

**Omega Course:
Practical Church Planter Training**

Published by
The Bible League, 16801 Van Dam Road, South Holland, IL 60473 USA
Tel: (800) 334-7017 E-mail: BibleLeague@xc.org www.bibleleague.org

Copyright ©1999 by *The Alliance for Saturation Church Planting*.
This material was prepared in cooperation with Peter Deyneka Russian Ministries, Project 250.

You are **permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material** in any format provided that:
(1) you credit the author, (2) you indicate if modifications are made, (3) you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction, and (4) you do not make more than 1,000 copies.

If you would like to post this material to the Internet or if your intended use is other than outlined above, please contact
The Alliance for Saturation Church Planting, H-1111 Budapest, Budafoki út 34/B III/2, HUNGARY,
Tel: +(36-1) 466-5978 and 385-8199 Fax: +(36-1) 365-6406 E-mail: SCPAlliance@compuserve.com.
Translations and adaptations for your context are also encouraged. Again, please contact *The Alliance* so that we can encourage and inform others who may also be interested in your language or intended use.

For more information about their respective ministries, please contact:



P.O. Box 843
Monument, CO, USA 80132-0843
Toll-free: (800) 649-2440
E-mail: Contact_USA@AllianceSCP.org
www.AllianceSCP.org
Europe Field Office E-mail: SCPAlliance@compuserve.com



Peter Deyneka
Russian Ministries

Project 250
P.O. Box 496, 1415 Hill Avenue
Wheaton, IL, USA 60189
Tel: (630) 462-1739 Fax: (630) 690-2976
E-mail: RMUSA@ASR.ru
www.russian-ministries.org

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers. All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend heartfelt thanks and grateful acknowledgment to all who have contributed to the preparation of these training manuals. The following persons have given so very much to the process of writing and editing these materials. Lord, plant your Church...to the ends of the earth!

Jay Weaver, General Editor, *World Team*

Richard Beckham	<i>Greater Europe Mission</i>
David & Lisa Bromlow	<i>Christ For Russia</i>
Ron Brunson	<i>World Witness and United World Mission</i>
Don Crane	<i>Greater Europe Mission</i>
Bea Crane	<i>Greater Europe Mission</i>
Hunter Dockery	<i>World Harvest Mission</i>
Mike Elwood	<i>Greater Europe Mission</i>
Jeff Geske	<i>United World Mission</i>
Dave Henderson	<i>C B International</i> <i>-- Project 250 of Peter Deyneka Russian Ministries</i>
Bob Mackey	<i>United World Mission</i>
Bob Martin	<i>United World Mission</i>
Paul Michaels	<i>Grace Brethren Intl. Mission</i>
Norie Roeder	<i>United World Mission</i>
Ki Sanders	<i>World Team</i>
Larry Sallee	<i>UFM International</i> <i>-- Project 250 of Peter Deyneka Russian Ministries</i>
Eric Villanueva	<i>United World Mission</i>
David Westrum	<i>Interlink Ministries</i> <i>-- Project 250 of Peter Deyneka Russian Ministries</i>

WITH SPECIAL THANKS FOR THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Edith Bond	<i>The Alliance Regional Resource Team</i>
David Gál	<i>The Alliance Regional Resource Team</i>
Nell Harden	<i>Retired English Professor</i>

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

This curriculum has been prepared by *The Alliance for Saturation Church Planting* in cooperation with Project 250 of Peter Deyneka Russian Ministries. *The Alliance* is a partnership of churches and mission agencies committed to mobilizing believers to saturate each country in Central/Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union with evangelical churches. Saturation Church Planting is a strategy that seeks to establish local churches in every town, village and neighborhood so that those who accept Christ will have a local fellowship in which to grow in Christ and be equipped for ministry. *The Alliance* is built on the premise that joining forces will increase effectiveness, reduce duplication, and demonstrate unity within the body of Christ.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- The local church is God's primary tool for evangelism and discipleship.
- Partnership with churches and mission organizations is crucial for the multiplication of local churches and the development of saturation church planting movements.
- Training leaders is essential to church planting and church growth.
- The Lausanne Covenant is the statement of faith for *The Alliance*.

WHAT WE DO:

Church Planter Training and Mentoring

The Alliance provides skill-based training in seminar fashion with practical ministry assignments geared towards starting reproducing churches.

Information Gathering

Accurate information leads to good decisions in the church planting task. *The Alliance* can help with training and consultation for your information gathering needs in the areas of church planting and church growth.

Prayer Movement Consulting

A church planting movement starts with vision, which is discovered and refined through seeking God's heart in prayer. *The Alliance* can help you better understand the role of prayer movements in the church planting task, and how you can facilitate a prayer movement in your region.

Vision Casting

What does God want for your country? He wants churches everywhere! *The Alliance* can help foster a vision for new churches with conceptual seminars on the principles of saturation church planting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

The Alliance for Saturation Church Planting
Regional Resource Team
H-1111 Budapest
Budafoki út 34/B III/2, HUNGARY
Tel: +(36-1) 466-5978 or 385-8199
Fax: + (36-1) 365-6406
E-mail: SCPAlliance@compuserve.com

Table of Contents

Disciple Making

WHAT WE BELIEVE:	3
WHAT WE DO:	3
<i>Church Planter Training and Mentoring</i>	3
<i>Information Gathering</i>	3
<i>Prayer Movement Consulting</i>	3
<i>Vision Casting</i>	3
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:	3
Introduction	6
I. The Biblical Foundation	6
A. <i>The assignment</i>	7
B. <i>The promise</i>	7
II. Definition Of Disciple And Disciple Making	8
A. <i>A Disciple</i>	8
B. <i>Disciple Making</i>	8
III. God’s Call To Make Disciples	8
A. <i>To Prepare the Bride of Christ</i>	8
B. <i>To Make The Bride Worthy Of the Bridegroom</i>	9
IV. How Disciple Making Contributes To Church Planting	9
V. Beginning With The End In Mind	9
I. Grow Spiritually	11
A. <i>Develop Spiritual Discernment</i>	11
B. <i>Learn What Produces Spiritual Maturity</i>	12
C. <i>Develop Spiritual Influence</i>	12
II. Demonstrate Christ-Like Love For Your Disciples	12
A. <i>What Does It Mean to Love Your Disciples?</i>	12
B. <i>How This Love Manifests Itself in Your Life</i>	13
C. <i>Some Practical Suggestions for Demonstrating Love for Your Disciples</i>	13
III. Focus On The Real Spiritual Needs Of People, Not On Programs	13
A. <i>Keep Things Simple</i>	13

B.	<i>Enable Them To Keep Their Proper Priorities.....</i>	13
C.	<i>Be Patient.....</i>	14
IV.	Aim For Reproduction And Multiplication.....	14
V.	Frequently Evaluate Your Ministry And Be Ready To Make Needed Changes.....	14
VI.	Learn, Learn, Learn!.....	14
•	Introduction.....	19
I.	Understand Your Disciple Making Goal.....	19
A.	<i>Criteria For Spiritual Maturity - Faith, Hope And Love.....</i>	19
B.	<i>Criteria for effectiveness in ministry.....</i>	20
II.	Understand The Present Spiritual Condition Of Your People.....	20
A.	<i>Focus On Issues Of The Heart, Not External Behavior.....</i>	20
B.	<i>Evaluate Maturity In Love, Faith, And Hope.....</i>	21
C.	<i>Evaluate Effectiveness In Ministry To Others.....</i>	22
III.	Practical Guidelines For Making Disciples.....	22
	Introduction.....	27
I.	Identify Common Causes Of Spiritual Struggle.....	27
A.	<i>New Believers Lack Understanding.....</i>	27
B.	<i>New Believers Lack The Will To Obey:.....</i>	28
II.	Determine The Support Believers Need To Overcome Spiritual Hindrances.....	30
	Introduction.....	35
I.	Form I: Individual Growth.....	36
II.	Form 2: One-On-One Discipleship.....	36
III.	Form 3: Small Group Ministry.....	37
IV.	Form 4: Large Group Ministry.....	38
V.	A Reminder.....	38
	Instructions:.....	41
I.	Small Group Discussions (1/2 Hour).....	46
II.	Disciple Making Workshop (20 Minutes).....	47
III.	Conclusion (3 Minutes).....	47

Introduction to Disciple Making

Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce the strategic place of disciple making in the overall church planting process.

Main Points

- Disciple making is the responsibility of the church.
- Disciple making is the heart of the church's life.
- Disciple making is critical for the growth of the church.

Desired Outcomes

When the content of this lesson has been mastered, each participant should . . .

- Understand the biblical basis for disciple making as it relates to the Great Commission.
- Have a greater personal vision for and commitment to the disciple making task.
- Understand God's ultimate purpose and how that relates to the disciple making task
- Understand how effective disciple making will contribute to his success as a church planter.

Suggestions to Trainers

The discipleship lessons in Manuals 3 and 4 fit together. It is recommended that one trainer lead the entire discipleship track. If more than one trainer is needed, the trainers must have close coordination. Prior to beginning a cycle of training the trainer should read through the entire track (all six lessons, including action plans) to gain an understanding of the unique approach to content.

INTRODUCTION

Disciple making is essential to church planting and is the responsibility of the local church. Churches reproduce because disciples reproduce themselves in the lives of others through disciple making. If evangelism is spiritual obstetrics, disciple making is spiritual pediatrics. In the process of raising children, it is not our desire to raise children who will be perpetually dependent and immature. In the process of disciple making we assist our brothers and sisters in Christ to grow to full spiritual maturity, partnering with God in the process of mutual edification and sanctification. Though disciple making is the task of the local church, it may be accomplished in a variety of ways. Rather than propose a rigid program of disciple making, this series of lessons will help you to understand the function of disciple making in the church planting task and to think through how to effectively accomplish that function in your own church planting ministry.

I. The Biblical Foundation

Disciple making was at the heart of Jesus' ministry while He was on earth. The Gospels give a clear description of how Jesus chose certain people to follow Him, trained them, and released them to carry on His mission. The Bible calls these people "disciples", which means learners, followers, or apprentices. In the Great Commission Jesus reveals that disciple making is at the center of His purpose for His Church until His return.

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore, going, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them

to observe **all** that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you **all** the days, even to the end of the age" (author's literal translation of Matthew 28:18-20).

Disciple making is the very heart of the Great Commission. The dominant word which ties this passage together is "All": All authority, all nations, all things (that I have commanded you) and all the days. In the Greek, "going", "baptizing" and "teaching" are participles. Only the verb "make disciples" is in the imperative tense. With these simple yet profound words, Jesus gives His Church both her main assignment until He returns and the promise upon which her success is guaranteed. In the remainder of the New Testament, especially in the writings of Paul, we see how the early church lived out its obedience to this command.

A. The assignment

The main emphasis is placed on the central command to "make disciples." Note that the command is to make disciples, not just converts. The three related participles reveal three important aspects of the disciple making process:

1. Going

The original Greek could easily be translated 'as you are going' or 'having gone.' It assumes that those who obey the Great Commission are "going." Disciple making is to be a natural part of going about our lives. Jesus did not make disciples in the sterile isolation of a classroom, but in the context of going about life. His disciple making was integrated, rather than isolated. His disciples are to follow His example, taking the initiative and not waiting for people to come into the church.

2. Baptizing

Baptism is the public testimony that the individual has placed his faith in Christ. The Great Commission indicates that baptism is 'into' the Trinity. From this we learn something of the nature of the disciple's new identity. One of the amazing qualities of the Trinity is the community which the Father, Son and Spirit share. In a similar way, a believer is baptized into the covenant community, the community of believers which shares the same kind of unity as the Trinity (Jn 17).

3. Teaching

As members of Christ's covenant community, the Church, and as those who have pledged submission to His lordship, Christians must learn how to live accordingly. Note carefully what is to be taught. The verse does not say the goal is to teach commandments, rather, the goal is to **teach obedience** to all that Jesus commanded. There is a tremendous difference between teaching commandments and teaching obedience. To simply inform people of Christ's will for them does not accomplish Christ's purpose. We must teach (and encourage and enable) people to obey. Note also that they are to be taught to obey "all that I have commanded." This means we must teach them to obey the whole will of Christ, leaving nothing out. We must not be satisfied with the partial obedience which can so easily become the norm. Rather, we must constantly search the Scriptures, asking ourselves, "Have we obeyed everything which is written here? And, "How can we obey each command more faithfully?"

Finally, we are to persevere in these three things "to the end of the age", i.e. until Jesus returns for His Church. With these words, Jesus shows that these instructions are for the whole Church until He returns, not just for the twelve disciples. This brings disciple making and church planting into an essential partnership. Church planting requires disciple making to mature the young church. Disciple making requires church planting to bring new believers into the process of becoming disciples.

B. The promise

The assignment just described may seem overwhelming. However, as we go to make disciples, baptizing them and striving to teach them to obey all that Jesus commanded, we can go with

confidence. We are assured of our ultimate success because Christ now has **all authority** and has promised to be with us **in all days** to the end of the age. Christ Himself is the guarantee of success, as we abide in Him, depending on His authority and presence (cf. John 15:4-17).

The Apostle Paul, sitting in jail, wrote with assurance to the Philippian church (Phil. 1:6), "... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Because He recognized that God was at work and that God's Spirit was resident in believers and the believing fellowship, he knew his work was not in vain. That's good news for us as we embark on a discussion of disciple making.

II. Definition Of Disciple And Disciple Making

A. A Disciple

A disciple can be defined as one who has placed his faith in Christ and, through baptism, has identified himself as a follower of Christ and as a member of Christ's Church. As a member of Christ's covenant community, he has pledged submission to Christ and is striving to live a life of obedience to the whole will of Christ. This obedience is not merely an external conformity to Christ's will, but springs from a heart of love, faith and hope. The disciple's growth in obedience is a lifetime process. The Scriptures describe a disciple as one who will "deny himself and take up his cross and follow (Christ)" (Mt 16:24). The disciple serves others (Mt 20:25-28). He has a supreme love for Christ (Lk 14:25-27). People will know that he is a disciple of Christ by his love for others (Jn 13:34-35). His life will bear the fruit of the Spirit (Jn 15:8).

B. Disciple Making

Disciple making can be defined as the process by which the Church, depending on the authority and presence of Christ, takes the initiative...

- to lead people to faith in and submission to Christ,
- to incorporate them into Christ and his covenant community, the Church, through baptism
- to lead them into a life of obedience to the whole will of Christ.

Leading people to faith in and submission to Christ we often refer to as evangelism, which you have studied earlier. For the purpose of this part of your training, we will also assume that they have already been incorporated into Christ's covenant community through baptism, and are part of His Church. In this part of the course we turn our attention to leading them into a life of obedience to the whole will of Christ.

III. God's Call To Make Disciples

A. To Prepare the Bride of Christ

As we examine Scripture, we see that God's great goal in history is to glorify Christ by making Him head over everything. We also see that Christ will be presented with a "bride", made holy and blameless, who will be "his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way" (Eph 1:23). Christ will rule supreme, yet He will not exercise His authority alone. He will rule in union with his Bride, the Church. In church planting, evangelism focuses bringing people to be a part of the Bride; and disciple making focuses on preparing the Bride for her relationship with Jesus, her Lord.

Thus, the Church is an essential part of God's eternal plan. All that God is doing now is designed to create this holy community, a people for this special purpose - to be truly one with Him and each other, to be participants in the very life that characterizes the Trinity. The unveiling of the Church, and her presentation to her husband, Christ, is the final, climactic event recorded in Revelation. Throughout eternity the perfected Bride and the Godhead will delight in and rejoice in one another. The Church will finally bring to God the glory He deserves, reflecting His holy character and worshipping Him "in spirit and in truth" (Jn 4:23). By His grace, God has ordained the Church as the means He will use to fulfill this purpose. **In summary, Christ's command to make disciples is His call to take part in the creation of God's holy community, a perfect and holy bride set apart for Christ.**

B. To Make The Bride Worthy Of the Bridegroom

All that we are and all that we do must be evaluated in light of God's "calling" to take part in the creation of God's holy community, the Church. Our success in disciple making is measured by how well we are preparing a bride worthy of Christ. Are the things we are doing now preparing a bride who is worthy of Christ? Consider these questions:

- Are we equipping people to grow in union with God and with one another? Are we leading them to live lives that manifest that divine love which reflects this union?
- Are we equipping people to grow deeper in their faith and hope in Christ?
- Are we equipping our disciples to minister effectively to others, to build others up in Christ?
- Are we equipping people to be Christ's ambassadors, calling others to become part of God's holy community and thereby enlarging Christ's Bride?

IV. How Disciple Making Contributes To Church Planting

Disciple making lies at the very heart of church planting. Your success in establishing new churches will depend not just on winning new converts to Christ, but in making true disciples who obey Him more and more faithfully.

The planting of churches is in reality the establishing of communities of disciples where none had existed before. The initial phase of church planting involves leading people to faith in and submission to Christ. As seen in the discussion on the Great Commission above, conversion is the first step in making disciples.

It must always be remembered that conversion for conversion's sake is never the goal. Conversion must be understood as simply the first step in a lifelong process. Disciple making leads these new converts to an ever deepening understanding of Christ's will for them and builds them up in such a way that they obey more and more fully. This deepening understanding and obedience comes from hearts of love that are growing in union with Christ and one another. In other words, true "community" is created when disciple making is done properly. If church planting involves the establishing of new "communities" of disciples, then disciple making, as we understand it here, is absolutely essential.

Another vital aspect of enabling your new converts to obey Christ is equipping them for ministry. Disciple making includes enabling your converts to fruitfully serve others, employing the spiritual gifts God has given them. Thus, disciple making leads to the rapid multiplication of co-workers in the ministry. Among these new co-workers will be those who will join in the church planting task. This rapid multiplication of co-workers is one of the most critical factors in the establishment of a church planting movement.

V. Beginning With The End In Mind

As you put together a comprehensive disciple making plan for your church planting effort, you need to work through three critical steps:

- Understand your disciple making goal.
- Understand the present spiritual condition of your people.
- Develop a plan how to help your people grow from where they are now toward your disciple making goal.

Your concern here is to identify what your disciple making goal is and to allow that goal to shape what you are doing now. God is the one who determines the goal. Our responsibility is to clearly understand what God is calling us to be and do and then to respond in faith and obedience. Any planning we do is nothing more than our obedient response to God's revealed purpose. We plan because we want to obey God with all our heart and mind. We plan because we **intend** to obey and order our lives accordingly. Such planning is always done in conscious dependence on God. It is birthed and maintained in prayer.

With regard to disciple making, your goal is lives of obedience to the whole will of Christ. Your beginning point is the present spiritual condition of the people you are discipling. Finally, you must develop a strategy how you are going to help your people grow from where they are now towards the goal of obedience to the whole will of Christ. You must find a practical way to help them understand more deeply what it means to live as members of Christ's covenant community and enable them to live accordingly, i.e. to live in obedience to the whole will of Christ. Disciple making occurs in no set place or time. It is a dynamic, multifaceted process and can be accomplished through a variety of settings and people. (Refer to Discipleship Lesson 5, "Forms for Disciple Making.")

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION, REVIEW AND APPLICATION

- What is wrong with evangelism without discipleship?
- What difference would an effective disciple making ministry make in establishing a new church? ... in establishing a church planting movement?
- Is it possible to plant a church without a good emphasis on discipleship? Why or why not?
- In what different contexts/formats could the church work toward making disciples?

ACTION PLAN

- Describe what kind of disciple making goals your church presently has in place.
- List the disciple making goals you think you should have.

Your Role in Making Disciples

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL DISCIPLE MAKING

☞ Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to review key considerations for success in making disciples.

☞ Main Points

- An effective disciple maker is one who is continually growing himself in faith, hope, and love.
- An effective disciple maker models faith, hope, and love to others.
- An effective disciple maker focuses on the essential core of faith, hope, and love.

☞ Desired Outcomes

When the content of this lesson has been mastered, each participant should . . .

- Understand why his own on-going spiritual growth is critical to making disciples.
- Be fully convinced of the strategic importance of investing himself in prayer and preparation and in quality contact time with believers for their progress as disciples.
- Understand the need to focus on people development, not program accomplishment, and to model and promote creativity and flexibility in disciple making.
- Understand the tremendous potential long-range impact of his current disciple making on multiplying fellowships and generations of believers.

☞ Appendix

2A Characteristics of Christian Love

I. Grow Spiritually

Airline safety instructions tell us that, in the event of an emergency, adults are to put on required safety equipment prior to assisting others in the same process. This is because if we are incapacitated due to neglecting ourselves, we will be unable to assist others in need. This instruction is not selfish but pragmatic. It also applies in the realm of discipleship.

Your own spiritual growth is absolutely essential if you are to become an effective disciple maker. What you learn in this training is just a small beginning. Deepening your own spiritual life must be your number one priority.

A. Develop Spiritual Discernment

In the end, your ability to discern the spiritual condition of your people will depend on your own level of spiritual maturity. No training program or book can replace that. The more mature you are, the deeper your own personal experience and understanding of faith, hope and love, the more clearly you will be able to discern their presence or absence in others. The deeper you have grown, the more clearly you will understand what the real spiritual issues are in your disciple's lives, from God's point of view.

Spiritual discernment comes through having your heart, soul, and mind conformed to God. This means you begin to look at things the same way God does. What God loves, you love. What God rejects, you reject. What causes God to rejoice causes you to rejoice. What causes God to mourn causes you to mourn. God's cause is your cause. His goals are your goals. His values are your

values. Spiritual discernment comes from sharing a deep fellowship with God as you share all these things with Him in prayer.

Growth in spiritual discernment creates a hunger to grow in your knowledge and understanding of God. You will desire to be open and honest with God, not to hide anything from Him. You will want to give God all you are and all that you have. You will rejoice at every opportunity to serve Him. You will consider it a joy and privilege to make sacrifices for His sake. Nothing will matter more to you than to walk with God in this way, to experience His intimate fellowship.

B. Learn What Produces Spiritual Maturity

Your understanding of what it takes to grow spiritually depends on your own struggles and victories in these areas. If you have not grown yourself, then you have no practical experience of what “works” and what doesn’t. The deeper you have grown, 1) the more clearly you will understand what direction you need to take so your people will continue to grow, and 2) the more clearly you will understand how to deal with the spiritual barriers in their lives.

C. Develop Spiritual Influence

The demonstration of spiritual growth in your own life will be the single greatest “eye opener” for your disciples. Their understanding of these things will deepen as they observe you. On the other hand, if they see that you are all talk but reality doesn’t match what you say, they will quickly lose motivation. They may also lose respect for you as a spiritual leader, destroying your ability to influence their lives. You will talk, but no one will listen.

II. Demonstrate Christ-Like Love For Your Disciples

It is absolutely essential that you love your disciples with Christ-like love and that you demonstrate this love to them in practical ways. If they know beyond all doubt that you love them greatly, then they will be much more open with you, they will be much more open to be influenced by you, and they will be more willing to overlook your weaknesses and mistakes. They will learn what it means to love others by the way you love them.

A. What Does It Mean to Love Your Disciples?

It has to do with your desires - what your heart truly wants. **To love one another means to desire one another.** You long for true fellowship with one another (Heb. 10:24-25). You want to spend time with each other (Php. 4:1, 1 Th. 2:17-18).

It has to do with your joys - what your heart rejoices in. **To love one another means to rejoice in one another** (Php 4:1; 1 Th. 2:19-20; 3:9; 2 Co. 7:14-16).

You desire to be with other brothers and sisters so that you may rejoice in one another. You enjoy each other and enjoy being together. You rejoice in the image of your beloved Savior, which you see in even the most humble and broken people. You rejoice when you recognize the Father’s work in the other’s soul, as a mother rejoices over her infant’s first words or first steps. You accept and appreciate others for who they are. You notice and rejoice in other’s good qualities and accomplishments. You are patient with other’s imperfections and failures.

It has to do with the orientation of your heart and mind - with whom your heart and mind identify. To love one another as Christ loved you means to be of one heart and mind (Ro. 12:10,15; Php 1:27, 2:1-5; Heb. 13:3).

The basis of your oneness with others is your oneness with Christ. If what is in Christ’s heart and mind is in you and others, then you share the same heart and mind. In Christ you share the same point of view, the same values, the same purpose, the same suffering and burdens, etc.

If you are one in heart and mind with others you no longer think in terms of just “me” or “mine,” but rather of “us” and “ours.” Your joys are their joys and your sorrows are their sorrows. Your need is their need. Your success is their success and your failure is their failure. When you are blessed, they are blessed. Your problems concern them and they want to help you in any way they can to face or overcome them. Your goals are of special interest to them. They long to do whatever they

can to help you achieve them. They want to give you the opportunity to help them as well. They long to bless you and be blessed by you. They want to know and understand you better. And they long for you to know and understand them better too.

B. How This Love Manifests Itself in Your Life

The Bible is filled with descriptions of how this love should manifest itself in your life. When this kind of love is present, it will profoundly affect what you do, as described, for instance, in 1 Corinthians 13. Look at the expanded version of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 in Appendix 2A, "Characteristics of Christian Love."

You are commanded to love all men. You are to express this kind of love to everyone with whom God brings you in contact to the degree you can. However, you are limited. You don't have the time or resources to show the same amount of love to all. There must be priorities. God is first. Then God has put others in your life with whom you are to experience this kind of relationship in more depth, such as your family, your brothers and sisters in your local church, etc.

C. Some Practical Suggestions for Demonstrating Love for Your Disciples

- **Spend time with them, to rejoice in them and to show that you are of one heart and mind with them.** Look at the characteristics of love for others which are described in Ro 12:10-21, Php 2:1-8 and 1Co 13:4-7.
- **Pray together.** Pray about problems being experienced and answers being given to situations. Ask God to show you how to demonstrate such love to the people He has given you, in ways to which they will respond and grow.
- **Study together.** Read books together and share the things you're learning. Study the Scriptures together, applying them to everyday problems.
- **Be creative.** Use time creatively to accomplish multiple purposes. Work together, play together, have meals together. Surprise growing believers with your sincere, intense interest in them.
- **Be available.** It's important that your disciples know you are available for answering questions and counseling concerning doubts that arise in everyday life.
- **Seek suggestions and support from other Christians.** If you are weak in this area (i.e. demonstrating love), seek the support you need in order to make progress.

III. Focus On The Real Spiritual Needs Of People, Not On Programs

A. Keep Things Simple

Maintain the focus on the simple core, i.e. on love, faith and hope. The rest will flow from these three. The most basic of all is love. If your disciples fail to maintain their love for God and others, the Holy Spirit will be grieved and quenched. When this happens, the Spirit is no longer able to witness to their spirits that they are children of God. They can easily begin to lose both faith and hope. They can easily lose confidence that God really accepts them, and perhaps even doubt that they are saved. If they reach this point, all your comforting words will not help. You must recognize the work the Holy Spirit wants to do in their lives and cooperate in that work with Him. Help the person resolve any sin issues. Don't give false comfort. Help them see God's ultimate purpose for them and how He is working it out in their lives.

B. Enable Them To Keep Their Proper Priorities

Don't overload your people with programs and activities. Give them the freedom to drop out of activities that are less important so that they can maintain their priorities without becoming overworked.

C. Be Patient

New believers have a long way to go. Their whole interior life must be renewed: how they think, their values, and their desires (Ro 12:2).

You must continue to give them hope when they fall. Their natural tendency will be toward despair. You need to be like a parent who encourages his child when the child has failed. Give them time to come to their senses. Encourage them. Never give up on them. They must know that you believe in them and that God can and will forgive. They must know that nothing they do can stop you or God from loving them. If you fail to communicate these things, they will be in great danger of losing hope and giving up.

IV. Aim For Reproduction And Multiplication

Regardless of what kind of “form” or structure you use for disciple making, you must find ways to multiply those who are involved in the disciple making task. You cannot personally disciple everyone. Your resources are limited and you need to get others involved in the task for their benefit and growth. You must plan how you will multiply co-workers for ministry on the large group, small group, and one-on-one levels.

In general, you will need to provide the following kinds of support to those whom you are equipping for the disciple making task:

- Opportunities to observe people who are doing the kind of ministry for which they are being prepared.
- Instruction and practical training in critically important skills.
- If needed, help in developing a practical strategy to do what is needed.
- Appropriate opportunities to practice what they are learning, with helpful feedback.
- Practical advice and support as they develop confidence and skill.

V. Frequently Evaluate Your Ministry And Be Ready To Make Needed Changes

Is each person receiving what is needed in order to live a life of love, faith and hope? Is each person growing in love and unity with God and each other? Is each person being effectively used by God to build up the Body of Christ and his/her own family? Is each person being effectively used by God as His ambassador to the world? What changes need to be made in order to enable each person to make real progress in each area?

Don't waste time maintaining a program just for the sake of having a program. Your goal is that every ministry activity serves the purposes mentioned in the previous paragraph. Always ask yourself if your “forms” are effectively serving the “functions.”

VI. Learn, Learn, Learn!

Keep setting the pace as a disciple. Don't stop asking questions. Discover what resources are available to help you grow and help you help others grow in Christ. Ask others what tools are available and helpful in disciple making. If some resource is needed but not available, create it and share it with others.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION, REVIEW AND APPLICATION

- How could these concepts apply to the raising of our children for Christ?
- Discuss the following statement: “People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.” If this is true, how might it impact the ways we minister to others?
- What good tools are available in your language? What tools should be translated or created to meet your needs in disciple making?

ACTION PLAN

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 and reflect on the characteristics of Christian love in Appendix 2A. Select three to five specific situations in which you need to apply characteristics of love. In your spiritual journal write how you applied these characteristics and the results.
- Compile a list of discipleship materials available in your language or the target language of the people you are seeking to reach in your church plant.

Characteristics of Christian Love

(1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7)

As you read through this list ask God to show you specific situations in which you need to apply these characteristics of love.

Love is patient

- Love endures injuries without giving in to anger or bitterness nor seeking to retaliate.
- Love trusts God to work in the life of his brother, leaving judgment in the hands of God, yet longing over his brother who has lost his way.

Love is kind

- Love yearns to bless the other, desiring only the best for his brother, sympathetically understanding his brother's weaknesses, and responding to injuries with deeds of kindness.
- Love always manifests a spirit of tenderness and compassion for his brother, no matter what that brother has done, caring intensely for the struggles and sufferings of his brother and does all he can to help his brother bear them.

Love is not jealous

- Love is not resentful that others have benefits or advantages which he does not have, and is even willing to sacrifice his own position and influence for their sake.
- Love rejoices in the success and progress of others and encourages them onward, not looking at others as rivals for position or influence, but rather as partners in the Gospel to be served. Love always asks, "What can I do to help them be even more useful servants of Christ?"

Love does not brag and is not arrogant

- Love never points to himself as being better, "more righteous", wiser or more gifted than others, seeking to draw attention to himself; but is eager to give credit, praise and approval to others.
- Love, acknowledging his limitations, is always open to the instruction of others, eager to be helped by others to have a deeper understanding of God's Word and to live in faithfulness to it, and is deeply concerned about the impact his words and actions have on his brother.

Love does not see its own

- Love is not concerned with self-gain, self-justification or self-worth, but rather is concerned only for the good of the community as a whole, willing to give up for the good of others even those things to which he is entitled.
- When disagreements arise (which are not clearly issues of sin), love is willing to look at things from the other person's perspective and submit to proper authority and the expressed will of the body. Love does not react in a way that destroys the unity of the body. Rather, love humbly and gently seeks to communicate his convictions in a way that preserves the unity of the body and honors those in leadership.

Love is not provoked

- Love is slow to be offended or to become angry, hardly noticing when others do him wrong.
- When love is wounded, he never strikes back, seeks revenge or utters threats; instead, love returns good for evil.

Love does not take into account a wrong suffered

- Love never keeps track of the sins of others or dwell on the faults of others.

- Love quickly forgives every offense, whether the offender repents or not, and refuses to dwell on them later.

Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness

- Love does not enjoy pointing out or discussing the wrongs of others or speak of a brother to others in a judgmental or unloving way.
- Love protects the reputation of his brother, never spreading rumors and gossip, but tries to stop them.

Love rejoices with the truth

- Love yearns for truth to prevail in every situation, even when it is very painful to do so, or even if that means oneself is proven wrong.
- Love yearns to know the truth, to walk in the truth, to embrace the truth, to uphold the truth of God's Word, desiring for God to examine his words, deeds and motives so that God may reveal to him anything which is not pleasing to God.

Love bears all things

- There is no sin so big that love can not forgive and respond in kindness.

Love believes all things

- Love is always willing to give his brother the benefit of the doubt, to always interpret the other person's words and deeds in the most generous way, and to conclude that his brother has done something wrong.
- Love is reluctant to judge the motives behind his brother's words and deeds, knowing that only God truly understands his brother's heart.

Love hopes all things

- Love always hopes for the best; and without being gullible, he is eager to forgive and give a brother a second chance.
- Love always hopes for the full recovery of a brother who has fallen, hoping and praying for God to be merciful to him.

Love endures all things

- Love never reaches its limit, coming to the "breaking point."
- Love never says, "That was the last straw!"

Know Your Goal Know Your People

☞ Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to clarify the goals of disciple making and how to discern the spiritual maturity and effectiveness in ministry of one's disciples in light of those goals.

☞ Main Points

- A good disciple maker understands the biblical criteria for growth in obedience in spiritual maturity and effectiveness in ministry.
- A good disciple maker discerns the spiritual condition of his people.
- A good disciple maker has a specific goal in mind for his people.

☞ Desired Outcomes

When the content of this lesson has been mastered, each participant should . . .

- Know the primary biblical criteria for spiritual maturity and effectiveness in ministry.
- Be convinced that it is essential to focus on the heart, rather than just external behavior.
- Understand how to begin evaluating the spiritual maturity and ministry effectiveness of his disciples in the light of the biblical criteria.

☞ Appendix

3A Faith, Hope and Love Worksheet

INTRODUCTION

As stated in Lesson One, "Introduction to Disciple Making", there are three critical steps in developing a disciple making plan for your church planting effort:

1. Understand your disciple making goal.
2. Understand the present spiritual condition of your people.
3. Develop a plan how to help your people grow from where they are now toward your disciple making goal.

In this lesson we will focus on steps 1 and 2.

I. Understand Your Disciple Making Goal

The first step in developing an effective disciple making plan is to clearly understand your ultimate goal. As stated in lesson one, your ultimate goal in disciple making is to enable people to live lives of obedience to the whole will of Christ. But what does this mean in practical terms?

A. Criteria For Spiritual Maturity - Faith, Hope And Love

As we read the New Testament, we see that Jesus summarizes the whole issue of obedience in terms of "love" (Mt 22:36-40). This assumption underlies much of His teaching throughout the Gospels (Mt 5-7 - Sermon on the Mount, Lk 7: 36-50, Lk 11:39-46, Jn 14:21, etc.). Later, we see that Paul does the same thing (Ro 13:8-10, 1Co 13:1-13; Gal. 5:6, etc.).

The Bible consistently gives two other critical elements of the obedient life as well: faith and hope (1Co 13:13). For more information, refer to Appendix 3A, "Some New Testament References to

Faith, Hope and Love." Faith, hope and love are by far the most important traits of people who live lives of obedience to the whole will of Christ. They are the only true measure of spiritual maturity. Everything else flows from these. If your disciples have these, they will soon have everything else you would desire to see in them as well. Above everything else, you want your disciples to be people of faith, hope and love.

B. Criteria for effectiveness in ministry.

When it comes to ministry, love is also the key (Eph 4:15-16 and 1Co 12-14). Regardless of what kind of ministry a person may have, the goal is to build up the Body of Christ in love until the whole Body has "attained the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Therefore, a life of love, faith and hope will by necessity result in ministry to others – both believers and unbelievers. Jesus Himself said that He "...did not come to be served, but to serve ..." (Mt 20:28). We are to follow in His footsteps.

The result is that the Church will experience both quantitative and qualitative growth (Mt 13:31-32). Quantitative growth means that the church will multiply in numbers, both individuals and congregations - this affects the whole body of Christ throughout the world. Qualitative growth means that the church grows in Christ-like maturity.

II. Understand The Present Spiritual Condition Of Your People

Once you have clarified your goal, i.e. the kind of disciples you want your people to become, you must evaluate them in light of this goal. Following are some suggested questions to help you begin. Ultimately, however, your ability to discern the maturity of your people depends on your own spiritual maturity. No list, book or training program can replace that. The more mature you are, the more clearly you will be able to discern spiritual reality in the lives of those you help. The deeper your own personal experience and understanding of faith, hope and love, the more clearly you will be able to discern their presence or absence in others. As your own "heart" knowledge of the Word of God increases, you'll be able to use the Word with more skill and insight in making disciples.

A. Focus On Issues Of The Heart, Not External Behavior

In determining the spiritual condition of your people, it is important to focus more on the issues of the heart rather than on external behavior. The presence and growth of faith, hope and love in the person's heart is the primary thing you are concerned with. External behavior (words and deeds) reveals what is in the heart (Mt 12:34-35, 15:18-20; Lk 6:43-45, 8:15). It is a waste of time to try to produce desired behavior if there is a problem in the heart. If the heart is changed, appropriate behavior will follow.

If you notice something in their behavior which is not right, try to discern the reasons and motives behind their actions. For example, let us say someone is no longer attending church services. Instead of focusing just on their behavior and putting pressure on them to attend, try to discern why they have stopped coming and minister to them on that level. There are three basic questions to ask yourself:

- What does their behavior reveal about what they believe or don't believe?
- What does their behavior reveal about what they understand or don't understand?
- What does their behavior reveal about the orientation or attitude of their hearts?

In most cases, it will be necessary to talk with the person in order to really find out what is going on inside them.

A disciple making ministry which fails to focus on the heart will produce people who may be good at external conformity to what is expected. In the meantime, little real spiritual growth will occur.

IMPORTANT: Although the orientation of the heart cannot be directly observed, it can be measured indirectly by the person's words and deeds. Learn to look for patterns of behavior which show their basic heart attitudes with regard to the following questions.

B. Evaluate Maturity In Love, Faith, And Hope

1. How To Evaluate Maturity In Love

Key questions to ask concerning how mature your people are in the area of love:

a) Love For God

- Do they desire God above all other things or relationships? Is He their number one priority in life? If not, then what has taken His place in their hearts? What do they desire more than Him?
- Do they rejoice in God above all else? Do they delight in Him above all else? If not, then what do they enjoy more than Him? What has taken His place in their hearts?
- Are they of one heart, soul and mind with God? If not, then what has taken His place in their hearts? To whom or what have their hearts and minds conformed? With whom or what do they identify? Whose values do they reflect? Are their loyalties divided?
- How consistently do they walk in this love? When they do fall, how quickly do they repent and begin walking with God again?
- Do they evidence any (inappropriate) love for this world? We must realize the seriousness of this issue. It is in fact an issue of idolatry. To whom or to what one has given one's heart is the single most important question we face in this life. Many will display divided hearts, trying to love both God and the world at the same time. Help your disciples realize the impossibility of this position (Mt. 6:24, Jas 4:4-5, 1Jn 2:15-17). Love for the world and love for God are incompatible. One or the other will win out in the end. Clear evidence of continuing love for the world indicates that their love for God is either dead or dying, regardless of how "religious" they appear on the outside. Spiritual growth is impossible until this is dealt with. See the lists which Paul wrote describing the fruit of the flesh. These are an additional indication that love of the world is present in their hearts (Gal 5:19-21; 1 Co. 6:9-10; Ro. 1:28-32; Jas 3:14-16).

b) Love For Others

- Do they desire to have true fellowship with other believers (Heb. 10:24-25) and to spend time with them? (Php 4:1, 1Th 2:17-18).
- Do they rejoice in other believers? Do they delight in them? (Eph 1:15-16, Php. 1:3-8, 4:1, 1Th 2:19-20, 3:9).
- Are they of one heart and mind with their brothers and sisters in Christ? Are they demonstrating in practical ways their unity and love? (Ac 4:32-35, Ro 12:10-21, 1Co 13:4-7, Php 1:27, 2:1-4, Heb 13:3).
- Do they love their families? Are they consistently serving their families in love, deepening their unity as a family and building each member up in Christ? (Eph 5:25 - 6:4).
- Do they have a heart for the lost? Are they consistently demonstrating love to the lost? (Gal 6:10).

2. How To Evaluate Maturity In Faith

Key questions to ask concerning how mature your people are in the area of faith:

- a) **Do they understand what faith is?**
- b) **Do they understand God's grace?**
- c) **Is their faith firmly rooted in the Scriptures? Do they have an adequate understanding of the central biblical truths (Ro 10:17)?**
- d) **Do they have a deep conviction concerning these truths?**
- e) **Do they have a deep conviction that God loves them and has accepted them fully in Christ?**
- f) **Are they living by faith, depending on God's grace in every area of their lives?**

3. **How To Evaluate Maturity In Hope**

Key questions to ask concerning how mature your people are in the area of hope:

- a) **Are their hearts set on Christ and His call to them? (1Jn 3:1-3). Is this what they are really living for? (Php 3:7-14).**
- b) **Do they understand God's promises to them? Are they trusting God to be faithful to His promises? (Ro 4:18-24).**
- c) **Are they convinced that God is causing all things to work together for good for them, preparing them for the destiny He has for them? (Ro 8:28-30).**

C. **Evaluate Effectiveness In Ministry To Others**

As your disciples grow in faith, hope and love, they should become more and more effective in ministry to others. Key questions to reflect upon are:

- Are they effectively using whatever gifts and abilities God has given them to build others up in love, faith and hope? (Eph 4:11-13, 15-16).
- Are they encouraging and enabling people to grow in union with God and with one another? Are they enabling others to live lives which manifest that divine love which reflects this union? (Heb 10:24-25).
- Are they giving their brothers the practical support they need in order to overcome the spiritual difficulties in their lives? (Refer to Disciple Making Lesson 4, "Helping Disciples Grow Spiritually.")
- Do they effectively communicate the Gospel to the lost? (1Th 1:8).
- Are they effectively leading the lost to Christ and incorporating them into Christ's Body?
- Are they encouraging and enabling other Christians to effectively communicate the Gospel to the lost by word and deed?

III. **Practical Guidelines For Making Disciples**

- **Spend time regularly with them.** Rejoice in them and show that you are of one heart and mind with them. Look at the characteristics of love for others which are described in Ro 12:10-21, Php 2:1-8 and 1Co 13:4-7.

- **Plan your time together.** Spiritual growth in discipleship doesn't happen by chance. Disciples are made, not born. Each disciple has special needs, and you need to address these needs in an organized way.
- **Share your struggles.** Sharing your struggles and being open to each others' needs is helpful for creating a bond between you and your disciples.
- **Pray together.** Pray about problems being experienced and answers being given to situations. Ask God to show you how to demonstrate such love to the people He has given you, in ways to which they will respond and grow.
- **Study together.** Read books together and share the things you're learning. Study the Scriptures together, applying them to everyday problems.
- **Be creative.** Use time creatively to accomplish multiple purposes. Work together, play together, have meals together. Surprise growing believers with your sincere, intense interest in them.
- **Be available.** Its important that your disciples know you are available for answering questions and counseling concerning doubts that arise in everyday life.
- **Seek suggestions and support from other Christians.** If you are weak in this area (i.e. demonstrating love), seek the support you need in order to make progress.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION, REVIEW AND APPLICATION

- In light of God's ultimate purpose, what does it mean to be spiritually mature? What does it mean to be effective in ministry?
- How mature do you think your people are, when measured by faith, hope and love? Where is growth most badly needed? (If you have not yet started working with anyone, apply these questions to yourself.)
- How effective do you think your people are in ministry to others in light of the above criteria? (If you have not yet started working with anyone, apply this question to yourself.)

ACTION PLAN

Complete the worksheet contained in Appendix 3A, " Faith, Hope and Love Worksheet."

Faith, Hope and Love

WORKSHEET

Below are several passages of Scripture which were addressed to various New Testament churches. Please circle each occurrence of the words "faith", "hope" and "love" in these passages, using a different color for each of the words.

Romans 5:1-5 ¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

Galatians 5:5-6 ⁵But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

Ephesians 1:15-18 "For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, "

Ephesians 3:14-19 ¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Colossians 1:3-5, 22-23 ³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints-- ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ..." ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- ²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant."

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 "We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. ³We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 3:6 "6But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you."

1 Thessalonians 5:8 "8But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet."

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 "We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. 4Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring."

1 Timothy 1:5 "5The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

2 Timothy 1:13 "13What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus."

Philemon 4-7 "4I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, 5because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. 6I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. 7Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints."

Hebrews 6:10-12 "10God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. 12We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."

Hebrews 10:22-24 "...22let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

James 2:5 "5Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?"

1 Peter 1:3-9, 21-22 "3Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, 5who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls." "21Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. 22Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart."

Helping Disciples Grow Spiritually

Lesson Purpose

The dual purpose of this lesson is to prepare the church planter to identify the things Christians need (1) to know and do in order to live lives of love, faith and hope and (2) to prepare them to deal with the most common causes of spiritual struggle.

Main Points

- Every believer faces spiritual struggle.
- The right kind of support at the right time can prevent spiritual stagnation and encourage growth.
- “Knowing” and “doing” are essential in order to live a godly life and minister to others.

Desired Outcomes

When the content of this lesson has been mastered, each participant should . . .

- Understand and be able to recognize the most common causes of spiritual struggle in new believers.
- Be aware of appropriate biblical ways of addressing these hindrances in order to promote spiritual development.
- Be able to identify the most urgent things new believers need to know and do in order to live lives of love, faith and hope and to effectively minister to others.

Appendix

4A Spiritual Growth Need Evaluation

Suggestions to Trainers

Based on your own experience, fill out Appendix 4A before class and prepare overheads or posters to display the content to the class. Try to give the class a good idea of what it is they are trying to do with these worksheets.

Emphasize the material contained in Table 4.1

INTRODUCTION

As church planters, part of our task is to ensure that the new church is growing spiritually. In this session we will discuss some common causes and remedies of spiritual struggle in the lives of new believers.

I. Identify Common Causes Of Spiritual Struggle

There is one more important consideration you must deal with if you are to discern and address the true spiritual condition of your people. This has to do with the major spiritual hindrances in their lives. What are the most common reasons for spiritual struggle? What keeps them from living lives of love, faith and hope? What prevents them from ministering effectively to others? In order for your disciples to grow, you must find ways to help them overcome these hindrances.

Some of the most common causes of spiritual struggle are the following:

A. New Believers Lack Understanding

- They fail to understand some key biblical truth(s).

- They don't know how to do what is needed. They are not sure what to do or how to do it (For example: share the Gospel with someone, spend time with God in His word and prayer, etc.)
- They are not sure how to become involved in ministry to others.

B. New Believers Lack The Will To Obey:

- They are forgetful or are easily distracted.
- They want to obey, but simply forget to do what they should. In the rush of the world around them, they forget their priorities and become preoccupied with other things.
- They understand the truth, but don't really believe it.
- They have allowed love of the world to overcome them or have become slaves of sin.
- They are discouraged and have given up.
- They are disappointed in God or other Christians and now are angry with them.
- Fear is holding them back.
- They lack motivation.
- If they have lost motivation, try to find out why. The cause is usually one or more of the problems mentioned above.

Table 4.1 Dealing With The Sources Of Spiritual Struggle

THE PROBLEM	WHAT THEY NEED
<p>They fail to understand some key biblical truth.</p> <p>Perhaps the person fails because he understands neither God nor God's purpose for him, because he doesn't understand what true faith is nor how to live by faith, because he doesn't understand the hope he has in Christ. Perhaps he doesn't understand God's provision for him in Christ and in Christ's Body, because he doesn't understand Christ's love for him nor what it means to truly love God and others, or because he doesn't understand what it means to be part of the Body of Christ, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correction and instruction which clearly communicates the biblical truth they fail to understand and how it applies to their lives. • Opportunities to study the Scripture in greater depth. • Encouragement to become students of the Word and instruction in the necessary skills. • Opportunities to observe people who demonstrate the meaning of that truth in their own lives.
<p>They don't know how to do what is needed.</p> <p>They are not sure what to do or how to do it. Perhaps it has to do with their personal walk with God (for example: pray, study the Bible, have a quiet time, etc.). Or, perhaps it has to do with practical ministry to others (for example: teach, encourage, lead a family devotional, give a personal testimony, share the Gospel with an unbeliever, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement to apply what they are learning. • Opportunities to observe people who are doing what is required. • Instruction and practical training in the required skills. • If needed, help in developing a practical strategy to do what is needed. • Appropriate opportunities to practice what they are learning, with helpful feedback. • Practical advice and support as they develop confidence and skill.

THE PROBLEM	WHAT THEY NEED
<p>They are not sure how to become involved in ministry to others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to see various ministry opportunities and encouragement to get involved. • People who show genuine appreciation for their efforts. • Others who are willing to let them minister to them while they are developing.
<p>They simply forget or are easily distracted.</p> <p>They want to obey, but simply forget to do what they should. In the rush of the world around them, they forget their priorities and become preoccupied with other things.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continual reminding to follow through. • Continual stimulus and practical support to do what is needed.
<p>They understand some particular truth but don't really accept it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admonishment for unbelief and encouragement to believe. • Reasons to believe the particular truth they reject. • Opportunities to observe people who wholeheartedly apply these truths in their own lives. •
<p>They have allowed love of the world to overcome them or have become slaves of sin.</p> <p>The worries of world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for worldly things can often be almost overwhelming. An immature Christian, and even those who are more mature, may not have the strength of will to resist (Gal. 5:17; Mt. 13:22, 1Ti 6:8-10, Jn 2:15-17).</p> <p>Sin results in spiritual death. The Holy Spirit is quenched. The person loses the will to confront his sin. He loses the will to follow Christ. He loses the desire for real spiritual fellowship and is tempted to withdraw from both God and his brothers. The person becomes sin's slave and is no longer willing or able to break free on his own (Jn 8:34, Jas 1:14-15, Heb 3:13).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical advice and close support to deal with their particular weaknesses and to avoid temptation. • Help in recognizing their sin or blind spots. • Admonishment and a reminder of the seriousness of their sin. • Encouragement to repent for specific sins. • Practical advice and close support to overcome the sin. • Close support in developing new habits. • After repentance, assurance of forgiveness. • Close support to begin walking again in the Spirit.

THE PROBLEM	WHAT THEY NEED
<p>They have become discouraged or fearful.</p> <p>In the New Testament discouragement is often the result of suffering (from persecution or loss - Mt. 13:20-21, Heb 12:3). Your people may face opposition from family, friends or the local priest. Fear of rejection or loss may discourage them from following Christ. Discouragement can also result from false expectations of what the Christian life will be like, of what God will do for him, or of what church or Christians are like.</p> <p>Discouragement may also result from his own spiritual failures. As a result, he may begin to doubt that he can make it in the Christian life or may feel that God will no longer fully accept him. He may even begin to doubt his salvation. In the end he may become so discouraged that he simply gives up. Failure in attempts at ministry may cause him to lose motivation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminders of God's promises. • Continual assurance of love, acceptance and forgiveness. • Assurance that they are not alone. • Continual encouragement to press on. • Practical help to face their fear and do what is needed in spite of it. • Assurance of God's protection and blessing for faithfulness. • Continual encouragement to hope in God.
<p>They are disappointed in God or other Christians and now are angry at them.</p> <p>Sometimes new believers have false expectations as to what the Christian life will be like. When their expectations are not met, they become angry with God. Or, when other Christians let them down, they become angry and no longer want to associate with them. Sometimes they may also blame God for what so-called Christians have done.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction to bring their expectations into line with God's Word. • Encouragement to see God's greater purpose in allowing these things in their lives. • Admonishment not to blame God for the failures of Christians. • Admonishment to forgive others as God has forgiven them.
<p>In all of the above areas:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They need brothers/sisters who are devoted to them in love (Ro. 12:10). • They need people who will pray for them and with them. • They need people who will hold them accountable before God. • They need people who will help keep watch over their hearts. • They need people who will do whatever it takes to help them overcome their spiritual problems and grow.

II. Determine The Support Believers Need To Overcome Spiritual Hindrances

When you have identified their greatest spiritual struggles, you must ask yourself: what kind of support must these people receive in order to overcome these hindrances? What kind of help must they have in order to consistently live lives of love, faith and hope? What must they have to effectively minister to others?

At this point you must be utterly realistic. Every one of your people faces these problems. Few of them will be able to overcome these hindrances on their own. If they do not receive the right kind of support,

at the right time, their spiritual lives will come to a standstill. It is your responsibility to make sure they receive the support they need.

Scripture makes it very clear that teaching and preaching are not enough. How many of the common problems noted in Table 4.1 can be overcome with instruction alone? Very few of them. The Bible talks about many other essential ministries within the Body of Christ, such as

- warning, encouraging, helping one another (1Th 5:14),
- correcting and rebuking (2Ti 4:2),
- refuting (Tit 1:9),
- turning one another from sin (Jas 5:19-20),
- speaking the truth in love (Eph 4:15),
- counseling one another (Col. 3:16),
- encouraging and building each other up (1Th 5:11),
- stimulating one another to love and good deeds (Heb 10:24),
- strengthening weaknesses (Heb 12:12),
- comforting and urging (1Th 2:11-12),
- restoring one another, carrying each other's burdens (Gal 6:1-2),
- bearing with one another (Eph 4:2),
- forgiving one another (Col 3:13),
- praying for one another (Eph 6:18, Jas 5:16, 1Jn 5:16),
- confessing sin to one another (Jas 5:16),
- serving one another (Gal 5:13),
- accepting one another (Ro 15:7),
- honoring one another (Ro 12:10),
- doing good to one another (Gal 6:10).

If your disciple has truly set his heart on following Christ, he will welcome this kind of help. Talk with him about this and get his permission to help him in these ways. Thus, when it becomes necessary to help him deal with some issue, it won't come as a surprise.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION, REVIEW AND APPLICATION

- What are some of the most common reasons for the spiritual failure of new believers?
- Why do they fail to effectively minister to others?
- What are the most important truths they fail to understand or believe?
- What are the most important things they fail to do or don't know how to do?
- Which kinds of support are most critical for new believers in light of their most common spiritual hindrances?

ACTION PLAN

- Read closely Table 4.1 "Dealing with the Sources of Spiritual Struggle."
- Read and reflect on Appendix 4A, "Spiritual Growth Need Evaluation." Complete the evaluation form and answer the questions for yourself and for at least one of your disciples.



Spiritual Growth Need Evaluation

_____ (Name of person)

	Not a problem				A major problem
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Fails to understand some key biblical truth					
2. Doesn't know how to do what is needed					
3. Isn't sure how to become involved in ministry to others					
4. Understands some particular truth but doesn't really accept it					
5. Simply forgets or is easily distracted					
6. Allows love of the world to overcome him or becomes slave of sin					
7. Is discouraged					
8. Is fearful					
9. Is disappointed in God or other Christians and now are angry with him					
10. Lacks motivation					
11. Other					

1. If your disciples fail to understand some key biblical truths, which specific truths do they need to learn?

2. If they don't know how to do what is needed, what specific skills do they need to learn?

3. If they understand some particular truths but don't really accept them, which specific truths do they need to believe?

4. What forms of support do your disciples most urgently need?

Forms for Disciple Making

☞ Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to enable the trainees to understand some basic “forms” which can be used for making disciples and to start writing a discipleship plan designed for typical new believers.

☞ Main Points

- Disciple making is not limited to any one model; each has its advantages and limitations.
- The church planter’s main role in disciple making is to disciple leaders who will be able to disciple others.
- Developing a disciple making plan for new believers is critical to the spiritual and physical growth of the church.

☞ Desired Outcomes

When the content of this lesson has been mastered, each participant should . . .

- Understand four basic forms for carrying out the functions of disciple making.
- Participate in developing a disciple making plan to be used in discipling other believers.

☞ Appendix

5A Disciple Making Plan

☞ Suggestions to Trainers

Be sure the trainees understand their “Action Plan” assignment. They must bring their disciple making plans with them to Manual Four training. Complete ahead of time your own copy of Appendix 5A, “Disciple Making Plan” as if for a “typical” new believer. Prepare it to be shown on an overhead projector or poster as an example to the class.

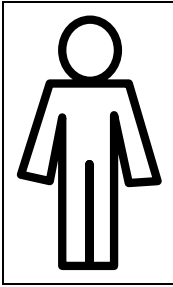
Have trainers share what they have found to be effective from their own discipleship and disciple making experiences. Invite trainees to do likewise.

INTRODUCTION

Up to now we have focused our attention on the **functions** of disciple making. We have seen that the most important **functions** serve one central purpose: to enable people to live lives of love, faith and hope. Ultimately, such lives are the result of an inner spiritual transformation, a renewing of the heart. This inner transformation manifests itself in a new way of thinking and a new way of behavior. Along the way, new truths must be absorbed and new skills must be learned. At the same time, strong support is needed so that spiritual hindrances may be overcome. Therefore, three disciple making **functions** which are among the most important are: 1) the communication of vital truths, 2) the development of essential skills, and 3) the provision of needed spiritual support.

We now face the question of **form**. What structures and methods should we adopt in order to ensure that the “functions” of disciple making are effectively taking place? There are four basic forms or structures that can be used in disciple making. These forms may be used simultaneously and are not meant to be exclusive.

I. Form I: Individual Growth



Example: Jesus' intercessory prayer in John 17

Setting: A disciple works on his own. This includes self-study as well as doing other things on his own, such as witnessing, praying, etc.

Size: One person

Ministry Style: Self-learning

Function: 1) the communication of vital truths, i.e. deepening understanding of truths already touched on in the large group, small group and one-on-one meetings, 2) the development of essential skills.

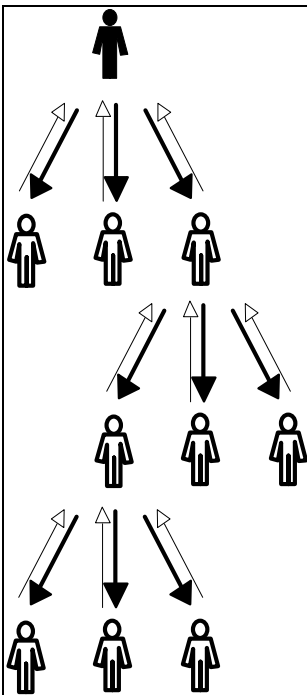
Advantages:

- A greater amount of knowledge and experience can be more quickly gained.
- Reading can be targeted at the specific needs of the person.
- The leaders are freed to give their time and energy to other ministry needs.
- The disciple can learn at his own pace and take time for reflection and application.

Limitations:

- Unless tested in some way, there is no way of knowing how much was understood or absorbed.
- There is no opportunity to observe the disciple as he is engaged in ministry so that you may give him helpful advice.
- Other kinds of spiritual support are still needed.
- Impersonal approach which models individualism and not community.

II. Form 2: One-On-One Discipleship



Example: We can see Jesus using this form in conversations with Nicodemus (John 3) and the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4).

Setting: A leader, or mentor, meets separately with various individuals.

Size: 2 people per meeting.

Ministry style: Mentoring.

Functions: 1) the communication of vital truths, 2) the development of essential skills, and 3) the provision of needed spiritual support.

Communication: Two-way communication. The mentor receives feedback from his disciple.

Who ministers: Mostly the mentor. However, the mentor should make it a priority to train and involve his disciple in ministry to others.

Multiplication: Every mentor should have apprentices who are learning how to disciple others one-on-one as shown in the figure above. These apprentices will learn by "observing" and "doing" under supervision. Training seminars may also be provided.

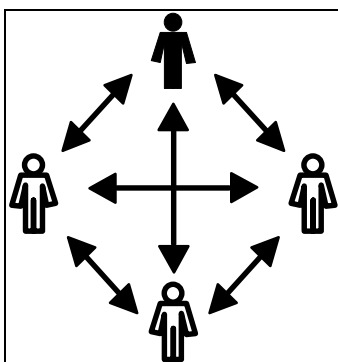
Advantages: In many cases, one-on-one contact is the only way you will find out what is happening spiritually within the person. Many new converts will grow only when individual attention is given to them.

- There is maximum opportunity to give the person the support he needs.
- Teaching and training can be targeted to the specific needs of the individual.
- There is maximum opportunity for feedback, to discern how much is understood and absorbed.
- There is maximum opportunity to help him put what he is learning into practice and to help him become involved in ministry to others.
- The leader can easily identify and train those with the potential to do one-on-one ministry with others. This leads to the multiplication of one-on-one ministry.
- This is a wonderful structure for teaching skills.

Limitations:

- One person can't meet all the spiritual needs of an individual. However, this can be countered with several different on-on-one meetings.
- A leader can have a one-on-one ministry with only a few people. Multiplication of new mentors becomes critical.

III. Form 3: Small Group Ministry



Example: We see Christ demonstrating this form in his Upper Room discourse, found in Gospel of John chapters 13-16.

Setting: Cell groups, small Sunday school groups, small Bible study groups, Prayer groups, house-church groups, committees, etc.

Size: Less than 10-15 people.

Ministry style: Facilitation. The leader's goal is to facilitate the others in the group to mutual ministry. Teaching is not the only form of ministry.

Functions: 1) communication of vital truths, 2) development of essential skills, and 3) provision of needed spiritual support.

Communication: Communication is multi-directional.

Who ministers: Everyone in the small group.

Multiplication: Every group leader should have an assistant who is being trained to become a group leader. This assistant will learn by "observing" and "doing" under supervision. Training seminars may also be provided.

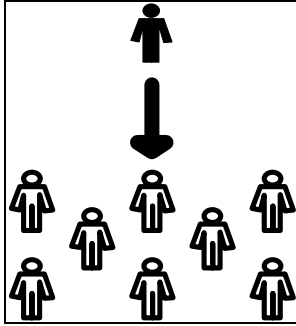
Advantages:

- Less qualified leaders can be used to lead the group.
- Everyone can be involved. Communication is multi-directional. Everyone has the opportunity to use and develop his ministry gifts.
- Those with teaching or other leadership gifts can be more easily identified and developed. This makes multiplication of the ministry easier.
- There is greater opportunity for feedback, to discern how much is understood and absorbed.
- It is easier to focus the teaching and training on the real needs of the group members.
- There is much greater opportunity to understand the deeper spiritual needs of people in the group and to give the kind of support they need. There is greater opportunity to help them put what they are hearing into practice.

Limitations:

- Many leaders are needed if a large number of people are to be involved in small groups (This can be offset if the small group is used as a training ground for new leaders.)
- Many people will not share their deepest spiritual needs, even in front of a small group. If the group is mixed (men and women), there may be even less openness.

IV. Form 4: Large Group Ministry



Example: An example from the life of the Lord can be found in Matthew chapters 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount. Peter's sermon to the Jews at Pentecost in Acts 2 is another fine example.

Setting: Sermons during worship services, Sunday school, large Bible study groups, seminars, etc.

Size: 15, 30, even 100 people or more.

Ministry style: The leader mostly lectures.

Functions: Main focus is the communication of those vital truths that are relevant to most people in the group.

Communication: Mostly in one direction - from the leader to the listeners.

Who ministers: The leader(s). Ministry flows in one direction - from the leader to the rest of the group.

Multiplication: The leaders should be always training new people for this kind of ministry. The trainees will learn by "observing" and "doing" under supervision. Training seminars may also be provided. The most capable may be selected for more formal training.

Advantages: Fewer qualified leaders/coworkers are needed to teach a larger number of people.

Limitations:

- Few people other than the main speaker(s) have an opportunity to use and develop their ministry gifts.
- This approach is not very useful for developing future leaders. Unless other means are found to develop leaders, it will be difficult to multiply the ministry into a church planting movement.
- To be done well, you need someone who is gifted as a teacher/preacher. Often it is difficult to find enough qualified people.
- A single leader does not have all the gifts necessary to meet all the spiritual needs of the group.
- There is little opportunity for feedback, so it is difficult to know how much is understood and absorbed.
- There is little opportunity to understand the deeper spiritual needs of people in the group and to give the kind of support they need. There is little opportunity to help them put into practice what they are hearing.
- There is a tendency for most of the listeners to become passive.
- No one ministers to the leader(s).
- If this is the primary form of ministry, then most people will not mature spiritually. The leaders often become overworked because there are too few co-workers.

V. A Reminder

As church planters your primary role in the disciple making process is to identify and disciple potential leaders. These will in turn disciple others (2Ti 2:2). As you think about the needs of your disciples, remember that people have different learning styles. For example, some people learn best in a group, others are good self-learners, still others need one-on-one attention. Part of your disciple making plan should be to evaluate how each person learns best and provide discipleship.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION, REVIEW AND APPLICATION

- In your context, which “forms” do churches most often use in discipling their people? How effective have these forms been used to provide what young disciples need? What needs are not being met? What forms do you think would be most appropriate for meeting these needs?
- What forms do you feel most comfortable using? What forms do you feel most uncomfortable using? Why?

ACTION PLAN

Using Appendix 5A, “Disciple Making Plan”, prepare a separate disciple making plan for each person that you are discipling in your church planting ministry.

You must bring your completed plans to the next Disciple making lesson, which will take place when you begin Manual Four training.

DISCIPLE MAKING
APPENDIX
5A

Disciple Making Plan

This appendix provides a means to help you develop a practical plan to help your disciples grow in spiritual maturity. This spiritual maturity is measured by inner personal growth, growth in relationship with God, and growth in relationship with other people. Hopefully, you have already begun thinking about which are the most important truths and skills you need to teach your people, especially new believers. You have also discussed which kinds of support are most critical for new believers in light of their most common spiritual struggles. You must now plan when and how you will teach specific truths and skills during the next twelve months, as well as how you will provide the necessary spiritual support. You will also need to think about the means for multiplying the ministry.

You should make a plan for each person whom you are discipling in your church plant. If possible, those who are on the same church planting team should work together to produce this plan.

Two worksheets for developing a disciple making plan are provided on the following pages. Complete the first worksheet, 5A.1 "What New Believers Need to Know and Do" as a general guideline for new believers in your church planting ministry. The second worksheet, 5A.2 "Individual Disciple Making Plan", is to be used once for each person you are discipling. There will be specific truths and skills that each of your disciples needs to learn. Use worksheet 5A.2 to determine how these truths and skills will be taught, and in what chronological order.

In filling out these worksheets, keep the following factors in mind:

- Determine which forms (large group, small group, one-on-one, individual) are most appropriate for the truth/concept/conviction or habit/skill you want to teach. You do not need to use all four discipleship forms.
- Often it is wise to use repetition. This means the person will be exposed to similar truths or skills several times in various forms. For example, you can preach about a certain truth on Sunday morning and then deal with personal application of that truth in small group and on-on-one meetings.
- Determine the order in which truths and skills should be taught. Often there is a logical sequence which you will need to follow.
- Issues that are most critical for the spiritual survival of each person should be dealt with earlier, rather than later.
- Decide what existing discipleship materials, if any, you want to use. After you have made your selection, you can place the appropriate lesson or chapter titles on your worksheet. In a similar way, list the materials which will be used for individual study.
- Each row in worksheet 5A.2 represents a month. You can list several subjects in one block. For example, in your one-on-one meetings in the first month, you might list a different subject to be covered each week, such as: personal time with the Lord, how to pray and how to deal with sin. On the other hand, during month six, you might decide to spend the whole month on one subject, such as, developing a personal testimony.

With your church planting team, use the following worksheets, 5A.1 and 5A.2, to identify needs and develop a plan for each person you want to disciple in your church plant. Fill in the charts with the truths and skills which will be taught.

Worksheet 5A.1 - What New Believers Need to KNOW and DO

INSTRUCTIONS:

- *List those things which new believers most urgently need to KNOW to successfully live lives of love, faith and hope and to effectively minister to others. What truths or concepts must they understand? Many of these will point beyond intellectual knowledge to convictions they should have.*
- *List those things new believers most urgently need to DO to successfully live lives of love, faith and hope and to effectively minister to others. Many of these items involve habits they should develop. Many will also imply skills they will need to learn.*

	What they need to KNOW (truths or concepts/convictions)	What they need to DO (habits/skills)
To live lives in love and unity with God		
To live lives in love and unity with their families and other believers and build them up in Christ		

	What they need to KNOW (truths or concepts/convictions)	What they need to DO (habits/skills)
To live lives of faith		
To live lives of hope		
To effectively minister to the lost		

Worksheet 5A.2 – Individual Disciple Making Plan

_____ Name of person

Month	Individual	One-on-one	Small groups	Large group
1				
2				
3				
4				

Month	Individual	One-on-one	Small groups	Large group
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				

Month	Individual	One-on-one	Small groups	Large group
10				
11				
12				

Things to think about:

- Who will teach/train/preach on the large group level?
- Who will lead the small group?
- Who will work with the person(s) one-on-one?
- How will you develop leaders so that each of the above ministries may be multiplied?
- List what support other than teaching will be provided (such as encouragement, prayer, accountability, etc.). How will this support be provided? Who will do it?

Disciple Making Workshop

DISCUSSION OF PRACTICAL ISSUES RELATED TO MAKING DISCIPLES

☞ Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to allow the church planters to interact on all assignments in this track and other practical issues related to disciple making.

☞ Desired Outcomes

When the content of this lesson has been mastered, each participant should . . .

- Have a broader understanding of practical issues related to disciple making.
- Have a greater respect for the creativity within the Body of Christ for addressing disciple making concerns.
- Have a stronger conviction of the importance of assessment and planning in the disciple making process.
- Have in hand an initial written draft of a plan to disciple the believers to whom he ministers.

☞ Suggestions to Trainers

Be sure to advise the person responsible for setting up Manual Four training sessions that all trainees must bring their completed Disciple Making Plan to be admitted to Manual Four training. This material will form the basis for discussions held in the first half of this lesson

Also advise the person responsible for coordinating Manual Four training sessions that all trainers should be prepared to participate in a disciple making workshop in the second half of the hour. This question and answer workshop should address practical questions from the church planters. In the event that church planters do not have questions, trainers should be prepared to comment on questions contained in this lesson

Create posters or blank overhead copies of **Disciple Making Plan** (from Appendix 5A, Manual Three) for completion during large group discussion. This may be needed if the small group discussion is not workable because of poorly completed assignments. It is imperative that trainees work through the process and consider the issues and sequencing of disciple making. In order to make the best use of the time allowed for this session on disciple making, it is important that participants move quickly into small groups of 5 to 8.

For reference purposes, church planters should have in hand their completed **Disciple Making Plans** which they prepared during or after Manual Three training.

I. Small Group Discussions (1/2 Hour)

Allow one-half hour for interaction on the process and product of developing a disciple making plan for individuals and fellowships. Appoint someone to steer the discussions, using the following questions as a guideline. Try to include everyone in the discussion.

1. Did you find this exercise practically useful in your ministry? How?
2. How did you determine the order in which you would address issues?
3. What elements of follow-up (skills, concepts, or values) do you believe must be included in the first months of a new Christian's life? Why are these so important? How can _____ (pick one of the elements) best be developed in the life of a believer or church?

4. How did you personally become convinced of the importance of _____ (issue/truth/skill or concept)?
5. What forms are you most comfortable with?
6. Have you attempted to balance the forms so that one or two are not over-used or ignored?
7. What are you doing to spread out the work of making disciples where you are? How are you preparing “disciple makers”?
8. What will you do next week to move disciples forward in their faith, hope and love?

II. Disciple Making Workshop (20 Minutes)

We can generally expect that the practical realities of ministry, combined with the stimulation of the training environment, will create in church planters a hunger to learn more about how to make disciples. If church planters are reluctant to ask questions, however, the following may serve to whet their appetites.

1. Describe an event, incident or activity in which you were involved early in your Christian life that decisively helped you advance in your walk with Christ.
2. What one nugget of truth would you pass on to those beginning to make disciples?

III. Conclusion (3 Minutes)

This is the last lesson in the disciple making track of church planter training. In this track, we have sought to bring to your attention the strategic importance of disciple making in the church planting process. We’ve looked at disciple making in terms of basic follow-up and preparing the eternal Bride of Christ. We have seen the goal of disciple making. We have talked about the need to assess the current spiritual condition of an individual or church. We have introduced a tool to plan to meet these needs practically, and created opportunities for you to develop and discuss your own plans.

We encourage you to continue to consider disciple making as a way to reproduce yourself in the lives of others and multiply able workers for reaching your villages, districts, cities and country for Christ.

ACTION PLAN

In light of the discussion during this workshop, review and evaluate the disciple making plans you prepared after Manual Three training for each person you are discipling in your church planting ministry. Make any necessary changes to your plans based on what you learned during this workshop. Remember that the plans you have created are not static – they will and should change with time and with growth on the part of your disciples. Periodically review and update the disciple making plans you have for each of your disciples.