DISCIPLESHIP ROADMAP

Jesus's Roadmap for Making Disciples

Just as anyone going on a trip with a destination in mind would follow a roadmap, so Jesus instructed His disciples on how to build His Kingdom by giving them a roadmap for knowing Him more deeply and making Him known more widely.

It was these very disciples that He trained that became known for not just surviving but thriving and turning the world upside down for Jesus. One such group, described in Acts 17:6, turned their part of the world upside down:

> *"When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, 'These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too.'"*
>
> **— Acts 17:6**

Followers of Jesus have been given the awesome task of this world-changing mission to turn the world upside down for Jesus by knowing Him at a deep and intimate level and then to make Him known to others!

But, while many like the thought of making a world-changing difference for Jesus, most don't know where to begin. We are fired up on a Sunday morning, but the fire quickly fades by Monday morning. May that no longer be the case as we, as Christ-followers, examine and then imitate Jesus's life on a moment-by-moment basis. The pages that follow will be our roadmap for how to do just that: be world-changing followers of Jesus!

Questions of Reflection

1. In what ways do you or don't you feel equipped to "turn the world upside down" for Christ?

2. What are some practical steps you feel you need to take to become more equipped? What are some things you are hoping to get from this training?

An Intentional and Reproducible Discipleship Process

How can a follower of Jesus become a world-changing disciple maker of Jesus? It is by living out our intended purpose of glorifying God by knowing Jesus and making Him known.

This happens when we are intentionally transformed into the image of Christ and help others become transformed in His image.

Seeing Transformational Discipleship Become a Reality

Being transformed into the image of Christ becomes a reality when we are intentional about how we, and others, become transformed into His image. In order for this to happen, we must frame our lives around what God desires for us to be. We will call this our "Vision Frame". This means that our lives now become centered on what we see God telling us He wants us to become, which is to be like Christ.

Look at the following Scriptures...

> *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*
>
> **— 2 Corinthians 3:18**

> *…until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*
>
> **— Ephesians 4:13**
>
> *Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.*
>
> **— Colossians 1:28**
>
> *Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*
>
> **— Colossians 3:9-10**
>
> *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*
>
> **— 2 Peter 3:18**

Here we see a clear picture of what God is calling us to… **CHRISTLIKENESS!!!**

Now we can begin to define some of the aspects of the "Vision Frame" of our life. We will begin with what should be in the middle of the frame, and that is the vision itself for our lives and the lives of others. We can then look at the borders that surround the frame, and those consist of the mission for our lives, the methods we will practice daily to carry forth the mission, the measures we will use to determine whether we are living out our mission and methods, and the modifications we will make along the way.

Since this process is a journey, it is described as planning out a trip with an intended destination, mode of transportation, a map, diagnostic tests, and a tune-up when needed.

Defining Discipleship

Matthew 28:19-20 provides a stunning amount of gold, with succinct clarity on disciple-making.

- "Go and make disciples" — We have to first engage in the mission of Jesus and be willing to go out and make disciples that trust and follow Jesus as we model trusting and following Jesus.
- "Baptizing them, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" — We must be intentional about how we make disciples and have a process that is reproducible. This includes teaching them how to walk as Jesus walks and identifying with Him and His mission through things like baptism.
- "I am with you always" — We must remember that relationship is the key to effective discipleship. Just as Jesus walked with His disciples through life, so we must walk with those we are discipling through life.

With these three components from Matthew 28 in mind, we define disciple making this way:

Discipleship is helping people to trust and follow Jesus so that they can in turn help others to trust and follow Jesus.

This is a simple definition, but not a simplistic one. The full meaning of it is wonderfully life-altering. It encompasses all the teachings in the Bible telling us to do nothing and just rely on God—His Grace, His promises, and His power. And it encompasses all the teachings in the Bible where we must act—obedience, faithfulness, and resisting sin. Both parts are essential to the Great Commission in Matthew 28. And we have found that both parts are essential to balanced discipleship.

Defining a Disciple

We frame our definition of a disciple around Matthew 4:19. It makes it easy to reference and memorize.

And He said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

— Matthew 4:19

You can easily divide this verse so that it becomes a framework for the three key parts we find in the rest of the New Testament on what it means to be a disciple.

- (1) Following Jesus ("Follow me" — head)
- (2) Being changed by Jesus ("I will make you" — heart)
- (3) Being committed to the mission of Jesus ("fishers of men" — hands)

A disciple of Jesus is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and committed to the mission of Jesus.

If people are following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and committed to the mission of Jesus, then they are biblical disciples. Clarity on these points is essential for disciple makers and churches.

Questions of Reflection

1. What do you envision following Jesus moment-by-moment looking like in your everyday life?
2. In what ways do you currently see Jesus changing you into His image? Do others see these changes happening in your life?
3. What is the mission of Jesus according to Scripture? (See Matthew 20:26-28; Luke 19:10; John 13:34-35)
4. Are you fully committed to His mission? How do you or don't you see His mission coming to fruition in your life?

Making the Move: The Vision Frame

Now that we understand what discipleship is and what a disciple of Jesus is we can make the move to seeing the transformational discipleship process come to fruition by following a roadmap for becoming a disciple of Jesus that makes disciples of Jesus that makes disciples of Jesus. This discipleship process takes place when we have a vision for where God wants to take us, a mission to get us there, methods we will follow along the way, measurements to determine whether we are being successful, and the capacity to make modifications when necessary.

Our vision is our intended destination, our mission is the vehicle for taking us there, our methods are the map we will follow, our measurements are the diagnostic test to see how the vehicle is running, and our modifications are the tune-up when needed.

VISION FRAME

<table>
<tr><td>VISION (The Destination)
"To Treasure Jesus Above All Else"
(Philippians 3:8)</td><td>MISSION (The Vehicle)
"To Know Jesus and Make Him Known"
(Matthew 28:18-20)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">METHODS (The Map)
WORSHIP God • EQUIP ourselves & others • CONNECT with fellow believers • SHARE with the lost • SERVE all</td></tr>
<tr><td>MEASURE (Diagnostic Tests)
Quality: Dead → Infant → Child → Adult → Parent
Quantity: Salvations • Baptisms • Guests • Groups • Servants</td><td>MODIFICATION (Tune-Up)
Once we measure how well we are advancing toward our vision, we modify our methods to better grow the Kingdom!</td></tr>
</table>

Vision — The Destination

Vision is the destination we desire to reach as a church and individuals. It is not about where we are but where we want to be! It will be something that will never fully come to fruition, but something that we constantly strive for! The Apostle Paul spoke to this very idea in Philippians 3:12-14:

> *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
>
> **— Philippians 3:12-14**

Our vision is… "***To Treasure Jesus Above All Else***." (Philippians 3:8)

This speaks to what we value more than anything else, and that is God being glorified by people treasuring Jesus more than anything else in life! Apart from having a clear vision as to what we want to see our people at NCC, the people of Albuquerque, the state of New Mexico, and beyond look like we will flounder in all areas of ministry. However, if as a church and individuals we have a clear view of where we want to go then all ministries and individual lives can operate with the same destination in sight and it keeps us from all driving different directions.

Mission — The Vehicle

Our mission is the vehicle with which we reach our destination. Our mission should tell us and others not only what we will do as a church and individuals but also what we will not do. In other words, there are about a million good things we could be doing, but we will only move towards our vision if we are all in the same vehicle going in the same direction.

This means that all ministries across the board need to keep in mind that we are in the business of one mission…

"To Know Jesus and Make Him Known."

When all of our leaders know where we want to go (vision), and what vehicle to get on in order to get there (mission), we begin to see our churches become the disciple making churches God intended us to be.

> *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*
>
> **— Matthew 28:18-20**

The 5 Core Practices (Methods) of Christ's Life

So, we can see that God desires for us to become just like His Son. He desires that we would become people who "Treasure Jesus Above All Else". NCC believes that happens when our greatest desire is "To Know Jesus and Make Him Known". But how do we see that become a reality in everyday life?

The answer lies in emulating the 5 basic practices (methods) that Jesus lived out in the Gospels. They are the same practices that we as disciples should also be living out due to the fact that there is no one better to pattern our lives around than the Lord Jesus!

Simply knowing His methods is not enough. Jesus Himself said we show we love Him when we obey Him and do what He did (John 15:1-17). The difference between knowing about the methods of Jesus and engaging in the methods of Jesus can be seen below:

CULTURAL CHRISTIAN	DISCIPLE OF JESUS
They believe in Jesus.	They trust and follow Jesus.
They gain head knowledge.	They are committed to Jesus' mission.
They get their needs met through the church.	They meet the needs of others.
They don't share the Gospel due to excuses.	They share the Gospel knowing this is the only hope lost sinners have.
They are takers/recipients.	They are givers/servants.

Method #1 — Worship God

Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; John 17:1

Our worship of God is to be a lifestyle, but also must be targeted, or it simply won't happen. Targeted worship needs to be our first and foremost priority at both the corporate and personal levels.

a. Corporate Worship

A disciple being transformed into the image of Jesus must be committed to a local body of believers for the purpose of growth, encouragement, accountability, relationship, and service, among other things. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

→ *Be actively engaged in worship services at NCC each Sunday. This includes being present, focused during singing and the Word, and interacting with others.*

→ *Be part of an NCC small group/Bible study.*

b. Personal Worship

Sunday is just the beginning of a week of lifestyle worship that is to be lived out in the context of everyday life.

→ *Be in prayer daily.*

→ *Get in the Word and let the Word get into you through reading, studying, memorizing, meditating, journaling, and obeying it.*

→ *Listen to (and even sing) music that honors and glorifies the Lord.*

Resources for Worshipping God Daily

- *A good study Bible (e.g., MacArthur ESV Study Bible)*
- *Your Daily Walk — edited by Bruce Wilkinson*
- *The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus — John Cross*
- *30 Days to Understanding the Bible — Max Anders*
- *Prayer, the Great Adventure — David Jeremiah*
- *Living By the Book — Howard Hendricks*
- *Basic Theology — Charles Ryrie*

Method #2 — Equip Yourself and Others

Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Timothy 2:2

This takes place through constant growth in the areas of biblical studies, apologetics/evangelism, Christian life, and ministry through reading, studying, prayer, journaling, memorizing, etc.

a. Corporate Equipping

→ *Be part of an NCC Equipping Course.*

→ *Be part of an NCC Small Group.*

b. Personal Equipping

→ *Be reading/studying books and material in the areas of Bible/theology, evangelism/apologetics, Christian living, and ministry.*

Resources for Equipping

- *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist — Geisler & Turek*
- *Evidence That Demands a Verdict — Josh McDowell*
- *The Case for Christ / The Case for Faith — Lee Strobel*
- *Cold Case Christianity — J. Warner Wallace*
- *The Inerrant Word — John MacArthur*
- *Websites: str.org • crossexamined.org • carm.org • answersingenesis.org*

Method #3 — Connect with Fellow Believers

John 17:20-23

We were created to connect with others in community. We are told throughout the New Testament that we are to love one another, serve one another, bear one another's burdens, and a host of other "one anothers" that can only be lived out in the context of community. Therefore, we must be intentional about how we connect with others on a deep, intimate, personal, transparent, honest, and accountable way.

a. Corporate Connecting

→ *NCC worship services, outreach events, Small Groups, and one-to-one discipleship.*

b. Personal Connecting

→ *Praying for and with others; personal visits, letters, and calls; engaging in activities just for fun!*

Resources for Connecting

- *What is a Healthy Church Member — Thabiti Anyabwile*
- *Peacemaker — Ken Sande*
- *Life Together — Dietrich Bonhoeffer*
- *The 5 Love Languages — Gary Chapman*

Method #4 — Sharing the Gospel with the Lost

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 19:10

Since many believers do not share their faith, either due to fear or feelings of inadequacy, and due to the fact that this is a command and a privilege, we must be training our people on a consistent basis to share the greatest news we have ever been told… The Good News of Jesus Christ!

> *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*
>
> **— Luke 19:10**

a. Corporate Sharing

→ *Be actively involved in community outreach events.*

→ *Invite friends to NCC services.*

b. Personal Sharing

→ *Share the Gospel with friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, etc.*

→ *Give invites and materials to explore the claims of the Gospel.*

Resources for Sharing the Gospel

- *Life's Ultimate Questions — New Covenant Church*
- *The Way of the Master — Ray Comfort & Kirk Cameron*
- *Two Ways to Live — Matthias Media*

Method #5 — Serve Everyone

Matthew 20:25-28; John 13:12-17

We are called to serve everyone we meet first and foremost because that's what the Lord Jesus did. By imitating Jesus in this way, we earn the right to be heard with the lost, build relationships with the saved, and show unconditional love to all!

> *…even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*
>
> **— Matthew 20:28**

a. Corporate Serving

→ *Find your ministry niche and serve here at NCC.*

→ *Serve with NCC at community events.*

b. Personal Serving

→ *Daily taking the opportunities we are given to serve in simple ways in our homes, workplace, school, etc.*

Resources for Serving

- *The Book on Leadership — John MacArthur*
- *Lead — Paul David Tripp*
- *Find Your S.H.A.P.E. (google S.H.A.P.E. test)*

Appendix A — Diagnostic Questions for Spiritual Growth

Use these questions to help determine where someone is in the spiritual growth cycle (Dead, Infant, Child, Adult, Parent):

- Have you trusted Jesus as your Savior?
- What would you say is the basic message of the Gospel?
- How long have you been following Jesus?
- In what ways have you been growing in your walk with the Lord? (church involvement, daily time with the Lord, discipleship/small group experience)
- In what areas would you say you have struggled the most in your walk with Christ?
- In what areas of your walk do you desire to grow the most?
- How can I best help you grow and pray for you?

Stages of Spiritual Growth (Quality)

Spiritually Dead

Characterized by rebellion and unbelief. They often attack God and His Word or are indifferent toward the Gospel.

Common phrases: “I don’t believe there is a God.” / “The Bible is just a bunch of myths.” / “Religion is a crutch.” / “A God of love wouldn’t send people to hell.”

What they need: An explanation of the Gospel; to see the Gospel lived out; answers to their questions; an invitation to receive Christ.

Spiritual Infant

Characterized by ignorance, confusion, and dependence.

Common phrases: “I love Jesus but don’t like or need the church.” / “I didn’t know the Bible said that.” / “Don’t all religions pretty much worship the same God?”

What they need: Personal attention of a disciple-maker; care and protection; teaching and modeling; developing new habits that become a lifestyle.

Spiritual Child

Characterized by self-centeredness, idealism, and over/under confidence.

Common phrases: “The church needs to feed me more.” / “People at our church need to be more friendly to me.” / “Why doesn’t the church do more?”

What they need: Connection to a small group; teaching on how to feed themselves spiritually; taught who they are in Christ; taught what biblical community looks like.

Spiritual Adult

Key characteristic: a God-and-others-centered outlook. They see that God has shaped them for a purpose and sacrifice in order to serve the Lord.

Common phrases: “I know others who need a church/group like this.” / “In doing my devotions I came across…” / “Harry and Sally were missing this week; I am going to call them.”

What they need: Equipping to serve and lead; an outlet for serving and leading; constant encouragement and accountability.

Spiritual Parent

These are people who are intentional about growing themselves so that they can grow someone else who will in turn grow someone else.

Common phrases: "I am sharing Christ with Bill, pray for him and for me." / "We get to baptize someone from our small group today." / "Would you please hold me accountable to discipling my kids?"

What they need: Ongoing relationships with other disciple-makers; a church family — discipling people as part of a team; peer accountability and encouragement.

Quantity Measures

We also track simple things such as: new believers, baptisms, first-time guests, new people in Small Groups, new Small Groups formed, and the number of people being discipled and disciple-makers we have. This scorecard isn't merely for tracking numbers; it is for tracking souls. As shepherds, we should be able to account for whether we are adequately taking care of the sheep and whether people are being added to our flock.

> *You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*
>
> **— 2 Timothy 2:1-2**

Appendix B — A Blueprint for the Discipleship Process

In order for us to make disciples of Jesus that make disciples of Jesus, we must have an intentional plan. A lackluster approach will produce lackluster disciples. Therefore, intentionality is a must. There are 4 key elements to effective discipleship:

- 1. A biblical foundation
- 2. An intentional leader
- 3. A relational environment
- 4. A reproducible process

A Biblical Foundation

Before we ever get together with the person/people we are discipling, we must determine whether what we are doing and using in regard to material is solidly grounded in the Word of God. We must also be in prayer as to why we are discipling others — is it for the glory of God or the accolades we desire to receive?

An Intentional Leader

As a disciple maker, we must know a bit about the disciple so we know where they need to go and how we will get them there. We must know their stage of spiritual growth so that we can know how to progress them along the path of growth. We must have a road map for how we will grow them by determining: where you will meet, how often you will meet, what specific materials you will use, and what you will do when you meet (prayer, accountability, study, etc.).

A Relational Environment

Ask key questions: How am I as a leader going to model intimacy, transparency, and honesty with those I am discipling? How am I going to make those I disciple feel loved and cared for?

A Reproducible Process

The litmus test as to whether we are doing our job as a disciple maker is not whether we are simply discipling someone, but whether we are discipling someone who is in turn making disciples. When Jesus becomes the central focus of our lives and our ultimate goal is to imitate Him, then we live and act as He lived and acted, and in turn we teach others to do the same, who in turn teach others to do the same, and so on.

State from the outset to the person/people you are discipling that just as Jesus expected His followers to imitate and reproduce what He taught and lived so you expect the same from those that you are discipling (1 Corinthians 11:1). Set the bar high and watch the Lord multiply disciples through His people!

My Game Plan for Living a Christlike Life

Use this space to personalize your commitments:

Worshipping God

- I am committed to worshipping God by being in prayer at least _____ times each day and for _____ minutes each day.
- I am committed to worshipping God by being in His Word at least _____ minutes every day.
- I am committed to worshipping God by being at church every Sunday and will ask _____ to hold me accountable.

Equipping Myself

- I am committed to equipping myself by reading _____ minutes per day through the book/material of the month at NCC or a book of my choosing.
- I am committed to equipping _____ with what I have been equipped with.

Connecting with Fellow Believers

- I am committed to connecting with fellow believers for the purpose of encouragement, accountability, and being stretched. Those believers are: _____

Sharing the Gospel with the Lost

- I am committed to sharing the Gospel with the lost. The people on my “5 Most Wanted List” that I will be praying for and sharing with are:
  - 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

Serving Everybody

- I am committed to serving everybody within my sphere of influence and will start by serving intentionally in my community by _____.
- I am committed to serving here at NCC by _____.

Note of Encouragement

"Tis one life, will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last."

You will never regret serving Jesus and making Him your all-consuming passion. The commitments above don't ensure Jesus becomes your all-consuming passion, but they are a start in that direction. Get committed, and love the Lord Jesus with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength!