EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS and PHILEMON





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WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE?

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE has discipleship in its DNA

Last words are important and Matthew records the last words of Jesus as this: **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. Matthew 28:19**

Jesus told His followers that they needed to go and make disciples of every nation. The call is no different today than it was 2,000 years ago. Somewhere along the way we have forgotten or even ignored Jesus' call to make disciples. Discipleship should not be just a program one can join, but it should be deeply rooted in the believer and Church's culture and fabric.

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE does not rely on "One on One" discipleship

Greg Ogden in his book *Discipleship Essentials* says this, "The one-on-one sets up a teacher-student dynamic. The pressure is upon the discipler to be the answer person or the fountain of all wisdom and insight. When a third person is added, the dynamic shifts to a group process. The discipler can more naturally make his or her contribution in the dynamic of group interchange. Triad discipling shifts the model from hierarchical to relational. The greatest factor inhibiting those who are being discipled to disciple others (multiplication) is the dependency fostered by one-on-one relationships. The triad/quad, on the other hand, views discipleship as a come-alongside relationship of mutual journey toward maturity in Christ. The hierarchical dimension is minimized."

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE helps provide accelerated growth

The goal of every believer should be to become mature and help others become mature. *He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. Colossians 1:28*

We believe that if each person really puts their best into Discipleship Culture that they will see exponential spiritual growth in their life and in the lives of others.

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE provides accountability

Accountability is taking the relational context of discipleship to another level. Accountability means giving your discipling partners authority to call you to keep the commitments you have made to one another. Accountability is rooted in realness and confessing sins to one another as well as keeping confidences within the D.C.

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE Multiplies

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Il Timothy 2:2

Paul wrote this to Timothy and it actually represents four generations of disciples.

Paul ----- Timothy ----- Reliable People ----- Others

The proof of lasting discipleship is not really if I have discipled one other person. The proof of lasting discipleship is if the person I discipled has discipled another person well enough to disciple another. Has your mind been blown yet? Discipleship Culture provides a systematic way to multiply the Kingdom of God. The goal being that each person in the group would go out and disciple two to three others within a year. We believe groups of three or four work best.

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

Bible Study and Prayer

Five days a week we are asking every person to spend a significant amount of time studying their Bibles and to faithfully SOAP. SOAP is an acronym that will help you get the most out of your daily Bible reading. Here is how it works.

S.O.A.P

S (scripture) • Read the Scripture assigned for that day.

Write down a verse or a passage that is the most meaningful to you.

O (observation) • Write down observations you made about the scripture you read.

A (application) • Write down how you can apply the scripture you read to your everyday life.

P (prayer) • Pray to God about the scripture you focused on and anything else you want to lift up to Him.

It is really that simple.

Scripture Memory

We believe that Scripture Memory is a spiritual discipline that is essential for accelerated growth and daily living for Christ.

Pastor Chuck Swindoll wrote, "I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture... No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified" (Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life, p. 61).

You will be responsible for memorizing scripture every week. We memorize scripture because Psalm 119 tells us that we are to hide God's Word in our heart. The key to memorizing scripture is to review it every day and to meditate on its meaning.

Review

At the end of the week make sure you have reviewed your lessons and be prepared to share what you have learned with your group. Write it down. Also make sure your scripture memory is word perfect before you attend your group.

WEEKLY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

Details on the next page.

MONTHLY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

Once a month all who are involved in D.C. will be getting together for a one hour meeting. This meeting will set out to accomplish three things.

- <u>1. Celebrate the Wins</u> We want to take some time every month to celebrate the victories of having a Discipleship Culture. We want to give thanks to God for forward momentum of all life change in our culture. This will also help us understand better how to make D.C. more successful.
- <u>2. Identify the Obstacles</u> We look at this first session of Discipleship Culture as a pilot program. We want to know what isn't working and what tweaks need to be made along the way to help people become more like Jesus. Disciplers and Disciples alike are invited to suggest minor adjustments that may create greater impact.
- <u>3. Gain Instruction</u> Every month we will be spending part our time sharing vision and teaching more on the culture of Discipleship.

WEEKLY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

If you agree to be part of Discipleship Culture you are expected to be at all 12 weeks of meetings. The meetings will last one hour and will include accountability, reciting the Scripture memory verse, discussion of daily Bible study, and prayer.

Here is what the Weekly Discipleship Culture looks like:

- <u>1. Check In</u> [10 minutes] Start each meeting by checking in. This is the time when we are reminded to bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2) and sharpen one another through accountability (Proverbs 27:17).
 - A. **JOY**, **ANGER**, **FEAR**, or **SADNESS**: Sometimes it is hard for us to open up, but this exercise is very effective. These four feelings seem to be the base emotions we all feel. Share with your group the core emotion you are feeling right now and why.
 - B1. Accountability Option 1: Answer four basic questions
 - 1) How are you living a life of integrity?
 - 2) How are you protecting your spouse (current or possible future) with purity?
 - 3) How are you pursuing God with passion?
 - 4) How are you investing in the work of God? (time, talent, 10% of your treasure/tithe)
 - B2. Accountability Option 2: This is an extensive list that John Wesley created over 200 years ago but is still practical today. Use it to highlight areas of your life as you check in but be sensitive of time. Don't go over every question.
 - 1) Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
 - 2) Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
 - 3) Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
 - 4) Can I be trusted?
 - 5) Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
 - 6) Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
 - 7) Did the Bible live in me today?
 - 8) Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?
 - 9) Am I enjoying prayer?
 - 10) When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
 - 11) Do I pray about the money I spend?
 - 12) Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
 - 13) Do I disobey God in anything?
 - 14) Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
 - 15) Am I defeated in any part of my life?
 - 16) Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
 - 17) How do I spend my spare time?
 - 18) *Am I proud?*
 - 19) Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
 - 20) Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
 - 21) Do I grumble or complain constantly?
 - 22) Is Christ real to me?

2. Share Your SOAP – [15-20 minutes]

- A. Recite memorized verse.
- B. Share observations and applications (as well as questions you may have) from the week's reading.
- <u>3. Pray</u> [15-20 minutes] Pray together. We recommend using this prayer structure: praise God, confess your sinfulness, and offer willing service to Him. Pray through what you just talked about with each other. Pray for each other, allowing the Holy Spirit to convict you and guide you. Remember, you are all just talking with your Father together! It is a holy and fun conversation!

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WEEK ONE

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 1:13

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...

Classic Scripture Memory: Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

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WEEK TWO

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 2:4-5

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Classic Scripture Memory: 1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

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WEEK THREE

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 2:19

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household...

Classic Scripture Memory: John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

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WEEK FOUR

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 3:17-18

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ...

Classic Scripture Memory: Colossians 1:27-28

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

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WEEK FIVE

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 5:8-10

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth and find out what pleases the Lord.

Classic Scripture Memory: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

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WEEK SIX

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Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Classic Scripture Memory: Matthew 28:19-20

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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

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WEEK SEVEN

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 6:12-13

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Classic Scripture Memory: Psalm 46:10

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth."

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WEEK EIGHT

Scripture Memory: Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Classic Scripture Memory: Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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WEEK NINE

Scripture Memory: Philippians 2:14-15

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky...

Classic Scripture Memory: II Chronicles 7:14

He says, For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

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P (prayer) • Pray to God about the verse or passage you focused on and anything else you want to lift up to Him.

WEEK NINE

Scripture Memory: Philippians 2:14-15

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky...

Classic Scripture Memory: II Chronicles 7:14

He says, For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

S • Read Philippians 2:25-30	WEEK 10 • DAY 1 • DATE	_
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S • Read Philippians 3:1-6	WEEK 10 • DAY 2 • DATE	_
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S • Read Philippians 3:7-11	WEEK 10 • DAY 3 • DATE	_
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P (*prayer*) • Pray to God about the verse or passage you focused on and anything else you want to lift up to Him.

WEEK TEN

Scripture Memory: Philippians 3:7-8

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

Classic Scripture Memory: Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

S • Read Philippians 3:12-16	WEEK 10 • DAY 4 • DATE
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PRAY	
S • Read Philippians 3:17-21	WEEK 10 • DAY 5 • DATE
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PRAY	
Summarize what you w	ould like to share with your group

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• Read Philippians 4: 1-3	WEEK 11 • DAY 1 • DATE	
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• Read Philippians 4:4-9	WEEK 11 • DAY 2 • DATE	
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• Read Philippians 4:10-13	WEEK 11 • DAY 3 • DATE	
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WEEK ELEVEN

Scripture Memory: Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Classic Scripture Memory: John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

S • Read Philippians 4:14-17	WEEK 11 • DAY 4 • DATE
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S • Read Philippians 4:18-23	WEEK 11 • DAY 5 • DATE
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PRAY	
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S .	Read Philemon 1-7	WEEK 12 • DAY 1 • DATE
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S .,	Read Philemon 8-12	WEEK 12 • DAY 2 • DATE
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A .		
PR	RAY	
S .,	Read Philemon 13-16	WEEK 12 • DAY 3 • DATE
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PR	RAY	

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WEEK TWELVE

Scripture Memory: Philemon 8-9

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love.

Classic Scripture Memory: Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

WEEK 12 • DAY 4 • DATE
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