for each of you in this room, the WHO to invest in could be different:

For a mom of three little ones, it could be the neighbor who you are in contact with everyday or it could be a gal in your small group who will come over, help you fold the towels and make the dinner and meanwhile devour all you have to share about your pursuit of Christ in the midst of chaos

For the engineer traveling M-Th barely seeing her own place, it may be a co-worker, the friend who works out with you every Sat morning, the small group gal you grab coffee w/ right before small group

But our end result should be

Pointing her to Jesus

SO THAT

She begins to point another woman to Jesus!

So now let's get super practical.

Let's look at this STAR. These five questions can be a "go-to" for you to feel encouraged, confident, and equipped to spiritually invest in other women in your life.

Why should we make disciples?

- ALWAYS COME BACK TO THIS QUESTION! It is where you should start the conversation when it comes time to encourage a disciple to become a disciple-maker.
- This is also a great question to pose when someone asks you to disciple them. It helps you understand what they are actually asking for and helps them know what they should expect from you as a disciple-maker.

To whom has God given you favor?

- Who is in your path already?
- Who comes to you for advice?
- Who is seeking you out?

- Who has the Lord convicted you to pursue?

Where are you headed with her?

- What is her next step for growth?
 - Does she need to learn how to read the Bible?
 - Does she understand and regularly practice prayer?
 - Is it time for her to begin discipling someone herself?
- This is important to the concept of replication. You'll reiterate that as she learns/grows, she's able to invest in someone else to help them do the same

What resources, tools, language, conversation will you use to help her grow?

- Unfortunately, this is where many of us start and stop when we consider discipleship. We forget that discipleship is much more than an hour together over coffee once a week.
- And the what (study, conversation, prayer, etc.) should be informed by WHERE the disciplee is growing in her relationship with the Lord (season of life, sin, how they need to be equipped as a disciple-maker, etc.)
- However, when considered in addition to the other 4 points of the star (especially the why), this is an important point as well.
- This can be a Bible study, but does not always have to be. You could read a book together, work through accountability questions, be in prayer consistently, dive into a theological issue she wants to learn more about, or have intentional conversations about day-to-day life.
- A balance between structure and flexibility is important to keep in mind.
- Remember, the point is to help her grow in Christ. The WHAT should be determined by what is needed at the time for her to grow

How will we get there most effectively?

- How often will you meet?
- Where will you meet?

- For how long will you meet? (9 months? 1 year? Indefinitely?) – this doesn't have to be answered on the front end, but should be considered
- This can and will change over time, so this is a good question to revisit every so often.

It's time now to go make disciples!