More time spent with fewer people leads to greater lasting impact for the Kingdom of God.

BSU Christian Challenge
New Mexico State University
Study Series

Disciplemaking: Some Tips for Disciple Makers

- Get to know them
  - Not all at once, but over the course of the first several meetings and outings together, discover all about:
    - Their family
    - Their childhood
    - Their friends
    - Their interests
    - Their dreams
    - Their career goals
    - Especially their testimony.

- Have them make a list of qualities of good disciplemakers
  - Go over their list, highlighting DNA and other important values
  - Compare their list to “Characteristics of Effective Disciplemakers”
  - Print them a copy of above list
  - Challenge them to become this person

- Find out the significant markers in their life
  - It will be very helpful for you to know those things that have shaped who they are, whether good or bad, whether it was of a spiritual nature or not.

- Find out about their spiritual life
  - How God speaks to them
  - How do they know what God’s will is in a decision
  - What their times with God look like
  - What has God done in their life that can only be explained by God
  - What they struggle with in their walk with Him
  - What kind of reoccurring sins do they have in their life
  - What are their dreams and hopes for their relationship with God.

- Take notes
  - In case you missed that, TAKE NOTES. Unless you have a photographic memory or are just really, really good at remembering, take notes. This will do three things:
    - You will be able to pray specifically and with intelligence because your notes will refresh you memory of exactly what they shared and how they shared it
    - It will help guide you as you pray and prepare for the next time you are together
It will provide you with a history of your relationship that you can use to celebrate victories, praise God for answers to prayers, and be encouraged as you see verifiable proof that the investment you have made has born fruit.

- Help them work on their testimony
  - Have them work their testimony into a five-minute, easily accessible conversation about how they know God exists and that they are indeed His child. Then, with this testimony and strategic verses from scripture, help them practice how to share their faith. You can start by just role playing between the two of you but eventually you should engage in activities together where it is possible that they may have an opportunity to share it “for real” with someone.

- Pursue them
  - Follow through with prayer. Find out, through follow up phone calls or emails, how significant events, classes, tests, or conversations went. Know their birthday and encourage them regularly with notes or letters or emails or phone calls.
  - Remember that you are learning about the person in order to serve them, not because they are your project. Be a need-meeter in their life.

- Be urgent with regards to their spiritual growth
  - Take your responsibility seriously; pray about the “next step” in their development; do not wing it, but think and pray deeply about where to go next.

- Trust the Lord
  - Trust that as you pray, He will guide you and give you the help you need and the words to speak. Trust in Him for their growth. As Bonhoffer has said, “Spiritual love speaks more to God about a brother than to a brother about God.” It is up to God to mold them and shape them; we must simply hold out the truth to them and allow God to work in their life.

- Point the person to Jesus
  - Avoid allowing them to develop a dependency on you. The only person they need is Jesus; the only person, including you, who will never let them down is Jesus. Do not answer all their questions. Do not be the expert all the time. Encourage them constantly to spend time with Him and to take all of their cares to Him.

© BSU Christian Challenge NMSU

Permissions: You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do not alter the wording in any way and do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. For web posting, a link to this document on our website is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be approved by the Christian Challenge staff.

Please include the following statement on any distributed copy: Provided by the Christian Challenge. © BSU Christian Challenge NMSU. Website: www.nmsuchristianchallenge.org