



Spiritual Leadership

4th Edition: Updated 2021

Matthew 20:26-28

*"...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,
and whoever wants to be first must be your slave -
just as the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

"A leader leads by serving, and a servant serves by leading."
~ InterVarsity Small Group Leaders Handbook

Developed by Campus Ventures

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The CV 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 (see the Progression of Leadership in the Appendix)
- 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 Core Values:

1. Experiential Walk with Jesus (the Word & Prayer by Faith, walking in step with the Spirit, etc.) [Galatians 5:25; John 15:5]
2. Thriving in Community [1 John 1:3; Ephesians 4:13-16]
3. Spiritually Reproduce [Matthew 28:19; 2 Timothy 2:2]
4. Evangelize Peers [Acts 1:8; Colossians 1:28-29 JBP]
5. Worship (giving, serving, life, song, etc.) [Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 10:31]
6. Commitment (faithfulness in following through) [Luke 16:10]
7. Loving the LORD with all your Mind (as one thinks critically and grows more Biblical in their worldview) [Mt. 22:37-40; Pr. 3:5-6; 1 Chron. 12:32]

7 Heart Attitudes of CV

for the Glory of God

I realize that in order to fulfill the core values of CV I will often need to:

1. Put the goals and interests of others above my own.
“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
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...” Matthew 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...”
1 Peter 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 Progression 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***

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

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

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

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

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

4. **Pacesetter: Earning the Authority of a Leader - *1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 5:3***

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

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

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

Spiritual Leadership 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 makeup 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 Retreat
 - **Reason:** Relationships and "family" are developed on retreats. Retreats create unique opportunities for God to work in your life.
6. Attend graduation party.
 - **Reason:** Again, the group needs you! It will benefit you to do things together.
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:** Deepens relationships and builds trust.

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

Signatures of all group members:

Contact List

Group Name: _____

Member's Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Member's Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Member's Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Member's Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Member's Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Member's Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

BECOMING A SERVANT

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- 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*

... Therefore, your commitments 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 one of the following verses related to Servanthood:
 - Matthew 20:26-28 w/ topic: Servant Heart
 - Pick your own verse
- Pray for one another to grow in faith as they serve one another
- Read through the One-Verse Bridge at least 3 times this week
- Write down a key thought (on the Action Plan page) that helps you remember the importance following Jesus’s example of servanthood and consider how you can take opportunities to practice this
- Look for opportunities to spend time with God in His Word and practice listening for His Voice.
- Attend CV Large Group 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

Before Moving On...

What is the “moral why” of following Jesus into being a servant to others?

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

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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" (I 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 lifestyle 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 lifestyles 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 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 babysitting. 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 kindness 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 a 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.

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's heart? Luke 6:38

MENTORING

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- 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*

... Therefore, your commitments are:

- Audio: “[Pacesetting](#)” 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
- Watch the following video of someone presenting the [One-Verse Bridge](#)
 - Then practice the first step of this illustration by drawing the chasm/cliff with a person on one side and God on the other...then writing out the verse and the emphasizing the first word [Wages] and talking about what it means
- Pray about putting on an Andrew Dinner during L-1 (optional)
- Pray for the spiritual leaders of CV and your church.
- Write down anything the Holy Spirit has spoken to you about (Action Plan page)
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record “key thought”
 - Bonus: Meditate on Key Value: “Accountability” (see Appendix) and answer one question as an application

Before Moving On...

What is the difference between mentoring and coaching?

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, and 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 week's 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 if 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

CREATING A BIBLE STUDY

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- 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*

... Therefore, your commitments are:

- Audio and Study Guide: "[Developing Character](#)" by Howard Hendricks
- 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)
- One Verse Bridge Practice: Practice with the first 7 words of Rom. 6:23
 - Refer to the Navigator discussion on the OVB in the Appendix.
- 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
- 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

Before Moving On...

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 _____. The 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 dissension 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 downside 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 1 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)?

Self-Evaluation Form

"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)

Follow-Up Date:

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 _____

HOW TO LEAD A SMALL GROUP

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- 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*

... Therefore, your commitments are:

- Audio and Study Guide: "[Developing Convictions](#)" by Howard Hendricks
- 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
- One Verse Bridge practice: Practice with the first 12 words of Rom. 6:23
- 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
- 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

Before Moving On...

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) _____, 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 from 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:

- a. 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 _____ - _____
_____.
- b. Should be done in a _____ setting.
- c. Should take place in a _____ setting.
- d. 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 -

4th Principle -

5th Principle -

6th 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.
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.
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.
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 _____

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 subtopics:** 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”
- **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

COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

“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*

God has a wonderful purpose and plan for your life. But He lets us choose 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?

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- 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*

... Therefore, your commitments are:

- Article: *Many Aspire, Few Attain* by Walter Henrichsen
- Bible Study: “Cost of Discipleship”
- One Verse Bridge practice: Practice with the first 15 words of Rom. 6:23
- Memorize:: HA #2 with supporting verse Ephesians 4:25
- Memorize: Luke 9:23 with topic: Cost of Discipleship
- Check your application of your scripture memory 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
- 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

Before Moving On...

Many Aspire Few Attain

WALTER A HENRICHSEN

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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 (*1 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>

ANDREW DINNER

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- 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

... Therefore, your commitments 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

Before Moving On...

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.

USING SPIRITUAL ARMOR

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- Puts Jesus first over family, self and all that one has *Luke 14:24,33*
- Abides in God's Word *John 8:31,32*
- Bears fruit of Christlikeness *John 15:8*
- Must learn to conform every aspect of life to the scriptures *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

... Therefore, your commitments are:

- Video Workshop "[Using Spiritual Armor](#)" (during group meeting)
 - Study Guide "Using Spiritual Armor" Harold Bullock
- Study the Chart "Comfort and Convenience"
- Article: "How to Deal with Anger" Dr. Larry Crabb
- Describe (write down) at least two occurrences when you became angry and how you handled it. Be prepared to share these with the group.
- Review or revise your Scripture Memory plan to stay fresh on Foundations, Frameworks, & Spiritual Leadership verses. Write down your plan (a few sentences at most) and go over it with your leader
- Bible Study: Use the Devotional Method on Ephesians 6:10-18 and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- One Verse Bridge practice: Practice the entire One Verse Bridge Illustration
- Memorize: Ephesians 6:12-13 with Topic: Spiritual Armor
- Pray for God's victory over the forces of darkness
- Record your KEY THOUGHT
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record "key thought"
 - Bonus: Meditate on Key Value: "Interdependence" (see Appendix) and answer one question as an application

Before Moving On...

How to Use the Spiritual Armor

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OUR GOAL: That you would understand how to use the armor God has provided you for the struggles that you will certainly face.

The Armor Scriptures

Luke 11:21-22

21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe.

22 "But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils."

Romans 13:12-14

12 "The night is nearly over, the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

13 "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

14 "Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

Ephesians 6:11-18

11 "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

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

13 "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

1 Thessalonians 5:8 "But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet."

Spiritual armor is defensive _____.

The Nature of the Battle We Fight?

- *Exceptionally Bad Days Come*
- *Powerful, Unseen Spirits Attack*
- *In Hand To Hand Combat*
- *Using Subtle Strategies*
- *To Take Us “Down”*

Use of the armor is important because you can be captured _____
the Devil and do his will.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

The Goal of the Struggle:

Having done all, to _____.

“Using the Spiritual Armor” Chart

ARMOR	PHYSICAL FUNCTION	SPIRITUAL FUNCTION	TEMPTATION	ACTION TO TAKE
Belt of Truth (belt which is truth)	Keeps your stuff in place; Keeps un-tangled	Keeps you from getting unexpectedly snarled and confused	Just compromise a little bit - let small lies, angry thoughts, hurt at God continue	Keep checking the truth of what you think, do, say
Breastplate of Righteousness (breastplate which is righteousness)	Protects your heart and vital organs - the key to faster or slower death	Protects the secret, inner decision-making center where values quietly direct one's life choices	1. Get you to depend on your “righteousness” instead of Christ's - and become angry, disappointed and discouraged with yourself 2. Skate near the “thin ice,” close to moral temptations so that you can suddenly and quickly be taken by a strong temptation	1. Keep reminding yourself of justification by Christ's righteousness. 2. Build righteous patterns of living and stay away from the “thin ice”
Shoes: Readiness with Gospel of Peace	Keeps from falling in slippery circumstances	Adds sure-footed maneuverability when severely tempted	Put you in a situation where you have a history of weakness	Share the Gospel quickly when strongly tempted
Shield of Faith (Shield which is faith)	Protects from wounds that could disable for a more vital blow	Protects from thoughts, emotions, or fears that could lead to the heart secretly shifting its values, motives or goals from God's to the world's	Bring up thoughts, emotions, situations or fears that cause one to stop trusting God to do them good	Declare, “My God will not rip me off” and stand on it
Helmet of Salvation (which is salvation)	Protects the brain from being crushed and immediate death	Anchors your thinking in reality, enabling you to make correct decisions as you fight	“Anyone who would be tempted like this or make a mistake like this must not be a real Christian. You aren't safe. God will not come through for you.”	1. Make sure you have fulfilled the Scriptures and are saved 2. If tempted, declare your salvation by faith through Christ's death for you
Sword of the Spirit (the word of God fit to the occasion)	Allows one to defend oneself and to attack and drive off the enemy by vigorous use	Allows you to “fight back” and drive off the attackers	“It would be so much easier, better, more fulfilling if you would just compromise a bit on this matter...”	“This is what the word of God says about this and I quote...”
Prayer in the Spirit				Alertness to pray specifically for yourself and other Christians

Comfort and Convenience

Doug Sherman

“If the Lord will” is a catchword today. But it should be more than a catchword; it should be an act of submission, humility, and maturity.

Seek Christlike character more than comfort and convenience.

This may be where immature Christians stop and mature ones go on. The ultimate goal of the Christian life is not health, wealth, and prosperity. It's not comfort and convenience. It's Christlike character. If you can come to value Christlike character more than comfort and convenience, you'll understand God's ways and purposes for your life.

“A good name is more desirable than great riches” (Proverbs 22:1). The Bible repeatedly says our character means more to God, and should mean more to us, than anything else. It's natural to want to live for comfort and convenience, but God has a much higher purpose for us.

	When comfort and convenience matter most...	When Christlike character matters most...
You'll PRAY:	“Lord, make this problem go away.”	“Lord, not my will but Yours be done; only help me learn to respond correctly.”
You'll THINK:	Why is God doing this to me? When will it be over? I'm angry at God for allowing this.	I must trust in God's good purpose and plan for me, and learn to depend on Him more.
You'll VALUE:	Being in control of your circumstances; trusting in yourself; achievement, prestige, and peer respect.	Being dependent on God daily; a deep relationship with God that impacts all other relationships; the character He is building in you.
You'll EXPERIENCE:	Frustration and anger because your goals are blocked.	A daily walk with Christ that involves Him in the details of life.
Your CHARACTER will be:	Superficial, self-centered, bitter, and arrogant.	That of a Christlike servant who both knows and trusts God in his or her daily experience.

How to Deal with Anger

By Dr. Lawrence J. Crabb, Jr.

Fred arrives home after a tough day at work. Unconsciously, he's hoping for a friendly greeting, a warm hug, and a prepared dinner from his wife, Joan. But as he enters the kitchen, Joan turns and asks, "Why are you so late? You said you'd be home by six and it's nearly seven!" Fred's teeth clench and his eyes blaze as half a dozen possible responses flash through his brain. Fred is angry.

Fred is mad because Joan has blocked his goal - affection. Everything we humans do has a goal. We are not victims of internal, psychological forces that drive us in unwanted directions. Although it may often FEEL as though we do things we don't want to do, in truth our every action is an attempt to reach a goal that deep down makes good sense to us. When a goal is blocked, it's normal to feel mildly frustrated or furious, depending on how important the goal seems.

As his blood pressure rises, Fred (like most of us) is asking himself, What should I do? His options are (1) to express his anger, (2) to defend his late arrival, (3) to ignore Joan's comment and wash up for dinner, or (4) to embrace. However, God is less concerned with Fred's specific BEHAVIOR than with his MOTIVES. The question Fred needs to ask is not "What should I do?" but "WHAT SHOULD BE MY GOAL?"

Stuffing and Dumping

Two opposing approaches to feeling are vying for dominance in our society. On the one hand, many Christians hold that expressing negative emotions is always sinful. Instructions like "You should never be angry" or "If you can't say something nice, say nothing" bind people into straitjackets of emotional denial. People pretend they feel one way, when they really feel quite different. The masks remain rigidly in place, glued on tightly by the belief that Christian relationships must always consist of accepting smiles and warm expressions of love. In fact the masks cover a Pandora's box of hurt and anger. The goal of this approach is supposedly to avoid hurting the other person, but it generally conceals deeper goals: to protect oneself from conflict or to appear spiritually mature. These deeper goals end up taking precedence over goals like honesty, intimacy, and openhearted ministry to the other person.

On the other hand, some secularists - blissfully ignoring biblical injunctions to put off malice and be kind to one another - insist that feelings are neither good nor bad, they just are. For them, the wisdom of expressing emotions is measured not in moralistic terms, but by pragmatism; "Will I feel better if I express myself?" or "I have a right to tell you how I feel. I will do so if I want to." The goal of this strategy is to make me feel good.

Two alternatives confront us; (1) we can STUFF our feelings inside, or (2) we can assertively DUMP them on others. The first option will produce at best an anxious spiritual phony, and at worst someone who erupts in fits of temper or a bad case of colitis. The second option will avoid psychosomatic illnesses and unexpected outbursts of anger, but at the cost of humility, love, and respect for the other person. Neither strategy is consistent with what I find in the Bible.

Ezekiel 24 is a clue to how God views emotional expression. God told Ezekiel that He was about to take the life of his dearly beloved wife.

“The word of the LORD came to me: ‘Son of man, with one blow I am about to take away from you the delight of your eyes. Yet do not lament or weep or shed any tears. Groan quietly; do not mourn for the dead.’” (Ezekiel 24:15-17)

The death of a beloved wife is naturally a time for profound grief. But God told His servant to “groan quietly.”

First, God ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EZEKIEL WOULD FEEL REAL EMOTIONS. He did not tell the man to feel anything other than what he did feel. Humans are incapable of changing emotions at will. We have just two sets of choices: (1) we can acknowledge them or pretend they don’t exist, and (2) we can express or not express them. God told Ezekiel to groan – to acknowledge how he felt, to experience inwardly the weight of a painful response to a pain-producing event.

Ezekiel’s grief was not sinful; it was fully consistent with love for God and compassion for others. Some emotions (e.g., jealousy, greed, lust) are sinful in that they block compassion. But both kinds of emotions need to be fully acknowledged before the Lord in different ways. When I experience a non-sinful but painful emotion, I am to come to the Lord fully expressing my feelings in humble dependence on His comfort and sufficiency. When I experience sinful emotions, however, I must approach Him with contrition and repentance, trusting in His forgiveness and His promise to complete the work begun in me. I should openly experience my feelings in humble confession. This does not consist of superficial prayers like “Oh, Lord, please forgive me for being angry.” Rather, I will cry, “God I am furious! I am livid with rage! And I know I am wrong! I want to go Your way and be filled with compassion, but right now I am bitter. Please forgive me! I commit myself to Your purposes.” This prayer neither denies nor even minimizes the emotion, so it prevents both the phoniness and the ulcers caused by suppressing feelings.

Second, GOD INSTRUCTED EZEKIEL TO DENY HIMSELF ANY PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF HIS PRIVATE GRIEF. Ezekiel was to acknowledge inwardly how he felt (“groan”), but not express this outwardly (“quietly”). Remember our two sets of choices? Ezekiel was to acknowledge, but not express.

God had a reason for this instruction: the absence of mourning customs would shout to an apostate nation that an impending judgment would be so severe that by comparison a wife’s death justified no tears at all.

Thus, God’s command to “groan quietly” yields two abiding principles. When an emotion arises within us, we are to:

- Acknowledge to ourselves and to God how we feel, letting ourselves experience inwardly the full weight of our emotions;
- Subordinate the public expression of our feeling to the goal of letting God use us for His purposes.

This is the biblical strategy between dumping feelings (which disregards God’s purposes) and suppressing feelings (which denies that God is gracious enough to accept us as we are). The goal of both honesty and selective expression is honoring God.

Goals and Desires

Once we’ve decided to first acknowledge, then selectively express emotions, our

task is to figure out WHEN expressing emotions serves God's purpose. Before we can do this, we have to understand the difference between goals and desires. Every human being longs for security and significance.

THE SECURITY OF RELATIONSHIP

We long for an awareness of being unconditionally and totally loved without needing to change in order to win love – loved by a love that cannot be earned and so cannot be lost.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PURPOSE

Each person longs for a certainty that he is engaged in a responsibility that is truly important, that its results will not evaporate with time but will last through eternity, that has an important impact on another person, and for which he is fully adequate.

Most of us try either to suppress our longings or to satisfy them through achievement or other people. We try to use earning power, social skills, or ministry talents to win people's approval or make ourselves feel we have an impact on the world. We get angry when people don't respond to our cues to say, "Great job! I appreciate you. I accept you just the way you are. I'm glad you're here." We get mad when people treat us as insignificant or fail to show the love we think they ought to show us.

But we are designed so that only God can meet these needs. The Cross is God's guarantee that He loves us securely and unconditionally. God loves us with a love we never deserved, a love that sees everything ugly within us yet accepts us, a love we can do nothing to increase or decrease.

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8)

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1)

Likewise, the Holy Spirit is God's equipment to fulfill tasks in life that contribute to His eternal Kingdom. Every believer is uniquely gifted to build up the Body of Christ in some special, crucial way.

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good....Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body....If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12:7, 14-15, 26-27)

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which

God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

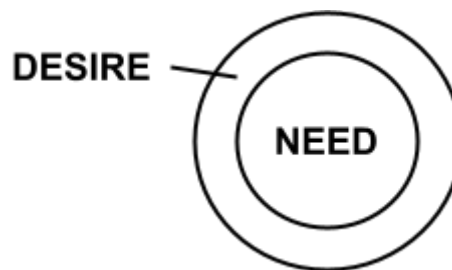
So, if we have accepted Christ’s death for our sins and have received His Spirit into our lives to rule us, then our real needs are fully met.

With our real needs met, God has given us a task that should be the goal of our lives: **TO BE HIS CHOSEN INSTRUMENTS BY WHICH HE TOUCHES OTHER’S NEEDS.** I call this the goal of ministry. Jesus called it the second greatest commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself: (Matthew 19:19).

The more time we spend openly communicating with God in prayer and hungrily absorbing what He says in His Word, the more we will be able to believe that He has met our needs. These pursuits are essential. But no matter how much time we spend at them, we will still feel an unquenchable **DESIRE** for people to make us feel loved and significant.

God intends for Fred to feel keenly the effects of the way Joan treats him. God made humans in His image – personal beings with the ability to affect each other profoundly. Without the desire for each other’s love, we would be incapable of receiving another person’s acceptance with real joy. If we wall ourselves off from intimate relationships, because we need nobody but Christ, then we are rejecting a God made desire. But this **DESIRE MUST NEVER BECOME OUR GOAL.**

Let a circle represent our need for longings and significance. Let an outer circle represent our legitimate desire for richly feeling secure and significant in our relationships.



Christ is adequate to meet our needs; He is able to fill the inner circle of the sketch. He has never promised, however, to fill the outer circle of desire. Yet all our longings for warmth, kindness, understanding, respect, and faithfulness from our spouses, parents, children, friends and coworkers are in that outer circle.

When these desires remain unmet, we feel valid pain. Something good is missing. But because our need to be a worthwhile person is met in Christ whether we feel it or not, we can choose to maintain the goal of ministering to someone who fails to meet our desires.

To Define terms: A **GOAL IS AN OBJECTIVE THAT IS UNDER MY CONTROL.** A Christian can make a goal of seeking to minister to others because his needs are met in Christ. (He still needs God’s grace to achieve that goal, but it is available to him.) An unbeliever lacks this source of security and significance, as well as this source of empowering grace, so he can- not pursue the goal of ministry in a way that pleases God.

A **DESIRE IS AN OBJECTIVE THAT I MAY LEGITIMATELY AND FERVENTLY WANT, BUT CANNOT REACH THROUGH MY EFFORTS ALONE.** To fulfill a desire requires another’s cooperation.

Fred’s feeling of anger is a valuable warning: his goal when he entered his home

was manipulative. He was demanding a response from Joan that would meet what he felt to be a need for love. But love from Joan should have been his desire not his goal, because he could not control what Joan did and because his need for love is met in Christ. By acknowledging his feeling, Fred can receive this warning and repent of his wrong goal. Now he can choose a new goal that follows God's purpose: to be God's instrument to express love to Joan.

Perceiving an objective as a goal or as a desire greatly affects what we do with it. My objective may be that it rain this afternoon. If I perceive this as a goal, I will seek some way to make it happen. But since I cannot control whether it rains, I will feel frustration and anger. However, if I perceive it as a desire, I will simply pray that the One who is in control will provide rain. I will also ask myself if I have any real goal that I can do something about. My lawn may be parched. I DESIRE that it rain, but my GOAL is that my lawn receive water. I can choose to buy a sprinkler to water the lawn. I may not want to drive to the store and spend money, but assuming I have the time and the cash, I can choose to do so.

The proper response to desire, then, is PRAYER. To a goal, the proper response is a set of RESPONSIBLE ACTIONS. If we confuse goals and desires, our responses will be wrong. Too many people pray about their goals ("Lord, make me treat my wife more kindly") and assume responsibility for their desires ("Honey, will you get off my back?").

Express or Not Express?

But the question remains: Should Fred tell Joan how he feels?

If Fred responds to Joan's accusing question with an expression of irritation ("Hey, after a tough day, I wouldn't mind a smile"), his goal is to hurt her or to stop her from complaining or to generate enough guilt to make her change. None of these motives is consistent with the goal of ministry. They are manipulative and therefore sinful. Instead, he can do the following.

BE SLOW TO ANGER

The Scriptures repeatedly exhort us to be careful when we feel angry. It is easy to express our irritation quickly for the wrong purpose and thereby sin.

THINK THROUGH GOALS.

Anger generally results when a goal is blocked. Fred should ask himself what objective he is seeking. If Joan can block it, then it should never have been a goal. He needs to relabel it as a desire ("I hope Joan greets me warmly") and to reaffirm his commitment to the goal of ministry.

DEAL WITH DESIRES.

Fred must embrace, not refuse, the pain he feels because Joan treated him unlovingly. He can ask God to enable Joan to understand his feelings and treat him better. He can pray for help not to let his hurt color his response to Joan. He can thank God for fully meeting his need for love. If Joan repeatedly hurts him, Fred may have to spend a lot of time pouring out his pain to God and crying out for grace.

ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROPER GOAL.

Fred must now decide what action he can take to minister to his wife. The goal of

ministry always takes precedence over sharing the hurt from thwarted desires. Fred could express understanding of her irritation (“Honey, I can understand that you’re angry because I messed up your dinner plans”) and show appreciation for her hard work (“I really appreciate the work you put into meals and everything else”).

EXPRESS NEGATIVE FEELINGS IF DOING SO SERVES A GOOD PURPOSE.

At this point (whether two minutes or two hours later), Fred may tell Joan how annoyed he was with the way she greeted him. He should confess his bitter spirit in order to remove any wall of retreat caused by his anger. He may also express his anger, if he judges that doing so will help her better understand how her behavior affects him. If she wants to minister to him (as he desires), then his sharing how he feels when she behaves in a certain way will help her better reach her goal of ministry.

If Fred expresses his negative feelings, after carrying out the other steps, with the purpose of keeping bitterness from taking root or of making himself more understandable and vulnerable to his wife, then the expression of emotion is ministry. Joan may stay angry with him; she may consign him to an evening of hostile neglect or incessant complaint. Fred cannot control what she does. If she responds in continued anger, she is sinfully wrong and he will feel hurt and angry. But he is responsible to sustain his commitment to minister to her. His goal in sharing how he feels must never be to exact revenge or to change Joan.

Content In Christ

There is nothing wrong with diligently working on our goals in the hope that our desires will come true. A woman who makes it her goal to treat her husband with respect may well find her desire for openness from him met. But our hearts must never be set on reaching desires. The Bible says to seek first God’s Kingdom, to lay up treasures in Heaven – in other words, to set our hearts on the goal of worshiping God, serving Him, and becoming more like Christ. By God’s enabling grace, this goal is reachable no matter what our circumstances are.

Paul wrote that he had learned the secret of contentment whether his circumstances were pleasant or painful (Philippians 4:10-13). The secret is, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (verse 13). Paul’s GOAL was to please the Lord, to become increasingly like his Master. No doubt his DESIRES included the freedom to preach in the churches he loved, to fellowship with his brothers and sisters, and to enjoy certain physical comforts. But whether or not his desires were met, he could always accomplish what he had his heart set on – the goal of living for God – and therefore he was content.

Summary

Christ is fully adequate to respond to our longings for security and significance. Feeling secure and significant because of what other people do is not under our control, and Christ hasn’t promised that we will feel these things.

Therefore, our goal in relationships should not be to feel that our needs are met, but to be God’s instrument in touching other’s needs.

Anger arises when a goal is blocked.

When hurt or anger arises within us, we are to:

- Fully acknowledge to ourselves and to God how we feel
- Ask, “What is my goal?”
- Deal with desires in prayer
- Assume responsibility for the proper goal
- Express our feelings if doing so serves the goal of ministry

For Reflection and Action

1. a. What does Luke 15:11-32 suggest about God’s love for you?

b. Do you have trouble believing this? If so, why?

2. What does God say in these passages about your unique importance in the world?

Matthew 28:18-20

John 13:34:35

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

3. If Christ meets your needs fully, why should you bother to have intimate relationships in which you are bound to get hurt?

4. How does David express his feelings about other people to God in Psalms 58, 59, and 69?

5. Are you generally more tempted to suppress anger or to dump it all over the other person? Why do you think this is so?

6. Recall a recent time when you were angry with someone.
 - a. Tell God exactly how you felt. (It might help to speak aloud or write.)
 - b. What goal of yours did the other person block?
 - c. Should that have been your goal? (Did it contribute to loving God or others? Was it under your control?)
 - d. If you think your goal or the way you treated the other person was wrong, confess your sin to God. Ask His forgiveness.

Ask Him to fulfill those desires and to give you the grace to focus on your true goals.

- e. How can you go about meeting your true goal – God’s purpose – regarding this person? Prayerfully make some specific plans.

For Meditation

Meditating on Scripture is enormously helpful in changing your goals. Consider reading one of the following passages several times a day until you have memorized it. Post it where you will see it often. What does it say about your needs for love and significance?

“But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:31-32)

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.’” (Luke 15:31)

“Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:12-13)

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

WHY RAISE UP DISCIPLES?

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- Puts Jesus first over family, self and all that one has *Luke 14:24,33*
- Puts the goals and interests of others above his own *Philippians 2:4*
- Is willing to bear his cross and follow Jesus *Luke 14:27, Matthew 16:24*
- Is committed to loving "one another" *John 13:34-35*
- Is pursuing the Great Commission *Matthew 28:19-20*

... Therefore, your commitments are:

- Audio: "[Born to Reproduce](#)" (48 min) Dawson Trotman
- Chapters 6 & 7 Disciples are Made Not Born (DMNB)
- Review and commit to memory the CV Mission (at the beginning of Spiritual Leadership)
- Bible Study: Use the Word Study Method and study the word "disciple".
- One Verse Bridge practice: Meet 1-2 people or friends this week and practice
- Memorize: Your own verse related to Disciplemaking
- Memorize: HA #4 with supporting verse Matthew 5:23-24
- Pray Matthew 9:37-38 in asking God to raise up laborers
- Record your KEY THOUGHT
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record "key thought"
 - Bonus: Meditate on Key Value: "Evangelism" (see Appendix) and answer one question as an application

Before Moving On...

How to Do a Word Study

1. Choose a word.
2. Write out the definition of the word from a dictionary along with its synonyms and antonyms.
3. Read passages of scripture with this word in it from different translations of the Bible.
4. Write down the original definition of the word from a Concordance and Bible Dictionary, and Vine's Expository Dictionary.
5. Discover how and where the word is used throughout the Bible.
 - How many times is it used?
 - Where is it used? Old Testament? New Testament?
 - Who used the word? Who used it the most?
 - Where does it appear first?
6. Write out a summary of your thoughts
7. Write out an application.

RECRUITING A DISCIPLE

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- Is committed to totally obeying Jesus *Luke 9:23; John 14:21*
- Is focused on reaching others for Jesus *Matthew 4:19*
- Has a strong desire to glorify God *Isaiah 43:7*
- Talks with God about where God is at work *Luke 6:12,13*
- Is pursuing the Great Commission *Matthew 28:19-20*

... Therefore, your commitments are:

- Explain to 2 other Christians what these ideas from mean:
 1. "Love the world, help many and train a few..."
 2. "A few people thoroughly trained are more effective than many superficially trained"
- Ask a few growing Christians who know you well what they see in your life that could keep them from wanting to follow you in a discipling relationship (WRITE IT DOWN)
- Begin to ask God to give you a person with a like heart whom you could disciple
- Bible Study: "Recruiting a Disciple"
- Memorize: Luke 6:12,13 & Matthew 4:19 with Topic: Recruiting Disciples
- Pray for yourself and one another for a heart that loves and follows Jesus above all else.
- Record your KEY THOUGHT
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record "key thought"
- Audio: "Selecting Disciples" by Gene Warr (go to www.discipleshiplibrary.com and find it)
 - Bonus: Meditate on Key Value: "Knowing God" (see Appendix) and answer one question as an application

Before Moving On...

Recruiting A Disciple Bible Study

1. What preparation is required before you recruit a person to a discipling relationship?

- Luke 6:12,13
- 1 Corinthians 11:1
- Ephesians 5:15-18
- Philippians 4:9
- Psalm 119:13

2. Which of the above needs more development in your life?

3. How will you further develop it?

4. What do these verses teach about what we are recruiting people to?

- Luke 9:23
- Matthew 4:19
- 2 Timothy 2:2

Remember You are recruiting people to Jesus...not you and not an organization

5. What should you keep in mind about the person you are asking to enter a discipling relationship with you?

- Proverbs 13:18

- Matthew 22:36,37
- Colossians 3:23
- Luke 9:57-62
- Luke 16:10

6. Keep these ideas in mind in selecting a person to disciple:

- Be alert to the opportunity to recruit a person. Acts 16:30,31
- Begin to express an interest in where they are and in what they are interested in.
- Recruit a student who does not need CV. Someone who is strong willed, has some initiative and a streak of independence.
- Look for someone who is not exactly like you. Do not get in a hurry. "It is easier to get into a relationship than to get out of it."
- Do not create the impression that people are doing you or God a favor by participating in the cause of Christ. John 6:35-71

TRAINING A DISCIPLE

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- Wants to make a lasting difference for God *Acts 13:36; Galatians 2:2*
- Has the world on their heart *John 3:16*
- Has a developing warfare mentality *2 Timothy 2:3,4*
- Has the same perspective of Jesus *John 17:4,6*

... Therefore, your commitments are:

- Read Pamphlet: *How Jesus Trained Leaders* by Maxfield Garrot (this may be out of print, ask your D-Group leader)
- Talk with several Christians who are or have discipled another and ask them to tell you 5 of the most important truths to teach another and why
- Write your thoughts about the difference between discipleship and disciple making. Explain your conclusions to at least 2 other Christians.
- Ask your pastor what there is in your church that will help train a Christian in how to grow into a disciple maker.
- Bible Study: "Training a Disciple"
- Memorize: Colossians 1:28,29 in the Phillips translation & 1 Thessalonians 2:8 in any translation with Topic: Training Disciples
- Pray for yourself and one another for a heart that loves and follows Jesus above all else.
- Record your KEY THOUGHT
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record "key thought"
 - Bonus: Go to www.discipleshiplibrary.com and find a talk on "Training" that looks good and listen to it.
 - Bonus: Meditate on Key Value: "Disciplines" (see Appendix) and answer one question as an application

Before Moving On...

Training a Disciple Bible Study

1. What is the difference between helping and training another person?
2. From 1 Thessalonians 1 list some goals of your discipling another.
3. What principles of discipling are seen in 1 John 1:3?
4. Meditate on 1 Thessalonians 2:7,8
 - What do you see as Paul's heart for these people?
 - What challenges you about how Paul disciplined these people?
 - What causes the greatest concern in you as you think of sharing your life with another?
 - How would you describe what Paul's attitude was as he thought of discipling these people?
5. What truth is taught in 1 Timothy 4:12 regarding ministry to others?
 - How do you deal with the weaknesses in your life?
6. In training a disciple it is imperative that our discipling be done in real life. Elaborate on what Paul taught Timothy in:
 - 2 Timothy 3:10-11
 - Why do you think discipling is really only effective outside of a classroom setting?

- How will you make the world you live in rather than the structured classroom be where you train a disciple?
 - “Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing.”
7. What do these verses say about the importance of accountability in your training of another Christian?
- Romans 14:12
 - Hebrews 13:17

Thoughts Concerning the Difference Between Discipleship and Disciple Making:

Conclusions:

MAKING DISCIPLES: PART 1

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- Puts Jesus first over family, self and all that one has *Luke 14:24,33*
- Puts the goals and interests of others above his own *Philippians 2:4*
- Is willing to bear his cross and follow Jesus *Luke 14:27, Matthew 16:24*
- Is committed to loving "one another" *John 13:34-35*
- Is pursuing the Great Commission *Matthew 28:19-20*

... Therefore, your commitments are:

- Audio: "[Life Objective](#)" by Gene Warr Read Chapter 9 DMNB
- Discuss with your leader who you are pouring your life into (reproducing)
- Bible Study: Biographical Method on Paul (particularly consider how Paul interacted with Timothy)
- Memorize: Matthew 28:18-20 w/Topic: Great Commission
- Memorize: HA #6 and review supporting verse 2 Cor. 9:7
- Review your giving plan with your group leader and confirm your commitment to HA #6
- Pray that God would fill your heart with a vision to make disciples and fulfill the Great Commission
- Record your KEY THOUGHT
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record "key thought"
 - Bonus: Meditate on Key Value: "Disciple Making" (see Appendix) and answer one question as an application

Before Moving On...

How to Study the Bible Using the Biographical Method

1. Choose a person in the Bible to study.
2. List all the references to that person from a Concordance.
3. From your list...
 - Write down your impressions and insights about that person.
 - Write down the events of the person's life in chronological order.
 - Write down any character qualities (good or bad) that the person seems to manifest.
 - Write down any scriptural lessons that are exemplified by the person's life.
4. Write out an application.

MAKING DISCIPLES: PART 2

A disciple who follows Jesus...

- Puts Jesus first over family, self and all that one has *Luke 14:24,33*
- Puts the goals and interests of others above his own *Philippians 2:4*
- Is willing to bear his cross and follow Jesus *Luke 14:27, Matthew 16:24*
- Is committed to loving "one another" *John 13:34-35*
- Is pursuing the Great Commission *Matthew 28:19-20*

... Therefore, your commitments are:

- Audio: "[Ministry Philosophy and Strategy](#)" by Max Barnett
- Chapter 10 & 11 DMNB
- Bible Study: Character Quality Method
 - Choose one - Integrity, Perseverance, or Servanthood
- One Verse Bridge practice: Practice the entire OVB with at least one non-Christian
- Memorize: 1 Corinthians 11:1 and Luke 14:26-27 with Topic: Disciplemaking
- Review and study the "Profile of CV Disciples"
- Check-up on SM review plan and review all Discipleship verses in your plan *with another group member*
- Pray for one another that you would always seek out the "team" through which God would have you fulfill the Great Commission
- Record your KEY THOUGHT
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day
- Attend CV, take notes, and record "key thought"
 - Bonus: Review all the Key Values and write down on a 3x5 card the one God would have you meditate on further. (See Appendix)

Before Moving On...

Character Quality Method

1. Choose a Quality.
2. Write down some of the opposite qualities of the character quality you chose.
3. Do a Word Study on that quality. (Refer to Unit #7)
4. Cross reference some of the verses you found expressing that quality.
5. Find a person in the Bible that exemplifies that quality.
6. Write out an application.

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP PARTY

A disciple who follows Jesus...

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

...Therefore, your commitments are:

- Meet with your leader and finish and tie up any loose ends for Spiritual Leadership
- Pay for your materials if you haven't already done so
- Cover the Spiritual Leadership test
- Praise God and celebrate all that He has done in and through you this semester
- Talk about your spiritual growth goals with your group leader
- Return all borrowed materials
- Have fun with the members of your group

Action Plans for Spiritual Leadership

Becoming a Servant:

Mentoring:

Creating a Bible Study:

How to Lead a Small Group:

Cost of Discipleship:

Andrew Dinner:

Using Spiritual Armor:

Why Raise up Disciples?:

Recruiting a Disciple:

Training a Disciple:

Making Disciples - Part 1:

Making Disciples - Part 2:

Spiritual Leadership Graduation Test

Leader's Name

Member's Name

Date

Leader's Initials:	Activity
	Recite all Foundations, Frameworks, Spiritual Leadership, and Heart Attitudes with corresponding verses in one sitting
	Explain the HAND Illustration
	Explain the WHEEL Illustration
	Share the BRIDGE Illustration
	Share your testimony in under 3 min
	Discuss CV large group involvement with your leader. (Did you participate in the work of ministry over the course of this semester?)
	Describe to your leader one significant Quiet Time you have had this semester and why it was significant.

Leader's Initials:	Scriptures Memorized: (fill in memorized scriptures for each section)
	Becoming a Servant:
	Mentoring:
	Creating a Bible Study:
	How to Lead a Small Group:
	Cost of Discipleship:
	Using Spiritual Armor:
	Why Raise up Disciples?:
	Recruiting a Disciple:
	Training a Disciple:
	Making Disciples - Part 1:
	Making Disciples - Part 2:

Leader's Initials:	At Graduation Test:
	<p>Share with your group leader:</p> <p>a) A truth you have had to "check" lately (belt), or</p> <p>b) What "thin ice" you have been tempted to skate toward (breastplate) and what verse (sword) you used to combat the temptation, or</p> <p>c) How you used some other piece of the armor recently and the result</p>
	<p>Write 2 sentences describing a particularly helpful talk/message and tell why it was helpful.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	<p>Describe to your leader, one significant Quiet Time you have had this semester and why it was significant. Write a brief description below.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

	<p>Explore the concept of “skating on thin ice” and identify the areas where you tend to do that.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	<p>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.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	<p>List 2 non-Christians you are pursuing relationships with. HOW do you intend to pursue these relationships over the next three months?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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Appendix

One-Verse Bridge

One-Verse Evangelism® is a simple, interactive way to share Christ's love conversationally and visually. As you are in a conversation with a friend, you can illustrate Romans 6:23 on a napkin or piece of paper to explain God's relationship with people.

Circle **WAGES** and ask, "How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?" Of course, your friend would want justice, the wages he had worked for. Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve.

Draw a circle around **SIN**, asking your friend what he thinks when he hears this word. You might explain that sin is more an attitude than an action. It can be either actively fighting God or as simple as excluding Him from our lives. Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

Circle **DEATH** and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation—in its most basic sense, separation from life. Because God is the author of life, a spiritual death simply means separation from Him.

While circling the word **BUT** mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in ideas is coming. What we have just looked at is the bad news; what comes next is the good news.

Draw a circle around **GIFT**. Ask, "If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?" Though every gift is free for the person receiving it, someone still has to purchase it.

Circle **OF GOD** and explain that the gift you are talking about is free. It is from God Himself. It's so special that no one else can give it. Ask, "How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?"

Circle **ETERNAL LIFE** next, and then ask, "How would you define these words?" Contrast one side of the cliff, death, with the other side, eternal life. Ask, "What is the opposite of separation from God?"

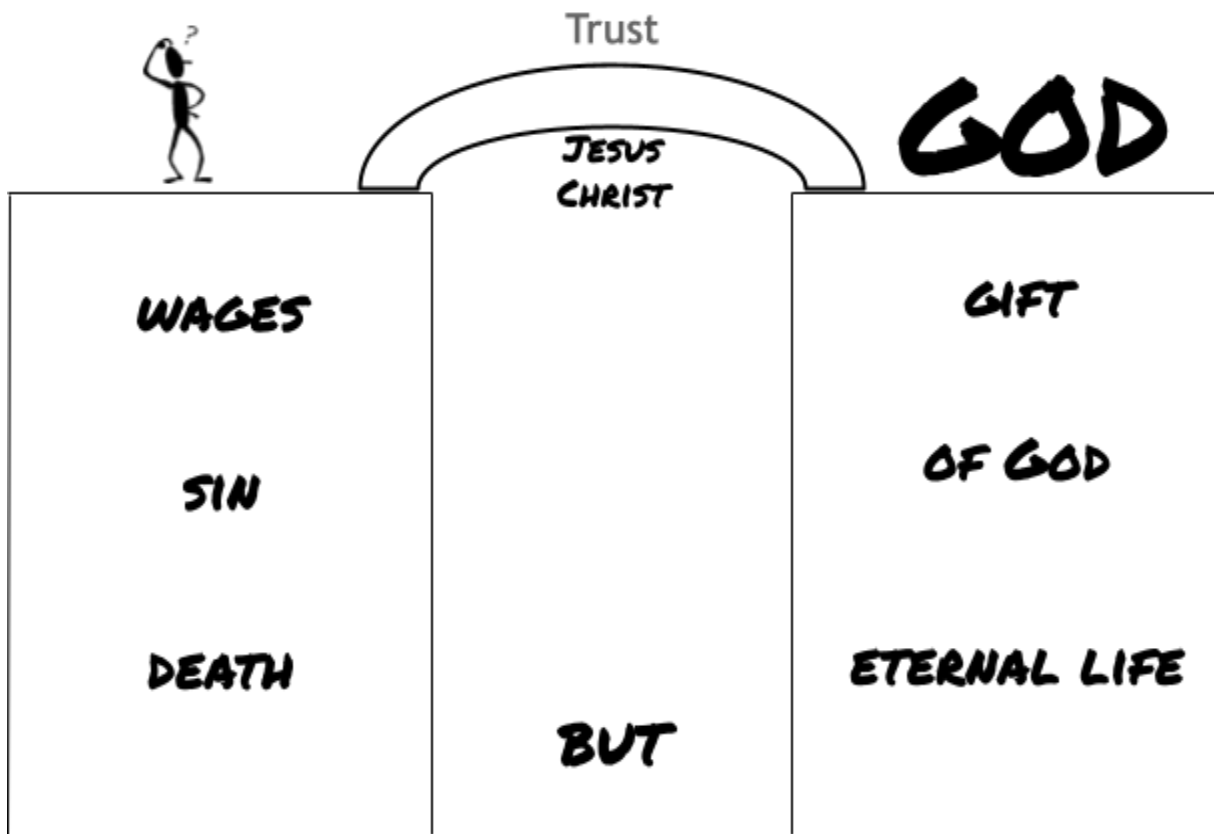
Write **JESUS CHRIST** so it creates a bridge between the two cliffs. Help your friend to consider that just as every gift has a unique giver, only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

Write **TRUST** over the bridge. Explain that a true friend is a friend you can trust; Jesus is offering to be a true friend to him. All he has to do is admit that he is responsible for his sin—either of fighting against God or excluding Him from his life. Trusting Jesus means believing that He has power to forgive us for rejecting God and that He will wash us clean from all that we have done wrong in life.

Now, ask your friend if he wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever. If he says "Yes," invite him to pray a short prayer in his own words, asking Jesus to forgive him and make him new. Close by reminding him that this simple illustration shows what God is like: Someone who really cares about people—especially him. Invite him to read all about it in the Bible.

One-Verse Bridge Illustration

**FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT
THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN
CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.**



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 and 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?
 - a. Time [Psalm 46:1]
 - b. Motivation [Psalm 27:8]
 - c. Attitude [Isaiah 66:1,2]
 - d. 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 - J. I. Packer
3. My Utmost for His Highest - Oswald Chambers
4. Experiencing God - 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 someone 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

- a. Campus Ventures "One to One" Manual "Witnessing"
- b. Lifestyle Evangelism - Jim Peterson
- c. Evidence that Demands a Verdict - Josh McDowell
- d. 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 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	Proverbs 22:29
Ezekiel 22:30	Luke 16:10
Acts 13:36	1 Corinthians 15:34
Colossians 2:6	2 Timothy 3:10,11
1 Peter 5:5,6	

B. Resources

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

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

Romans 12:3

Luke 6:26, 12:24, 15

2 Corinthians 5:16; 10:12

B. Resources

1. The Search for Significance Workbook - 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 interdependently?
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	Romans 12:10,16; 14:13,19; 15:7
Galatians 6:2	1 Corinthians 12:25
Philippians 2:3,4	Hebrews 3:13
James 5:16	1 Peter 5:5,6

B. Resources

1. Building Up One Another - Gene Getz
2. Sharpening the Focus of the Church - 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	Psalm 1:2,3
John 7:38	2 Timothy 4:7
James 1:22-25	1 John 2:15,16

B. Resources

1. Leaders on Leadership - 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 - 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. Ecclesiastes 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

Proverbs 13:18

Colossians 1:28,29

James 5:16

B. Resources

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

Ecclesiastes 7:8; 11:4

Acts 9:10-19

2 Timothy 4:7

B. Resources

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