

steps for disciple making

Jesus trained His disciples how to make disciples. Take the challenge to do ministry the way Jesus designed it. Here's a quick overview of getting started making disciples.

Get A team of 2

Just as Jesus sent out His disciples 2 by 2, so should we. A team of 2 (at least, and no more than 3) helps with accountability, courage, and focus while not being too large to manage. At least one member of the team must be strong in doctrine, ready to give an answer for the Truth and defend it with Scripture. The other needs to be at least baptized, filled with the Spirit, and passionate about serving the Lord. To make disciples one must be committed. Uncommitted followers will not survive the demands of reaching the lost.

The team needs a clear target. Jesus targeted His local area first (Galilee) and then expanded through the various cities of Israel. Later, this was His mission strategy for the disciples to work first from Jerusalem (where they were) and then expand into all Judea (around Jerusalem), then neighboring Samaria, and so on to the rest of the world. It is easier to break into local ground before launching into the next neighborhood, city, or county.



Pray the Kingdom

Jesus taught His disciples to pray "Our Father,... Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Through prayer and preaching we bind the devil's kingdom and loose the Kingdom of God into an area ("Kingdom come!"). Jesus sent His disciples to specific areas (Matthew 10:5-6). Where has He sent you? If a team does not know, they should pray for direction. Typically, the Lord will work in your local area first before sending you out to new areas. The "on earth" they are praying for is the target area where He has sent them. Prayer, fasting, and godly living drive out darkness. Jesus taught His disciples that once the strongman was bound (tied up) they could plunder his treasures—souls of men, women, and children. At times, the Lord will lead you in how to pray for an area or certain people. When you pray, let the Spirit lead you how to pray. Certain homes or persons will stand out to you.



Make connections

Begin to share the good news of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 10:7). This can start as simple as "this is what Jesus has done" stories that illustrate Kingdom power. Let normal conversations lead into the things of God with people you meet. Watch for those who "receive you"; they might be demonstrating a spiritual openness (Matthew 10:40).

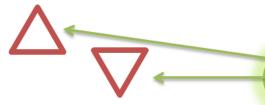
Offer to pray for needs that present themselves to you: cast out devils, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers (Matthew 10:8). As you declare the good news of the Kingdom, miracles will happen and healings will occur to open the eyes of those once under the enemy's grasp.

Miraculous occurrences demonstrate Kingdom power and what it does in the unseen realm (Luke 10:9). As you minister, gauge their interest by their response. Are they moved? Are they ready for more? Sometimes those directly affected (or healed) do not respond, but others who observe what happened will.

Find hungry souls

Expect the Lord to bring people to your attention and cross your path with key people from your target area. Invite them for dinner, buy coffee, or extend friendship in a meaningful way. You are not desperately searching for someone to come to church. You are looking for those who are "worthy" (Matthew 10:11). People suitable to be disciples first show an interest in Jesus and the Kingdom. Later, they change their lives for Jesus Christ, like the woman at the well (John 4). When someone fights against your message, move on (Matthew 10:12-15).

When you find the right home(s), concentrate your efforts on those people. You are not specifically going door-to-door (Luke 10:7), at least not usually. You are looking for the key person who will open the door to that area (Luke 10:5-6). Those buried in religious tradition often will take a long time to deprogram and turn into disciples. Those hungry for change and searching for truth will often give a more rewarding response.



Develop influencers

As you make connections, watch for the "son of peace"

(Luke 10:5-7). They are typically hungry for God, hospitable to you, open-hearted, and teachable. Rather than you have to try to add everyone in a community one-by-one, the person of peace becomes the ministry multiplier. These natural influencers impact so many other people that by winning them, you will reach several families in a short amount of time.

Just one "son of peace" is all you need to start or grow a church. Examples of such people include Levi (Luke 5:29), Cornelius (Acts 10), the woman at the well (John 4), Lydia (Acts 16:11-15), and the jailer (Acts 16:25-34). Your key person might not be a moral person, but their radical change influences many.

It is not enough to pray the Kingdom into your world, you must speak it. Jesus went out declaring the good news of the Kingdom and then trained His disciples to do the same (Matthew 4:17, 23; 10:7). Free the hostages by speaking hope in Jesus (Acts 26:18).

Teach Truth

Teach the key people a multi-week overview of Scripture and salvation such as *Life! Discovery*. Teach in the person's home. If that is not possible, meet in a coffee shop or other space in their territory. Your home might work for this, if it's in your target area. Rather than educate a person and send them back into darkness, break the stronghold on location.

As you teach, watch for the moment a person reaches conversion (eyes opened, bondage broken). You can see that the Lord is speaking to them and they are honoring you as a spiritual leader in their lives. You will see the spiritual barrier has come down and the Lord is revealing truth to them.

At that point, encourage them to invite others to the teaching series. Review what you have previously taught as new people are added and continue to teach new material. Keep repeating this and grow a large group. Teach great content in Spirit power and you will always have someone to teach.

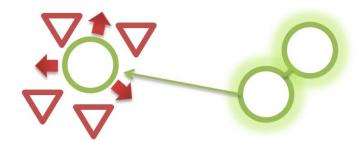


Have New Births

Your students need to enter the Kingdom as Jesus explained it: by water and Spirit (John 3:5). Once they are set free from the power of the enemy they can see the need for this. Once the Gospel of Jesus stabs their hearts, they are ready to obey (Acts 2:37-38). Baptize them in the name of Jesus!

Unlike other outreach campaigns, your goal has not been to simply get people visit your church and line many bodies up in rows. Church culture can feel uncomfortable to people who have never experienced it. Explain the way of God to them in person (as in Acts 18:26). You will be more productive winning people to Jesus before winning them to your church culture.

Provide them an opportunity to receive the Spirit. Invite them to revival services or a special meeting where they can receive the Holy Ghost. Or, if the atmosphere is conducive, they can receive the Spirit at home before ever coming to church. Soon, introduce them to others so the church will become their own.



Train disciple-makers

After you finish all 7 steps above, rinse and repeat! While you keep that process going with others, start developing those who are sold out for the message. Train them to make disciples. Take them through the Gospels in chronological order by teaching the DiscipleMaker series. This will help them deprogram from their old religious beliefs and get a proper understanding of whom and what they are to be in Christ. Help them find their gifting and purpose during this time.

Disciple-making is not just a series of lessons. They need to spend time with you, seeing you minister to others. Don't leave them to strike out alone. Teach and show them how to lead conversations about Jesus and look for others who are ready and willing to be disciples. Involve them in praying for others and beginning to teach home Bible studies. They will be strategic for continuing to open up their neighborhood to righteousness and bring it from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light.



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