

# An Invitation To Be Discipled



**Name of Disciple:**



# An Invitation To Being Discipled



**W**e can become like Christ in character and in power and thus realize our highest ideals of well-being and well-doing. That is the heart of the New Testament message. Do you believe this is possible? Our central claim is that we can become like Christ by doing one thing – by following Him in the overall style of life He chose for Himself. If we have faith in Christ, we must believe that He knew how to live. We can, through faith and grace, become like Christ by practicing the types of activities He engaged in, by arranging our whole lives around the activities He Himself practiced in order to remain constantly at home in the fellowship of His Father.

Dallas Willard  
*The Spirit of the Disciplines*

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## Rationale for Making Disciples



*“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33 ESV)*

*“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that **they had been with Jesus.**” (Acts 4:13 ESV)*

*“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot **be my disciple.**” (Luke 14:27 ESV)*

*“...whoever says he abides in Him ought to **walk in the same way in which He walked.**” (1 John 2:6 ESV)*

**J**esus made it clear that spiritual pursuits in our life need to be above everything else. He modeled it for us through His life as He prepared those around Him to live the way He lived. Those He trained mirrored the life of their Master in a way that made it obvious that they were with Him. What Jesus did with them prepared them for a life of daily endurance for the sake of the Gospel.

**C**hristian life as described in the Bible is often in discrepancy with the reality of our daily walk. When Jesus took the Twelve on the journey of being a disciple, their lives resembled the lives of many people who we find in church today. They had honest and earnest desire to follow God, and God responded to them with grace and love. But their walk was not always so admirable. Many times they argued, fell short of understanding, acted selfishly and proved to be “of little faith.” They weren’t much unlike us, who met with Jesus in a personal way, who heard His will and promises for our lives, yet somehow failed to live up to them. (In his book *Disciple Shift*, Jim Putman explained this saying “*most Christians have divorced the teachings of Jesus from the methods of Jesus, and yet they expect the results of Jesus.*”)

**A**s Christians we all acknowledge that without God nothing will flourish; that is why we soak all our efforts with prayer. Yet when it comes to our spiritual growth, our efforts are so often reduced to prayer alone, and maybe some Scripture reading. How intentional and thoughtful are we in our desires and efforts to become more mature followers of Christ?

**J**ust as generations of Christ’s followers before us, we are called to a life of purposeful growth in knowledge and obedience toward God. A person must be prepared to glorify God with his life through a small disciple making group where every participant is given the opportunity to grow to maturity in Christ in an environment of love, trust, and mutual support. This is the way Jesus modeled to His disciples, transforming them in the process. This is the way He modeled it to us.

**T**his is an invitation for you to join one such group.



## The Call of Jesus



**W**hen God reached down in His mercy and love and gave you the free gift of eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ, He not only forgave your sins and adopted you into His family, but also gave you a charge to be involved in reaching others who do not know Him. For many, this is a frightening challenge, giving rise to deep feelings of inadequacy and unworthiness. But are these fears without foundation?

**S**uppose you were invited to the airport one morning and told you could take a single-engine plane up for a spin by yourself even though you had never been trained as a pilot. You would immediately decline the offer, that is, if you valued your life. On the other hand, imagine that an invitation was extended for you to receive professional training by which you could safely fly that plane one day. If you had an inherent interest in flying, the offer would sound extremely attractive. Similarly, if you had never received any training or equipping to do what Jesus asked you to do, wouldn't it be appropriate to experience feelings of inadequacy and fear?

**R**emember, Jesus spent over three years with the Apostles preparing them to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. Not one of them would have been able to carry out His commands without this personal and thorough training. When Jesus had completed His training of the Twelve, He gave them what has become known as the Great Commission. These 50 words expose His heart and highlight His highest priority for reaching a lost world with the gospel.

***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20 ESV)***

**J**esus is inviting you to come and follow Him. He summons you to “trade in your all for one great pearl” (Matthew 13:45-46) and to prepare yourself to reach God's world. It is a call for you to become the man or woman God intended for you to be. You are not going to be asked to fly the plane on your first trip to the airport. This invitation is for ground school where you will be trained and equipped to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord. During the time you are being discipled, you will be challenged to examine every area of your life in the light of the Scriptures so that you may emerge as a man or woman after God's own heart.



## Disciple Making Defined



**T**he following definition of Christian disciple making is based upon a careful study of the gospel records that reveal how Jesus trained the Twelve, taught them how to live, and effectively prepared them for a lifetime of ministry in His name:

*Christian disciple making is a concentrated process that occurs when a mature believer prayerfully enters into a committed relationship with a group of faithful and teachable believers for the purpose of building godly character, imparting true knowledge, and developing ministry skills under the direction and power of the Holy Spirit, so that they will follow Christ without reservation and do what He tells them to do.*

Dr. John Musselman  
The Jackson

Institute

### **The Definition Unpacked**

**Disciple making is a concentrated process.**

*“I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.”*  
(John 17:4 ESV)

**T**he process deliberately focuses on a small group of people for the purpose of intentional/effective instruction with a full life investment on the part of both mentor and disciple for the period of time they are together. During that time, the disciple is constantly encouraged to focus his thoughts and efforts on Jesus Christ and His will for his or her life.

**The mentor and those being discipled should prayerfully enter into a discipling relationship.**

*“In these days He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples and chose from them twelve, whom He named apostles.”* (Luke 6:12-13 ESV)

**B**efore you decide about participation, spend time with your heavenly Father and seek His will. Those who have studied small group theory and practice know from experience how often people drop out of groups when the initial decision is not based upon Divine calling.

**Effective disciple making can only take place in the context of a committed relationship.**

*“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”*  
(Luke 14:27 ESV)

*E*veryone recognizes that, in order for a student to become a medical doctor, significant commitments and sacrifices are mandatory and include the realms of time, intellectual endeavor, and financial investment. Likewise, it is not possible to produce mature disciples of Jesus Christ without a significant commitment on the part of the mentor and those being disciplined.



## Disciple Making Defined



**In Christ-centered disciple making, you can expect to gain:**

**Knowledge • Skill • Character**

**Y**ou will grow in your knowledge of God, His Word, and His Kingdom, increase in wisdom for daily living and decision-making; learn and refine skills for effective and fruitful ministry; practice spiritual disciplines for the development of Christ-like character; have your heart sensitized to the movements of the Holy Spirit; and gain a clearer and broader vision of your role in building the Kingdom of God.

**Real life change only takes place under the direction and power of the Holy Spirit.**

**A** disciple making group that has a clear mission, high commitment, and strong curriculum, but is not living under the direction of the Holy Spirit, will soon discover a growing emptiness, along with its cousin, powerlessness.

**Disciples become like their teachers.**

*“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”* (Luke 6:40 ESV)

**A**ll mature mentors live with the ever-present reality of their own sinfulness, temptations, and shortcomings before a holy God, yet humbly seek to model the gospel before others as they live by grace. Your mentor will never “have it all together.” Always remember that your mentor is not trying to impress you with his or her own life, but is seeking to point you to Christ. Even the Apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers to imitate him, but only to the degree that He imitated Christ. So, though your mentor will have many things to *offer* you, always remember that the object of your affection is Christ; and the aim of you becoming a disciple is that you keep the first commandment and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Seek to become involved in faithfully pursuing the advancement of Christ’s kingdom. It is a well-known fact that many groups (even disciple making groups) meet for no other reason than to have their own personal needs met. Christ, however, demonstrated that disciple making was not an end in itself, but a means to reach the nations of the world with the gospel of grace.



# Narrow Gate EFL

Disciple for Life



## Vision:

- High impact Christians with a Biblical worldview reproducing to the fourth generation
- Accepting personal responsibility for restoration to the Image of God

## Mission: To answer the four calls of Christ

- |                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Salvation<br>(Matthew 3:2)        | • Lordship<br>(1 Peter 3:15) |
| • Disciple Making<br>(John 8:31-32) | • Purpose<br>(Romans 8:28)   |

By Os Guinness  
*The Call*

## Purpose:

Investing in Disciples  
and  
Equipping Disciple Makers  
by  
Mirroring the Methods of the Master

## Pillars of Disciple Making:

- Genesis 1 & 2
- Romans 12
- Ephesians 1-6
- II Timothy 2:2
- John 17

If you do not Disciple a person who professes Christ, they will almost always become:

- Lukewarm in Faith
- Worldly in Behavior
- Hypocritical in Witness

By Patrick Morley  
*The Man in the Mirror*



## Know What You Are Saying “Yes” To



**T**he ministry of Jesus lasted just over three years, beginning with His baptism and ending with the Ascension. Few Christians realize that the twelve disciples were chosen approximately 15 months into the process. Therefore, when Jesus said “Follow me” – it is safe to assume they knew what they were saying “yes” to.

**T**o know that you are ready for a disciple making group, you should be able to favorably respond to all five of these F.A.I.T.H. qualities:

### Faithful

- loyal
  - steadfast
- *Trustworthy in the fulfillment of promises or obligations*

### Available

- ready
  - prepared
- *Capable of being utilized and trained*

### Intentional

- purposeful
  - deliberate
- *Disciplined to follow a plan*

### Teachable

- acquiring knowledge or skill
  - trainable
- *Ready and willing to learn*

### Hungry

- desire
  - longing
- *Passion to go deeper in Spiritual Walk*



## Weekly Session Format



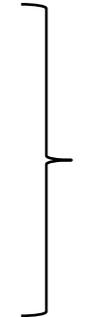
**T** Truth



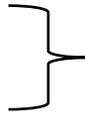
**E** Equipping

**A** Accountability

**M** Missional



**S** Supplication



Each week session follows T.E.A.M.S.<sup>1</sup> outline based upon the five essential ingredients that foster life change: Truth, Equipping, Accountability, Missional, and Supplication. What differentiates a Spirit-led disciple making/covenant group and other Bible/small group studies is that a considerable amount of time is spent on the E.A.M. elements.

**T** – **Truth** is what God has revealed for His people to know, understand, and obey.

**E** – **Equipping** is internalizing God’s Word until it becomes understandable and then applied to life’s circumstances.

**A** – **Accountability** asks the hard questions to promote Godly living and living fully for Christ.

**M** – **Missional** is engaging the lost and imparting the Gospel through word and deed.

**S** – **Supplication** is supporting all the above in targeted prayer:

- Truth applied
- Situation in life
- Person God put in my life

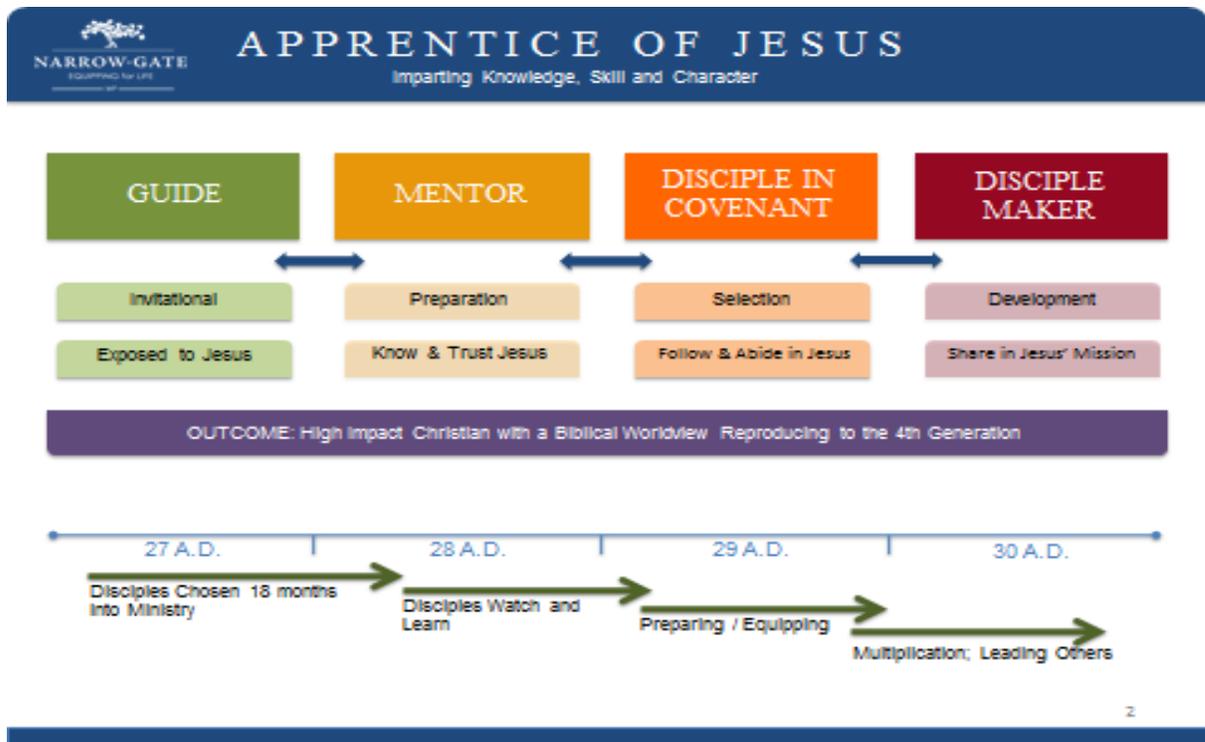
<sup>1</sup>Pastor Randy Pope  
Perimeter Church  
*The Journey*



# The Apprentice of Jesus



- The initial months will provide a comprehensive Summary of a Christian, The Behaviors of a Disciple, and the Core Scriptures.
- Followed by a signed Covenant with God and fellow group members.
- The following years will be spent in an appropriate curriculum to provide a working knowledge of the ten themes in Matthew 5 through 7. Jesus preached these as the essential teachings a disciple needs woven into his or her life.
- The last two years are dedicated to a classic Christian piece of literature called *The Training of the Twelve* by A. B. Bruce, originally written in 1873. By the end of the four volume set, you will have experienced the life of the disciples while following Jesus.





# Disciple in Covenant



## Purpose

- I understand and embrace the purpose for our group's existence.
- I am deeply committed to doing my part to maintain a healthy disciple making group.
- I desire to become like Christ in character and power and am willing to allow the others in our group to help me along on my spiritual journey.
- I want the others in our group to become like Christ in character and power and will do what I can to help them on their spiritual journey.
- I am committed to the biblical principle of spiritual multiplication and will seek to learn how to lead others to Christ and disciple them in the words and ways of Jesus Christ.
- I want to develop a Christian worldview and live my life for the glory of God.

## Time

- Willing to meet weekly with my group for two hours focused on prayer, spiritual disciplines, accountability, Bible study, and fellowship.
- Willing to invest the time needed per week in preparation for these sessions.
- Meetings will typically be held from January to June and from August to Thanksgiving.
- Meeting Time:
- Meeting Place:

## Commitments

- **Attendance:** I am committed to being present at every meeting unless providentially hindered. If you have to miss, your prayer partner is responsible to catch you up on the discussions.
- **Confidentiality:** I am committed to strict confidentiality and will not share information with those outside our group unless the one who shared it gives permission.
- **Application:** I will seek to understand and apply the biblical truths I am learning each week.
- **Communication:** I am committed to both speaking and listening in our group, avoiding speaking too little or too much.
- **Affirmation:** I intend to exercise unconditional love towards the others in our group and will accept them even when I disagree with them. Disciple making without grace is legalism and we will continually extend love, mercy, and grace to each other.

- **Honesty:** I will not lie, exaggerate, or deceive the others in our group. I will demonstrate integrity and honesty at all times.



## Disciple in Covenant



- **Accountability:** I agree to have a suitable prayer partner and expect them to hold me accountable for the way I live my life.
- **Availability:** I will make myself available to the others in our group as I am needed and able.
- **Prayer:** I will intercede in prayer for those in our group.
- **Service:** I intend to look for God at work within my spheres of influence and join Him in these opportunities.
- **Personal Worship:** I intend to dedicate time daily to a personal worship relationship with Jesus which includes:
  - ◆ Confession
  - ◆ Journaling
  - ◆ Bible study
  - ◆ Scripture application
  - ◆ Calling on the Holy Spirit
  - ◆ Thoughtful Prayer

*E*very believer needs a clear purpose and an effective strategy to obey what Jesus asks of us. Prayerfully consider whether this is the time for you to accept your series of one-year Invitations to be a Disciple in Covenant.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Disciple:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Apprentice of Jesus Workshop



## Mirroring the Methods of the Master

*Investing in Disciples* ◆◆◆ *Equipping Disciple Makers*

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