
How to Find People to Disciple

Who should you disciple? Based on the 21-year discipleship model from “Leadership Through Discipleship” and 2 Timothy 2:2, find three faithful followers of Christ who will pour into three other faithful followers each year. Look for people who are hungry and thirsty for the things of God and committed to becoming like Christ. Discover those who are coachable, seeking wise counsel and have surrendered their lives to the Lord.

My mentor walked with Christ in such a powerful way that I wanted to be like him. He was more Christlike than anyone I had ever met and was a magnet for the gospel. As disciple-makers, we too must walk with Christ so closely that people are drawn to Jesus through us. When others see the joy, peace, and purpose in our lives and sense Christ’s presence through the fruit of the Spirit, they will wonder why we are so different from the world and want what we have in Christ.

It’s also important to be a “fisher of men” as the Scriptures say. Therefore, I use a simple three-step process of developing relationships into discipleship opportunities: encourage, coach, equip/disciple.

Step 1. Encourage: I like to encourage others as often as I can through prayer, Christian books, quotes from pastors, social media posts, sermon links, etc. This includes anything I think would add value to their life after I’ve talked with them long enough to learn what is on their heart and where they are in their walk with Christ.

Step 2. Coach: From there, I move into a coaching type of relationship. I might follow up on what I originally sent over as encouragement or begin to read a book together. I may meet regularly for coffee to encourage them further in Christ on a specific topic like marriage, work, parenting or whatever makes the most sense based on their needs or interests. At this stage, I’m looking for men who are hungry and thirsty for the things of God (Mt 5:6).

Step 3. Equip / Disciple: Eventually, if they have never been discipled or made a disciple, I share with them this simple process that anyone can use to follow Jesus’ command to make disciples and begin training them.

Note: It’s important to mention the discipleship process in a way that doesn’t make them feel like you are prideful or spiritually superior in any way. When they know your only goal is to inspire them to become more like Christ and strengthen them in their walks with Him, they will appreciate your willingness to serve and look forward to growing together spiritually. The goal is to continually develop relationships with others and to help them grow and mature in Christ (Col 1:28-29).

Most potential disciple-makers already have dozens of people they could start discipling but have never sat down to do a serious inventory of their network. Interestingly, multi-level marketing companies use a “Memory Jogger” to brainstorm potential clients which works great to find potential disciples as well. Start by asking the Lord for three people to disciple this year, then go through the brainstorming process in the link below.



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