

Updated April 2014

Leadership Group 1

3rd Edition

Discipleship Materials
Developed by
Campus Ventures

Leadership 1

Table of Contents

Introduction Materials	
Basic Training Letter from Staff	9
D-Group Attitudes	13
Common D-Group Issues	17
Should I Get in or Should I Stay Out For Now?	21
7 Heart Attitudes of CV	23
CV Mission Statement	24
The Ladder of Leadership at CV	26
Group Covenant	30
Phone List for Discipleship Group	32
Materials Checklist	34
Unit 1: Becoming A Servant	37
Yardwork, Laundry & Other Acts of	
Called to Serve	
Article: <i>Servant Heart</i> by Ray Hoo	
Unit 2: Mentoring	63
Article: <i>Mentoring to Maturity</i> by Austin	
Unit 3: Creating a Bible Study	77
Leadership - Developing Character	
Article: <i>Thoughts on Starting a Bible Study</i>	
Unit 4: How to Lead a Small Group	93
Leadership - Developing Convictions	
Article: <i>Ideas for things to do when leading a Small Group Bible Study</i>	
Unit 5: Cost of Discipleship	109
Article: <i>Many Aspire, Few Attain</i>	
Unit 5B: Andrew Dinner	139
Unit 6: Graduation Party	147
Leadership 1 Graduation Materials	151
Graduation Report	
Graduation Test	
Prayer Requests	169
Appendix	181

Basic Training Letter from Staff

Dear Discipleship Group Candidate:

The purpose of this letter is to:

- describe what a Discipleship Group is;
- explain why certain commitments are essential to the purpose of Discipleship Groups; and
- help you decide whether or not a Discipleship Group is for you at this time.

What is a Discipleship Group? Or “is this for me”?

Short Answer: People grow as disciples in many ways and under many different circumstances. One way that has been helpful to some people is by combining a discipleship learning curriculum with a group setting. Ideally the group members are eager for spiritual growth and enjoy each other’s company. The group relationships should contribute to your spiritual growth as much as the learning materials.

Long Answer: A D-group consists of individuals who **freely** and **willingly** (from internal motivations) desire to:

- do homework related to developing as a disciple,
- be under the leadership of a mature Christian, and
- make certain commitments to each other.

The weekly assignments have been carefully selected and are organized with one purpose in mind: to help you grow in the heart attitudes and other characteristics of a disciple.

Those characteristics are taken from the New Testament. For example, Jesus said, “...if you abide in my word then you are truly my disciple...,” so one of the things that the assignments will help you to do is to learn how and why to “abide” in the word of God.

Membership in a Discipleship Group includes:

- developing relationships within the church
- participating in the fellowship and teaching of CV
- a willing involvement in the work, service and worship of CV
- loyalty to the overall direction and philosophy of CV

Other commitments you will make as a Basic Training group member focus on developing relationships within the body of believers and being part of the fellowship and teaching of CV. Members are also encouraged, but not obligated, to involve themselves in the work and worship of CV.

Is Discipleship Training for me?

As you try to decide whether or not to join a group and enter a group covenant, ask yourself the following question about each commitment.

“Is this something I really want to do?”

If you “feel like” doing every discipleship group assignment then there may be something wrong with you! But don’t just ask:

“Do I ~~feel~~ like doing this?”

Instead, ask yourself:

“Do I really desire (am I internally motivated) to do these things and just need some support and encouragement and, well, a deadline wouldn’t hurt?”

If you can read each commitment in the group covenant and say, “yes, I wish/I want to do that” then a D-group might be for you. One purpose of Discipleship Groups is to provide the support, encouragement and, yes, deadlines to help people do what they really want to do, instead of what they feel like doing.

If you are not sure, maybe five weeks of Basic Training will help you figure out whether or not a Discipleship Group is for you. You are welcome to use Basic Training as a testing ground. All we ask is that you take the covenants seriously and do your best to fulfill them during the five weeks of Basic Training. And have fun with your group!

CV Staff

D-group Attitudes

Qualities that will be Stretched in the Discipleship Groups:

- I. Flexibility
- II. Following Leadership
- III. Serving Others
- IV. Comparison with Others

1. FLEXIBILITY

How to know when you are in trouble:	How to know when you are back on track:	Verse action to help get back on track:
1. "I thought these meetings were supposed to be X minutes long. Why do we keep running over? I think I'll just leave at 9pm."	<i>"I'm eager for the extra time together and for the opportunity to learn. I know God is in control and is going to work through leadership."</i>	Psalm 119:36-37 Proverbs 22:1
2. "I wish they'd make up their mind once and for all---then do it."	<i>"God is working out His best plan for us."</i>	Proverbs 16:9
3. "This makes the 5th time they've changed meeting date/places."	<i>"God is working out His best plan for us."</i>	Proverbs 16:9
4. "This is the second time we've needed materials and they haven't been ready."	<i>"I wonder how I can help?" "I'll bet we can find some way to serve with this extra time."</i>	Isaiah 55:7-8 Jeremiah 29:11

II. FOLLOWING LEADERSHIP

How to know when you are in trouble:	How to know when you are back on track:	Verse action to help get back on track:
1. "Any turkey knows that decision is stupid." or "I'll go along but I'll make it hard."	<i>"I don't understand fully and this isn't the time to ask questions, so I'll go along 100% because that pleases God." ("I'll check my questions later but without a questioning spirit.")</i>	Philippians 2:13-14 Hebrews 13:17 Make it a joy?
2. "I missed a group meeting."	<i>Your lifeless body is found in the street, pointing toward the meeting.</i>	Group Covenant Hebrews 13:17 Make it a joy?
3. "I came to a meeting unprepared."	<i>"I know my schedule is busy next week so I'll get ahead on my homework now.."</i>	Group Covenant Hebrews 13:17 Make it a joy?
4. "I don't like the idea of checking boxes, taking tests or having my homework done by a certain time. I have enough pressure at school!"	<i>This is the wrong group for you. The groups are intended to help people but they are not helpful for everyone at this time. If this is how you are feeling, a D-group will not be helpful to you at this time.</i>	
5. "Nobody asked me about this decision."	<i>"God did not see fit to put me in charge of the decision making. I knew that when I joined the group and agreed to follow the leader, therefore, I will follow gladly, because God knows what He is doing."</i>	Numbers 12:2 Hebrews 13:17 Make it a joy?
6. "I've given up my rights for the 35th time--now it's their turn."	<i>"I want to look out for the best interests of others, because that's what God does."</i>	Philippians 2:3 Ephesians 5:1-2 Hebrews 13:17 Make it a joy?

How to know when you are in trouble:

7. "We always do what our leaders want to do." or "Who does he think he is?"

8. "Well, I just won't say anything." or "Nobody thinks my ideas are any good/they never ask me."

How to know when you are back on track:

"I need to honor my leaders in this situation, because they are keeping watch over my life and are responsible before God for what happens."

"I will share the insights I have and will let leadership make the decision. My insights may or may not be foolish, but God wants this group/project to succeed and I want to help, even if I appear foolish."

Verse action to help get back on track:

Hebrews 13:17
Make it a joy?

John 15:13
Hebrews 13:17
Make it a joy?

III. SERVING OTHERS

1. "Why are they asking me to do this? I'm working harder than most group members."

2. "I thought we were gonna have some fun on this project/in this group."

3. "I've worked hard and nobody gave me credit."

4. "I'm going to work really hard and show these guys how serious I am--then they'll appreciate me."

"I'm going to work as hard as I can because God is not measuring me against the group but by Christ's example."

"It's been a rough day, but Jesus served when He was tired."

"I really shouldn't receive credit anyway, I only did what God commanded."

"I really shouldn't receive credit anyway, I only did what God commanded."

John 13

Mark 10:45

Luke 17:10

Luke 17:10

IV. COMPARISON

How to know when you are in trouble:

1. "I know that she's only saying that so everyone will think she's really spiritual."

2. "That person consistently has bad attitudes! He really needs to get his act together!"

3. "All these people have it together and I bet I'll never walk with God like they do. What's wrong with me that I just can't make it?"

4. "Why do I never have the exciting opportunities everyone else gets? Grunt work is me."

How to know when you are back on track:

"Those words and actions honor God, and I want to give my life for God, help me learn from her so I can honor you too."

"God, thank you for the chance to love and encourage this person. Help me see him like you see ME, making allowances for each other's faults."

"It really humbles me to see people walking after God more than me and humility is a quality God wants me to have. In God's eyes I am complete and I'm pressing on to do what I know to do. That's what counts. God, what is one more thing I can do to obey you today?"

"God made us not to function as individual Christians, but to work together as one body. I can rejoice when others have success, because God's purpose in the world is being accomplished."

Verse action to help get back on track:

1 Corinthians 4:4-5

Romans 15:1
Ephesians 4:1-3

2 Corinthians 10:12-13

1 Corinthians 12:25-26
Romans 12:15
1 Samuel 30:24

Common D-group Issues

Issue, Question or Problem

How to Resolve It

1. Should the group meet every week?

Generally, yes. You will not need to meet every week to finish your homework assignments but, except for holidays, your group should meet even when your leader elects not to assign homework for that week.

There is a 15-20% “cushion” built in to every semester of D-group training. In other words, the group will have about 15 weeks to complete a 11-12 unit semester.

On weeks when there is no assigned homework, the group can have a night out, work project, team evangelism project, prayer meeting or whatever else your group can dream up, but the group should plan to meet every week except for holidays.

These “non-homework” weeks will also give group members a chance to sharpen up their verses and “get ahead” on their homework if they know that the coming weeks will be unusually busy for them.

2. A group member is not prepared for the meeting (has not finished all assigned homework).

The “cushion” is built-in so that groups can skip some weeks of homework when they know their schedules will be exceptionally busy and for emergency/unanticipated “crunch times.” Each member of the group, however, will need to anticipate busy weeks and work with the group leader and other members to figure out the best way to use the cushion weeks and to prepare homework early.

The group will greatly benefit when all group members are prepared to discuss all portions of the homework. Likewise, the group will suffer when some members are not prepared. If an emergency occurs that prevents you from finishing your home-

Issue, Question or Problem

How to Resolve It

work, please let your leader know as soon as possible. Since you have at least a week to complete, on average, two hours or less of homework, it will take a doozy emergency to prevent you from completing your homework unless you have left your work until the last minute. The best solution to this problem is to do your work regularly and early.

As soon as you become aware that you will not be able to finish your assignments before the meeting, call your group leader. You should not attend a group meeting unprepared without first warning your leader as far in advance as possible.

If most of your assignments are done, your leader may ask you to adjourn to a separate room to finish your homework and then rejoin the group.

There is always plenty of leeway for extraordinary circumstances. But if you have simply failed to manage your time or lacked diligence, you will need to (1) work out a make-up plan with your leader (2) repent (change directions) and (3) seek forgiveness from the entire group.

3. A group member misses a meeting.

Occasionally emergencies may prevent people from attending group meetings. Nothing can prevent this and it is not a problem. Your leader will work with you to make-up meetings or to schedule cushion weeks to help you through the crisis.

Martian Death Flu is a good reason to miss a meeting. Monday Night Football or being tired, cranky or busy is not.

Please call your leader and work out a make-up plan BEFORE the meeting starts.

Issue, Question or Problem

4. A group member skips meetings or fails to prepare without calling his/her leader in advance (and there are no emergency circumstances) or otherwise generally blows-off the homework, meeting or group.

5. A group member develops a backlog of unfinished assignments.

How to Resolve It

Sometimes people honestly just forget! Just repent, seek forgiveness, create a make-up plan and move on in good will.

If you miss multiple meetings or fail to prepare and fail to call in advance and to make-up the work or meetings quickly, then either you have failed to understand the purpose and covenant of the group or your schedule does not allow you to benefit from a discipleship group at this time. In this case, your leader should have a conversation with you that goes something like this:

(Delivered humbly and with good will and with commitment to having an ongoing, open and healthy relationship.) **“It appears that we have had some sort of misunderstanding about the purpose and covenant of this group or that your schedule simply does not allow you to participate in a discipleship group at this time. Please forgive me for failing to clearly communicate the requirements of this group. I really think it is best for you to resign from the group and maybe participate later when it would be more helpful for you.”**

The leaders should not allow this to happen. Each member should complete all homework before the group moves on to the next week.

All group members should do everything possible to assist and serve the other group members so that everyone can stay current. There are always allowances for special circumstances but, generally, if a group member falls behind by several weeks the leader should encourage the member to resign and rejoin a group next semester or when it makes sense for the member.

Issue, Question or Problem

6. A group member resists or usurps leadership or exhibits attitudes that are openly contrary to the Heart Attitudes, the Group Covenant or the D-group Attitudes.

How to Resolve It

See the discussion in **bold print** under number **4** above.

Should I get in or should I stay out for now?

Examples of questions to consider

Homework “Push”

How likely is it that my leader will have to push me to get my homework done on time? Do I have an over-committed schedule that requires me to focus hard or exclusively on excellence in other time consuming areas? Am I simply too committed to my sofa, remote control and adult beverage to be disciplined about this work? Is it a joy for my leader to have to push me?

Attitude “Push”

How likely is it that I will resist making changes in attitudes that my leader identifies as inconsistent with the heart attitudes or the D-Group Attitudes? Do I “bow up” against accountability and correction? Am I (or do I desire to be) grateful for such intervention or do I resent it?

Leadership “Push”

How likely is it that I will engage in argumentative debate with a leader over decisions or direction for the group. I know that it is always OK to ask questions but not with a “questioning spirit.” Will I be “easily persuaded” by my leader or am I more likely to be “convinced against my will, of the same opinion still?”

Leadership Blessing

How likely is it that I will cultivate and practice an attitude of blessing, service and gratitude toward my leader? How likely is it that I can focus willingly and gladly on how to “make it a joy” for my leader?

Examples of Questions to Consider

Other Relationships

Do I feel like I will be “breaking off” other important relationships in another group if I leave it to join a discipleship group? If so, does my schedule allow me to participate in both groups?

Problems

Am I dealing with depression or other difficulties that require most of my “emotional energy?”

Priorities

Do I have major events occurring now or soon that will prevent me from focusing on the D-group and devoting adequate energy to it at this time?

7 Heart Attitudes of CV

I realize that often I will need to:

1. Put the goals and interests of others above my own.
"Each of you should look not only to your own interests but to the interests of others." Philipians 2:4
2. Live an honest, open life before others.
"Do not lie to one another, since you are members of one another..." Ephesians 4:25
3. Give and receive Scriptural correction.
"Warn (admonish, urge and encourage) one another every day...that none of you may be hardened (into settled rebellion) by the deceitfulness of sin..." Hebrews 3:13(Amplified)
4. Clear up relationships.
"...if you...remember that your brother has something against you...go and be reconciled to your brother..." Mathew 5:23,24
5. Participate in the ministry of CV and of my church.
"Serve one another with your particular gifts God has given each of you..." 1Peter 4:10 (Phillips)
6. Support the work financially.
"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.." 2 Corinthians 9:7
7. Follow spiritual leadership within Scriptural limits and make it a joy for them.
"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority...so that their work will be a joy, not a burden." Hebrews 13:17

I am willing to work together with CV and the church toward these, not only outwardly, but also in the attitude of my heart.

The CV Mission

Our Mission: To glorify God by knowing and loving Him and leading others to be devoted disciplemakers for Jesus Christ.

Matthew 22:37-40

2 Timothy 2:2

Isaiah 26:8

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 1:8

WE ACCOMPLISH THIS BY PROVIDING

- Leaders that set the pace in living as devoted disciples of Jesus Christ;
- A form of ministry that is culturally relevant and Biblically driven;
- Worship that expresses our love to God and provides an environment for both believers and seekers to learn about God;
- A place for students to love, encourage, support and help one another to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ;
- Training opportunities which help students develop as fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ;
- Leaders for the development of new student ministries that will develop fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ;
- An atmosphere that encourages students to penetrate their culture with truth.

**TO THIS END, SEVERAL VALUES ARE HELD IN
HIGH REGARD AMONG US:**

The CV Relational Values Heart Attitudes:

- ◆ Put the goals and interests of others above our own
Philippians 2:3-4; John 13:34-35
- ◆ Live an honest, open life before others
Ephesians 4:25; 1 John 1:7
- ◆ Give and receive Scriptural correction
Hebrews 3:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ◆ Clear up relationships
Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15
- ◆ Participate in the Ministry
1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:6
- ◆ Support the work financially
Mark 23:23; Galatians 6:6
- ◆ Follow spiritual leadership within Scriptural limits
Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5-7

The CV Personal Values

Knowing God
Development of Godly Character
Making Jesus Known to Others
Raising Up Disciples & Disciple-makers
The Value of the Individual
Interdependence
Effectiveness
God's Word as our Authority
Accountability
Spiritual Disciplines

The Ladder of Leadership at CV

1. Participant
2. Servant
3. Disciple
4. Pacesetter
5. Disciple-maker
6. Maker of Disciple-makers

1. Participant: *Hebrews 10:24-25*

- Committed to participation at large group or small group Bible studies or ministry teams
- Attends weekly meeting and/or a small group or team
- Desires and works toward knowing and loving God
- Becomes aware of Heart Attitudes and attempts to follow them

2. Servant: *Matthew 20:26-28*

- Intentionally chooses the Heart Attitudes
- Servant by choice: chooses to help in the ministry
- Serves in small group Bible study or ministry team by:
 - Doing things when needed
 - Giving direction to others who are serving
- Knows the meaning of and actually employs the skills of a servant
- Desires and works toward knowing and loving God

**3. Disciple: Developing the Intentionality of a Leader
*1 Corinthians 11:1; Luke 6:40***

- Practices the Heart Attitudes by preference
- Servant by preference (prefers to serve)
- Follows CV profile of a disciple (see appendix)
- Desires and works toward knowing and loving God
- Employs skills of:
 - a learner
 - a follower

4. Pacesetter: Earning the Authority of a Leader

1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 5:3

- Practices the Heart Attitudes out of conviction
- Servant by conviction—serves joyfully even when inconvenient; can be called on at last minute if needed
- Follows profile of a CV Disciple (see appendix)
- Intentional, Motivated Pacesetter By Choice:
 - Sets the example in: (1 Corinthians 10:31-33, 11:1)
 - Heart Attitudes
 - Speech, Conduct, Love, Faith, Purity (1 Timothy 4:12)
 - Courageous, Joyful, Sacrifice (for the Gospel's sake)
 - Philippians 2:29-30(not reluctantly or under compulsion)
 - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Philippians 2:14-15, also 1 Peter 5:2
- Serves under CV Leader
- Rounds up and rallies (internally motivates) others to serve and to follow Christ in the CV Ministry

5. Disciple-Maker: Earning the Credentials of a Leader

Luke 16:12; Philippians 2:19-22

- Pattern of life in (it is the path of his life, character)
 - Heart Attitude
 - Servant (Philippians 2:20-21)
 - Follows profile of a CV Disciple (see appendix)
- Pacesetter By Preference
 - Titus 2:7-8; 1 Timothy 3:8-13
- Leads a segment of the ministry faithfully by:
 - Fulfilling his assigned duties and other duties as requested
 - Having a love for Christ and for one another
 - Showing loyalty among his followers to the overall organization and to the leaders over him
 - Having a vision and zeal for the ministry of Christ through CV in his ministry building

6. Maker of Disciple-Makers: Leading Leaders

2 Timothy 2:2

- Pattern of life
 - Heart Attitude
 - Servant (Philippians 2:20-21)
 - Follows profile of a CV Disciple (see appendix)
 - Pacesetter (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
 - Faithful Stewardship
- Effective in teaching (1 Timothy 3:2)
 - Has a heart to preserve Apostolic teaching intact but without being divisive (Titus 1:9)
 - Motivates others to action and application by teaching sound doctrine (Titus 1:9)
 - Effectively refutes those who contradict sound teaching (Titus 1:9)
- Effective in raising up other Overseers (2 Tim 2:2)

Group Covenant

I, _____, dedicate myself to the leader and members of my group to practice the following commitments and confirm that it is the free and willing desire of my heart to practice these commitments:

1. Acknowledge and submit to Christ as Lord of my daily life.
Reason: *Romans 14:9* - Jesus Christ is Lord of everyone.
2. Practice the Biblical Heart Attitudes.
Reason: *Ephesians 5:25b, 29* - As Jesus loved the church and gave Himself for it, so we also love the body of believers as we follow Jesus' example in interacting with that body.
3. Make a serious effort to attend all group meetings on time. If I must miss a meeting, I will do a make-up meeting with another member of the group.
Reason: The group needs you! The group will benefit by doing things together. Punctuality shows high esteem for others' time.
4. Complete all assignments and participate in group discussions.
Reason: *Colossians 3:23 and Mark 7:37* - Wholeheartedness and excellence are marks of a disciple.
5. Attend Fall and Spring retreats
Reason: Relationships and "family" are developed on retreats. Retreats create unique opportunities for God to work in your life.
6. Attend graduation party.
Reason: Same as three.

7. Keep what is shared in the group in confidence.
Reason: Deepens relationships and builds trust.

8. Make a serious effort to get to know and to pray for other group members (outside of group time.)
Reason: Same as seven.

.....

By signing this group covenant I affirm that:

- I have read the Introduction letter.
- I am requesting a more intense training opportunity than people usually associate with church training.

Therefore I am freely and willingly inviting immediate intervention by my leader if I am:

- not fulfilling the covenant
- missing the point
- otherwise out of bounds

Signature of all group members:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Phone List

Leader's Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Address: _____
Cell Phone: _____
e-mail: _____
Birthday: _____

Member's Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Address: _____
Cell Phone: _____
e-mail: _____
Birthday: _____

Member's Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Address: _____
Cell Phone: _____
e-mail: _____
Birthday: _____

Member's Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Address: _____
Cell Phone: _____
e-mail: _____
Birthday: _____

Member's Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Address: _____
Cell Phone: _____
e-mail: _____
Birthday: _____

Member's Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Address: _____
Cell Phone: _____
e-mail: _____
Birthday: _____

Member's Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Address: _____
Cell Phone: _____
e-mail: _____
Birthday: _____

Member's Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Address: _____
Cell Phone: _____
e-mail: _____
Birthday: _____

**Discipleship Group
Meeting Information:**

Day: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Wrap-up and Graduation Meeting:

Materials Checklist

Audios

Available at www.campusventures.org on the Resources tab.

Additional audios at www.discipleshiplibrary.com.

Bible Study Materials

These materials are optional but will be helpful to you in your study of God's Word while participating in D-Groups as well as in your own personal study time.

A study Bible that is a recent translation and that has cross references

Other translations and paraphrases of the Bible

An exhaustive concordance

An English dictionary

A Bible Dictionary

A Bible Encyclopedia

A Bible Atlas

Bible Commentaries

Online resources such as www.biblegateway.com

Students going through this Discipleship group are not expected to own personal copies of all of these materials. However, it is a good idea to begin to think about how to acquire many of these Bible study materials for future use. Also, students should make a good concordance such as The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible a priority to purchase sometime during your college years if at all possible or find online resources.

Unit 1: Becoming A Servant

Unit 1

Becoming A Servant

Because a disciple...

- Is committed to loving “one another” *John 13:34-35*
- Serves others in love because he is free in Christ
Galatians 5:13
- Follows Jesus’ example of laying down his life
Matthew 20:26-28

Your Assignments are:

- Audio and Study Guide “Yardwork, Laundry and Other Acts of Greatness” by Bob Brandon
- Article: “Called to Serve” by Ray Hoo
- Bible Study: “Servant Heart”
- Share the Bridge Illustration with at least 3 people
- Plan and execute a group servant evangelism project
- Memorize: HA #1 with verse: Philippians 2:3-4
- Memorize: Matthew 20:26-28 w/ topic: Servant Heart
- Pray for one another to grow in faith as they serve one another
- Record your “KEY THOUGHT” at the back of this chapter or on your “Graduation Report”
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV and take notes
- Bonus: Meditate on Key Value: “Value of the Individual” (see Appendix) and answer one question as an application
- Bonus: Share your testimony with 2-3 people

Yard work, Laundry, and Other Acts of Greatness...

Bob Brandon · July 16, 2000

1. The Motivation for Serving

Matthew 25:31-46

God takes it _____.

As you serve _____, you are serving God.

2. Serving is an opportunity for _____

Mark 10:41-45

3. Serving is the _____ that makes a difference.

Philippians 2:3-7

• It is a _____ activity, done in space and time.

• It is a _____ choice...

"Who is it going to be Lord?"

• It is done in the context of _____.

Serve with the resources you have.

Called To Serve

Ray Hoo

Reprinted by Permission

King Solomon was dead. His son Rehoboam was about to ascend the throne of Israel, so the people met for the coronation ceremony at Shechem. While some came to celebrate the occasion, many more came to find out what kind of king Rehoboam was going to be. They wanted to make sure that he would not oppress them as his father, Solomon, had.

Among the crowds was a young man named Jeroboam, who was looked to as the leader of a large faction of ten of the tribes. He had just returned from exile and wanted to find out what the new king would do. When Rehoboam appeared before the people, they called out, "If you don't treat us any better than did your father, you'll never be our king!" And they demanded that he lighten their tax burdens and lift their work loads.

Rehoboam replied, "Give me three days, and I will think about it." While the festival continued, he went and counseled with the elders of Israel, and asked what they thought he should say to the people.

The older men of the kingdom answered, "If you will be a servant to this people today, will serve them, grant them their petition, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever" (1 Kings 12:7).

But Rehoboam did not follow the advice of his elders, and listened instead to the counsel of his younger friends - his cronies—who told him that he should raise the taxes and demand more service of the people. He did just that, and it cost him most of his kingdom.

Human nature has not changed much in the past nearly 3,000 years. Many people today are more interested in being served than in serving. And that is just as true of those in the kingdom of God. Yet a servant attitude is one of the most important characteristics of godly men and women - those who are the followers of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul was a gifted evangelist and teacher, but he made it clear that a servant attitude was the key to his ministry. He said, “We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake” (II Corinthians 4:5). The role through which Paul best communicated the Gospel was a servant’s, and he was mightily used of God in it. In writing to the Corinthian Church, he revealed the secret of his success in evangelism, “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave [servant] to everyone, to win as many as possible” (I Corinthians 9:19).

Other men and women of God have likewise chosen to be servants—servants of God and of other men. God repeatedly referred to Moses, the great leader of Israel, as “My servant.” Samuel, the outstanding prophet, priest and judge, and David, king and sweet singer of Israel, both acknowledged that they were merely the servants of God. Mary, the mother of Jesus, answered the angelic messenger, “I am the Lord’s servant.... May it be to me as you have said” (Luke 1:38); and two leaders of the apostolic age, Peter and James, proclaimed that their identities were in their functions, not in their positions.

Most important, in all of His life-teachings and examples, Jesus emphasized that servanthood was to be a characteristic and vital virtue of His disciples. When His followers began arguing with one another over which of them was the most important, Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them are given the title Benefactor. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves” (Luke 22:25, 26).

As He did so often, Jesus turned the world’s standards upside down when they applied to His disciples. He called them then - and He calls us today - to live a life-style that goes against the grain of the world’s thinking and pattern. But it is not merely change for its own sake, for being a servant of Jesus Christ is absolutely necessary to the cause of world evangelization.

Serving Jesus Christ and our fellowmen is vital to our Christian growth and maturity. To save us from the easy, downward spiral of self-centeredness and loneliness, and to lead us out of the vicious circle of discouragement and depression, it is necessary to serve God and others. Being a servant of Jesus Christ is fundamental to our becoming like Him. We are called to serve.

As we consider three basic questions about becoming servants for Jesus’ sake, we must keep in mind that being a servant does not mean doing a few good things for people. It means adopting for our life-styles and identities that which Jesus chose for His. He was called to serve, and He did. We are called to serve, and we should.

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF A SERVANT?

The Apostle Paul exhorted the Philippian Church on the overriding principle of servanthood - that which reveals clearly what a servant is to be. He wrote, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3, 4)

The first characteristic of a servant is that he prizes the interests of others above his own. He must have a genuine concern for others. This concern must be real in that he does not serve for what he can get out of it, nor for some ulterior motive, but simply to meet needs in which God wants to use him. It is serving as an authentic expression of Christlike love.

It is sincere in that the servant esteems the other person as worthy to be served. He is viewed not as an interruption or burden in the servant’s life, but the immediate situation is seen as an opportunity: “It is a privilege to serve you!”

It is genuine in that the servant is actively seeking to help others in their concerns in the midst of his own responsibilities; it is helping someone else become successful in “their thing.” It is doing what really meets the need of that person; not just doing or that person what the servant wants or likes to do. Servants are called to take a real interest in what other people are trying to do.

Dawson Trotman, the founder of The Navigators, exemplified this principle well. In the late 1940s he was the president of a growing organization, when Billy Graham asked him to direct an effective follow-up program for his Los Angeles crusade, his first major evangelistic effort. Dawson sought God's direction, and wholeheartedly got involved in that and subsequent crusades, taking six months of precious time each year and some of his best personnel away from the Navigator work.

The second characteristic of a servant is that he yields his rights. Paul continued his exhortation to the church at Philippi: "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant" (Philippians 2:5-7).

When a person decides to prize another's interests above his own, he finds that it involves forfeiting many of the rights that the world accords to most people. After a person volunteers to become a servant of Christ, his next step is to forfeit his rights voluntarily and follow His example.

At sports banquets at the end of a school year there is usually much talk about the "unsung heroes" on each team. These are the people who have not received the recognition due them during the year. Perhaps their contributions were overshadowed by the "stars," or they functioned as support players rather than playing on the first-string. So they are recognized at these banquets, for people generally have a need to be acknowledged. But servants of Christ are willing to forfeit even this right of recognition when the occasion to serve warrants it.

Much of what God wants to do in this world involves unsung effort. Each of us will be called on, fairly often perhaps, to do something for which we will get no credit. But if we are servants, we will forfeit our rights to be recognized in order to get the job done for the kingdom of God.

In my home in the culture in which I grew up no one smoked. Consequently I have never grown accustomed to the smell of tobacco. As a result I have been uncomfortable in planes, restaurants and other places when smokers are nearby.

But people who smoke are persons, and if I want to reach them for Christ, I have to yield my right to be comfortable and breathe clean air. To serve others, then, we must often be willing to suffer discomfort while others may be comfortable in their situations.

When I was in England for a week-long seminar, I was challenged by the example of a missions administrator. During our sessions we had an evening off, so some of us Americans expressed a desire to go into London to see a play. We needed a ride to get to the train station, and cars were scarce. But Don volunteered to drive us in his Triumph, even though it meant two trips each way for him. Like everyone else, Don had the evening off, but instead of doing what he had planned, he forfeited his plans to haul us around. That's true servanthood.

Paul wrote of his friend Timothy, "I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 2:20, 21). What about all those people who followed Paul around? Where were they? They seemingly were too busy. They were not doing anything immoral, illegal or unscriptural; they were just doing their own thing. They were not as concerned for the interests of others as was servant Timothy.

Many of us, in our zeal to serve God, are guilty of the same thing. We tell God when, where, whom and how we are going to serve. "Lord," we say, "I'm going to serve You. Tell You what I'll do, I'll play the piano at church, sing in the choir and help out in the Sunday School."

But is that what God really wants you to do? It may be, for there is nothing wrong with playing the piano at church. But is this what God wants for you? Jesus said, "Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be" (John 12:26).

While I was working as an administrative assistant I learned something about serving God without having my own "thing." In the sense in which I use the term here, a "thing" is a hobby, a job, an effort or an interest that I may be involved in. It is something I want to accomplish, and I give myself wholeheartedly to it.

In my job I worked with a number of people who had assigned responsibilities; mine was to make sure everyone else's was progressing well. I took care of details and last-minute touches. Whenever we would meet, I wouldn't have anything to report or talk about. Everyone else would discuss how their thing was progressing, but I had nothing to say and it galled me.

Then, one night while I was on a plane to Chicago for one of those discouraging meetings, I read, "You are My servant, Israel, in whom I will show My glory" (Isaiah 49:3). I thought, God surely means to do as much for me as for any of his children. I could just as easily read, "You are My servant, Ray." As I got off the plane and joined the meeting, I realized that my thing was to be used by God in whatever quiet way He wanted and—that was enough.

Another right we must forfeit is in the area of Christian liberty. Now this is a touchy subject because so much of it occurs in the personal or individual realm. But Paul exhorts us to an attitude that lies close to the heart of true servanthood. "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge your sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13).

As Christians we are free to do many things that are not sinful because we are not under the constraints of having to perform the law. We are under grace. But if we are going to be servants, sometimes we have to give up our liberty to do something perfectly lawful in order not to offend or be a positive testimony to another person. We forfeit our liberty for the sake of the other.

A third characteristic of being a servant is that he is willing to pay the cost of servanthood. A servant not only forfeits his rights, but he also goes beyond that to sacrifice whatever he owns if need be. Here is where doing a few good things for people and being a true servant is most noticeable. Doing good deeds for people is relatively easy; it happens all the time in the business world. IBM, for example, has cornered most of the world's computer market by consistently providing the best customer service in the industry.

A servant, however, does his good deeds as a natural part of his life-style because he is serving God. Therefore he can be called on to serve when it will not prove rewarding to him. And this is quite often the case with God's work—much of what God wants done in our lives will take place in circumstances where there will have to be sacrifice and not compensating reward.

It seems that in the 20th century world we have lost the use of the word sacrifice. Today most people serve when it is convenient, and then only out of the excess of their efforts. Not many rush in to serve when it will cost them something. Being a servant of God, however, means that you are owned by Another, and therefore at His total disposal. In serving Christ the choice is left up to us whether we want to serve or not; we can determine how much we want to serve by how available we make ourselves to Him, by how much of ourselves we are willing to put at His disposal.

When I graduated from Iowa State University in 1960, I was not expecting anyone to show up for that occasion. My family lived in Jamaica, and I had no relatives in the States with whom to share that event. So I was certainly surprised when LeRoy Eims and a carload of friends from Lincoln, Nebraska showed up to be with me on my graduation day. He didn't do anything in particular, but just wanted to be there with me. We had dinner and talked for a couple of hours, but the friendship and encouragement he communicated to me made that day unforgettable. Doing that for me cost LeRoy time with his family and a long round-trip drive to Ames, but he was willing to be a servant and sacrifice his time.

I know a young man in Canada who was called on to give up a different kind of time—sleep. He had made several friends in his college's dormitory, and one night at 3:00 A.M. one of these friends called. "Tom, my girlfriend's father died and I need to take her to Toronto. Could you give us a ride?" Tom got out of bed and took them to Toronto. It may seem like a small thing, but actually it was true obedience to the biblical exhortation, "If

anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" (1 John 3:17)

Involved in the sacrifice of servanthood is the cost of inconvenience. My wife and I love our children, but we hate baby-sitting. It is not what we would choose to do or hire out to do. But one afternoon our neighbors called, "Could you watch our children from Monday until Wednesday? We have to be out of town."

Right away my wife answered, "Sure!"

We made it through those three days- how, I'll never know. The first day was fun. Then there were the second and third days. But a friendship grew out of the door that experience opened, and we were able to share Christ with our neighbors. A servant, true to his nature, will do things you couldn't pay him to do.

WHY SHOULD ANYONE LIVE LIKE THIS?

Being a servant is not the most popular vocation in the world. Some enter it because they have to—they cannot do anything else. Others enter it as a profession and excel in it - the English manservant, for example. But most people, no matter in what culture they may live, do not really want to serve others. The Christian, however, is called to serve.

Three reasons are given in the Scriptures. First, we are called to serve because we were created so that we could choose to live our lives for God's glory. "Bring My sons from afar," God said, "and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory" (Isaiah 43:6,7). If God created us for His glory, then He has a prior claim on our lives. No matter what others may try to tell you what you should do in life, glorifying God is really what matters for the Christian.

I began to learn this during a weekend at Glen Eyrie, the conference ground of The Navigators. We had 400 people there for a one-day conference in the dead of winter. After each meeting we would have to take up all the chairs and then reset them

for the next event on the program. We worked until past 11:00 P.M. Friday night just preparing for all those people.

Early the next morning at 5:30 my friend woke me up with, "It's 20 degrees below zero, and you need to light the fire in the meeting room." So I went and worked at the fireplace getting the fire going. Then I worked on the traffic crew for three hours, and it wasn't getting any warmer. Then more chairs had to be moved. Finally the conference was over, but we had to clean the whole place before the next morning, for a wedding was to be held there.

We didn't have carpets in those days, just hardwood floors that had to be swept, mopped, waxed and buffed. I was washing the floor at 11:30 P.M. when in my tiredness I knocked over the whole bucket of soapy water. It was well past midnight before I was done mopping up, and I knew I had to start again early in the morning.

But during a rest period that day I had read this: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). With God speaking to me from His Word in that way, the whole issue was settled. I realized that if I was not my own, then it was not my right to say what I wanted to do or not do. But it was the prerogative of the One who owned me to assign my work to me.

Many of us have all sorts of plans and schemes about what we want to do for God, and how we can go about glorifying Him. Quite often these best-laid plans go away and we get upset. Why? Because we don't realize that God is more concerned with how we are going to glorify Him in our lives than He is with what we can accomplish.

The second reason we are called to serve is that Jesus Christ chose for Himself the role of a servant, and He calls us to be like Him. We were made in His image originally, but sin marred that likeness. In salvation God is bringing us back to His original plan by making us to become like Christ, and that includes being like Him in servanthood.

Christians like to think of themselves as becoming more like Jesus. After all, who has led a more noble life? We like to sing, "O, to be like Him, Blessed Redeemer." We admire His purity, single-mindedness and compassion. We like to think about His gentleness and all those other respectable qualities of the Master. But His own testimony about Himself did not include those characteristics. Rather, Jesus stated that He came to serve.

"For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as One who serves" (Luke 22:27). We cannot leave out that part of the character of Christ. If we are not becoming more and more as servants to God and man, we are not becoming more like Jesus.

Our last and most conclusive reason for becoming servants is that eternity is real, it is imminent and it is forever. "The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare" (2 Peter 3:10). We must think in terms of eternity. C.S. Lewis once stated, "All that is not eternal is eternally obsolete."

Your college diploma, that new car, the stereo, your reputation and all your stylish clothes are really not worth a hoot eternally unless they contribute to the salvation of men and women. All of these things, or whatever their counterparts were in Paul's day, the apostle placed at the disposal of the Gospel. And he placed himself and his desires and actions under the same constraints.

"Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave [servant] to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), . . . I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the Gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:19, 20, 22, 23).

During the 19th century some missionaries in Dutch Guiana (now called Surinam) were burdened to reach the native people of a nearby island with the Gospel. Most of those

people were slaves on the large plantations that covered the island. The landowners feared the Gospel and its results, and would not allow the missionaries to preach to the natives or even talk with the slaves. They would only allow slaves to talk with slaves. So the missionaries sold themselves into slavery in order to minister the Gospel to those people. And as slaves, working in extremely hard conditions in a tropical climate, they reached many with the Good News.

It is very difficult to serve the selfish, the unkind, the self-centered. Yet Jesus said that His Father is kind to the selfish, the ungrateful, and the proud. Why? Because eternity is very real. If our serving and our kindnesses to these kinds of people will bridge the gap that keeps them from receiving Christ, then it will be worth every heartache and emotional drain that it takes out of us.

Howard Hendricks has said, "When a person does not have an eternal perspective, he's more concerned with what people do for him than what he does for Christ." This is very close to what many of us experience when we try to serve people who are distasteful. We get too concerned with ourselves - our feelings and our rights - and lose sight of the fact that God is concerned with them.

HOW CAN I CULTIVATE THIS LIFE-STYLE?

The basic problem that we have in being what we ought to be is that we are sinners. We are essentially self-centered, selfish creatures. We are all caught up with the world's preoccupation with who's the greatest, and how to climb the ladder of success. We hear a bit of gossip and we immediately think, How will that affect me?

A simple solution to the above problems is self-surrender and submission to Jesus Christ. We must submit to God to be His servants despite the enormous pressures on us. Here is where the genuineness of servanthood will show up. All of us are called to respond, and many do; but relatively few actually submit. Submission is an act of the will, which must be repeated every time an opportunity to serve appears. As submission

becomes a pervasive characteristic and attitude of our lives, our serving will grow in the same way.

Second, we must approach life, people, circumstances and situations with the attitude of “I am going to serve someone here!” It is amazing how that kind of attitude releases us from our fears. Many of us are all up-tight inside; we’re not sure we’ll be successful; we’re not sure we’ll be accepted; we have a feeling we might be offending someone; we’re afraid of this, that and another petty thing. But when a person’s mind is preoccupied with serving another person, it releases him from many of his anxieties. So take the initiative and serve somebody.

In the Gospels we do not see Jesus looking around for all the sick, all the hungry, all the emotionally disturbed people. He did have the power to heal them all. But we see Him simply meeting the needs of all those who crossed His path. He ministered to the needs of all those whom the Father brought in His way.

Taking the initiative does not mean you need to overwhelm yourself with all the needs of the world, but it does mean going ahead and serving by meeting the needs of those around you.

When you become frustrated with your inability to serve, it is often because you are trying to do too much. You just may be trying to heal the whole crowd instead of concentrating on that one person. So lower your sights, not in order to do less, but to focus on what you can effectively do for those close by.

Just before Jesus ate His last Passover meal with His disciples, He brought out water and washed His disciples’ feet. The Lord of the universe stooped down to clean the grimy feet of 12 men! Then He said to them, “Do you understand what I have done for you? . . . You call Me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you” (John 13:12-15).

Jesus placed a great deal of importance on meeting people’s needs. And He calls each of us to do the same. If we are really serious about becoming like Him and carrying the Gospel

to the unbelieving world, then we should follow His example. The Apostle Paul did just that. He stated, “We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake” (11 Corinthians 4:5). You and I have the privilege of volunteering to be servants of people for Jesus’ sake.

SERVANT HEART

HELP WANTED

Servant—Someone to do work often considered undesirable for the sake of others. Needs strong sense of self-worth in God's eyes and true compassion for others. Must be personally acquainted with the greatest Servant of all in order to continue His training. Work requires being on call 24 hours a day to meet needs of family, friends, and even strangers. Must be willing to give up rights. No experience necessary. Job begins today, right where you are.

An example is the single most important characteristic of leadership. Two Greek words help us to understand its importance:

Tupos means 'example, pattern, manner, model.' This word is found in John 13:15, Acts 7:44, and Titus 2:7.

Mimetes means 'to follow or imitate.' This word is found in 2 Thessalonians 3:7,9; Hebrews 13:7; and 3 John 11. *In no other way is example more important than in being a servant.*

Read Matthew 20:25-28

What is characteristic of the rulers and great men of this world? (v. 25)

What did Jesus say a person must do to be great? (vv. 26-27)

What did Jesus come to do? (v. 28)

A.

B

In the New Testament, two words describe a servant:

Diakonos means 'to hasten after the needs of another.' This describes the *function of a servant*. Look at John 2:9, Acts 6:1, and Romans 16:1 as examples of *diakonos*. The words deacon and deaconess come from this word.

Doulos means 'one who gives his/her "self" up to the will of another.' This describes the *relationship of a servant to another*. Look at Matthew 20:27 and Galatians 5:13 as examples of *doulos*.

After reading each scripture, write your thoughts about Jesus' style of servanthood. How did Jesus serve?

Mark 10:45 and Luke 22:27

Luke 12:37

John 13:1-17

Philippians 2:5-8

Which of these verses/passages is most meaningful to you at this time? Why?

"A servant is a person who sees a need and gets excited about meeting that need." Is this statement reflected in your own life? If not, what can you do? Where does the excitement/passion of serving come from ultimately?

What are some characteristics of a good servant?

*

*

*

*

*

According to these verses, what are some additional characteristics of a good servant?

John 7:18

Philippians 2:3-4

1 Thessalonians 2:8

What are we actually doing when we are serving others, according to Galatians 5:13-14?

2 Corinthians 4:5. What two things were at the heart of Paul's message?

1.

2.

To whom should you be a servant?

Are you considered as being one with a servant attitude by:
Your parents?

Your roommate(s)?

Your sibling(s)?

Your employer?

Your spiritual leader?

Your disciple?

In the space provided above, write down some tangible things that you can do to be a servant to those listed. Think of Luke 2:52 regarding some areas you might be able to serve them in [mentally, physically, spiritually, socially].

What is the reward for having a servant heart? Luke 6:38

CV Audio Notes

“KEY THOUGHT”

Unit 2: Mentoring

Unit 2

Basic Assurances

Because a disciple...

- Is committed to loving "one another" *John 13:34-35*
- Is committed to spiritually investing in others for the sake of God's glory *1 John 3:16*
- Faithfully passes on what God has shown him/her *Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2*

Your Assignments are:

- Audio: "Pacesetter" Walt Henrichsen
- Article: "Mentoring To Maturity" by Lynn Austin
- Bible Study: Read through the Devotional Method of Bible study by Rick Warren and practice that method on Psalm 1
- Memorize: HA #3 with verse: Hebrews 3:13
- Memorize: Philippians 4:9 with topic: Mentoring
- Pray about putting on an Andrew Dinner during L-1 (optional)
- Pray for the spiritual leaders of CV and your church.
- Record your "KEY THOUGHT" at the back of this chapter or on the "Graduation Report" for this unit.
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record "key thought"

- Bonus: see Discipleship Journal website for more articles on mentoring <http://www.navpress.com/Magazines/DJ/ArchiveSearch.asp>

- Bonus: Meditate on Key Value: "Accountability" (see Appendix) and answer one question as an application

Mentoring To Maturity

How to nudge new believers out of the nest

Lynn Austin

Issue 84 Nov/Dec 1994

"I don't know what to do," my neighbor Gail sobbed over the phone. "Will you please pray for me?"

I grabbed my Bible and hurried next door. A fairly new Christian, Gail relied heavily on me to give advice, answer questions, and to pray for her. After a year and a half, I had supported Gail through several crises, explained many Scriptures, and prayed countless prayers for her.

"God is so good to give me a neighbor who is a mature Christian," she often said.

I enjoyed feeling needed by Gail and returned home each time satisfied that God had used me. But it bothered me that after so much time Gail hadn't grown any stronger as a Christian. This verse in Hebrews seemed to describe her: "Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!" (Hebrews 5:12). Something was wrong but I didn't know what.

As an elementary school teacher, I was studying mentoring programs in which experienced teachers team up with beginners to help ease the transition into teaching. The goal of mentoring is to lead the beginner through a process of growth from dependence to independence. But in order to reach that goal, the mentoring relationship must gradually change as the mentor progresses through a series of five roles: teacher, coach, collaborator, sponsor, and counselor.

That's what's wrong, I thought. Gail has never grown in her Christian walk because my role with her has never changed. I enjoy being needed and I've kept her dependent on me, stunting her spiritual growth. Gail, who grew up in a church which relied heavily on the clergy for prayer and teaching, was content with our relationship. But I knew that God desired for Gail to "leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity" (Hebrews 6:1).

That same year God sent Donna into my life. Our sons had met in kindergarten and quickly became best friends. Donna's family didn't attend church, but when her husband faced surgery for possible throat cancer she began to seek God.

We became good friends and she started coming to church with me. When she accepted Christ, I wanted to help her grow in faith and attain a vital, living relationship with God. I decided to apply the principles I'd learned and become Donna's mentor.

A Teacher

The mentor's first role is that of a teacher: giving instructions, explanations, and guidance. At this stage, the mentor models a process and the beginner observes and asks questions. I'll never forget the first question Donna asked me: "What do you think of reincarnation?"

I answered that one and many, many more as we spent time together almost daily, talking on the phone, drinking coffee while our sons played, going shopping. I told her how to know you're born again, showed her where to find passages in the Bible, advised her about decisions she had to make, and prayed aloud for her. But most important, the way I lived, the Christian lifestyle I modeled, taught Donna as much as my words did. The knowledge that my life was being observed kept me on my knees.

A Coach

The second role a mentor fulfills is that of a coach. She still plays the leading role, but it's time for the disciple to get into the game. The responsibility for growth begins to shift. At this stage the mentor says, "Now you do it and I'll observe." I knew it was time for my role to change when Donna joined the women's Bible study I led. As we proceeded through the lessons, I became her coach, standing back to watch and cheer as Donna acted. She soon grew confident in her ability to read the Scriptures and began contributing more and more to the discussions.

We still spent a lot of time talking together. But now instead of answering all her questions, I showed Donna where to look in the Bible and encouraged her to read it herself.

Instead of advising her what to do, I explained God's principles and helped her decide. I no longer did all the praying; we began to pray together.

A Collaborator

Gradually, the mentor's role shifts to that of a collaborator. Now the responsibility for growth is shared equally. Questions and problems are resolved together in a give-and-take relationship, with the mentor's experience serving as a safeguard against the beginner's mistakes.

I watched Donna's faith grow quickly as God worked in her life. Her husband's tumor turned out to be benign. When her entire family began to worship regularly at our church, my mentoring role changed again. More and more, I encouraged Donna to go directly to God for answers to her questions or for guidance and direction in her life. I served as a collaborator, someone to discuss things with, and as her safety net, affirming her decisions. After four years, the mentoring process had helped Donna become nearly self-sufficient.

A Sponsor

In teaching, the mentor's role changes to sponsor when she introduces the beginner to the broader professional community, giving her the opportunity to network with others and exposing her to additional resources such as organizations and seminars. The mentor also serves as an advocate, recommending the disciple for positions of responsibility.

Donna's enthusiastic, take-charge personality merged well with her deep spiritual hunger. Soon she began reaching out to others—befriending an unmarried co-worker who was pregnant, counseling her brother with his troubled marriage. In my new role as sponsor, I led Donna to the resources she needed to deepen her spiritual walk and to help others. I recommended books and seminars, and introduced her to outstanding

Christian role models and resources in our church and community. The responsibility for her spiritual growth was almost entirely hers; I merely provided a “nudge” from time to time.

A Counselor

The mentor’s final role is that of a counselor. The apprenticeship is nearly complete. The disciple now assumes full responsibility for continued growth but the mentor remains available to serve as a counselor and friend.

As time passed, Donna became very active in our church. When she learned that our annual women’s retreat might be canceled due to lack of leadership, she volunteered to serve as chairperson.

“We have to have a retreat!” she exclaimed. “There’s someone at work I want to invite!”

As a member of the committee, I was one of Donna’s advisors but she provided the leadership. Her deep concern for her unsaved friend, coupled with her fresh insights as a growing Christian, equipped her to plan a retreat that blessed everyone who attended.

A few months after the women’s retreat, my husband accepted a job offer in another state. My family and I would have to move. When the time came to find someone to lead the Bible study I had started, I recommended Donna.

I felt satisfied that I had done more for Donna than provide crisis intervention and a shoulder to lean on. In my role as mentor I had helped prepare her “for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature” (Ephesians 4:12-13). We’d reached the final goal of discipleship: Donna was no longer dependent on me, her mentor, but on the Lord.

A Mature Christian

During this time Gail also grew in her relationship with the Lord, once I began to mentor her. She required more urging than Donna as we progressed from one stage to the next but,

like a mother bird, I gently pushed Gail out of her comfortable nest. I taught her to keep a prayer journal, recording her growth and God’s answers to prayers, and I encouraged her to teach a Sunday school class. Her gentle, trusting nature made her one of the best-loved teachers. Gradually, she became more dependent on God and less dependent on me.

Gail and I stood on my front lawn the day the real estate agent put a “for sale” sign on our house. “I’m going to pray that the Lord will send me another neighbor who’s a mature Christian,” Gail said.

“I don’t think God will do that,” I smiled.

“Why not?”

“Because I have a feeling He’s going to send someone who will need a mature Christian neighbor like you!”

How to study the Bible using the Devotional Method

1. Pray to God asking for insight and guidance through this Bible study.

2. Meditate on the scripture. Here are some ways to do that.

Paraphrase the verse or passage in your own words.

Personalize the passage by putting your name into the verse where appropriate. For example, if I were to do this with one of this weeks memory verses it might look like this:

Our D-group devoted themselves to the apostle's teachings and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Our D-group was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. Our D-group was together and had everything in common. Selling our possessions and goods, Our D-group gave to anyone as he had need.

Visualizing the scripture is another way to meditate. If you were to visualize Acts 2:42-45 you might think of how your D-group would look and feel as they devoted themselves to the apostles and saw the many miraculous signs. What would it be like of your D-group had everything in common and sold their possessions to help the poor?

Emphasizing each word will help you to gather more meaning from the verse. For example:

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

And so on and so forth...

Use the SPACEPETS acrostic.

Sin to Confess

Promise to Claim

Attitude to change

Command to Obey

Example to follow

Prayer to Pray

Error to avoid

Truth to Believe

Something to Praise God for

3. Write out an application

4. Memorize a Key Verse

CV Audio Notes

“KEY THOUGHT”

Unit 3: Creating A Bible Study

Unit 3

Creating A Bible Study

Because a disciple...

- Is committed to loving "one another" John 13:34-35
- Serves others in love because he is free in Christ
Galatians 5:13
- Follows Jesus' example of laying down his life
Matthew 20:26-28

Your Assignments are:

- Audio: "Leadership -- Developing Character" by Howard Hendricks (listening guide included)
- Article: "Thoughts on starting a Bible study"
- During group read & discuss "Roles People Play in a Bible study"
- Bible Study: "Preparing to Lead"
- Complete self-evaluation form (based on 1 Timothy 4:12)
- Memorize: HA #5 with verse: 1 Peter 4:10
- Memorize: 1 Timothy 4:12 w/topic: Leadership
- Pray for greater spiritual interest among students
- Record your "KEY THOUGHT" at the back of this chapter or on the "Graduation Report" for this unit.
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record "key thought"

- Bonus: Meditate on Key Value: "God's Word As Our Authority" (see Appendix) and answer one question as an application
- Bonus: Memorize your own choice of Scripture

Leadership - Developing Character by Howard Hendricks (43 min.)

1. Endurance as used in the New Testament means _____.

The key to _____ and _____ is endurance.

2. How we handle problems is based on our insecurities - the person who becomes the leader is the one who hangs on to the end, who ultimately accomplishes his objectives, has tenacity and endurance. _____ are people who have formed the habit of doing what _____ choose not to do.

3. Resistance v. Persistence: Resistance primarily has to do with your actions, whereas persistence has to do with your attitude. Criticism causes _____.

"If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen" - H. Truman

I Peter 2:20 - Leadership is the process of developing a _____ and a _____.

4. Matthew 20:24 - Servanthood

Eagle analogy - we need to kick people out of the nest.

5. A leader is a _____; modeling godly behavior.

Philemon 3:17; 4:9 Follow me as I follow Christ. Students will watch you and _____. Watch for _____ in your life.

6. Self-mastery: I should give myself to the same things I would be doing if _____.

Hebrews 12:1,2 - Trim the fat. You don't need to indulge in so much that isn't necessary. Distinguish between that which is _____ and that which is _____ and that which is _____.

7. A virile private life. You need time away from _____ to _____. No person can do adequately for others if they are always around others.

Those who are strong in public are even _____. Leaders need some time every single day and week and month to drop out and be alone. You should spend the time by praying, studying the Word, thinking, evaluating...

8. Confidence - We lack confidence in _____.

We need to affirm people. Philemon 4:13

We need to have the ability to say _____! Say no to something every _____. New Testament says all things in moderation.

9. A good leader is _____. Be willing to learn from other people.

You are not only discipling, but being disciplined as well.

You will learn things from those you mentor.

10. Have a _____ attitude - don't become negative. Don't allow a root of bitterness to grow up. Bitter people are working for self, not God.

The greatest therapy for negativity is to _____. Satan loves to use bitterness as a tool.

11. A good leader must have the capacity to _____. What is there in your life that you are trusting God for, that He alone can do?

II Corinthians 4:7 *clay jars* - not a glorious container, but definitely _____! How big is your God? This will determine the size of your ministry.

THOUGHTS ON STARTING A BIBLE STUDY

Identify the needs of the group. It is important to understand where each person comes from (spiritual/religious background). What is the purpose of your Bible study? (Fellowship, outreach/evangelization, basic learning/knowledge, accountability, growth, etc).

You need to be under the umbrella of authority from some church or Christian organization. The idea is not to indoctrinate them into a denomination, but that the support is there from the church. Be watchful for individuals that attend with ulterior motives, such as to draw people into their own church or to cause dissention within the group (people with their own agenda).

Encourage participation in a local Bible believing church. Get a list of names, phone numbers, etc. and get *committed* members of the group to call and visit regularly. One caution is to never allow use of the phone list for asking people out on dates. When people aren't interested or they lose interest and quit coming: find out what kind of a group would better meet their needs and what you can do as a Bible study group to best help in meeting those needs.

Maximum time frame: 15-30 min. of fellowship, 1 hour for Bible study, 1/2 hour for prayer. Do not let it stretch too long or people will begin to resent it and stop coming. There are many types of studies. Here are a few:

1. Book of the Bible. This type of study allows you to deal with topics as they relate to the Scripture passages you are discussing. You want to be very careful not to argue about issues and things that some people in the group disagree with, when they are not essential issues. Stay focused on your objective (to meet people's spiritual needs, encourage growth, and reach out to non-Christians). If controversies persist, seek help from your "umbrella" (sponsoring) organization.

2. Topical studies. This type of study provides an opportunity to inform potential members what concepts you are going to be learning about in the Bible study. When you share your own viewpoint/opinion, remember that this is exactly what it is - your opinion! Do not try to find Scripture that supports the opinions you have already formed; rather form your opinions based on the Scriptures you study. You need to be careful to stay with the agenda or topic; watch for "rabbit trails".

3. Biblical Character. Studying a person in the Bible (i.e. Moses, Abraham, Paul...) may be a little more difficult to plan and prepare lessons for, but can be rewarding in the area of application as you learn from their mistakes, their passions, and their relationship to the Lord and others.

4. Follow a book or study guide. Unless you have a "closed membership" group (as opposed to an open, drop-in study), you want to be careful to choose guides that don't require homework or individual preparation each week. Using a guide can give valuable insight into a passage and reduce preparation time, but the down side is that it can make us lazy about doing our own study and research.

For ideas on other Bible study types, as well as additional useful suggestions, read "Small Group Leaders' Handbook" by InterVarsity Press and "Dynamic Bible Study Methods" by Rick Warren (intended for personal Bible study, but beneficial for group studies as well).

Roles People Play in a Bible Study

Characteristics of immaturity:

1. Onlooker (silent spectator; won't participate in discussions)
2. Monopolizer (hogs the conversation)
3. Belittler (takes the dim view; puts others' ideas down)
4. Wisecracker (not serious, makes jokes for attention)
5. Manipulator (very controlling; ulterior motives)
6. Hitchhiker (unoriginal ideas, "Joe said what I was gonna say")
7. Pleader (makes excuses; obsessive; one-track mind)
8. Sulker (doesn't get his way and pouts)
9. Sidetracker (always gets the conversation off-task)
10. Know-it-all (arrogant, "This is boring, I already know it")

**Discuss different ways to deal with each of these types in order to correct or improve an area of immaturity in someone you might lead in a future group.

Characteristics of maturity:

1. Proposer (creative, initiates ideas and activities)
2. Encourager (values others' feelings and contributions)
3. Clarifier (helps explain unclear comments; defines concepts)
4. Analyzer (good at going deeper and examining issues closely)
5. Explorer (not content with the basics or traditions)
6. Mediator (helps solve disagreements; facilitates harmony)
7. Synthesizer (puts pieces together, concludes & summarizes)
8. Programmer (interested in application and implementation)
9. Pacesetter (keeps group focused and moving forward)
10. Leader (ready to take charge, helps group leader when needed)

**Discuss how each of these qualities can strengthen a Bible study, which one(s) are your personal strengths, and how to encourage growth in a weak area for someone you may mentor.

(This information was adapted from contributions made by Howard Hendricks to the book, "Lead Out: A Guide for Leading Bible Discussion Groups" by NavPress - out of print)

Preparing To Lead

1. In I Timothy 4:12-13 Paul challenges Timothy to set an example - to be a pacesetter. List 5 areas in v.12 where he was to set an example:

2. What implications for being a pacesetter are notable in v.13?

3. What further suggestion is made in 2 Timothy 2:15 in relation to Bible study?

4. What was the reaction of the two disciples in Luke 24:13-35 as Jesus taught the Scriptures to them? (see v. 32)

**As you lead a small group, is it possible the Spirit might cause a "burning" in someone's heart, deepening their desire to study the Word and walk with Christ?*

5. Psalm 119 is an exhaustive treatise on God's Word. In all but 4 verses, the Word is referred to in some form (law, precepts, statutes, decrees, ways, etc.) Read these verses, writing your insights on the value & importance of Scripture.

v. 9, 11 -

v. 43 -

v. 89 -

v. 99 -

v. 105, 130 -

v. 148 -

6. How can we be sure that the Word of God remains relevant to each generation, according to I Peter 1:24,25?

7. As a Bible study leader, what responsibilities are yours, according to James 3:1 and Romans 2:21-24?

8. What is the purpose of Scripture (Romans 15:4)?

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12, NIV)

Rate yourself in these categories (0-10) Date: _____ follow-up date: _____ goals: _____

SPEECH:

Positive & affirmative _____
 Verbal witness _____
 Free of unjust criticism _____
 No foul language _____

LIFE & CONDUCT:

In front of family _____
 Use of time _____
 Dependability _____
 Promptness _____
 Personal cleanliness _____
 Housekeeping _____
 Financial affairs _____
 Stewardship _____
 Study habits _____
 Morality _____
 Honesty _____

LOVE:

Love for brethren _____
 Love for enemies _____
 Servanthood _____
 Forgiving spirit _____

FAITH:

Personal walk with God _____
 Prayer life _____
 Bible study _____
 Church involvement _____
 Trust God w/life details _____

PURITY:

Heart attitudes _____
 Personal motives _____
 Ethical choices _____
 Sexual mindset _____
 Thought life _____

CV Audio Notes

“KEY THOUGHT”

Unit 4: How to Lead A Bible Study

Unit 4

How to Lead a Bible Study

Because a disciple...

- Is committed to loving "one another" *John 13:34-35*
- Serves others in love because he is free in Christ
Galatians 5:13
- Follows Jesus' example of laying down his life
Matthew 20:26-28

Your Assignments are:

- Audio: "Leadership -- Developing Convictions" by Howard Hendricks (listening guide included)
- Read: "Ideas for things to do when leading a Small Group Bible study"
- During group read and discuss "Group Leader's Study Notes" & "Group Evaluation" handouts
- Write out a plan to begin your own small group Bible study (sample provided) and be prepared to share it with your group for their feedback and additional input
- Bible Study: Practice the Devotional Method of Bible study on 1 Thessalonians 1
- Memorize: Acts 5:42 with topic: Teaching & Nehemiah 7:2 with topic: Leadership
- Pray for God to raise up laborers for the harvest
- Record your "KEY THOUGHT" at the back of this chapter or on the "Graduation Report" for this unit.
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record "key thought"

Bonus: Memorize Acts 14:21,22

Bonus: Meditate on Key Value: "Effectiveness" (see Appendix) and answer one question as an application

Leadership – Developing Convictions by Howard Hendricks (74 min.)

- Definition of a conviction – a principle which I cherish or prize highly enough that _____.

* There is a vast difference between your _____ and your _____.

* A belief system you will _____, but a convictional system you will _____.

I. How do we develop convictions?

a. Developing convictions is a _____.

Going from dependency to interdependency.

Formula for growth in the Word: _____ + _____.

The opposite of ignorance (in the spiritual realm) is not _____, it's _____.

b. Leaders are not passive or dependent. Too many of us trust God for the product, but not _____.

c. A lack of _____ and clear _____.
You will achieve that for which you aim.

d. 1st - realize your convictions are different from _____
_____.

2nd - realize that your biblical convictions are different than
the majority of _____.

3rd - realize that your current convictions are different from
your _____.

4th - realize that your standards are frequently different from
your _____.

e. Convictions of Christians are most often _____, but
Christian convictions are _____.

f. We need a balance of _____ and _____.

II. Biblical model or paradigm. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Three essentials to growth:

People have convictions because they see yours, because you
tell them to, or because they want to have that conviction. You can
test the quality of your disciple making by the number of
_____.

a. Should be done in a _____ setting.

b. Should take place in a _____ setting.

c. Should take place in a _____ setting.

III. How do we communicate our convictions so that they become the convictions of our followers?

1st Principle -

2nd Principle -

3rd Principle -

IDEAS FOR THINGS TO DO WHEN LEADING A SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

1. Ask each person to share something that they personally are hoping to gain from the study.

2. Have them memorize a key Scripture verse each week.

4th Principle -

3. Share long-term personal prayer requests and commit to praying for each other during the week.

4. Assign prayer partners to meet sometime during the week.

5. Assign partners to get together and do something fun outside of group (switch partners each week).

6. Have a time of edification to build each other up by saying or writing one thing that they each appreciate about that person.

5th Principle -

7. During prayer time, try a "Psalm Prayer" where you read one or two Psalms aloud a few verses at a time, accompanied by sentence prayers praising and thanking God for qualities and characteristics noted in the verses.

8. Have each person share something they got out of their QT recently.

6th Principle -

9. Have each one review the assigned verse and/or share another they learned, periodically review all verses learned to date.

10. Share with the group the worst and/or the best thing that happened to each member during the past week.

11. Have everyone give their testimony at some point in the study (i.e. one person per week till all members have shared).

12. Let someone else in the group lead one week if appropriate, or assign someone different to lead prayer each week.
13. Meet 1x1 with each person at least once a month & do something totally unrelated (to build a closer friendship and bond individually).
14. Make each one accountable to the group; tell them to challenge each other and check up on doing assignments, learning verses and being prepared.
15. Draw names for "Secret Saints", secretly giving little gifts, treats, verses, cards or other encouraging items to another person in the group. Different ways to do this: swap for a different SS every 2-4 weeks, keep the same ones throughout the study, exchange names between two groups, be a SS of a non-Christian (names supplied by other members within your group).
16. Do a community service project together (serve a meal at a local rescue mission, play games with residents at a nursing home, do yard work for an elderly person, pick up trash in a needy location, make cookies together and take plates to all your neighbors...)
17. Have a game night or go to a movie together. A good resource for more activities is Discipleship Journal's "101 Best Small-Group Ideas" by NavPress. Remember this: the most important task you have as a leader of a Bible study is to make sure the atmosphere within your small group provides a safe and comfortable haven that will encourage and nourish spiritual growth, while stretching its members and holding them accountable to their commitments.

Group Leader's Study Notes

Topic: _____

Bible Passage/Relevant Scriptures: _____

Other materials needed: _____

Date of upcoming study: _____

Consider the following:

*I have prayed for God to guide my preparation

*I have prayed for each member of the group

*As I prepare, I will consider specific needs of each group member:

Outline of what will be covered and discussed:

Defining important concepts and terms:

Commentary notes:

Comparison with other translations:

Cross reference related passages & concepts:

Questions to ask during discussion:

Bible Study Group Evaluation by Participants

Group Day & Place: _____

Leader of Group: _____

Rate 0-10

- My leader starts on time _____
- My leader does not do all the talking _____
- My leader gets others involved in discussion _____
- The material is always made clear to me _____
- I feel welcome and included in the group _____
- I learn from the study lessons _____
- I'm able to see & make applications from the lessons _____
- I am challenged to make adjustments in my life _____

I see the following things as strengths in my leader and this group:

I would suggest the following changes for the group:

Other comments or questions:

Suggestions for future topics to study:

Plan Your Own Group Bible Study

*For this assignment you will need to outline a plan for a Bible study that you could potentially lead (maybe in the summer through your home church or next semester in the dorms or apt. complex). If possible, have a real group in mind as you prepare and plan.

Consider the following issues:

- ◆ what topic, book or Bible character will you study
- ◆ target audience, group size limits
- ◆ time & place you could meet
- ◆ length of meeting time
- ◆ length of study (i.e. 6 weeks, semester long, ongoing, etc.)
- ◆ materials needed (cost for members?)
- ◆ resources (books, articles, tapes, videos, commentaries)
- ◆ homework assignments
- ◆ lesson format (i.e. discussion, panel, lecture, presentation, round robin, prepared questions)

Sample Plan

+ **Topic of study:** "Suffering" (semester long, 5-10 people, informal discussion w/time for prayer, no materials/no cost)

+ **Possible sub-topics:** Why does God allow it? Does God ever cause suffering? What are its purposes? Biblical characters who suffered. A look through the Psalms (pertaining to suffering). Having a proper response.

+ **Book resources:** Amy Carmichael books; "A Path Through Suffering" by Elizabeth Elliot; "Comfort From the Cross" by Nina Mason Bergman; Missy Moss workshop handout; do a concordance search on suffering; Foxe's Book of Martyrs

+ **Group project:** visit a pottery place and learn the process, then discuss the biblical analogy of clay “firing”

CV Audio Notes

+ **Verses to study and memorize:** I Peter 4:12-16, Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-3, Hebrews 5:7-9, I Peter 5:10

+ **Biblical characters to study:** Moses, Job, Ezekiel, Paul, Jesus

+ **Homework:** assign members a Psalm or two to research & report

“KEY THOUGHT”

Unit 5: Cost of Discipleship

Unit 5

Cost of Discipleship

Because a disciple...

- Puts God first over family, self, and all else *Luke 14:26, 33*
- Faithfully passes on what God has taught them
2 Timothy 2:2
- Is willing to bear his cross and follow Jesus *Matthew 10:38*
- Is baptized, plugged-in, and learning to obey all that God has commanded *Matthew 28:19-20*

Your Assignments are:

- Article: *Many Aspire, Few Attain* by Walter Henrichsen
- Bible Study: "Cost of Discipleship"
- Memorize:: HA #2 with supporting verse Ephesians 4:25
- Memorize: Luke 9:23 with topic: Cost of Discipleship
- Check your application of your SM review plan and review all verses in your plan (all D-1 & D-2 & L-1 verses) with another group member.
- Pray for the CV staff and leadership team
- Record your "KEY THOUGHT" at the back of this chapter or "Graduation Report" for this unit.
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record "key thought"
- Bonus: Meditate on Key Value: "Character Development" (see Appendix) and answer one question as an application

"Christ needs some young fellows to sell out to Him and recklessly toss their lives into His work. It seems to me like you ought to be one of them." ~ *Jim Elliot*

Summary: *God has a wonderful purpose and plan for your life. But He lets us chose His plan or not. Either choice has a high cost attached, but only one has great promises as well. Are you willing to pay the price to be Christ's disciple?*

Many Aspire Few Attain

WALTER A HENRICHSEN

Published by NAVPRESS, a ministry of the Navigators,
PO Box 20, Colorado Spring, CO 80901

Reprinted by Permission

There's a war on today. We are no longer fighting in Vietnam, but we are engaged in a war that is far greater than any other war - a war in which Vietnam was only a symptom. We wrestle in this war day after day - it's a spiritual conflict. As the Apostle Paul said, "*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 realm*" (*Ephesians 6:12*). This spiritual warfare is probably intensifying rather than receding.

When I was at a Wycliffe Bible Translators' jungle camp in 1961 and 1962, we used to go on survival hikes. I loved camping out in the jungle. We would build a campfire and sleep around it in our lean-tos. We built a big fire because fire drove the wild animals deep into the jungle. But if you happened to wake up during the night as the campfire dwindled down, you would observe that the lower the campfire got, the braver the animals became and the closer to the camp they crept. They formed a circle around the camp and you could see those pairs of eyes looking at you from the forest. It was an incentive to throw a few more logs on, not so much because the night was cold as because you didn't know what was behind those sets of eyes.

In many respects, that's what is happening today in American evangelical Christianity. My generation and the generation that came before me were moral generations. The generation now on the scene is an immoral generation. As the fires of evangelical Christianity grow dim, as biblical preaching diminishes across the nation, and as people give themselves more and more to sin, greed, the affluent life, permissiveness, and other selfish pursuits, then the eyes of the evil one come closer and closer into the camp.

Today, probably because we have abandoned the puritan ethic and given ourselves over to the fruits of existentialism (the belief that the individual is radically free and responsible with no concern for God), we can see the forces of evil encroaching on our camp in a way we haven't seen in the last 50 years. The occult, witchcraft, Satan worship and all these manifestations are very, very real. There are demons; there *are* demon-possessed people; there *is* sorcery. When you begin to play with astrology, ouija boards and similar things, you're giving expression to something which is not the figment of man's imagination, but which are warned about throughout the Bible. Because of this we live not only in perilous days but also in days of unprecedented opportunity. The one glimmer of hope is that "*where sin increased, grace increased all the more*" (Romans 5:20).

But the devil is like a roaring lion and his objective is to devour us. He is devouring through dope. He is devouring through loose living. He is devouring through people giving themselves to wrong goals and objectives.

Involvement in this spiritual warfare is a voluntary thing. It's our choice. In ancient Israel, before going to war, the officers said to the people, "*Is any man afraid or fainthearted? Let him go home so that his brothers will not become disheartened too*" (Deuteronomy 20:8). Involvement in spiritual warfare is voluntary as well.

The Apostle Paul writes that a soldier must endure suffering and hardship if he plans on getting into the battle (2 Timothy 2:3). The spiritual battle is a battle for keeps. Don't enter it unless you plan on winning. Don't enter it unless you plan on giving your life totally to it. Don't enter it unless you plan on suffering and enduring hardship because your adversary the devil and his legions of demons play dirty. They fight rough. They give no quarter.

But Christ is in you and is greater than he that is in the world (*John 4:4*). And you are on the winning side. You can take refuge and consolation in that, but it is a dirty, rough warfare and the deeper you get into it, the meaner and nastier it gets. Men come and go and the attrition rate in the Christian life is absolutely horrendous. In the final analysis, many aspire but few attain. Many begin well, but precious few end well.

You can climb on the shelf and render yourself ineffective for God in many ways. You can sign peace treaties with Satan and let him go his way while you go yours. Satan is willing to hold the ladder for any individual who wants to climb on the shelf for God. It is your choice.

It is relatively easy to recruit collegians because they are at an idealistic age. They have a whole adventuresome life ahead of them. Everything looks like it's filled with opportunity. Collegians hate mediocrity. If there's one thing they want, it's idealism-idealism expressed in a better way of life.

That's why collegians rally around the banner that seeks to destroy establishment. The establishment is given over to mediocrity. The establishment has compromised. The establishment has gotten fat with self-interest. The best thing to do from the idealist's point of view is to burn it down and start over. The average collegian is looking for a cause, for a flag to follow, for something to which he can give his life.

Recruiting the collegian to the spiritual battle is fairly easy. But it's a long uphill climb afterward. And the older a person gets the more he feels like quitting. Victory is always in the future. It's not just around the corner.

Victory doesn't come by burning down a building. Victory doesn't come by having a law or two rescinded. Victory doesn't come when the university changes its ways. These are all symptoms. The spiritual battle will take the rest of your life. It will consume every ounce of your energy.

I talk to men in their thirties, forties and fifties who were giving themselves to this cause when they were in their twenties. When they ask what I'm giving my life to and I respond it's the conquering of the world for Jesus Christ, their attitude toward me becomes very benevolent. A benign look comes across their faces and they pat me on the back and say, "Well, bless your heart, that's idealism for you." When you get that reaction, you've just met a person who started well and ended poorly. You have met a man who began like you and yet somewhere down the road has opted for mediocrity.

Most Christians do the same thing. The cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches and the lust of other things enter in, choking the Word. Their lives become unfruitful. They begin to give themselves to wall-to-wall carpeting, foam rubber, push buttons-to the acquisition of things. They begin to think in terms of retirement, pensions, the stock market and wealth. They become encumbered with junk and are happily involved in it.

If you don't want to become a person who has aspired but not attained, you are going to have to make some resolutions in your own soul. You cannot give yourself or your enemy any quarter. Paul was concerned about his walk with God, *"so that after I have preached to others, I will not be disqualified for the prize" (1 Corinthians 9:27).*

As a Christian in the battle, like Paul, you're in the business of preaching to others. And like Paul, it is necessary to plan on not being disqualified. Let me suggest some ways you can avoid it. This list is not exhaustive and the items on it are not necessarily in the order of importance.

1. HAVE A HEART FOR GOD

"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple" (Psalm 27:4).

David writes, "One thing I... seek," not, "these forty things I dabble at." Moses said, *"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5),* with everything you've got. Now stop and evaluate. Do you have a real heart for God? Do you love Him with everything you have in you? Do you find your life is consumed with the desire to follow Him? I'm not referring to emotionalism or sentimentality. I'm talking about a resolute spirit. Somewhere along the way have you said, "Oh, God, I will follow you with all of my heart and with all of my soul and with all of my mind."

There are many Christians around but there are very few godly people. And there is a big difference between the two. Long before I was married I prayed, "Lord, if You ever want me to get married, I don't want a Christian girl, I want a godly woman. *'Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain: but a woman that fears the Lord, she shall be praised'* (Proverbs 31:30). Lord, that's what I want. A woman who loves God."

The first thing you need to do to avoid being disqualified is to love God with everything you have.

2. HATE SIN

"Hate what is evil; cling to what is good" (Romans 12:9).

Close your eyes for a moment and think of something that really nauseates you. That feeling is the word Paul is using when he says hate. God wants you to view sin like you view the thing you're thinking about right now. That's what God wants your attitude to be. You can hardly contain yourself, You almost begin to gag you hate it so badly. Do you have a hatred for sin? Do you find that you abhor that which is evil?

Everyone is plagued with some sin, but some Christians don't hate evil. As a matter of fact they have little pet sins they embrace to their bosoms. They play with them and pet them. No one else may even know about them except God.

Have you ever thought about the fact that people will do in the presence of the living God what they would never do in front of other people? There are things that you'll do in God's presence that you won't do in front of anyone else. Isn't that true? You'll think thoughts and you'll commit acts in the quietness and privacy of your own room or your own life that you'd never think of doing in front of another person.

God says, "I want you to hate sin." Abhor it. If there are sins you have embraced, if you have allowed them to rule in your life, if you play with them, if you have never dealt the victory blow to them even though the power has been given you and all you have to do is appropriate it, there's no way you'll survive the battle. You don't want to give up the sin because you enjoy it. There's no way you're going to make it if you don't, though. You're going to be one of the casualties.

3. HUNGER FOR THE WORD

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

The third way that you can become a casualty in the spiritual warfare is by not having a hunger for God's Word. Throughout the Bible the importance of hiding the Word of God in your life is emphasized. *"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16). "When Your Words came, I ate them"*

(Jeremiah 15:16). "I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11). "For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). Your only chance of survival is to take the Word of God and to hide it in your life. The Word cleanses. The Scriptures give you the life and character of Jesus Christ. The Word of God gives you power. The Word gives you the ability to do the will of God.

How well are you hiding the Word of God in your life? Has the Word become perfunctory for you? Are you doing Bible study or are you studying the Bible? There's a big difference between the two. Most people do Bible study. Are you really giving yourself to studying the Bible? I can fill out a Bible study blank in about 45 minutes, but it takes me between 10 and 15 hours to really study a chapter. I can show up with 45 minutes of preparation. I can have all the blanks filled out, I can participate and I can make it look pretty good- I have done my Bible study, but I have not studied the Bible.

How do you evaluate yourself in terms of studying the Bible? Are you hiding the Word in your life? Do you find that you hunger for it? Do you find that you have a "sweet tooth" for the Word? Is it honey and milk to your lips? Do you find that you love to drink deep at its well? If not, then there is no way you're going to make it. You're going to be one of those who begin well and end poorly. There's no way you can survive.

I run across people again and again in the Christian communities who say, "Well, you know, Henrichsen, you can't be legalistic in these things." And that's right. Or, "You know I find that when I am around Navigators, they kind of squeeze me into their mold." I know exactly what they are talking about. *"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man" (1 Corinthians 10: 13).* But, if you have that attitude, remember it's not your Bible study leader's problem, it's not your Navigator representative's fault, it's your fault. It's because of the coldness of your heart. It's because you have no hunger for the Word of God. Yours is not really a legalistic problem, it is a spiritual problem.

You can solve that problem of allowing yourself to be trapped in the web of method rather than using the method as a key to unlock the treasures. First, spend a lot of time in the Word. Second, meditate and think on the Word of God instead of doing perfunctory ritual of form. You can really make it live. Third, apply it to your life. After all, the Word of God was given primarily to change your life, not to increase your knowledge.

Make sure you are applying the Word of God.

4. TRUST GOD

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).

There are going to be times in your life when the living God, to use a gambler’s term, is going to take all of the blue chips and He’s going to push them right in the middle of the table and He’s going to say, “Friend, we’re going for broke on this one. Let’s see how you’re doing in your Christian life.” More often than not, people push all kinds of panic buttons on the console and punch out.

If you really want to walk with God, then you have to learn to trust Him. And if you want to learn to trust Him, you’ve got to learn to trust Him on the little things, so that when the big things come along, you’ll have established a habit of it. Your faith will be tested. You are no greater than your forefathers. The day is going to come when the bottom is going to drop out, the roof is going to cave in and somebody’s going to say, “Cheer up, it’s going to get worse.” And sure enough, you’ll cheer and it will get worse.

Are you trusting God in the little things? How about your finances? It’s tough to really trust God in this area. To give when you can’t afford it. There’s no faith in giving when you can afford it. Faith comes when you give and you can’t afford it.

There are many things you can do in your life without faith. Without faith you can get married. Without faith you can have a home. Without faith you can become a millionaire. Without faith you can live a normal, relatively happy life. But there’s one thing you cannot do without faith. *“Without faith it is impossible to please Me” (Hebrews 11:6)*. If you’re planning on pleasing God, you’ve got to walk by faith. God is in control of this world. And all He wants from you is intelligent cooperation. Boiled down to one word, that simply means trust. Many will never make it simply because they cannot muster up enough courage and faith in their souls to really trust Him when the going gets rough.

5. BURN BRIDGES AND SHIPS

“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62).

You’ll never attain if you refuse to burn your boats. When Hernando Cortez took his men to Mexico, his objective was to march on Mexico City and conquer Montezuma. When he landed at Vera Cruz, he put all his men on the beach and sent demolition teams out to destroy their ships. As the men stood on the shore watching the ships burn and sink, they realized that there was no turning back. They were in Mexico for life.

Have you burned your ships? Have you taken whatever avenues of retreat you have—I’m talking about the mental things—and burned them? If you are a college student, how about your education? You began in the college or university with a goal. You wanted to get a degree to do something. There’s nothing wrong with education. There’s nothing wrong with getting your degree, but there is something wrong if that becomes an end in and of itself. Have you given your degree, your vocational goals and direction of your life back to God? If your university is a mission field for you to accomplish the will of God, good. If the university is a means for you to accomplish your own selfish ends, you are living in sin, and God wants you to burn that boat.

Perhaps you have a boyfriend or girlfriend. Have you given him or her back to God? Many people have bitten the dust on this one. They have punched out. They’ve never made it simply because they were unwilling to commit this area of their lives to God. There are several reasons why people date. Some reasons are good, but others are not. One reason that is sin is to shop for a husband or a wife. Have you ever dealt the deathblow to this area of your life? That’s a tough one because after you give this back to God, God may not give it back to you. It may be that you’ll live the rest of your life single. Are you willing to do it? Are you willing to wait for 10 or 15 years before you get married? It is better to get married at age 35 or 40 to the right person than to get married at age 25 to the wrong

person. It is better to live 10 fewer years with the right person than 10 more years with the wrong person. Have you burned that ship? Have you dealt the deathblow to that desire and given it back to God?

Sometime ago some parents asked me to talk to their 18-year-old daughter. I'll call her Sharon. She was a beautiful young girl-sweet and attractive. Sharon was in love with a fellow. She wanted to marry him. I asked her if it was the will of God. She said, "No." I asked her if she was willing to give him back to God. She said, "No." We talked about it until 2 or 3 in the morning. But Sharon had made up her mind that she was going to marry this man, and she did. About a year and a half later I was talking to her folks and asked how Sharon was. They kind of dropped their heads and said, "Oh, fine." I asked what she was doing. "Well, she's got a baby girl ... She's living in an apartment by herself... Her husband left her ... She's divorced and she doesn't know what to do."

"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked. A man reaps what he sows" (Galatians 6:7). The only way you can avoid that terrible, terrible plight is to burn your ships and let God make those decisions.

6. BEWARE THE ROAD OF NO RETURN

"But because of you the Lord was angry with me and would not listen to me- 'That is enough,' the Lord said, 'Do not speak to me anymore of this matter...' (Deuteronomy 3:26).

In this passage, Moses is making his closing remarks and reviewing his life with the children of Israel. Remember, he spent the first 40 years in the palace, the second 40 years squeezing sand between his toes and the third 40 years wandering around the wilderness with a rebellious people, burying his own generation. Can you imagine the number of funerals Moses had to attend? Forty years of burying his own generation, and there were a slug of them. Now he's reviewing his life and says, "But the Lord was angry with me because of you, and would not hear me."

Why was God angry? In the wilderness the children of Israel complained about water. God told Moses to strike the rock and water would come out. Moses struck the rock and sure enough water came out. The second time the incident occurred, God said, "Speak to the rock." But Moses was angry because of the rebelliousness of the people and he struck the rock. The water came out, but God said, "Moses, you are through. You will never go into the Promised Land." Moses lived over 100 years of his life with one thing on his mind-getting into that Promised Land. Over 100 years! And now he couldn't go in because of one dumb mistake. Just one, not two or three, not five—one! Paul tells us that the rock was Jesus Christ and He should be smitten only once (*1 Corinthians 10:4*). Because of that, God said, "You will not go into the Promised Land."

Now Moses pled with God, "Lord, change your mind. Lord, please give me another chance." But, "Because of you the Lord was angry with me and would not listen to me. 'That is enough,' the Lord said. 'Do not speak to me anymore of this matter.'" In other words, "Moses, don't bring the matter up again." And when God says, "Don't bring up the matter again," it is best not to bring up the matter again.

The sixth reason why people don't make it is that they enter the road of no return. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9), is not the answer to some wrong decisions. Take courtship or marriage, for example. If you get married and then wake up some morning and find out that you are lying next to the wrong guy, 1 John 1:9 won't undo it. God says it's till death do you part. That is an irrevocable decision. No amount of pleading with God can change it.

If you don't make certain decisions in the center of God's will, you will automatically become disqualified from the race. You're through.

7. AVOID AN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT

The seventh reason why people will never make it is because they have an independent spirit. They are mavericks, loners. They want to serve God, but in their way. Perhaps you are like the fellow I asked about the episcopal form of government. He answered, "Well, I'm against the bishops unless I can be one."

A lot of Christians have that attitude. They are against spiritual authority and leadership unless they are the authority and the leader. But God says He will not give you that which is your own until you have been a part of that which is another man's (Luke 16:12).

The prophet Elijah, as he was about to be taken out of this world, said to his follower Elisha, "Stay here" (*2 Kings 2:2*). Elisha answered, "No way, friend! Where you go, I go. There's no way you can get rid of me. Where is the guy or gal you have committed yourself to in an Elijah/Elisha relationship? Where is your Elijah? Where's the person you are going to lock into by the will of God and go for broke with? You might say, "Well, God is my teacher. He can speak to me as easily as He can speak through someone else. After all, doesn't the Bible say that you shouldn't be lord over the flock and you shouldn't be like little tin gods?"

That's true. Nobody is your lord except Jesus. But I'm not referring to lordship. I'm talking about an independent spirit.

Do you remember the argument that Dathan, Korah, and Abiram gave Moses (Numbers 16)? *"You take too much upon yourself, Moses. God can speak to us as easily as He can speak to you. We don't need to follow you. Don't we believe in the priesthood of the believer? Don't our prayers get through to God? Can't God speak to us? After all, why should we follow your leadership?"*

And Moses said, "Well, let's talk this over with God and see what He says." "Okay, let's do it."

So they went to God and He said, "Moses, step aside and let me show you what I think of that idea." So Moses stepped aside and God opened up the earth and Dathan, Korah, Abiram and all that belonged to them fell in. God closed the earth back up and then sent fire and consumed the 100 or so princes that were with them in rebellion.

Then God asked the children of Israel, "Any other questions?"

But Israel got mad at Moses and said, "Moses, you dirty rat! You sicced God on us!" Thousands more died of the plague that day because of their attitude.

God asked again, "Any more questions?" And the children of Israel said, "No. We got the point."

God does not hanker to an independent spirit. You can be a maverick, you can be a loner, and you can go your own way. It's up to you. But that is an awfully quick way to climb on the shelf.

8. BE WHOLEHEARTED

"And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a perfect heart" (*2 Chronicles 25:2*). He did what was right. But one thing was lacking-his heart wasn't right, so God couldn't use him. Within a short time Amaziah, the man this verse refers to, was dead.

Some Christians create the impression that they are doing God and their Christian organization a favor by being around-that God Almighty is about the luckiest of the lucky to have them on His team. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Perhaps you have this attitude. Now God is delighted beyond words over the fact that you are His. He loves you with an everlasting love. But never deceive yourself into believing that you are doing either God or man a favor by being faithful.

It is easy to be wholehearted in the things you like doing, but it's hard to be wholehearted in the things you don't like doing. When I moved into a Navigator home, one of my responsibilities every Saturday morning was to clean the bathroom in the master bedroom. I can remember being on my hands and knees over the toilet bowl with the cleanser and wondering to myself, *Henrichsen, what in the world are you doing here? There are millions of places you could be rather than sitting here looking down inside a toilet.* It's hard enough to clean your own dirt, but it is even harder to clean other people's dirt. How do you rate yourself in terms of your wholeheartedness in being a servant of God?

I don't mind being a servant of Jesus Christ. I revel in it. I don't mind you calling me a servant. But do you know what I do mind? You're treating me like a servant. Can you be wholehearted when people treat you like a servant of the Most High God and a servant of your fellowman?

9. BE FAITHFUL IN THE LITTLE THINGS

"Whoever can be trusted with a very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." (Luke 16:10).

Many aspire, but few attain because they are unfaithful in the little things. Lorne Sanny, president of the Navigators, has said that Charlie Riggs was one of the few men he has ever worked with who could be counted on to carry through with a request. Lorne could check it off as being accomplished and never had to go back and see if it had been done. That challenges me tremendously.

Can people say that about you? When you are given an assignment, when somebody's asked you to do something, can they mark it off as being completed? No matter how small it is - whether it's picking up a couple of postage stamps or mailing a letter-when you have been asked to do something

can you be counted on to do it? Are you faithful in that which is least? Jesus said there is no way He is going to give you greater responsibilities until you've proven yourself faithful in the little things.

And when promotion does come, it doesn't come from men, it comes from God. *"For promotion comes neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: He puts down one and sets up another"* (Psalm 75:6-7).

10. AVOID THE ROOT OF BITTERNESS

"See that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many" (Hebrews 12:15).

The tenth reason many will never make it is because of envy, jealousy and bitterness-a competitive spirit. A bitter spirit, a spirit of resentment poisons not only you, but also others.

A root of bitterness is the result of real or supposed ill treatment. It does not make any difference. You can get just as bitter thinking people treated you badly as when they actually do treat you badly. Feeling hurt and sorry for yourself are bedfellows of bitterness. Self-pity is the other side of the coin of the root of bitterness. Have you ever felt sorry for yourself? Have you ever felt hurt over the way people have treated you? Then you are bordering on bitterness.

George Washington Carver once said, "I will never let another man ruin my life by making me hate him." Those are profound words. Because you see, when you hate, you destroy yourself.

If God is God - and He is - then nobody can hurt you. Nobody. That simply means that anytime you are angry with another person, it's not really the other person that you are angry with-it's God. God is the One who allowed that to happen to your life. Whenever circumstances go amiss and things don't go

your way, and you get angry and become resentful and bitterness begins to creep into your heart, remember your complaint is always with God. Never with anyone else. There is no such thing as having a problem with another person. It doesn't exist. And bitterness will destroy your life if you let it.

11. ACCEPT REBUKE

"Because the Lord disciplines those He loves" (Hebrews 12:6). Some people never make it because they can't take rebuke. I don't mind God rebuking me; what I hate is other people rebuking me. But the fact of the matter is that God uses other people. Solomon says, *"He that refuses instruction despises his soul" (Proverbs 15:32).* If you refuse to take instruction, you are despising your own soul. Why? Because the rebuke that comes into your life is for your own good.

"Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you" (Proverbs 9:8). Don't reprove a mocker because he turns around and hates you. Reprove a wise man and they will love you for it.

When was the last time someone rebuked you-the last time someone sat down and instructed you more perfectly in the way? If it has not been recently, it is because people don't consider you to be wise. They think you are a mocker. They are afraid that if they rebuke you, you won't take it. Don't deceive yourself into believing that you haven't been rebuked lately because you haven't needed it. You need it. The question is, are you getting it? You can tell whether or not people think you are wise by how often they rebuke you.

Once when Warren Myers and I were doing a Bible study together, his application was to pray that God would send someone into his life to rebuke him at least once a week. What a challenge! Want to pray that one?

12. STAY CONSTANT

"This is what the Lord says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.' But you said, 'We will not walk in it.' I appointed watchmen over you and said, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But you said, 'We will not listen.' Therefore hear, O nations; observe, O witnesses, what will happen to them. Hear, O earth: I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their schemes, because they have not listened to my words and have rejected my law." (Jeremiah 6:16-19).

Some people just want to be different-they don't want to be pushed into any particular mold. So they vacillate from one place to the next. For example, many people are excited about the Navigators when they first become involved. It's new; it's exciting; it's fresh. But then they become critical of the cliches and the traditions of the group. God's Word, on the other hand, is applicable for all time, because it is timeless.

And the thing that happens when a person wants change for the sake of change is that he exchanges one mold for another – the beatniks of the fifties and the hippies of the sixties are examples of this. Desiring to be nonconformists, they created a new kind of conformity. And while God has created everyone individually and uniquely, He has also set standards and given the Christian instructions on how to be the kind of person who will survive the battle and be able to move forward for Christ.

13. WALK BY FAITH

In the beginning, living by faith has an excitement that is unlike anything else. But after a while, the novelty of it begins to wear off and it begins to seem more desirable to have some security -to be able to count on something rather than trusting God all the time.

And then, slowly things begin to become more important. What

you have, rather than what God can provide, becomes your security. This can go to the extreme. For example, one woman did not like to have people in her home because they messed it up. If your home or any of your possessions become more important than people, then you are already out of the battle. God is interested in people. And when your security is in Him, what happens to things is not important. If your rugs, sofa and cut glass bowls are more important than people, you will never qualify for the battle.

14. KEEP UP THE HEART FOR THE BATTLE

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship” (Romans 12: 1).

If you get used to seeing God do miracles, you can cease to be thrilled and thankful. Things can become old hat. You remember the story of the hare and the tortoise? The hare started out great, but he was sidetracked along the way because it was so easy there was no question about succeeding. No big deal. The tortoise, on the other hand, just kept plugging along, recognizing that in order to win the race; he needed to put all his efforts into it. And he won. He kept his eye on the objective and did not allow himself to be distracted.

Like the race between the tortoise and the hare, the battle which Christians face today needs to be won. It is for keeps. And also like the race between the tortoise and the hare, there are many potential distractions along the way. Have no doubt that Satan will try everything he can to take your eyes off the objective and to disqualify you for the battle.

The fourteen suggestions listed here are ways that Christians can follow to avoid being taken out of the battle. Too often Satan is successful and the Christian becomes a casualty. Thus, while many begin well, few end well.

**While many aspire, few attain-
May you be one of those who attain.**

The Cost of Discipleship

Read Matthew 10:1-39 for the job description of a disciple.

List (or circle in your Bible) the words that describe what a disciple does?

List (or underline in your Bible) the words that describe what a disciple is — his or her character and attitudes?

What phrases describe how people are likely to treat Jesus’ disciples?

Which phrases contain promises from God for disciples?

What surprises you most about what you read in this passage?

What new insights does this job description give you about what it means to be a disciple of Christ?

Matthew 10:24-25 in the NLT says: “A student is not greater than the master. The student shares the teacher’s fate. The servant shares the master’s fate...”

As a student of Christ, what fate do you share with Him?

Read Luke 9:23-27; 57-62

What phrases describe the cost of following Jesus?

How do the parables apply to your life?

Have you carefully counted the costs of becoming a disciple?

What will happen to a plow if you are looking behind you while it is being pulled by a donkey?

What tempts you to look back?

Read Luke 14:25-35 and compare with the verses you read in Matthew 10.

The cost of discipleship is your life.

Consider these quotes from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book The Cost of Discipleship:

To deny oneself is to be aware only of Christ and no more of self, to see only Him who goes before and no more the road which is too hard for us. ... All that self-denial can say is: “He leads the way, keep close to Him ... and take up his cross.” ... Only when we have become completely oblivious of self are we ready to bear the cross for His sake. If in the end we know only Him, if we have ceased to notice the pain of our own cross, we are indeed looking only unto Him. 97

The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. ... We surrender ourselves to Christ in union with His death—we give over our lives to death. ... When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die. ... death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man [or nature] at his call. Jesus’ summons to the rich young man was calling him to die, because only the man who is dead to his own will can follow Christ. In fact, every command of Jesus is a call to die, with all our affections and lusts. 99

Read Matthew 19:16-30. The rich young man was asked to die, to die to what?

What must you die to?

What have you died to already?

What costs of a disciple were you not aware of before?

What costs may you need to be prepared for in the future?

Why do you think anyone would want to be a disciple of Christ when the cost is so high?

Look again at the passages in Luke and Matthew. What are the promises from God of being a disciple of Christ?

What is the cost of not following Jesus?

Which costs you more in the end?

For more on your own:
Book: The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Video: Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace <http://www.crossroad.to/Persecution/Bonhoffer.html>

CV Audio Notes

“KEY THOUGHT”

Unit 5B: Andrew Dinner

Unit 5B

Andrew Dinner

Because a disciple...

- Bears fruit of Christlikeness and is leading others to know Jesus Christ *John 15:8*
- Is pursuing the Great Commission *Matthew 28:19-20*
- Must learn to articulate the Gospel and participate in the Great Commission as a member of a team

...Your Assignments are:

- Conduct an Andrew Dinner
- Group Activity: Fill out Andrew Dinner Survey and deliver to your director
- Pray: that the hearts of those attending the Andrew Dinner will be convicted by the Holy Spirit
- Review all D-group verses and Heart Attitudes with a group member.
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record "key thought"
- Bonus: Memorize your own choice of Scripture

Andrew Dinner Survey

1. Guest's Name	Was Guest of	Relationship
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2. Where was the dinner held?

3. Describe the facility and atmosphere of the room/table/area where you held the dinner.

4. Describe the order of events/agenda of the evening. Include what group member and/or guest took care of what responsibilities.

5. Describe the discussion during your Andrew Dinner.

6. When you followed-up with your guest, what was his/her response?

7. Please explain any other creative ideas or unusual events that you might recommend during an Andrew Dinner.

8. General comments.

Unit 6: Graduation Party

Unit 6

Graduation Party

Because a disciple...

- Is committed to loving “one another” *John 13:34-35*
- Does things with excellence *Mark 7:37*
- Finishes well *2 Timothy 4:7*

...Your Assignments are:

- Meet with your leader and finish L-1:
 - Check off all assignments
 - L-1 Test
 - Spiritual growth goals
- Return all borrowed materials
- Have fun

Graduation Materials

Graduation Report

For each task completed put the approximate Date of completion and have your Discipleship Leader initial it.

MEMBER NAME

LEADER NAME

Date: **Leader's Initials** **Study Guides/Bible Studies/etc.**

		Study Guide "Yardwork, Laundry and Other Acts of Greatness" by Bob Brandon
		Bible Study: "Servant Heart"
		Bible Study: "Developing Character" by Howard Hendricks
		Bible Study: "Preparing To Lead"
		Study Guide "Developing Convictions" by Howard Hendricks
		Bible Study: Devotional Method on 1 Thessalonians 1
		Bible Study: "Cost of Discipleship"

Date: **Leader's Initials** **Group Covenant**

		Kick off Seminar: <input type="checkbox"/> Attended <input type="checkbox"/> Made up
		Discuss Introduction Letter
		Discuss and sign Leadership 1 Group Covenant

Date:	Leader's Initials	Assignments:
		During group read and discuss "Roles People Play in a Bible study"
		Complete self-evaluation form
		Read "Ideas for things to do when leading a Small Group Bible Study"
		During group read and discuss "Group Leader's Study Notes" & "Group Evaluation" handouts
		Write out a plan to begin your own small group Bible Study and be prepared to share it with your group for their feedback and additional input
		Review or revise your Scripture Memory plan to stay fresh on Basic Training, D-1 and D-2 verses while adding L-1 verses. Write down your plan (a few sentences at most) and go over it with your leader.
		Review the article "How to plan and conduct an Andrew Dinner" from D-2.
		Review all of your Discipleship Memory verses with a group member.
		Optional Activity: Fill out the Andrew Dinner Survey if attempted.

Date:	Leader's Initials	Pamphlets/Articles:
		Article "Called To Serve" Ray Hoo
		Article: "Mentoring To Maturity" Lynn Austin
		Article: Thoughts on starting a Bible Study
		Article: "Many Aspire, Few Attain" by Walt Henrichsen

Date:	Leader's Initials	Audios:
		"Yardwork, Laundry and Other Acts of Greatness by Bob Brandon
		"Pacesetting" by Walt Henrichsen
		"Leadership - Developing Character" by Howard Hendricks
		"Leadership - Developing Convictions" By Howard Hendricks

Date:	Leader's Initials	Scriptures Memorized
		Philippians 2:3-4
		Matthew 20:26-28
		Hebrews 3:13
		Philippians 4:9
		1 Peter 4:10
		1 Timothy 4:12
		Acts 5:42
		Nehemiah 7:2
		Ephesians 4:25
		Luke 9:23
		Scripture of choice:
		Scripture of choice:

Key Thoughts for Basic Training 1

Unit 1:

Unit 2:

Unit 3:

Unit 4:

Unit 5:

Date: **Leader's Initials** **Worship Attendance:**

		Unit 1 Message Title: _____ Key Thought: _____ _____ _____ Attend and pray for another to grow in faith as they serve one another
		Unit 2 Message Title: _____ Key Thought: _____ _____ _____ Attend and pray for the spiritual leaders of CV and your church
		Unit 3 Message Title: _____ Key Thought: _____ _____ _____ Attend and pray for greater spiritual interest among students
		Unit 4 Message Title: _____ Key Thought: _____ _____ _____ Attend and pray for God to raise up laborers for the harvest
		Unit 5 Message Title: _____ Key Thought: _____ _____ _____ Attend and pray for the CV staff and leadership team
		Unit 6 Message Title: _____ Key Thought: _____ _____ _____ Attend and pray for our national President and government leaders
		Unit 7 Message Title: _____ Key Thought: _____ _____ _____ Attend and pray for state and local government leaders

Key Thoughts for Basic Training 1

Leader's
Date: Initials Group Mtg: Check One:

		Week 1 Mtg	<input type="checkbox"/> Attended	<input type="checkbox"/> Made Up
		Week 2 Mtg	<input type="checkbox"/> Attended	<input type="checkbox"/> Made Up
		Week 3 Mtg	<input type="checkbox"/> Attended	<input type="checkbox"/> Made Up
		Week 4 Mtg	<input type="checkbox"/> Attended	<input type="checkbox"/> Made Up
		Week 5 Mtg	<input type="checkbox"/> Attended	<input type="checkbox"/> Made Up
		GRADUATION PARTY!!!!	<input type="checkbox"/> Attended	

Unit 1:

Unit 2:

Unit 3:

Unit 4:

Unit 5:

Unit 6:

Leader's
Date: Initials Heart Attitudes:

		Heart Attitude #1
		Heart Attitude #2
		Heart Attitude #3
		Heart Attitude #4
		Heart Attitude #5

Graduation Test

Leader's Name

Member's Name

Date

**Leader's
Initials:**

At Graduation Test:

Recite all Basic Training, D-1, D-2, L-1 verses, and Heart Attitudes #1,2,3 & 5 with corresponding verses in one sitting.

Share your Testimony with your leader in under 3 minutes

Draw and explain the HAND Illustration to your leader

Draw and explain the WHEEL Illustration to your leader

Share the Bridge Illustration with your leader

Discuss CV large group involvement with your leader (Did you participate in the work of ministry over the course of this semester?)

Write 2 sentences describing a particularly helpful sermon and tell why it was helpful.

Date: _____
Leader's Initials: _____

At Graduation Test:

Specifically where, when and how do you have your quiet time? i.e. At the kitchen table at 6 am with coffee, my bible, prayer journal, notebook, etc.

Explain to your leader how your most meaningful verse had deep meaning/impact on your life.

Date: _____
Leader's Initials: _____

At Graduation Test:

Describe to your leader one significant Quiet Time you have had this semester and why it was significant. Write a brief description below.

List 2 non-Christians you are pursuing relationships with. How do you intend to pursue these relationships over the next three months?

Attitude Section

Review the “D-Group Attitudes”, “Common D-Group Issues” and “Should I Get In or Stay Out For Now?” and initial any attitudes that you have experienced or harbored at any time during your D-Group membership (not just this semester). Allow your leader to initial any attitudes that s/he thinks you struggle with. Discuss/confess these attitudes with your leader and how you have resolved them. If any remain unresolved, advise your group leader and seek counsel from your group leader or other spiritual mentor about addressing those attitudes and about what is likely to occur in your life if those attitudes continue.

_____ has freely and willingly:
Members Name

- Completed all assignments with a high standard of excellence.
- Taken seriously the group covenant and as best I can determine, has adhered to the following:
 - Acknowledged and submitted to Christ as Lord of his/her daily life.
 - Practiced the Biblical Heart Attitudes:
 - sought to make the group a success and to put the goals and interests of the group, it's members and the leader, above his/her own interestlived an*
 - open, honest life before the group*
 - received correction with humility, changed his/her attitudes/actions and asked forgiveness/cleared up relationships as necessary and in a manner consistent with scripture, the Biblical Heart Attitudes, and the group leader's guidance*
 - participated in the ministry of CV*
 - practiced supporting the work financially by giving cheerfully as God led*
 - followed spiritual leadership (including your group leader) and made it a joy for them*
- Made a serious effort to attend all group meetings on time. Made up all missed meetings.

- Participated in group discussions.
- Attended “kickoff ” seminar and graduation event(s) or cleared absence with leader in advance and made-up the meeting.
- Kept what was shared in the group in confidence.
- Made a serious effort to get to know and to pray for other group members (outside of the group time).
- Submitted to the authority, leadership and intervention of the group leader, within scriptural limits.
- Completed the Graduation Test with excellence.

WE WILL NOT LIE TO PEOPLE.

Be sure that they have made it a joy to lead them. Their response to accountability determines whether or not it has been a joy.

IF YOU DREAD CORRECTING THEM, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN A JOY.

I certify that _____ has complied with all of the above and I heartily and without reservation recommend him/her for graduation and for acceptance into the next phase of discipleship training. I also certify that he/she has made it a joy for me to lead or has received and responded to correction, and it is my belief that he/she will make it a joy for me (and for other leaders) in the future.

Leader's Signature

Or

I cannot recommend graduation yet for the following reasons:

Leader's Signature

Date: _____

Requests:

Prayer Requests

Answered Prayer:

Date:_____

Requests:

Answered Prayer:

Date:_____

Requests:

Answered Prayer:

Appendix

KEY VALUES

“The foundation upon which we base our lifestyle and ministry”

1. Knowing God
2. Development of Godly Character
3. Making Jesus Known to Others
4. Raising Up Disciples & Disciple-makers
5. The Value of the Individual
6. Interdependence
7. Effectiveness
8. God’s Word as our Authority
9. Accountability
10. Spiritual Disciplines

1. Knowing God

We are created to know God in a personal way.

BIBLICAL BASIS

1. Isaiah 43:10
2. Jeremiah 9:23,24
3. Jeremiah 29:13
4. John 14:8,9
5. James 4:8

THINKING IT THROUGH

- God is approachable and personal. [Hosea 6:3]
- There is a difference in knowing and knowing about God. [John 17:3]
- The Bible helps us know God. [John 17:17]
- Focusing on the “Attributes” of God teaches us who God is and what he is like.
- It is not how much you know but who you know and how well you know him.

QUESTIONS

1. Why should we want to know God? [Deuteronomy 33:27; Isaiah 43:7; John 10:10]
2. How do we get to know God?
Time [Psalm 46:1]
Motivation [Psalm 27:8]
Attitude [Isaiah 66:1,2]
Intensity [1 Chronicles 28:9]
3. What makes a relationship better?
4. What lies has satan told you that you have believed regarding knowing God.

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- How would you describe your relationship with God?
[Serving, obeying, loving, other]
- What barrier(s) is keeping you from knowing God more intimately?
- What adjustments will you make in your schedule this week to know God better?
- Who will you share these applications with? When?

FURTHER STUDY

A. Scripture

Psalm 27:8	Psalm 145:18
Matthew 5:8	Matthew 22:36,37
John 17:3	1 Corinthians 1:9

B. Resources

1. Characteristics of Jesus as the Father on Earth - Campus Ventures
2. Knowing God by J. I. Packer
3. My Utmost for His Highest - Oswald Chambers
4. Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby
5. Campus Ventures "One to One" Manual "Knowing God"

2. Character Development

God wants us to be like Jesus Christ in our thinking, actions and attitudes.

BIBLICAL BASIS

1. Romans 5:3,4
2. Romans 8:29
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17
4. Galatians 5:22,23
5. 2 Peter 1:5-7

THINKING IT THROUGH

- There should be a noticeable difference in our lives compared to the average person in the world. [Acts 4:13]
- The more our relationship with Jesus grows and the more obedient we are, the more our character will reflect His. [Luke 6:40]
- God uses people to develop Godly character. [Proverbs 27:17]
- God's purpose is for us to be holy and blameless. [Ephesians 1:4]
- God has given us all we need to become Godly Christians. [2 Peter 1:3,4]

QUESTIONS

1. How much of having a Godly character depends on us and how much depends on God?
2. How does seeking advice and accepting rebuke indicate a desire for Godly character?
3. Why does our “reaction” speak louder about our character than our “action”?
4. What role does accountability have in the development of Godly character?
5. Does it matter what we think about? How does this relate to Godly character? [Proverbs 4:23]

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Ask 5 people to honestly share with you the weaknesses they see in you.
- Think about Colossians 3:1-10 and 12-16. How can you “put to death” and “put on” those characteristics you see in these scriptures?
- What actions or ways of thinking are holding you back from displaying Godly character?
- Are you spending adequate time in the word? How can you improve this? [Hebrews 4:12]

FURTHER STUDY

A. Scripture

Proverbs 6:6-9 12:15 2 Corinthians 10:5
1 Thessalonians 2:8-11 Hebrews 5:8
James 1:22-25

B. Resources

1. Campus Ventures “One to One” Manual “Character Development”
2. Iron Sharpens Iron - Howard Hendricks
3. Right from Wrong - Josh McDowell

3. Making Jesus Known to Others

It is our privilege and responsibility to share Jesus Christ with every person we can.

BIBLICAL BASIS

1. Matthew 4:19
2. Mark 16:15
3. John 14:6
4. Acts 1:8 8:4
5. 1 Peter 3:15

THINKING IT THROUGH

- Jesus spent time with friends who did not accept his message. He was with non Christians socially. [Matthew 9:10-13]
- If it isn't real, you won't share it. [Acts 4:20]
- Your life underscores or crosses out what you share with people. [Ezekiel 36:23 and 1 Corinthians 15:34]
- You can spend too much time "building the relationship." [Ecclesiastes 11:4]
- We must learn how to not compromise but at the same time put a non-Christian at ease.

QUESTIONS

1. What is God's and your responsibility regarding evangelism? [Acts 16:14]
2. How would you rank your care factor for those who do not know Jesus? [Matthew 9:36]
3. Why are we to be culturally distinct in our lifestyle? What would that look like for you?
4. What could it mean if people are not asking you why your life is different from the world?

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Begin praying for your non Christian friends - those to share with, those you have but are interested, and those you know who are not interested.
- We share from an overflow. Our walk with God must be healthy to effectively share Jesus. Have someone regularly ask you about your quiet time.
- Get with some who is sharing Jesus with others and go with them.
- Develop a strategy for sharing Jesus with those you have regular contact with.

FURTHER STUDY

A. Scripture

Luke 19:10	John 4:1-26
Acts 26:17,18	Romans 1:16
1 Corinthians 15:3,4	2 Corinthians 4:4
2 Timothy 2:19-21, 4:2	

B. Resources

1. Campus Ventures "One to One" Manual "Witnessing"
2. Lifestyle Evangelism by Jim Peterson
3. Evidence that Demands a Verdict - Josh McDowell
4. Engles Evangelistic Countdown

4. Raising Up Disciples & Disciple-makers

We are to help others know and love God and equip them to disciple others to impact future generations for Jesus Christ.

BIBLICAL BASIS

1. Matthew 6:33
2. Matthew 22:36,37
3. Matthew 28:18-20
4. Luke 14:25-33
5. 2 Timothy 2:2

THINKING IT THROUGH

- What a person does reveals what they are committed to regardless of what they say they are committed to. [Ephesians 5:15-17]
- If the world is reached, it will be done through multiplication rather than addition.
- We are to disciple people to Jesus Christ and not ourselves. [Matthew 22:36,37]
- We can impress people at a distance but impact only up close.
- "A few people thoroughly trained are more effective than many superficially trained."

QUESTIONS

1. Near the end of your life as you look back, what will you have had to do to consider your life was a success?
2. What needs to change in your life for you to make a difference and become a disciple maker?
3. How is availability tied to making disciples? [Mark 3:14]
4. How real are you willing to be with a person you want to disciple? [1 Thessalonians 2:8]

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Which of these are areas you need to work on? Vulnerability, Unselfishness, Availability, Consistency, Usability, Skillfulness, Honesty, Servant Attitude. Choose one to work on.
- Think through John 17 and write down what you should pray for the person you disciple.
- Ask God to give you a person who has a desire to grow. Ask this person if they would like for you to share with them some things that have helped you grow.

FURTHER STUDY

A. Scripture

1 Chronicles 12:32
Ezekiel 22:30
Acts 13:36
Colossians 2:6
1 Peter 5:5,6

Proverbs 22:29
Luke 16:10
1 Corinthians 15:34
2 Timothy 3:10,11

B. Resources

1. Campus Ventures "One to One" Manual
2. The Lost Art of Disciplemaking by Leroy Eims
3. Disciples are Made not Born by Walt Henrichsen
4. Personal Disciplemaking by Chris Adsit

5. The Value of the Individual

Every person is created in the image of God and therefore is valuable.

BIBLICAL BASIS

1. Genesis 1:26,27
2. Psalm 139:16
3. John 3:16
4. Ephesians 2:10
5. 1 Peter 1:18-20

THINKING IT THROUGH

- Almost everyone wants to be important and have an impact in life.
- Reflect on God's statement about creation - after he made everything (including man) he said it was good.
- We are valuable to God because of who we are, what we cost God and what we can become.
- Meditate on 2 Peter 1:3 and think about the most important things God has given you to help you live a Godly life.
- The world's value system is based on performance. God's system is based on the truth he says about you.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the criteria people use to measure personal worth? Which ones did Jesus miss?
2. Given the opportunity to change anything about yourself and circumstances, would you? What would you change? Why?
3. Would you think differently about yourself if this changed? Why?
4. What are some marks that could be seen in a person's life who has a low opinion of themselves?

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Spend some time thanking God for your life-circumstances, aspects about yourself, etc.
- Think about and write down your thoughts about Romans 12:1. Remember your worth to God.
- Ask a few people to share with you the strengths they see in you.

FURTHER STUDY

A. Scripture

Isaiah 55:8,9

Romans 12:3

2 Corinthians 5:16; 10:12

Mark 1:9-11, 8:36,37

Luke 6:26, 12:24, 15

B. Resources

1. The Search for Significance Workbook by Robert McGee

6. Interdependence

God made us to relate to, learn from, share with and depend on one another rather than to live independently.

BIBLICAL BASIS

1. Acts 2:42-45

2. Acts 4:32-34

3. 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

4. Ephesians 4:15,16

5. Hebrews 10:24,25

THINKING IT THROUGH

- American culture works against Christians living interdependently. Ours is a country emphasizing freedom and independence.
- Pride and selfishness are enemies of Christians living interdependently.
- Most Christians never get past a threshold in relationships with others. Shallowness rather than intimacy describes most relationships.
- Local churches and Christian organizations often inhibit the development of interdependent relationships by keeping Christians busy but not providing a structure that allows for intimacy.
- We must be a functioning part of a local church or Christian organization.

QUESTIONS

1. What thoughts might a non Christian have if they see Christians living interdependently rather than independently?
2. What builds interdependence among Christians?
3. What contributes to Christians living independently?
4. In what way does a busy lifestyle diminish the ability to relate interdependently?
5. Why do some people shy away from intimate relationships?

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Think of one or two of your relationships and list a few ways to improve them.
- Join a small group which focuses on developing intimate relationships.
- What commitments do you need to make in order to develop your interdependence with others?
- Study the “One Another” passages in scripture and think through how to apply them.

FURTHER STUDY

A. Scripture

John 13:34,35

Galatians 6:2

Phil. 2:3,4

James 5:16

Romans 12:10,16; 14:13,19; 15:7

1 Corinthians 12:25

Hebrews 3:13

1 Peter 5:5,6

B. Resources

1. Building Up One Another by Gene Getz

2. Sharpening the Focus of the Church by Gene Getz

7. Effectiveness

Living life and doing ministry God's way is the only valid measurement of effectiveness.

BIBLICAL BASIS

1. Matthew 6:33
2. John 4:31-34
3. John 6:28,29
4. John 7:17
5. Ephesians 5:15-17

THINKING IT THROUGH

- Telling is not teaching anymore than listening is learning.
- Our ministry can be considered effective when we: Focus on truth, Develop Biblical relationships, and it is Relevant.
- A good measurement for effectiveness is to evaluate your life with regard to Matthew 22:36,37 and Matthew 28:19,20.
- Effectiveness has more to do with being than doing.

QUESTIONS

1. How would you know you were effective with regard to your personal growth and Godly character development?
2. How would you differentiate between playing a child's game and a man's game? 1 Corinthians 13:11 How does this relate to effectiveness?
3. Is there someone who is walking with God because of your life and investment of time with them?
4. What our heart consistently turns to reveals our passion. Would this indicate effectiveness? How?

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Think about where you are, where you think God wants you to be and how you can get there.
- Think about how you act upon what you are taught. Refer to Luke 6:46 and write your thoughts.
- Spend a day in prayer and ask God to show you anything He wants about your life.

FURTHER STUDY

A. Scripture

Jeremiah 2:13
John 7:38
James 1:22-25

Psalms 1:2,3
2 Timothy 4:7
1 John 2:15,16

B. Resources

1. Leaders on Leadership by George Barna

8. The Role of the Bible

The Bible is the final authority and is completely sufficient for living as God intended.

BIBLICAL BASIS

1. Proverbs 30:5
2. John 5:39
3. John 17:17
4. Romans 15:4
5. 2 Timothy 3:16,17
6. 2 Peter 1:20,21

THINKING IT THROUGH

- The Bible is believable because it deals with life as it really is.
- People will reject the Bible based on moral objections rather than on intellectual objections.
- The Bible is not true because it works but it works because it is true.
- The Bible was not written for our instruction but to change our life.
- The Bible points us to Jesus Christ who is the final authority.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the implications of the Bible not being the inspired word of God? Of it being inspired?
2. Why do you think people reject the Bible as authority for their life?
3. What do we mean when we say the bible is completely sufficient for life?
4. How would you answer a Hindu or Muslim who claimed equal authority for their holy scriptures?

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Think about 2 Tim. 3:16,17. Have you gotten off track from God's best? How can you get back?
- Ask a few people to tell you how the bible has changed their life.
- Set a goal of reading through the bible in a year and having a daily quiet time with God.
- Begin memorizing key verses of scripture and get a partner to help you review.

FURTHER STUDY

A. Scripture

Psalm 19:7-11

John 12:48

Ephesians 4:14

Hebrews 4:12

2 Peter 1:3,4

B. Resources

1. Evidence that Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell
2. Campus Ventures One to One Discipling Ministry Manual "Scripture Memory"

9. Accountability

The willingness to explain your actions, answer for your life and give reasons why.

BIBLICAL BASIS

1. Eccl. 4:9,10
2. Matthew 23:25-27
3. Acts 20:28
4. Romans 14:12
5. Hebrews 13:17

THINKING IT THROUGH

- Mediocrity is the easy way out. Accountability helps us live with excellence and wholeheartedness.
- A meaningful accountable relationship involves a commitment to vulnerability, teachability, availability, and honesty.
- We all have blindspots, errors in thinking or wrong approaches to a problem.
- Expectations should be discussed so each person understands the other's expectations.
- Men should be accountable to men and women to women.
- Set parameters of accountability.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to have someone in our life who will ask us hard questions?
2. What above commitments would be difficult for you to make? Why?
3. What are the advantages of having a peer rather than a mentor as an accountability partner?
4. What are some good questions that could be asked in accountability relationships? [Example- Did you compromise your integrity this week?]

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Find one person to whom you can relate to deeply.
- Get a group together for this purpose.
- Ask a few people to share a possible blind spot, error in your thinking or wrong approach to a problem they see in you.

FURTHER STUDY

A. Scripture

Judges 21:25

Colossians 1:28,29

Proverbs 13:18

James 5:16

B. Resources

1. The Lost Art of Disciplemaking by Leroy Eims
2. Connecting by Paul Stanley and Robert Clinton
3. As Iron Sharpens Iron by Howard Hendricks

10. Disciplines

A commitment to doing the most important things that help me fulfill God's purpose for my life.

BIBLICAL BASIS

1. Proverbs 21:25 and 22:13
2. Luke 16:10
3. Philippians 3:14 and 4:13
4. 1 Timothy 4:7,8

THINKING IT THROUGH

- Responsibility in big things is achieved through responsibility in little things.
- We each do exactly what we want to do.
- Discipline is required to develop Biblical convictions, maintain a focused schedule, live without tension and develop staying power.
- It is usually not an issue of "I can't" but rather "I won't".
- Some important disciplines include: Bible study, Bible reading, prayer, quiet times and scripture memory.

QUESTIONS

1. Does what matters the most to Jesus matter the most to you? How do you know?
2. Are you willing to be disciplined in order to have matter to you what matters to Jesus?
3. What strategies does Satan use to keep us from being disciplined?
4. Is using the reason of not having a disciplined type of personality valid? Why? Why not?

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- What are one or two disciplines you want to develop in your life? How can you begin to do this?
- What do you need to change in your schedule that will allow you to incorporate more disciplines in your life?
- Study the “Wheel” and “Hand” illustrations. How can these become functioning parts of your life?

FURTHER STUDY

A. Scripture

Psalm 119:44,46,48
Acts 9:10-19

Ecclesiastes 7:8 and 11:4
2 Timothy 4:7

B. Resources

1. Daws by Betty Skinner
2. Basic Ingredients of Spiritual Growth by Leroy Eims
3. “Wheel” and “Hand” Illustrations

