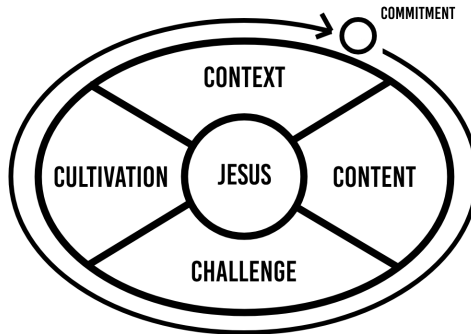


Elements of A Disciple-Making Relationship



The mission of God is dependent on disciples of Christ entrusting what they have heard to those who can teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2). As a result, we are committed to seeing disciples shaped, and leaders developed.

The engine for disciple-making and leader development is relationship and proximity. This is building a relationship with someone by being around them to teach what you know and showing how those principles are lived out. Here are the elements of a discipleship-mentorship relationship to help grow others in Jesus Christ:

1. Jesus - as a believer, the center of all that you do is the person and work of Jesus. Anything can be discipleship if Jesus is at the center. Putting Jesus at the center is always asking the question: what does it mean to be obedient to Jesus in this situation? It is also deciding to be for others what God has been for us.
2. Context - when you make the decision to participate in a discipleship relationship, you must consider the context of the other person. How has God wired them? What is their background? What do they enjoy? What are their obstacles? It is also sharing with your mentee the context of your own life. The best way to understand one another's context is by spending time with one another.
3. Content - this is the skill or subject you're seeking to help someone grow in. The content may be something you encouraged them to learn, or something they've come to you with. In many discipleship-making relationships, the content is the consistent study of the word of God. But it just as well may be a spiritual or secular book to aid in the growth of the mentee. Whatever the case, get specific in the purpose for the discipleship relationship.



4. Challenge - the key component that separates a discipleship relationship from a general friendship is that the mentor identifies specific areas of challenge to help their mentee grow. ***Mentors must remember that challenges are not commands.*** Mentees may not accept the challenge you provide, and that is okay. Spiritual mentors are not the Holy Spirit for a person, which means that a mentee's 'no' should be respected.
5. Cultivation - discipleship relationships are meant to multiply. We teach others so they can teach others also. This means that your discipleship relationship has an end date. From the beginning, you want to be a model for your mentee to follow so that they may one day mentor others. You might say things like "One day, when you mentor someone else in this, you'll be able to share how God moved", or "The person you disciple will be so blessed to be in relationship with you!" This casts the vision that the discipleship relationship will multiply. You want to express from the very beginning that one day, your mentee will one day become the mentor to someone else.
6. Commitment - we commit to others the way Christ has committed to us. The people that we mentor will fail us. They will make mistakes. Create the kind of environment that lets them know that they can fail around you and you will build them up. Commitment is the foundation of accountability. Because your mentee knows that you will be there for them in the midst of any circumstance, you will have gained the ability to hold them to who they are in Christ. It's also important to discuss the frequency of meetings and the lifespan of the relationship. For example, you could meet with someone every other week, for one hour (frequency) for 3 months. At the end of 3 months, you may decide to continue the relationship or end it.

Use the "worksheet" below to clarify some of these ideas between you and your mentee.



DISCIPLE-MAKING CLARITY GUIDE

When entering into a discipleship relationship, one phrase to remember is “clarity is kindness.” In an effort to set proper expectations of one another, use this guide to gain clarity between both parties.

1. List the specific area of growth you'll be working towards:

It's a good idea to think through a specific goal. Someone might write "I'd like to be able to communicate effectively with my roommate", or "I'd like to establish a consistent rhythm of prayer and bible study"

2. List the specific rhythm of meeting together:

A good rhythm has a time, duration, place, frequency, and span of commitment. For example, Jon and Chris will meet at 4:30 PM for 1 hour at Starbucks every other week for 6 months.

3. List the start and end dates of the discipleship relationship:

Start Date

End Date
