

Be a Discip1er of Others

YOU CAN MAKE DISCIPLES

Making disciples is for EVERYONE! Jesus commanded every disciple to go and make other disciples. Followers of Jesus (disciples) have no choice! We are all meant to make disciples. Since Jesus has called all of us to make disciples, he will make sure that we can do it. Therefore sandwiched between the command to make disciples are 2 promises:

1. All power in heaven and on earth is given to Jesus!
2. Jesus will be with us ALWAYS!

You can make disciples! Jesus will see to it that you can do this! He will empower you to do so!

MAKING DISCIPLES IS THE STRATEGY OF JESUS

Jesus' strategy was to make disciples. He spent the most of his time in his 3 years of ministry training 12 men – his disciples. Jesus chose them to be “with him” – they spent a lot of time together and Jesus deliberately built into their lives. His life was an example for the disciples and by exposing his life to them, he made a deep influence in their lives.

Someone said, “His ministry touched thousands, but He trained twelve men. He gave His life on the cross for millions, but during the three and a half years of His ministry He gave His life uniquely to twelve men.”

Then when Jesus was to leave his disciples, he gave them his final instructions, **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”** (Matthew 28:19-20).

Making disciples is the way of Jesus and his way is the best way. This is the strategy that Jesus set out for his church. Jesus never even asked his people to go and start a church. Jesus simply said, “Make Disciples.”

“The church is looking for better methods, but God is looking for better men.” He has called us to make better men – disciples – true followers of Jesus! **Let's do it!**

YOU CAN BE A DISCIPLER OF OTHERS

You are qualified to build into another's life!

Anyone can be a discipler, provided he has learned something from God and is willing to share with others what he has learned. **A discipler is simply someone who is a step or two ahead in the life journey of the person he is discipling.** *This is the only requirement for a person to be a disciple.* Every Christian should be discipling another person.

You do not need to know a lot in order to disciple another – you learn as you do it, Learning to be a discipler is a process. Grow into it, but start now. You do not need

to know the answers to doctrinal questions and your life may not be perfect. In fact, your life will never be perfect. You have Christ living in you. When you are building into another, you are simply bringing Christ to that person. The Holy Spirit will show you how to minister. Learn to listen to Him. When you need His guidance, He will be there for you!

All God asks of you is that you have an unselfish and loving heart. You need to have the desire to be used as an instrument of God to build up others. He will take over and do the rest. Remember that nobody can change another person. Only God can do that. **As you are willing to be used by God, He will change people's lives through you.**

The issue is not your ability, but your willingness.

The pre-requisite is not how much you know, but that you, too, are growing in your own life. Paul the Apostle, after being a Christian for over thirty years, said,

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect,... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12-14)

There is no shame in striving in your life journey. There is no better mentor than one who is continually growing. In fact, a person who is already perfect can be very discouraging for imperfect people like us. I myself would rather learn from someone who is not there yet, but striving to get there. Note the words of Paul in the above passage: "strive, straining, press on." These are words that give us the idea of hardship but determination. We are all "fellow strugglers." As long as you are struggling to continue in your own life journey, you can lead others in their life journeying.

MENTORING OTHERS WILL MAKE YOU GROW

You will discover that building into another Christian is the fastest way to experience the work of Christ within your **own** life. It is the fastest way to grow. As you help another person, it will sensitise you to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Your prayer life will improve as you see that you cannot help the person by your own strength.

As you teach a truth to someone else, you will be affected by that truth itself. Not only will the truth be intensified in your life, but also you will find that you will be more careful to live out that truth. When you teach a person to learn to communicate with God regularly, you will find that you will strengthened your own communication with God.

As you share your life with another, you will see things in your own life that will need to change. You will see the Lord touch you through the person. He wants not only to use you as His instrument to build up others, but also to strengthen you.

It is a great privilege to be a discipler! Treat it as a blessing from God!

DISCIPLING IS A RELATIONSHIP

"We love you so much that we were delighted to share with you. . .our lives, because you had become so dear to us." (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

Discipling others is a "bonding" process. Your most important role comes from your *relationship* with the person, not from your knowledge or even your experience. The key thing is love. People's lives will be changed by God simply because you care for them.

Many people never had anyone whom, they feel, had genuinely cared for and loved them. Many people in this world are hungry for wanting someone who will genuinely be concerned for them. Let God use you as an instrument of love.

Jesus placed great value on relationships. He chose to spend much of His time deepening his connections with a few significant persons rather than addressing the crowds. You cannot improve on the method Jesus used. You must build a close personal bond with the person you are discipling. How did Jesus do this? He talked with them, ate with them, travelled with them, and shared His life with them.

BE A FRIEND

Developing a close friendship with the person is a basic ingredient in effectively building into a person's life. Jesus said to His disciples, *"I have called you friends"* (John 15:15).

As a discipler, you are a helper and companion from the side, not a leader that is in front. Being a friend will help the person to open up. The atmosphere is casual rather than formal. You like being with your friend because you enjoy his companionship. Make your time together fun. Do not make your time together just a time of teaching, but a time between friends. Don't make your time too solemn. You can have fun and still really mean business with God as well. It is possible to be fun and be serious at the same time. Being serious and being solemn can be two very different things.

A friend is **loyal and stands by** the person. This means that we believe in one another. We do not easily listen and believe in the gossip of others about our friend. *"A person is innocent until he is proven guilty."* This is the basis of our judiciary system and it ought to be the basis of our friendship. Without this basic trust, it is very hard to build a relationship. "I do not believe that you are what others say that you are unless you tell me this yourself. I trust that you are a wonderful person."

Moreover, friends do not speak about one another behind their backs. They **keep confidential** the intimate things shared. Proverbs said, *"A gossip separates close friends"* (16:28).

Love is another key element in strong friendship. This is demonstrated by **acceptance and forgiveness**. That is why 1 Peter 4:8 tells us that *"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins."* Proverbs 17:9 add, *"He who covers over an offence promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter*

separates close friends." There is bound to be hurts and offences in a relationship. When there is love, we can overlook any wrong that the person has done to us. Forgiveness is in essence saying, *"Let's start all over again. There is nothing that you have done which can separate us."*

BE A PERSON WHO CARES

Every Christian needs to know that God cares for him. This is the basic security in a person's life. The Bible time and again emphasises this fact that our lives are safe in the hands of our loving Father. However, every person needs to know that there are significant people in his life who care for him also. You, being the discipler, are one of these people.

The person can count on you for loving care and support. He knows that there is someone who cares when he is on top and when he is down. When he is in need, depressed, or hurting, he can count on you to be available to be someone who will stand by his side. You may not be able to solve his problem, but you are there to care and support. Caring is to *"carry each other's burdens."* (Galatians 6:2)

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

ACCOUNTABILITY IS ESSENTIAL

Every good relationship must have **responsibility** and **accountability**. After Cain killed Abel, God came to Cain and asked him about his brother. Cain's reply was, *"Why do you ask me about my brother? Am I responsible for my brother?"* The answer for God is *"Of course you are responsible for your brother!"* If I am responsible for you, then you are accountable to me. Since I am your brother as well, then the responsible is mutual.

Being a discipler is much more than simply becoming "prayer partners." We must do more than "pray for one another." We must love someone else so much that we are willing to be responsible for this person. We are to make sure that the person actually grows in the areas that he sets for himself and this may mean giving the person pressure. **Healthy pressure is important for our growth!**

Accountability may means making sacrifices. Someone once said, *"Love is caring enough for someone else so much that you will make great sacrifices for that person."* It means to give of your life to another. Jesus said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* Paul was a person who sacrificed greatly for the people he established in the Lord. However, he said that they were his joy and glory (1 Thessalonians 2:20).

As responsible parents, my wife and I understand this truth. We have put in many sacrifices in raising our children. However, every time I look at my children, I am filled with great joy. Someone called discipling people "spiritual parenting." There are much in similar between parenting my physical children and parenting my spiritual children! **You are becoming a spiritual parent!**

SEVEN PICTURES OF A DISCIPLER

Do remember that you are growing into becoming a discipler. Give yourself time to learn! As a discipler, there are different roles you can play and it is helpful to see the overall picture. You do not need to know everything in order to be a discipler. You are growing as you help others to grow! Remember that you have a discipler whom you can turn for help as you learn. *"To go a journey of a thousand miles, you must take the first step!"*

1. BE A LISTENER

To build relationship, it is crucial that you learn the art of listening. It is important that you do not only share your own life, but also understand the other person's life.

In this modern society, people long to be understood and listened to. It is important that, as a discipler, you are not just giving a lot of advice. Be a good listener. When you listen, you will not only be a great friend, but will have a good understanding of the person. Many people's problems are partly solved after they express them to someone who would listen actively.

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak" (James 1:19). When you are discipling a person, be slow to give advice. Many times just being present with the person to listen to him is sufficient.

2. BE AN INTERCESSOR

All effective ministries begin with prayer and ends in prayer. It is honouring to God when our immediate and first response to any situation is to consult Him. It is dishonouring to God when we make Him our last choice. Make prayer for the person a key priority in your discipling.

The key in caring for a person is intercession. The word comes from two Latin words meaning, "to go between." Being a discipler involves bringing the person we are caring for before the "throne of grace." Your intercession can determine whether God's grace is brought into certain situations or whether Satan's power will continue to control that area.

This was Hudson Taylor's secret of success in his ministry in China. He once said, "It is possible to move men, through God, by prayer alone." Paul recognised Epaphras' strong intercession and commended him for it: *"He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured" (Colossians 4:12).*

When you intercede for a person, do not concentrate on the weaknesses or the needs – this will make you focus on the negatives. Be like Paul and focus on giving thanks for the person. When we give thanks, we are concentrating on the positives in the person's life: his strengths, the graces in his life and the positive circumstances he is facing. This will cause us to rejoice in and with the person.

A person's problem is not his problem, since he will never be without problems. A person's problem only becomes his problem when he focuses on it. That is why it is important to help people not to focus on their problems, but focus on God.

A ministry of discipling people begins in prayer, is sustained through prayer, and succeeds by prayer.

3. BE AN EXAMPLE

Most of what we learn in life is caught and not taught. From our childhood days to the present, the example given to us is the predominant and most effective learning process.

"You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 1:5,6)

You say, "I am not ready for this. How can I be an example for others? Look at my life. It is still in a mess." You need to remember that an example is not perfect, he is still learning from someone else. In fact, the best examples are still growing — they are examples of growth.

If you are flawless, then you are a fake. Let your weaknesses show — to hide them would be a great mistake. You are on your own life journey and you are learning from your discipler. You only need to be a few steps ahead of the person you are discipling.

4. BE A GOOD FRIEND

When you are stuck or when you have some questions about something, you would like to have someone whom you can go to and talk things through. That is what a good friend does for you. Of course, God is our good friend and he is the source of wisdom, but he has given us friends in the family of God we can go to. This is an important role of a discipler. This is your role for the person you are discipling.

Again, remember that you have a good friend in your discipler that you can go to as well. Feel free to go to him for advice. He is always there for you.

Many people have made discipling into a training programme. However, much of life is not like a programme. Things happen in life that is not in the training manual. Therefore, we all appreciate having someone alongside who can act as a sounding board for us – giving us some advice as we travel through life. When we face difficulties, we do not need a trainer, but a friend who can act as an adviser as well. That is the original context of the word "counsellor" in the Bible. It is not meant to be a profession as it is today.

5. BE A HELPER IN HIS JOURNEY AS A DISCIPLE

A disciple is a learner – that is exactly what the meaning of the word "disciple" in the Bible. Once a person begins on his journey of discipleship, this will continue until he leaves this earth. One never ceases to grow as a follower of Jesus! We never stop learning!

As a discipler, you will help the person to understand the journey that he needs to take. We have prepared a Journey Map for this and it is described in this manual. There is a 15 point profile for a disciple. These are 15 qualities that you want to see built into an individual who wants to be a disciple of Jesus.

You will not only let the person understand this journey but will intentionally build these qualities into his life. The key word here is “intentional.” Discipling a person is an intentional matter. In fact, building into any person must be intentional. If a father wants to build into his child, he must do it intentionally. It will not just happen. Chinese has a saying, “Born under the heaven and raised by the heaven.” There is no such thing. You gave birth to the child and you need to raise the child – intentionally!

In the following chapters, we will show you how to do this and you will have your discipler to help you as you build into the life of another person. Once you have learned how to build into a disciple, you will also have learned to build into your own children or build into anyone for that matter.

Remember, you can never help a person grow beyond your own life. You cannot take a person to where you have not gone yourself. So you, too, need to keep growing. However, the best way to keep growing is to help another grow.

6. BE A COACH

Coaching has to do with skills. Everyone at some point needs to develop skills in his Christian life. As a discipler, you are also a coach. The task of the coach is twofold:

- a. To impart the skills necessary for the person to successfully perform a task. How can we do it better? This is the key question. What improvements need to be made? What is a person doing right and what is he doing wrong?
- b. To encourage and motivate the person to use those skills well. We are all familiar with the pep talk that the coach would give the team during breaks in the game. The coach stirs the people up to play better or not to give up.

There are many skills you can develop in a person: being a good husband, being a good father, how to use time effectively, how to spend time with God, communicating with others, building good relationships, relating to the opposite sex, handling money wisely, listening to God, sharing the Gospel with others, etc. As you build skills into another, you will also sharpen your own skills.

A coach not only imparts skills but he also imparts confidence and provides motivation. Skills are more effective when the person has confidence in using them. Usually the major problem is not the lack of skill but rather a lack of confidence. That is why a major task of the coach is confidence building. People need to be motivated in order to excel. Focus the person on his success and not on his failure.

7. BE A CONNECTOR

One thing you do not want to do as a discipler is to build clones of yourself. There are others who are strong in areas which you are not. One task of a discipler is to be a connector – connect the person to others who can give him input. Expose the person to many others so that he can be stimulated, encouraged and learn from others.

That is why it is important for the person to be a part of a community of believers. You do not have everything and you do not need to have everything to build into the life of this believer. What a relief to know that you do not need to know everything and do not need to be everything. God has given to us a community – a family of God. Let the other brothers and sisters – uncles and aunts – build into the person as well.

Being a discipler, make it your desire to see the person you are developing accomplishing great things for God – even greater things than you.

WHAT A DISCIPLE LOOK LIKE

Before you can make a disciple, you need to know what a disciple looks like. Before you build a house, you need to know what this house will look like when you have finish building it.

Jesus said to make disciples means you *“teach them to obey all that Jesus has commanded them.”* We have to figure out what are the key things that Jesus wants us to get the person to obey – what are the key qualities of life and character that are foundational in a disciple’s life?

For me to train up my children, I need to first decide what are the qualities that I want to see in my children when they have grown up. What does God want in my children? What do I want for my children? What are the values I want them to have? Once I am clear about these, then I can begin to build into my kids. This is exactly what I have done to raise my children and the result is there to be seen – I have intentionally built into my children’s lives.

Making disciples needs to be intentional. Discipling people is built on relationship but just to make friends is not enough. You need to intentionally build into their lives. To play with my children is not enough – I have to intentionally build character into them. I have written down very clearly the qualities I want to see in my children¹ so I can build into my children.

We are suggesting 15 qualities you need to build into a person to help him to be a disciple of Jesus. When you look at these 15 qualities, you will discover that they approach the person as a whole – dealing with the major aspects of his life in totality. The disciple is to live his life in entirety for God. It has to do with his daily life more than his “church life.” The follower of Jesus expresses his faith in all that he does!

1. I am putting Jesus as the centre of my life by consciously communicating with Him, learning to listen to the Holy Spirit whom He has given to live in me, and making an effort to obey what He wants me to do in my daily life. I am trusting God with my life by making decisions according to His will for me.
2. I am building a life habit of regularly taking in the Word of God, applying His word in different aspects of my life, and establishing a personal value system according to my understanding of the Bible. I am living according to the teaching of God’s Word and using it to influence my interaction with other people.
3. I am discerning and overcoming the temptations and bondages in my life. I am walking close to Jesus by keeping short accounts with Him. I am opening my life to others so that they can pray for me, help me and keep me accountable.
4. I am learning to be a faithful person – loyal, responsible and reliable. This is especially demonstrated in my personal life, my family life and at work.

¹ Ben Wong has “Qualities I want to See in my Children” which has become a blueprint that he has used to build into his children over the years. If you want to have a look at this, you can ask him for it. Of course this is only for your reference as you need to create your own copy for your children.

5. I am learning to live sacrificially in my daily life and am experiencing that it is more blessed to give than to receive.
6. I am building good, trusting relationships and am learning to accept and love people in my daily associations.
7. I know to forgive others when they wrong me and have learned to ask for forgiveness when I wrong others.
8. I am developing a positive attitude in life based on the Word of God and am developing a joyfulness, thankfulness and persistence in life circumstances.
9. I am a faithful and active part of a community of believers, listening to my leaders and together working out God's calling for us. I am preparing myself to participate in pioneering a new community.
10. I am actively being a witness for Jesus in my daily life, with my words, attitude and actions causing others to want to know more about Him. I am proactively leading others to Him.
11. I am beginning to disciple someone, either a new believer(s) or someone open to Jesus, learning to build qualities of a disciple of Jesus into his life.
12. I am developing a heart of compassion for needy and neglected (unreached) people around me and overseas. I am taking an active role to help them and to reach them with the Gospel.
13. I have a teachable heart and am eager to grow in my life. I am eager to learn from my mentor and other people God brings into my life.
14. I am developing a clear understanding of God's purposes for my life and making steps to adjust my life to live out these purposes with the help of the Holy Spirit and my mentor.
15. I am actively playing a dedicated part in building a strong family – learning to be responsible and excel in my role in it.

These are the basic qualities that a disciple should have. It would be great if you could be evaluating your own life according to these 15 qualities. Give yourself a mark between 1 to 10 (1 for the weakest and 10 for the strongest) according to how you are in your present stage of growth in each of these qualities. This will also help you to understand these qualities more. Pick one of the lowest mark points and begin to make plans to grow in that. If you have a discipler, you can share this with your discipler and you can keep you accountable in your growth.

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLING

Discipling is a relationship! This is very important! However, being a friend is not enough in making disciples. We have to intentionally build qualities into a person's life – the 15 qualities that is in the previous chapter.

To do this, you have to spend time with the person. There is no substitute for time. This is the biggest price you pay as a discipler. Jesus selected 12 people to disciple and he lived with them for 3 years – that is intense discipling – that is intentional discipling – that is commitment! Not many people today can do this in a city environment, but we need to get the message – discipling people takes spending time with them.

To spend time together does not necessarily mean massive changes to your schedules or lifestyles. What are you already doing to which you can invite the person or do it together? You could have a meal together – have lunch with him if he works close to you. Have dinner together. Have an early morning breakfast before you both head off to work.

Be creative in your use of time. Another good principle is to use the time when you may meet the person anyway. Can you travel to a meeting together? Can you sit together during celebration? Can you have breakfast before celebration? What about having dinner together before Cell Meeting or supper after Cell Meeting? By doing two things at once, you squeeze more hours into your day.

Besides the formal times, there are also fun activities you can have together – play sports together, go shopping, go to a sporting event, camp out, have a picnic, have holidays together, etc.

Decide on the frequency together. For a new believer, meeting every week is good. A new baby needs more intensive attention. After this, you could meet once every two weeks² depends on the availability of the person. Of course, when you cannot meet face-to-face, the telephone, Smartphone, social media, email, etc., is ways that are available in a modern society, but they can never substitute the face to face meeting together.

PLAN FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER

The key thing you accomplish by spending time with the person is the transmitting of your life. Your life will affect the person. Accept this fact. Therefore, the more open you are, the more your life will be used by God to have an impact on the person.

Plan for both formal and fun times! Formal times are more structured – plan to achieve certain things in your time together. For informal times, the plans are not as structured and detailed.

² For a busy city like Hong Kong, meeting once every 2 weeks seems to be more feasible.

Before every meeting you have with the person, it is good to prepare for it. This will help you to be an effective discipler. If we do not prepare, then we will not make the best use of our time.

Planning is saying, "You are important to me. I honour you. That is why I have thought about how to use the time that we have together."

Imagine a husband having a date with his wife on their anniversary. He made an appointment to meet her after work. However, he arrived for the appointment a bit late. To make things worse, when he arrived, he said, "Honey, what would you like to do?" His wife asked, "What have you in mind?"

"Well, I have not thought much about it. I thought that you would have something in mind. What would you like to do?"

Would you blame the wife if she is not too happy? By not planning, the husband is saying, "You are not important enough for me to exert my mental muscles and to spend my precious working hours to think about you."

SIX THINGS TO PLAN FOR YOUR FORMAL TIME

Here are six things I plan when I am meeting someone formally for one on one discipling time. They could become a framework for you. I always write down my plans. Always pray when you are making your plans and let the Holy Spirit remind you of things you need to include in your planning.

- a. Build relationship with the person. Develop a better understanding of each other. Relationship is key to successful one-on-one building.
- b. Care for his needs. Listen to any problems he may have and help him. Are there some things that he does not understand or do not know how to handle? Many Christians complain of becoming tired, but the truth is that he is really lonely – does not feel being cared for. It is surprising what a little caring and standing by the person can do.
- c. Share a personal blessing from your experience or from the Word that you had recently. It may be a testimony of thanksgiving for what God had done. It could be something from the Word in your devotional time. It may even be some difficulty you are facing, but you trust will work out for your good.

You may then ask him to share one blessing he had in the last week. These mutual sharing of blessings will become memorable moments for the both of you. God is real in your lives.

- d. Be accountable to one another in the areas that both of you are growing in. This could be a weakness you are dealing with. It could be something God has convicted you on. It could also be some spiritual disciplines such as Scripture memory, devotional life, witnessing to friends, etc.

This would always include going through the assignment that you have given the person to do from the last one-on-one meeting. Work through the assignment to see if the person has any difficulty understanding it. Are there some particular truths that you want to make sure that he gets? You would want to make sure that he is applying to his life what he is learning from the Bible.

- e. Decide together what quality in the Journey Map that he would need to work on for next time that you will meet. Give him any assignment that you may have for him.
- f. Pray for one another. Always end up with ministering to him through prayer. Make sure you pray during both formal and informal times. You can pray in the restaurant or in the park. Set the atmosphere that you can pray anywhere.

If you are stuck at any point of your planning, remember that you have a discipler that you can go to. Get him to help you!

ALWAYS KEEP A RECORD

It is important to record the significant things you need to remember after each meeting with the person. Do this as soon as possible after your meeting. These records could be both your prayer guide for this person and your record for future planning. It is good to write everything in a notebook that is specifically for the person. A small size notebook that you can put in your brief case or your purse is best. Then you can carry it with you when you go to meet him. It is all right for him to see your notebook. It shows that you care. Of course, today, more people want to keep record electronically. For me this is the easiest and most convenient.

It is extremely important for you to remember what the person you are building into shares with you. It is embarrassing to have to ask him how many brothers and sisters he has and other details after he has already told you a few times. He will begin to think that you don't really care. Don't trust your memory.

You always think you can remember until you have forgotten. There is a simple solution. **Write it down!** It only takes a few moments to jot down the results of each session.

Before you plan for the next meeting, read what you have written down in your records. Sometimes behavioural patterns will emerge. Other times, things you need to follow-up can come to mind. If the person has some needs or was facing some important issues, it is good to ask the person how he was going in those areas. Your notes will help you to remember them.

In time, you will find the more detail you keep record and notes, the easier it is to remember and to disciple others well. The more people you disciple, the easier it is to forget details and get people mixed up with others. So it is important to make good record of each meeting.

As in anything that we do, we gain confidence and competence through experience. As you disciple others, you will develop in your ministry skills and your ability to help others. God is looking for availability rather than ability. Remember that you will more mature as you build into another person's life.

TOOLS FOR BUILDING INTO A PERSON

Making disciples is not a series of books that we use or getting the person to go through a course that is being taught on how to be a disciple. Making disciples is not a program or some materials that we get the person to read. Making disciples is making sure that the person is obeying what Jesus wants for his life. It is building certain life qualities into a person. We have identified 15 qualities that we want to build into a disciple – it is all about life; it is all about example; it is about relationships.

However, to build qualities into a person, there are many tools that we can use to do this. These tools can help the person to discover God's truth directly through the Bible; to help the person to understand better the principles of God; to learn from the examples of others; to be stimulated by a good teacher of the Word of God; to learn in a way that is suitable for the person; and so on. Tools can be a great help so that a discipler do not need to rely solely on his ability and knowledge but can make use of other people's expertise.

CHOOSING A TOOL TO USE

Tools are like going into a supermarket to get food that others have prepared to help me feed others. When we go into a supermarket, we find the goods organised in an orderly fashion on the shelves. Similar types of merchandise are placed on the same sections while different shelves divide the goods into more detailed classification.

For instance, we can go to the canned food department of the supermarket and we find different kinds of cans there. All the canned fish are placed on the same shelf. On that shelf, we have large and small cans of tuna fish in oil, tuna fish in brine, sardine in tomato sauce, different kinds of mackerels, various salmons, fish fried in chilli, and so on. On another shelf, we have all the curries: beef curry, chicken curry, lamb curry, and prawn curry, etc. – all in different sizes. The next shelf holds the processed meats, e.g. corned beef, different types of hams, sausages, luncheon meat, etc. Still on another rack we have the breakfast cans like baked beans, baked beans with bacon, spaghetti in tomato sauce, spaghetti with meat balls, etc.

If you want to buy an item, say fish, from a supermarket, you need to first find the right section. Then looking through the section, you find the right shelf with the different types of fish. As you look at the many kinds of fish, you choose the type which best fit the dish you want to cook.

Using tools to build into a person is very similar. Each shelf represents one of the qualities that you want to build into the person. For us, we have 15 qualities that we want to build into a disciple. At a later date, we will build other qualities into the person. Besides discipleship qualities, we may want to build in qualities of leadership – that is another section of the supermarket. At this stage, we will concentrate of the 15 qualities of a disciple.

First you decide what quality you want to work on now – which shelf to go to³. Once you have decided, you go to that shelf and then look at all the different tools that are

³ In the next chapter we will share how to determine what qualities to build in first.

available on that shelf. There is no point giving a person something that he does not like to eat. Select the cans according to the dietary habit of the person. Although there are times when you need to help the person to change his eating habit, most of the time, you want to fit in with his past habit.

The dietary habit is the way he learns. People are different and they have different learning habits. Some like to read books. Others read, but gets scared off by a thick book – they prefer an article or a booklet, reading a bit at a time. Still others are poor readers – they would rather listen to a message. Then there are those who learn most from associating with other people.

Therefore discipling people are focussed on building qualities into a person's life – we have identified 15 qualities – but the way to do this is very flexible. It is not restricted to a set of books or materials. We are flexible in determining what the quality to build at the present time is and then we are flexible what tool to use to help us in building.

Each person is different and what you did in one person may not be what you will do for the other person. To be flexible means to be honouring to how the Holy Spirit will guide you and to truly respect the individuality of each person.

It is also very important to assume that a person may not have really learned a truth by being exposed to it once. Building a truth into a person is like a spiral. As you keep going round covering the same ground but going deeper every time, the truth sinks further. Therefore, it is important to have variety of tools you can use to build the same quality into a person.

VARIETY OF TOOLS

While you can collect you own tools for each of the 15 qualities of a disciple, we have developed some tools for you and you can get access to them through 3 different means:

1. Smartphone
2. Website
3. Hardcopies produced⁴

You will discover that new tools will continuously be added. Besides these tools, you can collect your own favourite tools. In fact, you can allow good tools that you have made or collected be added to the main library of tools by letting us know and contributing them to us⁵ so that everyone can use these tools when they access them.

What are these tools? What can be some example of tools?

⁴ You can find out details of these through your leader or by going to www.touch.org.hk to find out how to access them.

⁵ Please notify us at addnewtools@touch.org.hk and contribute your tools to us so that we can add them to our library.

1. Simple Bible studies – get the person you are discipling into the word of God in order for him to discover for himself the truths of God. Let God speak to the person Himself.
2. Scripture Memory verses – it is good to hide God’s word in our hearts – so it is good to suggest verses that the person can memorise and be changed by it.
3. Devotional passages – passages of the Bible the person can use for devotion.
4. Books or articles – teaching on certain truths that are important to understand the quality you want to build into the person. The material can also be some story of experiences that others have in practicing these truths – stories are powerful.
5. Recorded messages on certain qualities can be wonderful tools as many people prefer to listen rather than read these days.
6. Video recordings – more than just listen, there is the body language as well.
7. Movies or video productions can be very useful tools.
8. Testimonies of people who have experienced or lived out the quality that you want to build into the person. A picture paints a thousand words. Testimonies can be recorded or they can be given by the person himself – this can be done by exposing the disciple to this person.

You will find a variety of some of these tools already prepared for you to use. Get familiar with them and use them to help you to develop qualities in your disciples.

Have fun making disciples!

USING THE JOURNEY GUIDE

The Journey Guide is one of the most useful tools you can have to start your own journey of making disciples. It is designed to pave the way for you to talk about the person's life journey.

The content of the Journey Guide is designed to give you an indication of the person's past journey and to overview with the person the coming venture of the next stage of growth. In addition, some important concepts are also introduced here. Let's have a look at how the Journey Guide is designed. This will give you more insight of how to use it.

FIVE PARTS OF THE JOURNEY GUIDE

There are 5 parts in the Journey Guide and it is important that the person go through the whole Journey Guide because each part is important.

1. *Welcome page* – this introduces the Journey Guide and sets the tone for the coming journey.
2. *Understanding the present and the past* – this section helps the person to look back on his past and to know himself better. It will also give you some perception into the background of the person and helps us understand why he is where he is today. There is a section here that tells you how he learns and the things he like to do – this will be helpful to you when you are discipling this person.
3. *Understanding struggles in his life* – this part looks at some of the issues that may cause the person to face different problems in his life. Understanding these issues will help you to know the person, to accept him in his struggles and to deal with them. These issues will help you to see breakthroughs when you disciple the person.
4. *Introducing new concepts* – we are introducing three concepts here that may be new to the person, but are very important to him for this stage of his journey. This is like a teaching section and prepares the person to move forward. These concepts also help you so you can follow up on them.
5. *Journey Map* – this part sets out the road ahead for the person. What are the qualities that the person needs to develop in his life in order to be a disciple of Jesus? How is the person in these areas right now as he is asked to evaluate himself according to each of the qualities? This section will let the person see the whole picture of the journey ahead and will help you to determine the qualities you want to intentionally develop in the person first.

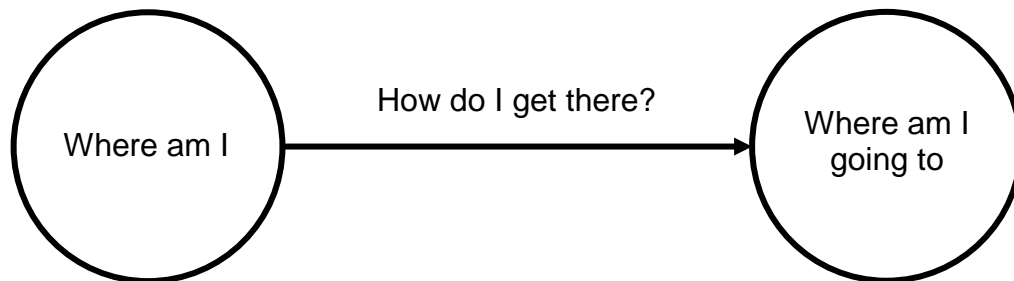
As you can see, the Journey Guide can be a great help for you and for the person you are discipling to begin on the journey of being mentored to be a disciple of Jesus.

Important to remember!!!

One of the 15 qualities that you want to build into your disciple is that he will, as soon as he can, begin to disciple another person. It is important to emphasise this from the beginning and to constantly set this vision before the person!!!

PICTURE OF THE WHOLE DISCIPLE MAKING PROCESS

When we go on a journey, we need to know three things – without these 3 things, you cannot successfully go to where you want to go.



The disciple making process is the same.

First we need to determine where we are going to – what is the final destination in my journey with this disciple of Jesus. This is the Journey Map – the 15 qualities that we want to build into an individual – this is where we want to take this person.

Secondly we want to know where we are at the moment. If I am looking up a map and I have found the location I want to go to but I still cannot find the way unless I also locate where I am. So where is the person at the moment? What is his life like now? What are some of the struggles that he is dealing with? This is why we designed the Journey Guide – to help you to find out where the person is at the moment.

Thirdly and the last in our concern is how do we get to the location we want to go to. There are often many ways to get to the place – we can go by road, we can fly, we can go by car, we can go by train, we can go by helicopter, we can walk, etc. It is the same with discipling people – the methods can be various and we can pick and choose. This is where the tools that we talked about in the last chapter come in. For every quality that we want to develop, there are a variety of tools that we can use. With the help of modern technology, we can now access these tools from where we are through the Smartphone or computer.

FINAL CONCLUSION

Now that you can see the whole picture of the disciple making process, happy journeying! Of course in any journey, more people start the journey than those who finish. **Be a finisher!**

Do not easily give up on people. Jesus took 3 years to build into his disciples and he was frustrated with them at times because they did not learn the lessons. However, at the end we have awesome disciples. **Persist to the end!**

You will win!