

## Principles of Disciplemaking: No Magic Formula

*The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as “Christians” will become disciples—students, apprentices, practitioners—of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heaven into every corner of human existence. Dallas Willard*

### 1. Begin with the end in mind

A disciple is a person living out a deliberate apprenticeship to Jesus in the various aspects of life... learning to practice all that he taught and being transformed into his image by the Holy Spirit.

Source: *Working Definition—MCC Disciplemakers Network*

### 2. Adopt the Master’s approach

- Selection—men were his method
- Association—he stayed with them
- Consecration—he required obedience
- Impartation—he gave himself away
- Demonstration—he showed them how to live
- Delegation—he assigned them work
- Supervision—he kept check on them
- Reproduction—he expected them to reproduce

Source: *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Robert E. Coleman

### 3. Recognize the fields of play: transformation of head, heart and hands

Head	Knowledge	Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed <i>by the renewal of your mind</i> , that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. <i>Romans 12:2</i>
Heart	Motives Attitudes	The good person out of <i>the good treasure of his heart</i> produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. <i>Luke 6:45 See also Romans 2:28-29, Ephesians 4:20-32, Colossians 3:5-14, Hebrews 4:12</i>
Hands	Skills Behavior Habits	Everyone who comes to me and <i>hears my words and does them</i> , I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. <i>Luke 6:47-48</i>

### 4. Extend the Master’s invitations, e.g.:

“Come and you will see.” *John 1:39*

“Come, follow me.” *Matthew 4:19*

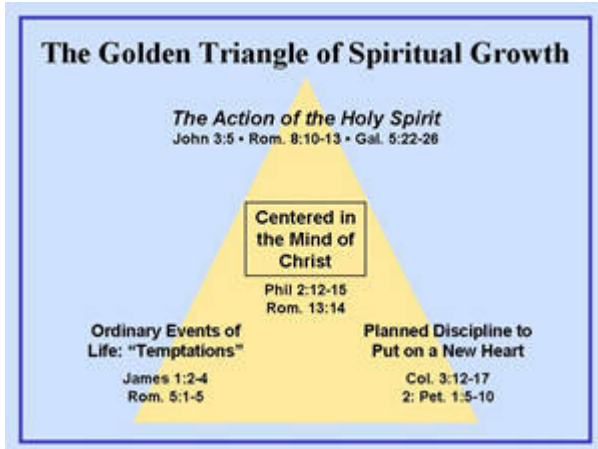
“Put my words into practice.” *Matthew 7:24*

“Count the cost.” *Luke 14:28*

“Abide in me.” *John 15:5*

“Make disciples.” *Matthew 28:18-20*

**5. Collaborate in the Master’s process: laying a foundation of Vision, Intention and Means (VIM)**



Source: *Looking Like Jesus: Divine Resources for a Changed Life Are Always Available*, Dallas Willard

**6. Pass on your life of discipleship through teaching, coaching, counseling, mentoring**

An approach to coaching...

<b>Five Steps of Coaching</b>	<b>Six Core Competencies of Coaching</b>
Establish focus	<u>Contextual listening</u> : listening beyond the words to discern all there is to be heard and understood
Promote discovery/self discovery	<u>Discovery questioning</u> : asking sharply focused questions to help individual discover the truth
Determine action plan	<u>Laser informing</u> : delivering a succinct, timely, personally relevant message to shift understanding or attitude
Remove barriers and empower	<u>Bridge the gap</u> : clarifying where they are and creating actions needed to get where they want to go
Recap and reinforce next steps	<u>Outrageous requesting</u> : requesting an action beyond anything they would ask themselves
	<u>Celebrating what is</u> : acknowledging, affirming and endorsing positive contributions, progress, and behavior

Source: *Coaching Skills Series*, Navigators B2G Ministry

A brief study on modeling...

Mark 3:14	Luke 6:40	I Corinthians 4:16	I Corinthians 11:1
Philippians 3:17	Philippians 4:9	Colossians 3:16	I Thessalonians 1:6-8
II Thessalonians 3:9	I Timothy 4:12	II Timothy 2:2	II Timothy 3:10
Titus 2:7-8	Hebrews 13:7	I Peter 5:3	3 John 11

Source: *As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character in a Mentoring Relationship*, Howard and William Hendricks

## 7. Master and judiciously employ discipling resources

### Principles

*The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*, Dallas Willard

Argues for apprenticeship to Jesus grounded in what he explicitly teaches his followers to do. Chapters 5, 8 & 9 anchor the argument.

*The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship*, Dallas Willard

Twenty essays develop themes of Apprenticed to Jesus, Spiritual Formation and the Development of Character, Discipleship of the Soul and Mind, and Books on Spiritual Living. "The governing assumption today, among professing Christians, is that we can be "Christians" forever and never become disciples. And this (with its various consequences) is the Great Omission from the "Great Commission."

### Context

*The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Robert Coleman

Describes Jesus ministry with the Twelve. Chapters include: selection, association, consecration, impartation, demonstration, delegation, supervision, reproduction.

*Lifestyle Discipleship: The Challenge of Following Jesus in Today's World*, Jim Peterson

*The Insider: Bringing the Kingdom of God Into Your Everyday World*, Jim Peterson & Mike Shamy

These two books argue powerfully for ministry that starts where we are—insiders in our families, communities and workplaces—and meets others where they are—often broken and searching for truth and transcendence. Also argues for ministry in community—we're not designed to make disciples of Jesus alone.

### Resources

Caution: Using these studies in isolation from the principles and contexts described above risks presenting discipleship as a curriculum or program to be completed rather than a life-long apprenticeship to Jesus.

*Connecting with God*, Disciplemakers International/Campus Crusade for Christ. A study series for growing disciples on foundational connection points with God. For your own mastery, consider also *Personal Disciplemaking: A Step-by-step Guide for Leading a Christian From New Birth to Maturity* by Chris Adsit, a comprehensive treatment of the traditional "basics" of discipleship.

*Design for Discipleship*, The Navigators. Seven book series plus leader's guide addresses key aspects of discipleship, character, faith and Bible study. For personal mastery, consider also *The Adventure of Discipling Others: Training in the Art of Disciplemaking*, Ron Bennett & John Purvis. "Just like Jesus, you can pour faith into believers, helping them grow spiritually and fulfill their unique niche in God's kingdom. With *The Adventure of Discipling Others*, anyone can mentor and love the process."

*Operation Timothy*, CBMC. Four book series plus leader's guide that enables you to give your life to a disciple—creating the opportunity to talk about your experiences, listen to your disciple's thoughts and experiences, and build a conversational relationship with him or her. For your own mastery, consider the companion book, *Leaving a Legacy*, which includes both principles and practical advice on how to invest your life in others.