

Equipping For Growth, Ministry Training

How do you equip your young people to disciple their friends? How do you train them to lead others and build them into a team? What principles can we learn from Christ about how to make disciples who make disciples, and launch young people into a lifetime of fruitful service? Drawing from many years of fruitful ministry in Northern Ireland, the speaker will show us how to bear fruit that will last.

Paul Bowman has 20 years of experience in full-time youth ministry in the local church. He has served in a variety of settings throughout Ireland – both urban and rural – working with church and unchurched young people. He is passionate about developing youth ministries that are rooted in the life of Christ, making disciples, and focusing on development of the whole person. He has been leading teams of young people on short-term mission trips to the Czech Republic for 15 years. He is committed to training and equipping the next generation of youth leaders. He lives with his wife Val and their three children in Saintfield, Northern Ireland. He holds a BSc Hons in Community Youth Work.

I. Why should I focus on equipping for growth?

It increases the _____ of your ministry – more can be done!

A stretched faith is a _____ faith – service changes people.

Young people want to _____ from their peers.

II. What Did Jesus Do?

Toward the end of His ministry, in the Upper Room, Jesus prayed to His Father and said "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do" (John 17:4). What was the "work He completed?" The work Jesus spoke of in John 17 was making disciples who could make disciples. *Jesus' mission was not so much to reach the world as it was to make disciples capable of reaching the world.* And it is to this work of making 'disciple-makers' that he has called us.

- a. **Jesus surfaced a team.** After Christ's first year and three quarters of ministry, His ministry changed. He now challenged five individuals to go deeper with Him. They become a part of his first ministry team. This team is not the Twelve Apostles. They are workers, not leaders (at this stage). Why did Jesus choose this group of men? What did he identify about each of them that gave him the confidence they would go on to impact the world?
- b. **The Popcorn principle** – Jesus knew their hearts and their character as followers. He could see their potential. They were now AFT'R more... Available (Luke 5:1-3),

Faithful (Luke 5:4-5), Teachable (Luke 5:6-10a) and Responsive to His leadership (Luke 5:10b-11).

'Teens at the development level are students willing to take the initiative not only for their own spiritual growth, but for the spiritual growth of others as well'. Duffy Robbins

'A student who has a desire to walk with God and influence other people.' Barry St Clair

What evidence of 'wanting more' might you look for in young people?

c. What do we notice about those who wanted more?

They wanted to Know the Messiah (John 1:19-51)

They were a group of men who wanted someone to lead them in the way of salvation who were teachable and willing to submit to the Authority and Lordship the Messiah would bring.

These men were looking for someone to lead them in the way of salvation. Such men, pliable in the hands of the Master, could be moulded into a new image-Jesus can use anyone who wants to be used." (Coleman)

Lessons for us:

Understand his Message (Mark 1:14-15)

Not only did those whom Jesus selected want to know the Messiah, they also wanted to understand His message. Jesus began his ministry by proclaiming "The time has come," he said. "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Matt. 3:2; Mark 1:15)

This message permeated everything Jesus did. He was proclaiming and ushering in God's Kingdom. It held great attraction for his followers. They wanted to experience it in their lives and in their nation.

Lessons for us:

Experience his Ministry (Mark 3:13-19)

They had an eagerness to be a part of what he was doing. They were workers who would prove themselves faithful. And later Jesus designates them apostles ...with a view: to be with him, to be sent out to preach, and to have authority to drive out demons (and to heal every disease and sickness-Matt. 10:1)

They would *'be with him'* but they would also *'be sent from him'*

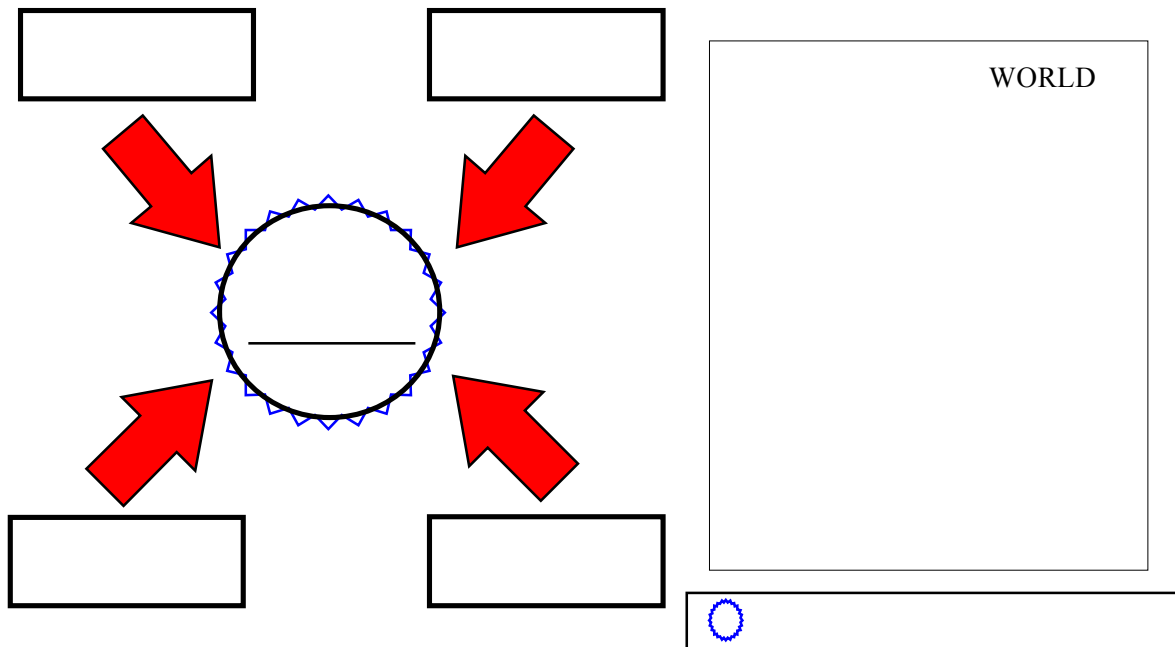
- i. Six Characteristics of Mark 3:13-19

Lessons for us:

Jesus intentionally and deliberately prioritised the few, imparting His life to them. "...the bulk of Christ's time was spent not in public ministry (17 times) with vast numbers of people, but in private with His disciples, as recorded approximately 46 times in the Bible." (The Billy Graham Centre for Evangelism)

- i. This must be an _____ Practice
- ii. It happens in the context of _____
- iii. Look for _____ First. _____
Second.

III. Disciplemaking Cornerstones - What has God entrusted to us as disciplemakers that will both help move them toward becoming like Jesus and equip them to disciple their friends?



1. Prayer

Praying for them as well as with them.

And what should be the focus of our praying?

Phil. 1:9-11.

Acts 1:8.

Matt. 9:38.

2. Model

"the Jesus we know is the Jesus they will get."

Our model will reflect both life and ministry lessons for our young disciplemakers.

3. Relationship

This area focuses upon intentional time spent with them in both individual and group settings. It means we are "rubbing shoulders" with them on a regular basis as Jesus modelled for us with his disciples. Time spent together characterised by the fruit of the

Spirit-love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-26).

4. Instruction or Content

The fourth area of disciplemaking is the Content of our relationship.

We want to communicate with them biblical knowledge helping them to understand the truth of Scripture.

We want to grow people up in Christ – so they might reflect both the character and priorities of Jesus. (Mark 12:28-32) (Matt. 28:18-20)

IV. The Equipping Process:

You WATCH me

We do it TOGETHER

I watch YOU

You do it ALONE (and report back to me)

You EQUIP someone else

V. The Program structure must help believers live out a Making Disciples Lifestyle

- i. Mission Trips
- ii. Outreach Events
- iii. Retreats
- iv. Ministry Team Meetings:
 - E ncouragement
 - Q uestions asked: feedback, evaluation & accountability
 - U nderstand new skills
 - I nspire: vision and development
 - P ray for ministry needs