TRAINING Disciples to Train

Session 25: The Dynamics of Discipleship (11a)

Offered by Ron Lively, M.Div., M.A. – BiblicalMentoring.org (Studies)

Step 1: Opening prayer

Step 2: Each person quotes the memory verse: VERSE: **Luke 4:3-4**

3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."
4 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone'".

Step 3: *Read and discuss all or part of the Bible Chapter* - **Luke 4**

Link: https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%204&version=ESV

***Step 4**:* Questions for Personal Applications and/or Group Discussions:

1. Phillips says there are seven dynamics or energizers of discipleship that every disciple needs to become productive in disciple-making.

2. The trainer is responsible to impact the teaching and demonstration of these energizers.

3. **Worship**: We are to present our whole life to God as worship. We are to model a relationship with God that is new daily (new wineskins for new wine).

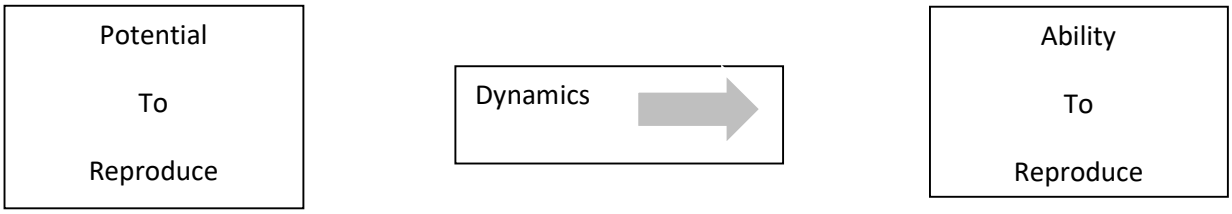
4. **Ministry**: We are to minister to each other. Sanctify them in the truth. Pray for each other.

5. **Memorization**: Memorize the weekly verse. This is our expectation of both the trainer and trainee. Put and keep God's word and will in your hearts. "Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you" (Colossians 3:16).

***Step 5**: Read and discuss the Content from the book:*
Chapter 11a per the author – Keith Phillips:

The Dynamics of Discipleship

Your disciple's eagerness to know God, his availability, submission, faithfulness and vision indicate his readiness to be discipled. Your Christlike character and the relationship you have with him qualify you to disciple him. However, without certain other elements he will never become reproductive. He will be like an engine without fuel or a windmill without a breeze—great potential but static and dormant.



In order to transform your disciple's willingness to bear fruit into the ability to reproduce, his spiritual environment must include seven elements. If even one is missing, your disciple's training will be deficient. These are the dynamics of discipleship, the energizers. Once they become a

natural part of your disciple, they will produce a godly character. When he understands them so well that he can pass them on to others, he is ready to be reproduced. You are responsible to impart these dynamics to him.

Even though discipling is a life-on-life encounter, you must set regular times to meet together each week. Let your personalities determine the structure of your meetings and let his needs dictate the content. However, do not expect these meetings alone to stimulate his growth. Real-life experiences and personal interaction continue to be paramount.

Worship

The primary purpose of your relationship is to honor and glorify God. Worship is that attitude of adoration which expresses your love, awe and respect for Almighty God. Your example will encourage your disciple to present his whole life to God as worship.

God has not prescribed a set form of worship for us to follow. Jesus taught that "...no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and the skins as well; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins" (Mark 2:22). Since your relationship with God is new daily, you are free to express your love and adoration for Him in a manner that reflects your feelings.

If you are saddled with traditional methods your worship will become stale. But when you seek to honor and glorify God in all that you do, your heart and mind focus on Him, and His Spirit teaches you how to worship with spontaneity and freedom.

Worship with your disciple regularly. You can read, quote or sing Scripture. You can eat meals with other believers with gladness. You can pray, meditate, compose musical or poetic expressions of your joy, clap your hands, play an instrument or simply bow your head in humble adoration.

Katie and I were expecting only one child when Joshua and Paul were born. Even though I praised God verbally for my sons, I suspect the greatest expression of my worship was a grin. I'm told it was solidly embedded on my face for days. In appreciation for who God is and what He has done for you, joy should exude from your life like fragrance from a flower.

God is much more concerned that you worship Him sincerely than He is about how you worship Him. There is no magic in simply saying "praise God." If your spirit and lifestyle are not in harmony with your words, "praise God" becomes idle talk or blasphemy, taking the Lord's name in vain. Don't fall into the pharisaical trap of obeying the letter of the law while making a mockery of its spirit.

When your worship is led by the Spirit, it is a response to God that glorifies Him (1 Corinthians 10:31), strengthens the body (1 Corinthians 14:3, 12) and builds you and your disciple (1 Corinthians 10:23).

Ministry

Minister to each other. Encourage one another with Scripture. Rejoice in your victories. Share your burdens and confess your sins. Then pray specifically about these concerns, claiming God's healing and forgiveness.

Praying for each other must become a regular part of your lives. Jesus beseeched the Father on behalf of His disciples, "I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one--- Sanctify them in the truth..." (John 17:15,17). Paul told Timothy, "...I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day" (2 Timothy 1:3) and he pleaded with the Ephesians to "pray on my behalf..." (Ephesians 6:19).

The vitality of your relationship depends upon your prayers for one another. Pray for each other's protection (2 Corinthians 13:7) and growth (Colossians 1:9,10). Ask God for guidance as you counsel your disciple and seek to meet his needs. James encourages us, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

This time of ministering to each other is crucial. When our work was young, I would often greet my men with a barrage of questions about the ministry. My exuberance to reach others and meet

the needs of a hurting world overshadowed my concern for the spiritual welfare of my disciples. I just assumed that they were victorious in their personal lives.

Unfortunately, if they were struggling with a weakness or sin that had not been dealt with, our times together were unproductive. It's easy to succumb to "doing" before "being." The character and needs of my disciples are now a higher priority than their ministry. Your times together should build up and edify both of you.

Memorization

Scripture memorization is becoming a lost art in Christianity. Yet the Bible frequently urges believers to keep God's Word within them (Proverbs 7:1). Moses insisted that God's people keep His Word in their hearts (Deuteronomy 6:6). Scripture memory is our best defense against sin (Psalms 119:11). When Jesus was tempted by Satan, God's Spirit brought His Word to memory and provided immediate, sustaining power (Luke 4:4- 12).

Scripture memorization is an invaluable ally in molding a Christ-like character. It is the basis for wise counsel and correction. One woman disciple was crippled by insecurity and immaturity that stemmed from rejection and mockery during childhood. With all her heart she wanted God to free her from this self-hatred, but inner peace and self-acceptance seemed completely out of reach. Then her discipler memorized Scripture with her about the attributes of God. Week after week they reviewed these verses. Within a few months, God's Word produced in her a new depth of holiness, maturity and security.

Scripture memorization will engrave God's will on the heart of your disciple (Psalms 37:31). It facilitates worship and fellowship (Ephesians 5:19). Memorize one or two verses together each week and review others you have learned previously. Pray one of the memorized verses for each other every day during the week. You and your disciple must heed Colossians 3:16: "Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you...."

Step 6: *Share personal prayer requests then each person prays for the other's requests.*

Source: The Making of a Disciple by Dr. Keith Philips. Pub. by Fleming H. Revell Company, 1981. ISBN 0-8007-1181-5. Introduction by Robert E. Coleman. Content below (except study questions) is taken from the book without revisions.

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