

The Teaching Component of Disciple-Making

A discipler is an equipper who provides the content for those who are growing in their faith. This equipper is the primary human agent through whom God brings others to maturity. What kind of “food” does the discipler/equiper feed to those in his care? What does the “learner” learn?

The leader should have a plan that includes bibliology and theology...knowing how to study the Scriptures and knowing the essential doctrines of the Christian faith. This ensures that the disciple will not only stand on a firm foundation, but will be able to teach these fundamental elements to others. The content of our disciple-making should be rich and full, causing those in our care to use their minds as they grasp the great truths of Christianity. The content should also be applicable and practical so the daily life is affected deeply by what is learned.

Judy Streeter and her husband Tom have worked to develop churches that emphasise worship, community, small groups, sound teaching, discipleship, and meaningful engagement with culture. Believing that evangelism and the strength of the church are only as effective as the disciple-making process, she has developed materials to facilitate women in properly nurturing growth in others. Her book, *Disciplemaking: Doing What Christ Commanded*, summarises her understanding and passion in this area. Music occupies a high place in Judy’s life in the church and as a teacher and performer. Always ready to travel, she and Tom have led Reformation tours in Europe. A church musician since childhood, Judy studied piano and organ and is a performer as well as a piano teacher. One of her passions is the rich heritage of music the church has enjoyed throughout the centuries.

I. The Privilege of Teaching

- A. The honor and responsibility
- B. The weekly preparation

II. Scriptural Support for Teaching Others

- A. Matt. 28:20: “...*teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...*”
- B. Titus 2:1: ...*teach what accords with sound doctrine.*”
- C. Eph. 4:11-16: “...*to equip the saints for the work of the ministry...*”
 - “equip:” --- *supply, furnish, endow, provide, prepare*
 - “equiper:” *one who provides, prepares, supplies*

Do you see yourself as an equiper?

III. What Do We Teach?

- A. Necessary ingredients for equipping
- B. Sound doctrine

Titus 1:9: “...*holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to **exhort** in sound doctrine and to **refute** those who contradict.*”

- “exhort:” --- to encourage, to urge, to press on
- “refute:” --- to counter, to prove false, to contest, to disprove

Doctrine is a system of belief. It is the body of principles in a system of knowledge.

Theology strives to give a coherent statement of the doctrines of the Christian faith. It concerns itself with analyzing and organizing the doctrines of Scripture.

Biblical theology is going from Genesis to Revelation.

Systematic theology arranges the themes of Scripture coherently and harmoniously. It studies them topically.

C. Reasons for teaching sound doctrine and theology

- Everyone has a theology of some sort
- There is a strong connection between doctrine and practice

IV. Curriculum Example

A. Knowing God the Father--- (Theology Proper)

- His character and nature --- Isaiah 40-66: list the characteristics of God
- His attributes --- incommunicable and communicable---be able to discuss them
- His triunity
- Apologetics

B. Being Human

- The wonder of humankind --- the significance of man --- Psalm 8
- Made in the image of God --- Genesis 1:26-27 --- What does this mean?
- Masculinity and femininity --- sexual distinctions
- Creation order and creation ordinances (mandates)
- Apologetics

C. Knowing God the Son (the **Person**) --- Who is “the only begotten of the Father?”

- His eternality --- His pre-existence as a Son
- His divinity --- co-equal with the Father --- the Nicene Council and Creed
- His humanity --- the Kenosis --- the union of the two natures without co-mingling
- Apologetics

D. Salvation (the **Work** of the Son)

- The Seven Cardinal Doctrines of the Christian faith
- Personal testimonies
- Understanding God's unconditional forgiveness
- Sin and guilt
- Understanding imputed righteousness and our position in Christ
- Apologetics

E. Knowing the Scriptures

- The authenticity of the Bible
- The historicity of the Scriptures and the canon
- Knowing the order, categories and books of the Bible
- Reading, study, memorization and meditation
- Apologetics

D. The Holy Spirit

- His Person and work --- John 14-16
- His presence and companionship
- Being filled and walking in the Spirit --- Rom. 8, Eph. 5:18-21
- Apologetics

E. Prayer

- Why pray? How does prayer work?
- The nature and necessity of prayer
- The ingredients of prayer
- Apologetics

F. The Church

- The Scriptural portrayal of the church
- Its authority and community
- Church history
- Apologetics

G. The Family

- Microcosm of the church
- Definition of family and marriage
- Family ingredients and purpose
- Understanding Biblical principles for marriage and family

H. The Culture

- The “isms” of our age
- The present world spirit
- Balance between building and battle
- Real and practical involvements

I. Spiritual Warfare

- Cults and world religions
- Satan awareness

J. Evangelism

- Mission
- Pre-evangelism>evangelism>conversion>follow-up
- How to lead a person to faith in Christ

K. Gifts and Calling

- Spiritual gifts
- Calling
- Discerning God’s will
- Discipleship