



### PARTICIPANT 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

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.

<sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.  
– Mark 1:16-20 (NIV)

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?

## 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?
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

### DISCIPLESHIP BEFORE THE GREAT COMMISSION

<sup>18</sup> *"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,  
<sup>19</sup> 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 prophecy by Himself.

**JESUS' DISCIPLESHIP WAS:**

**Intentional**

**Interpersonal**

**Intergenerational**

**Never-ending**

**Holistic**

**Interwoven**

**Integrating**

**DISCIPLESHIP IN THE GOSPELS**

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

<b>GROUP 1</b>	<b>GROUP 2</b>
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.”

## **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

#### **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?**

## 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

<b>INTERMEDIATE DISCIPLESHIP</b>			
<b>Biblical Teaching</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Materials (oral and written)</b>	<b>Ministries</b>

<b>ADVANCED DISCIPLESHIP</b>			
<b>Biblical Teaching</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Materials (oral and written)</b>	<b>Ministries</b>



## 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 a 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)? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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:

**S**pecific: It describes specifically what I plan to do.

**M**easurable: I will be able to tell whether it was done or not.

**A**ppropriate: Is it in line with God's will?

**R**ealistic: It considers my limitations and availability.

**T**ime-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.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Healthy Church Report	MONTHLY GOAL	MONTHLY RESULT
<b>SHARED THE VISION</b> How many people inside and outside the church has the vision been shared with?		
<b>LEADERS</b> How many leaders has the church trained for small groups and ministry?		
<b>SPIRITUAL GIFTS</b> How many people has the church trained to use their spiritual gifts?		
<b>TITHE</b> How many people has the church asked to tithe toward the mission of the church?		
<b>PRAYER</b> How many people has your church prayed for in the community?		
<b>SHARE FAITH</b> How many people has the church trained to share their faith?		
<b>SMALL GROUPS</b> How many people has the church brought into small groups?		

### How to Use Reports

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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](http://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.