

ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP.ORG

Discipleship.org is a collaborative community of men and women committed to the discipleship lifestyle—being disciples of Jesus and making disciples of Jesus.

Bobby Harrington is the executive director of Discipleship.org, a national forum and ministry that advocates for Jesus' style of disciple making.

Our Main Goal

Our main goal is that people would become Jesus-style disciple makers.

That's why we host the National Disciple Making Forum every year. We know that it's life-on-life interactions with other disciples—**by the power of the Holy Spirit—that produces change to become more like Jesus.**

Ten Disciple Making Affirmations

As a part of the collaboration that discipleship.org promotes, we have identified ten disciple making affirmations that we have found to be the DNA of a disciple making movement. We share them with you so that you can catch the heart of where we are going, depending on the Lord to guide us.

1. The Gospel is our message. This Good News is focused on Jesus' death and resurrection. All who respond to these saving events are also called to discipleship, no exceptions and no excuses (1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Mark 8:34-38). The gospel we preach and believe dictates the kind of disciples we become and the kind of disciples we make. If we attempt to make a Christ-like disciple from a truncated, non-discipleship gospel we will fail [A non-discipleship gospel is one that does not include discipleship as a natural part of the message and expectation].

2. We are compelled to be and make disciples of Jesus. We believe Jesus Christ is supreme and worthy of all devotion, worship, and emulation – and disciple making is a natural and necessary life responses to Jesus. With laser focus, it was

Jesus himself who made disciples who could make disciples... and then Jesus commanded us to do the same (Matthew 28:16-20, John 20:21).

3. Jesus is the model (for life and ministry). Jesus showed us how to live life and how to make disciples. We seek to emulate his method and model. As the sinless second Adam, He was man as God intended man to be. He then told us, “do what I have done” (John 14:12) and “walk as I have walked” (I John 2:6). Paul understood this when he said, “imitate me as I imitate Christ” (I Cor 11:1). Discipleship demands us to “follow” the resurrected Christ, and “imitate” the priorities and patterns of the incarnate Christ. We prefer to use the expression “Disciple Making” over “discipleship” because the former is closer to the words of the Great Commission and the latter is often mischaracterized (Matthew 28:18-20). We like the expression “Jesus’ model of disciple making,” as a summary of what we do. Why would anyone think of supplementing or deviating from Jesus’ perfect method?

4. Love is the driving motive. The Great Commandment precedes the Great Commission. Loving God and loving people is the passion behind the priority, the motive behind the mission, the heart behind the hands. Love is the signature card of true disciples... disciple making cannot happen apart from loving caring relationships... both tough and a tender love (I Thess 2). Larger ministries require more relational disciple makers to keep growing. Disciple making is relational and as ministries grow, more relational disciples are needed. “By this will everyone know you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35).

5. Verifiable fruit is the measure. God’s agenda for each one of us is that we stay close to him and bear “fruit”, “more fruit” and then ultimately “much fruit” and “so prove to be His disciple” (John 15:8). God transforms our hearts as we “abide in him” and he leads us into lives of love (John 15:17). Jesus modeled the focus of love as he came to seek, save and disciple people (Luke 19:10; 6:40). Jesus masterfully showed how love reproduces disciples... reaching and developing his men and helping them grow from non-believers all the way to reproducing disciple makers (Matthew 28:19-20). There is a natural process of moving people from those who do not know Jesus all the way to becoming mature disciple makers ... and Jesus showed the model to us. In short, we haven’t truly made a mature

disciple until they are following Jesus model of love and helping make more disciples... this is fruitful multiplication.

6. The Holy Spirit power is the means. Disciples cannot be made through fleshly efforts. Jesus, in His humanity, fully acknowledged His dependence upon the Spirit. Disciple making is not just a good strategy... it is a way of life, accomplished through the fruit of the Holy Spirit living through a person's yielded and holy life (2 Corinthians 3:16-17). If Jesus fully depended upon the Holy Spirit's power, how can we not do any less?

7. The Church is the environment. The church exists for discipleship, and disciples are the delivery system of the Kingdom of God to the world (Colossians 1:28-29). When the church reverses this process and attempts to get the world to go to church instead of the church going to the world, the result is chaos. Pastoral and ministerial work should be evaluated and rewarded based on how many disciple makers are produced and the kind of people a church sends into the world. Jesus was a man for others, the church, likewise, is for others. Any plan that does not create disciples who live for others is a failure.

8. Equipping leaders is the lynchpin of the movement. All Christians are called to be disciples who grow to help make disciples, using the unique gifts God has given each of us. However, leaders are also called to grow a movement of disciple making.... this is called the Church (2 Timothy 2:2). How Jesus built a movement, differs from how Jesus made a disciple. If we are going to create a disciple making movement in North America... it is our conviction we must train leaders in how Jesus built a movement. This is harder and takes more time... but in the end this will bear fruit that will remain. So practically this means we must develop a team of disciple making leaders (Pastors) with various disciple making best practices (church models) who can continue to fan the flame of disciple making.

9. Definitions are Vitaly Important. First, our definition of disciple making is – helping people to trust and follow Jesus (Matt. 28:18–20), which includes the whole process from conversion through maturation and multiplication; and second, our definition of a disciple is – a person who is following Christ, being Changed by Christ, and is committed to the mission of Christ (Matt. 4:19).

10. Scripture is our Basis. We believe the 66 books of the Bible are the authoritative, reliable, and ultimate standard for discipleship and life (2 Tim. 3:16-4:2). The Bible was written by disciples and for disciples.

Bobby Harrington is the executive director of Discipleship.org, a national forum and ministry that advocates for Jesus' style of disciple making. He loves history, hockey, humus, movies, football, the Bible and his wife (but not in that order). Bobby has led many trips to Israel. He loves to study the Bible and go to Israel because it helps him to better trust and follow Jesus. He is the founding and lead pastor of Harpeth Christian Church (by the Harpeth River, just outside of Nashville, in Franklin, TN). He is a Bible scholar, an experienced church planter, coach of church leaders and he is the author of several books on discipleship, see my Amazon Author Page here (thank you if you bought one). Bobby has studied at such places as the University of Calgary & Regent College (in Canada), Asbury Seminary, Harding School of Theology, and Princeton Theological Seminary. He has won camel races in Jordan, cliff-diving competitions near Fish Creek, Alberta, chess tournaments in Russia, and he has talked to those who have talked to Elvis (all this may not be true). He has a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his lovely wife Cindy (that IS TRUE) treasure spending time with their grown children, their spouses, and their grandchild. **Contact bobby@discipleship.org.**

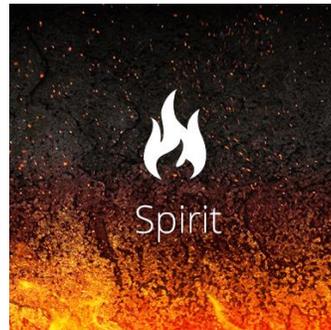
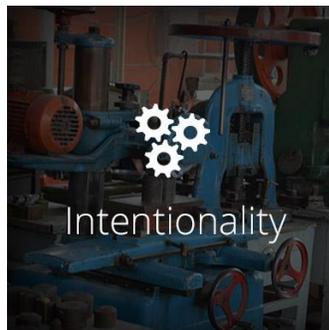
Bobby, along with Todd Wilson of the Exponential Network, founded Discipleship.org because they want to develop a central place for people to go when they need information and valuable tools that will help them live out the discipleship lifestyle.

THE 7 ELEMENTS OF A DISCIPLESHIP LIFESTYLE

Discipleship.org is committed to living the discipleship lifestyle after the ways of Jesus. If the following elements resonate with you, you may be interested in joining us for our next National Disciple Making Forum.

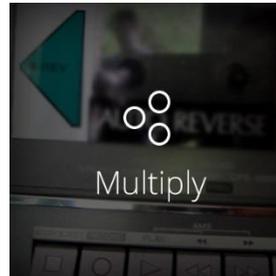
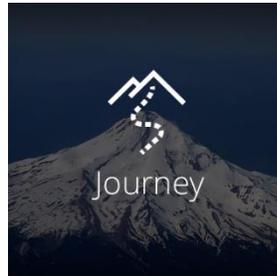


Jesus – Jesus drew people to himself. He was unabashed and clear in speaking the truth. He is the centerpiece and the focus of all discipleship. We are not discipling people into a program, we are introducing them to a person. The mission of Jesus was to give himself in love for the sake of others so that people would know him, treasure him, and promote Him and his message to others.



- Relationships – The central impulse for explaining Jesus’ mission to others and to make disciples is love. As John 3:16 says: “For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only son.” By his example, Jesus showed us that disciple making is the development of genuine life-on-life relationships motivated by Jesus-style love.
- Intentionality – Jesus had a strategy. He had a plan, a roadmap for making disciples, what Dr. Robert Coleman calls The Master Plan. Jesus guided, coached, and developed his disciples into disciple-makers and released them, commissioning them to disciple others as Jesus had disciplined them. Their disciple making work changed the world.

- Spirit – Jesus’ life and ministry were fueled by the Holy Spirit. After living for thirty years in obscurity, Jesus began formally making disciples after the Spirit descended upon him when he was baptized. From that point forward, he remained in a constant state of openness to the Spirit.



- Bible – The Word of God is the training manual that Jesus relied upon for all of his discipleship and teaching. As the eternal Word and the author of the Script, Jesus had complete mastery over its’ contents, understanding the true meaning of the Bible and the reason why it was written.
- Journey – Jesus led his disciples on a journey, inviting them to learn by walking with him and watching him. Though it is a disjointed growth story, it begins with his invitation to come and see and culminates with the Great Commission where they are sent to go and multiply.
- Multiply – Jesus’ master plan was to make disciples who were like him in their message and their methods, and then to multiply them by sending them out to disciple others as they had been disciplined by him.