

Leadership Disciplemaking Intensive Starting a Disciplemaking Movement from Scratch

Welcome to this wonderful adventure called Disciplemaking. The concept is old and many have practiced different methods of making disciples. Unfortunately, the evidence proves that most believers and even leaders haven't been disciplined or don't know how to make an authentic disciple. This material is meant to solve that problem. The biggest question that you probably would ask is "How do we begin?"

The simplest way to use this material is to read the Leader's Guide and the Team Guide and then follow the instructions to begin a discipleship team. The plan is to select three people to disciple until they are fully developed and ready to disciple three more people, using everything you have taught them. It generally takes two years to walk your disciples through complete adoption and implementation of the values and lifestyle that we are passing on.

Some of you would like to use this content in a broader setting, mobilizing disciplemaking in your ministry or church. There will be one major issue that many of us discover as we try to implement this strategy. Some of the people we select feel a sense of inadequacy and lack of experience to simply recruit and begin discipling three individuals. In fact, some want to work on their own character issues or lifestyle priorities before they start discipling someone else. That's smart. We don't want our people duplicating their own weaknesses in the people they are discipling. We've all seen that movie and it doesn't end well.

By the way, Intensive, by definition, means concentrating on a single subject for a short time; very thorough, vigorous, and in-depth. So here's a formula for an intensive start with disciplemaking in your world. Select a group or groups of four people to join together as a short-term discipleship team. All of these individuals need to be ready or almost ready to make disciples. Many of them are leaders in ministry. They will function as a team, learning and owning the principles and goals of disciplemaking. They will practice on each other first, experiencing the dynamic of interacting as a group and bringing their own values and priorities into alignment. There is no better way to get ready to make disciples than to be in an actual discipleship group. No classroom will match this real-life experience. These groups can become a great source of encouragement, prayer and insight long after new groups are formed. It's totally natural to want to periodically continue your interaction with your original team of disciplemakers.

Each group will be different, but most individuals will be ready to start their own groups within six to eight months. Some people want to get going and start their own discipleship team even sooner. Just make sure that you are not rushing a process in your own life that needs more time to deepen. Other people want to wait too long. Get going. Step out of the boat and start discipling!

So that's the plan. It's that simple. Start your own Leadership Disciplemaking Intensive. Come together as a team or teams, practice the art of disciplemaking until you get it, and then go do it! Let's begin this movement that God has called us to.