

## **How to Help People Before They Get in a Crisis: The Vision of Biblical Discipleship**

The problem disciples face isn't just a crisis itself, but the lack of preparation for a crisis. There is a critical need to prepare people for difficulty in the Christian life. This session explores preparing disciples for trials so that their faith isn't suddenly troubled. Of course, there is a Covid parallel, but it also touches on the seasons of life.

**Rick Hill** is a speaker, leader and writer from Belfast in Northern Ireland. He works for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in the areas of discipleship and leadership and has recently published his first book, *Deep Roots of Resilient Disciples*. Rick also serves as an elder in Carnmoney Church and has recently been coordinating discipleship ministry there. Prior to this, Rick comes from a background in youth ministry with both Scripture Union and in a local church. Rick is married to Sarah, they have two young sons, and in his spare time, he enjoys running.

### **I. THE PROBLEM**

Matthew 7:24-27

- A) We need to teach that storms are to be expected  
John 16:33
  
- B) We need to prepare disciples to face suffering  
Mark 8:34-35
  
- C) We need to help disciples lay good foundations  
Matthew 7:25

### **II. OUR RESPONSE**

- A. Intimacy with Jesus  
John 15:1-5  
The importance of spiritual habits.
  
- B. Biblical Worldview  
Understanding the whole story of God and not just a fragment of it.
  
- C. Christian Community  
The importance of inter-generational relationships and spaces for genuine honesty, vulnerability, and support.

- D. Cultural Discernment  
Daniel 1-3. Preparing disciples for Babylon.  
Not embracing or escaping but engaging.
- E. Whole-Life Understanding  
Colossians 3:16-23 / Romans 12:1-2  
A holistic vision for discipleship and mission.

***Suggested resources:***

Proximity: [www.presbyterianireland.org/proximity](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/proximity)

*A concise curriculum of content that cover the building blocks of Pastoral Care, The Bible and Spiritual Disciplines across 3 booklets: Seasons of Life, Life in God's Story and Habits of a Lifetime. Each session contains a Bible passage to read along with a short commentary or reflection on it. This is designed for a disciple-making relationship, not just spoon-feeding people the answers but helping to teach people to reflect on God's word for themselves. Some discussion questions are provided to stimulate conversation together and push people towards action.*

***Suggested readings:***

[Deep Roots of Resilient Disciples, Rick Hill](#)

[Faith for Exiles Book & Resources](#)

[Beautiful Resistance, Jon Tyson](#)

[Imagine Church Neil Hudson:](#)

[Scattered and gathered Neil Hudson](#)

[The Care of Souls: Cultivating a Pastor's Heart](#)

[Shepherd Leader, The: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church](#)