



Discipleship 101

Initial Discipleship - *during an encounter*

- After **praying** for and/or sharing the Gospel with someone, **discern** if the encounter was fruitful, and **ask** if the person may be interested in **follow-up** (discipleship).
- **Ask** if they would be interested in having someone walk through life with them and help them to learn more about the Bible and **grow closer to Christ**. Be gentle with them. Not everybody is interested in follow up. **Listen** and **discern** for their response to your question." You could:
 - a) ask if they have ever had questions while reading through the Bible, or:
 - b) Briefly explain how someone helped you and has impacted your walk with the Lord.
- **Ask if they are open to meeting** with you **again**. If you are not able to meet with them yourself, ask if they would be open to you sharing their contact information with another local individual that could.
- **Exchange contact information**; don't just take their contact information. Ask permission to text/call them while you are still with them to assure that you have the correct information.
" If they do not have a phone, ask for their current address. Ask them when they are usually home so that the person following up with them knows when to stop by. You could also ask for a family member or friend's phone number.
- After you exchange contact information, clearly **define next steps**. Explain that they will be getting a call from someone within the next few days, and that person will attempt to meet with them. It is important to not be overbearing, but also to not leave them with unanswered questions.
- If they have time, go through the orange tab in the back of the Time to Revive Bible. This is a small Bible Study with three short sections, explaining what it means to be New in Christ, Grow in Christ, and how to Share Christ. "Do you have a few minutes for me to show you what it means to be **New in Christ?**"

DO NOT's:

- Do not use the word **discipleship**. This may intimidate/confuse them if they are not familiar with Christian terms. Use Follow-up, or Walk with, or Help.
- Do not ask them to commit to a 52-week Bible study. This may frighten them off.
- Do not get their contact information **without permission**.
- Do not give their information to **ANY** individual if you haven't explained **and** received permission that someone besides you will be contacting them.
- Do not enter a family member's contact information just because you want them to be discipled.
- Do not suggest or take them to a church without first recommending one on one mentorship (discipleship). Focus on building a relationship with them and helping them grow in their relationship with the Lord.



Discipleship 101

Short-term Discipleship - *the first 24 hours – 10 weeks AFTER an Encounter*

- After your **team discerns** that someone is interested in discipleship, **assign one person** on your team (who is the same gender as the disciple) for short-term discipleship.
- **The person assigned** to short-term discipleship should be the one to **exchange contact information** with the encounter.
- **Begin communication** with your disciple **within the first 24 hours** of your encounter. Reach out both through phone call and text message. Many people are more comfortable communicating by text. If you live near them, you could attempt to meet with them in person.
- **You**, as the short-term discipleship person, will be expected to **remain in contact** with the person you encountered until the long-term discipleship person contacts you and says a successful transition has occurred and they have developed a discipling relationship. This could take two to four weeks. Be prepared to commit for a month.
- If **you decide** that you would like to do the **long-term follow-up**, contact the discipleship point person (leader) for your city and let them know.
- Introduce **Next Steps Foundational discipleship** to them. Prayer, Baptism, Study (God's Word), Fellowship (Community), Identity
- You need to help **preserve the seed** (word) from being snatched away, or fall onto rocky soil or thorny soil (Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:1-15), and planting/establishing the seed of God's Word. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth (increase)." (1 Corinthians 3:6).
- You will need to use the **love, listen, discern and respond** method to know how to proceed in your relationship. It may take them a few weeks to return your call, and that is completely normal. It is up to God to give growth and open doors.
- Do not enter the relationship with **preconceived expectations** or agendas.
- **Respect / honor their requests**. If they tell you to never call back again, do NOT call them back. Ask yourself what Jesus would do in that situation.

DO NOT's:

- Do not (one on one) disciple someone who is of the opposite gender.
- Do not call the disciple more than two times the day after the encounter. Call once a week after that. You do not want to make them uncomfortable or cause them to feel like you are stalking them.
- Do not call the disciple repeatedly if they don't wish to be contacted.
- Do not push them to come to church immediately. Focus on building a relationship with them, and helping them to grow in their relationship with the Lord.
- Do not force them to go through a Discipleship book right away (eg. Project 52). They might just want to meet and talk at first.



Discipleship 101

Long-term Discipleship – up to 1 year (or beyond)

In Luke 13:6-9 the vineyard worker tended to the fig tree for a year, ideally you should pour into your disciple for one year or more - until the fruit (of the Spirit) is evident in their life. (Galatians 5:22-23)

- **Your job** is to help your disciple focus their **eyes on Jesus**. Do not worry about being perfect or exceptionally knowledgeable.
- **Do not** enter the relationship with **preconceived expectations** or agendas.
- **Explain** clearly **who you are**, and how you received your disciple's contact information. Remember that you are a total stranger to them, and they might be leery of you at first.
- **Communicate** with the short-term discipleship person, gathering any helpful information, before you contact your disciple. If the short-term discipleship person has been meeting/talking regularly with the disciple, you should be able to take over quickly. However, if they've not been able to get in touch with the disciple, you may only want to try contacting the disciple once a month.
- You may have to help them **arrange transportation** or pick them up to meet with you.
- Go through the **Project 52** book with your disciple. The first seven sessions are an expansion of the **orange tab** in the back of the Revive Bible. Following those sessions are 52 stories of the Bible, alternating between the Old Testament and New Testament. Each lesson includes a brief overview and history of the Scripture, questions to discuss, and a cartoon.
- **Long-term discipleship** is much more than once a week Bible Study. **Do life with them**. Build relationship. Get messy. Be willing to give of your time and energy. (You may have to drive a distance to get to where they are located!)
- After you feel that they are ready, **help them get involved** with a local church.

DO NOT's:

- Do not ask them to commit to a 52-week Bible study. This might frighten them off. Take it one week at a time.
- Do not call the disciple repeatedly if they don't wish to be contacted.
- Do not force them to come to **your** church.
- Do not call them more than once a month if they are not being responsive. You don't want to overwhelm them.
- **Do not preach** at them. Create discussion, ask questions, and **listen**.
Do not consider yourself superior to them. They will be able to tell.