



FACILITATOR GUIDE

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

1. Broaden your perspective of discipleship.
2. Teach a Christlike lifestyle that reflects transformation.
3. Design a practical path for discipleship formation.
4. Evaluate the discipleship path through the new key tools introduced.

TIME FOR SHARING & PRAYER

Read Mark 1:16-20

What is it that Jesus is considering doing with Simon and Andrew as He calls them? What does that mean?

What did those whom Jesus called have to leave behind?

DO: Welcome the group back.

SAY: In a few minutes, we will take time to review your hard work, ask questions, and share with one another.

Today's module is called Comprehensive Discipleship

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2. Teach a Christlike lifestyle that reflects transformation.
3. Design a practical path for discipleship formation.
4. Evaluate the discipleship path through the new key tools introduced.

TIME FOR SHARING & PRAYER

SAY: Before we get too far in the module, we would like to spend some time in God's Word and to give some opportunities for testimonies and prayer. Let's begin.

ASK: Who would like to read Mark 1:16-20?

What is it that Jesus is considering doing with Simon and Andrew as He calls them? What does that mean?

What did those whom Jesus called have to leave behind?

SAY: The passage clearly shows a process of the teacher's calling and shows the need to leave everything behind to truly live a new lifestyle as a follower of Christ.

Before we get to the process of learning how to educate and disciple, would anyone like to share a testimony or information on the report on how God has transformed you or another?

DO: Collect Healthy Church Reports and have participants report on implementing their action plans from the previous module.

DO: Pray.

Session 1: Biblical Foundation

DISCIPLESHIP | Mark 1:16-20

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “Cheap grace is Christianity without discipleship.”

What is a disciple?	What does it mean to disciple?	What is discipleship?
Disciple (<i>mathéteuo</i> , in New Testament Greek) means 'one who learns,' apprentice. It is more than intellectual knowledge. It is someone who has come to Jesus for eternal life and who has recognized Jesus as their Lord and Savior. It is one who chooses to follow Jesus and be transformed to His likeness. By doing so, one will accept Christ's mission to the world as their own.	Discipling is guiding the spiritual developmental process of others. It is a relationship of mutual growth between disciple and teacher. It implies an investment of time, energy and resources in the development of believers for the service of and participation in God's Kingdom.	Discipleship is the continual growth process of a disciple in a transformational relationship with Jesus Christ. It can be done one-on-one or as a group. It is the process by which a believer becomes more Christlike. It is when a believer, remaining fully human, becomes more and more transformed to the image of Christ.

Session 1: Biblical Foundation

DISCIPLESHIP | Mark 1:16-20

SAY: During two thousand years of Church history, there has not been renewal, revitalization, or advancement of the Church without returning to the biblical discipleship modeled by Jesus, His disciples, Paul, and others in the early Church. Therefore, it is important to return to biblical models for discipleship, especially those found in the New Testament Church.

In the West, many have experienced the sad reality pointed out by 20th century theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He said, “Cheap grace is Christianity without discipleship.” For him, this was the same as “discipleship without Christ.” God wants us to return to comprehensive discipleship.

The New Testament is full of principles and foundations for Christian discipleship. It is the best manual we have for the training of believers in the church. But before we continue, we need to define some key terms relative to the following questions:

DO: As you walk through this chart, pause to ask/answer any questions.

What is a disciple?	What does it mean to disciple?	What is discipleship?
Disciple (<i>mathéteuo</i> , in New Testament Greek) means 'one who learns,' apprentice. It is more than intellectual knowledge. It is someone who has come to Jesus for eternal life and who has recognized Jesus as their Lord and Savior. It is one who chooses to follow Jesus and be transformed to His likeness. By doing so, one will accept Christ's mission to the world as their own.	Discipling is guiding the spiritual developmental process of others. It is a relationship of mutual growth between disciple and teacher. It implies an investment of time, energy and resources in the development of believers for the service of and participation in God's Kingdom.	Discipleship is the continual growth process of a disciple in a transformational relationship with Jesus Christ. It can be done one-on-one or as a group. It is the process by which a believer becomes more Christlike. It is when a believer, remaining fully human, becomes more and more transformed to the image of Christ.

DISCIPLESHIP BEFORE THE GREAT COMMISSION

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

- Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

This is a holistic mission that requires holistic discipleship. Jesus was not planning to fulfill this prophesy by Himself.

JESUS' DISCIPLESHIP WAS:

Intentional

Interpersonal

Intergenerational

Never-ending

Holistic

Interwoven

Integrating

SAY: DISCIPLESHIP BEFORE THE GREAT COMMISSION

Jesus begins His ministry announcing, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."* – Matthew 4:17 (NIV). He echoes the message of his precursor, John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2). In the Gospel of Luke, we see Him inaugurating His ministry in the synagogue of Nazareth associating prophetic words with His mission.

SAY: ¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,* ¹⁹ *to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."* - Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

This is a holistic mission that requires holistic discipleship. Jesus was not planning to fulfill this prophesy by Himself. One of the first things Jesus does in His ministry is to look for disciples (Mark 1:16-20, Matthew 9:9-13; John 1:35-51), choosing twelve who would continue this mission (Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3.13-19; Luke 6.12-16). The Gospels then give us a detailed look at the process of how Jesus trained His disciples through His teaching, modeling for them how they ought to be and live and involving them directly in ministry (Matthew 9:17; John 6:11). They lived out a process of discipleship with Him in His ordinary and difficult moments.

Jesus defined and exemplified the Kingdom He came to establish what it meant to be His disciples in that Kingdom. He established for them and all of His subsequent followers, which includes you and me, the foundations for His discipleship style.

Jesus' discipleship (which is our example) was:

Intentional - on purpose, focused, organized, sequential, and with its respective adjustments along the way.

Interpersonal - based on the growth of intimacy in our personal relationships, growing together in our vital relationship with Christ, and being accountable with one another.

Intergenerational - guiding people of all ages (children, youth, and adults) as a family.

Never-ending - throughout the entirety of life, disciples need to be guided through the different stages of life. We should always be able to point to growth in our journey with Christ, evidenced by maturity and service of others.

Holistic – meeting different needs (spiritual, physical, emotional, social, etc.) of different people.

Interwoven - through all the faith community; discipleship is a group process.

Integrating - uniting all church ministries so they contribute together to the mission of discipleship.

DISCIPLESHIP IN THE GOSPELS

In small groups, analyze the following verses about discipleship in the Gospels. When finished, report your findings.

GROUP 1	GROUP 2
Mark 8:34	John 13:13-14
Matthew 10:24-25	John 14:15
John 8:31-32	John 15:4, 8

DISCIPLESHIP AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

The **declaration of His authority**
The **command to make disciples**
The **promise of His presence**

DISCIPLESHIP AFTER THE GREAT COMMISSION

Both the early Church and Paul dedicated themselves to making disciples.

Christian life can be described as development from spiritual childhood to maturity.

For Paul, the goal of discipleship was a process of transformation so that believers could "become like his [God's] Son."

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SAY: Christ sacrifices everything for His present and future disciples. He is cruelly crucified but on the third day is resurrected. He spends 40 days with His disciples and, before ascending to heaven as the resurrected Lord, He leaves an assignment, the Great Commission.

DISCIPLESHIP AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

There are three important elements in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) for Jesus' disciples:

1. The declaration of His authority: "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth."
2. The command to make disciples: "...go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."
3. The promise of His presence: "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

DISCIPLESHIP AFTER THE GREAT COMMISSION

Both the early Church (led by the apostles and based on their teachings) and Paul dedicated themselves to making disciples (Acts 6:7, 14:21-22a; 18:23, 27; 20:1-2, 7; 21:4-6, 16, 1 Corinthians 11:1).

Christian life can be described as development from spiritual childhood to maturity. While this growth happens, the believer also assumes the responsibility of discipling others.

For Paul the goal of discipleship was a process of transformation so that believers could "become like his [God's] Son" (Romans 8:29), and he could "present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ" (Colossians 1:28).

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

This path is progressive; it goes from basic discipleship, passing through intermediate discipleship, until reaching advanced discipleship.

Alongside the teaching of the Bible, it includes materials to use, activities, and church ministries, all focused on forming disciples. Small group dynamics are key for all ages.

The discipleship pathway will become the plan your local church uses to gradually build its discipleship process.

How must we teach?

Teach how Jesus taught: doing and accompanying in ministry, providing opportunity to experience, using His methods.

Four goals of discipleship

Believing, Self-feeding, Maturing, Reproducing

Dallas Willard says: "Discipleship is being with another person in order to become capable of doing what the person does and to become like who that person is."

Andy Stanley "Five Faith Catalysts"

Practical teaching, private disciplines, personal ministry, providential relationships, pivotal circumstances

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

To implement a contextual discipleship pathway, one must delineate the way or process the disciple must take. This path is progressive; it goes from basic discipleship, passing through intermediate discipleship, until reaching advanced discipleship.

Alongside the teaching of the Bible, it includes materials to use, activities, and church ministries, all focused on forming disciples. Small group dynamics are key for all ages.

The discipleship pathway will become the plan your local church uses to gradually build its discipleship process.

TRANSFORMATIONAL TEACHING

Transformation happens when disciples change their lifestyle and purpose for being.

ASK: Who are some biblical examples? (Nicodemus, Zacchaeus, Saul of Tarsus)

Teaching in the church can be an important instrument to carry out transformational discipleship; however, it is not an end, but a means. It isn't merely providing intellectual information or knowledge, but it proposes to carry out the Church's mission and extend the Kingdom of God.

ASK: How must we teach?

SAY: Teach how Jesus taught: doing and accompanying in ministry, providing opportunity to experience, using his methods.

Four goals of discipleship

Believing, Self-feeding, Maturing, Reproducing

Dallas Willard says: "Discipleship is being with another person in order to become capable of doing what the person does and to become like who that person is."

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FOUR STAGES OF DISCIPLESHIP

Exploring Christ, Growing in Christ, Close to Christ, Christ-centered. One thing that moves people forward at every stage is “reflecting on the Word”

But the question for us today is:

Are we being and making disciples?

FOUR STAGES OF DISCIPLESHIP

Exploring Christ, Growing in Christ, Close to Christ, Christ-centered

One thing that moves people forward at every stage is “reflecting on the Word.”

ASK: What is a disciple? What does it mean to disciple? What is discipleship?

SAY: As we have been able to verify, making disciples is key throughout the New Testament. Discipleship was initiated, modeled, and developed by Jesus Himself. In the early Church, Paul, and the other New Testament authors contributed to a discipleship model.

Making disciples is a commandment and the primary mission of the Church. Therefore, the formation of disciples needs to always be at the heart and the ultimate end of the Church.

Delineating a path or map for a lifetime of discipleship is key for the practical and continuous implementation of discipleship in your church. It is crucial for establishing a discipleship culture, based on the biblical definitions of what a disciple is, discipling, and discipleship.

But the question for us today is:

Are we being and making disciples?

Session 2: Tools

MODEL FOR DISCIPLESHIP PATH DEVELOPMENT

Description of the discipleship stages:

Basic discipleship – includes teaching related to conversion of new believers; the meaning and purpose of baptism; visible church membership as commitment to the local Body of Christ.

Intermediate discipleship – guides new church members to continued growth, helping to discover their personal spiritual gifts and the opportunities to begin to put them into practice in the church's ministry.

Advanced discipleship – concentrates on the development of teachers and leaders for ministries of the church.

The system must be open to add other elements to this process. Naturally, training will be needed, along with assigning people to lead, develop, and implement this discipleship path. Taking the descriptions of each level of discipleship above, please fill in the boxes with what you would consider as required biblical teaching, activities, materials, and ministries at each level.

BASIC DISCIPLESHIP			
Biblical Teaching	Activities	Materials (oral and written)	Ministries

INTERMEDIATE DISCIPLESHIP			
Biblical Teaching	Activities	Materials (oral and written)	Ministries

ADVANCED DISCIPLESHIP			
Biblical Teaching	Activities	Materials (oral and written)	Ministries

Evaluating Our Comprehensive Discipleship

The following tool uses a 1-10 scoring system, in which 1 represents complete disagreement or the lowest score, and 10 represents excellence or strong agreement

SAY: Let's review our Take Your Church's Pulse measurement result for this healthy characteristic. Was this an area of strength for our church or is this an area of weakness? Are there certain questions from the survey that we should pay special attention to as we prepare our action plan?

TEACHING											
1.	The church uses appropriate education and discipleship programs for all ages.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Our teachers are effective in the teaching and discipleship of our members.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	When a person accepts Christ, he or she is immediately discipled by someone.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	As time passes by, it is more evident that the members live under the direction of the Holy Spirit.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	The church helps me grow spiritually.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	I am a member of a small bible study group that has helped me grow spiritually.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.	Our church promotes a life of prayer.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Session 3: Action Plan and Goals

Based on what you learned in this module, create an action plan with clear goals for you and your local church.

For Pastors:

Have you identified a leader to mentor as a future church planter? Y or N

If yes, did you meet this month? Y or N

For Review:

Did you turn in the Healthy Church Report this month? Y or N

Look at the 7 Take Your Church's Pulse (TYCP) questions for this module (Session 4) and review your overall measurements.

What are your areas of strength (scores greater than 7)? _____

What are areas for growth (scores equal to or fewer than 7)? _____

Begin to develop an action plan. An action plan for implementing today's materials into your respective ministries is important and should be a habitual process for every step forward in your ministry. Based on what you learned in this module, create an action plan with clear goals for you and your local church.

An acronym that is helpful in planning is to develop **SMART** goals:

Specific: It describes specifically what I plan to do.

Measurable: I will be able to tell whether it was done or not.

Appropriate: Is it in line with God's will?

Realistic: It considers my limitations and availability.

Time-bound: It mentions an exact time period.

Example:

- By the end of the month, I will preach a sermon on integrated faith so that people will realize that God should be a part of every portion of life.
- By the end of the year, financial giving will increase by 5% from the previous year.
- In 6 months, 12 new believers will be saved.
- By next week, we will develop a plan for small groups that will start next fall.

Coming Up: Stronger Churches Module 9

You will explain what compassionate service is and you will lead the church in joining the Holy Spirit in showing love through compassionate service for the wellbeing of the Body of Christ and the community in which it finds itself.

Healthy Church Report	MONTHLY GOAL	MONTHLY RESULT
SHARED THE VISION How many people inside and outside the church has the vision been shared with?		
LEADERS How many leaders has the church trained for small groups and ministry?		
SPIRITUAL GIFTS How many people has the church trained to use their spiritual gifts?		
TITHE How many people has the church asked to tithe toward the mission of the church?		
PRAYER How many people has your church prayed for in the community?		
SHARE FAITH How many people has the church trained to share their faith?		
SMALL GROUPS How many people has the church brought into small groups?		
COMMUNITY MINISTRIES How many people has the church brought into ministries that serve the community?		
NEW MEMBERS How many people has the church welcomed into relationships in the church?		
WORSHIP How many people has the church invited to worship each week at your church?		

How to Use Reports

- REPORTING** - Included in each module is a tabulation sheet with ten metrics for measuring entitled *Healthy Church Report*. As the participant progresses through the modular training a new measurement is revealed on the tabulation sheet for monthly reporting. Monthly reporting is a key part of the training. This provides accountability and focus on what matters most for the training participants. If the participants know ahead of time what will be asked of them at the next module, they are more likely to do those activities that lead to the results to be reviewed.
- PASTOR TRACK MENTORING** - Pastors are encouraged during the training to identify and mentor a future leader to be a church planter. Each month of the modular training the pastor is asked if a leader has been identified and if they have met for mentoring (see www.multiplicationnetwork.org/resources/ministry-toolbox/203-mentoring-workshop-2 for mentor training material). At the end of the Stronger Churches modular training: Pastors are encouraged to turn in a church planter profile report (<https://www.multiplicationnetwork.org/resources/ministry-toolbox/159-church-planter-profile>) and churches are encouraged to plant a church by sending the new leader for More Churches Modular training.