

# BEING A DISCIPLESHIP MENTOR

DECHERD DISCIPLESHIP INSTITUTE



703 West Broad Street  
Decherd, TN 37324  
(931) 967-6447  
[www.fbcdecherd.com](http://www.fbcdecherd.com)

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**Session 1: What is Discipleship?**

“Discipleship is much more than the teaching program of the local church. It involves both in-reach and outreach. It is not one of the many Sunday ministries; it is a lifestyle, a daily part of life.”<sup>1</sup>

How would you define *discipleship*? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Describe your experience with discipleship ministries in the local church. \_\_\_\_\_  
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In his book *Discipleship Revival*, Pastor Chris Noland defines discipleship as: “The sanctification process of the believer who is abiding in Christ through the means of submission to the authority of Christ and the daily sacrifice and conformity to the will of God.”<sup>2</sup>

What are your thoughts concerning this definition of discipleship? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SANCTIFICATION PROCESS:** Sanctification means to be ‘set-apart.’ As believer in Christ, we are set-apart to become like Christ. We are sanctified the moment we accept Jesus as our Savior. However, the process of becoming like Christ is what we call *Progressive Sanctification*. One day we will be made to be just like Jesus. However, in the present time, God is working in us to conform us to the image of Christ.

**ABIDING IN CHRIST:** To abide in Christ is to live for Him daily. It is understanding that we do not belong to ourselves. It is taking up our cross daily and following Jesus.

**SUBMISSION:** It is imperative for the believer to submit to the authority of Christ every day. Such submission allows us to be filled with the Spirit.

**SACRIFICE AND CONFORMITY:** As believers in Christ, we are called upon to present ourselves as a living sacrifice to God. We are also to not be conform to this world, rather, we are to conform to the image of Christ through transformation that comes from the Word of God.

**DISCIPLESHIP IS THE WORKING OUT OF PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION.** It is through discipleship that we are sanctified and become more like Jesus.

<sup>1</sup> Noland, Chris. *Discipleship Revival*. Outskirts Press 2014. p. 1  
<sup>2</sup> Noland, Chris. *Discipleship Revival*. Outskirts Press 2014. p. 7

Session 1: What is Discipleship

Look up the following verses. How does each of these verses relate to discipleship?

John 17:17 - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 15:1-8 - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

James 4:7-8 - \_\_\_\_\_  
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Romans 12:1-2 - \_\_\_\_\_  
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*NOTES*

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**Session 2: Five Components of Discipleship**

In Acts 2:42-47, we see a picture of life in the early church. As we study this passage, we see five basic components of discipleship.

When you read Acts 2:42-47, what stands out to you the most concerning the early church? \_\_\_\_\_

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**COMPONENT #1 – DOCTRINE**

The primary purpose of the church is to teach the contents of true Christian doctrine.

The role of teaching:

1. The role of teaching in the church begins with the Pastor.
2. The teaching that comes from the Pastor enables believers to serve others and do the work of the ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

The content of teaching: (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

1. Reproving or Convincing
2. Rebuke
3. Exhortation

Response to the teaching:

(James 1:22) – We are to respond in obedience

(Hebrews 13:7 ; 13:17) – We are to obey our leaders

What are your thoughts concerning the role, content, and response to teaching?

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How is the teaching of doctrine played out in your church? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Session 2: Five Components of Discipleship

### COMPONENT #2 – FELLOWSHIP

How would you describe fellowship? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

The Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible describes fellowship as “the essence of the Christian life – fellowship with God and fellowship with other believers.”<sup>3</sup>

Greek = Koinineo = Partnership or Participation.

As a church, we are to partner and participate with one another.

1. Fellowship of the Gospel (Philippians 1:3-7)
  - A. We share in what the Gospel has done for us.
  - B. We partner with other believers in the proclamation of the Gospel.

2. Fellowship of Sanctification (Philippians 2:1-13)

“True authentic growth does not occur on our own. We cannot grow to be more like Christ by ourselves. We need each other. We need to partner with one another in our spiritual growth.”<sup>4</sup>

3. Fellowship of Suffering (1 Corinthians 12:26 ; Galatians 6:2)

“Believers have fellowship with one another on the basis of their common fellowship with God, their participation in the blessings of the Gospel, and their common mission. True fellowship is demonstrated in concern for, and practical commitment to, one another.”<sup>5</sup>

4. Fellowship of Joy (1 Corinthians 12:26)

The church should be the most joyous place on earth.

5. Fellowship of Love (1 John 3:14)

“The greatest evidence of authentic faith is love for brothers and sisters in Christ.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Elwell, W.A. & Beitzel, B.J. (1998) Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

<sup>4</sup> Noland, Chris. Discipleship Revival. Outskirts Press 2014. p. 52

<sup>5</sup> Manser, M.H. (2009). Dictionary of Bible Themes. London

<sup>6</sup> Noland, Chris. Discipleship Revival. Outskirts Press 2014. p. 55

## Section 2: Five Components of Discipleship

### COMPONENT #3 – BREAKING BREAD

Breaking bread refers to sharing a meal together. It can refer to eating at each other's homes and also partaking in the Lord's Supper.

Breaking bread is a symbolic gesture that demonstrates our communion with God and with each other.

#### 1. Communion with God

"One of the greatest tragedies of God's people today is the limited amount of time that we spend alone with God."<sup>7</sup>

#### HOW TO HAVE COMMUNION WITH GOD:

- Study the Bible daily
- Pray daily and continually
- Meditate daily

#### 2. Communion with each other

Chip Ingram says, "Authentic community occurs when the real you meets real needs for the right reason in the right way."<sup>8</sup>

As believers in Christ, we need to spend time with each other.

WARNING: If all we do is have communion with God without communion with other believers, we will develop a sense of spiritual pride. If all we do is have communion with each other and we never spend time alone with God, then we will become spiritually immature and worldly.

What has been your experience with 'breaking bread'? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### COMPONENT #4 – PRAYER

"One of the least used resources of the local church today is the resource of prayer. The church lacks power because there is very little time spent on our knees."<sup>9</sup>

1. Private Prayer (Matthew 6:6)
  - A. Private prayer gives us a higher view of God
  - B. Private prayer enhances our relationship with God
  - C. Private prayer increases our faith
  - D. Private prayer enhances our relationship with others

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<sup>7</sup> Noland, Chris. Discipleship Revival. Outskirts Press 2014. p. 56

<sup>8</sup> Ingram, Chip. True Spirituality. Howard Books. 2009. p.205

<sup>9</sup> Noland, Chris. Discipleship Revival. Outskirts Press 2014. p. 60

**Section 2: Five Components of Discipleship**

2. Cooperate Prayer (Matthew 18:19-20)

Things happen when God’s people pray. Every great revival began when God’s people prayed together.

3. Continual Prayer

We have an ongoing 24/hr. connection with the throne of God. We should be in a constant attitude of prayer. The prayers of a disciple making church never cease.

COMPONENT #5 – UNITY

How would you describe the importance of unity in the church? \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Unity pleases God (Psalm 133:1)

“When the church is divided, God is not pleased. I do not believe that there is ever a case when a local church is divided to the point of a church split where God is pleased. Very little good can come from a church that is divided.”<sup>10</sup>

2. Unity happens when believers share in each other’s burdens and joys (Romans 12:9-16)

Love is revealed as we care for one another and seek the best for one another.

3. Seek unity in all essentials (1 Corinthians 1:10-17)

To maintain unity, the church should focus on the fundamental beliefs that unite us and the mission to which we are called.

4. Unity in great diversity (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Everyone has something that they can contribute to the church. A disciple making church will embrace the diversity of different backgrounds, cultures, races, and ages.

5. Unity is a distinctive mark of true believers (Philippians 2:1-2)

True believers will be of the same mind and they will focus on what matters most.

How important is it for the church to maintain these five components of discipleship? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>10</sup> Noland, Chris. Discipleship Revival. Outskirts Press 2014. p. 67



### Section 3: Romans 12 Discipleship

“Romans chapter twelve is the premier chapter in the Bible on what it really means to be a disciple.”<sup>11</sup>

#### TOTALLY COMMITTED (Romans 12:1-2)

As believers in Christ, we are to have an ‘all-in’ mentality. We are to be totally committed to God.

This is our ‘reasonable service’. It is the reasonable thing to do in light of what Jesus has done for us.

A life of total commitment is made possible by being transformed by the Word of God.

“A totally committed Christian is one that is constantly changing. He or she understands that they never get to a point where they stop growing. There is always room for improving in our walk with God. There are always sinful habits to repent of, idols to tear down, scripture to obey, principles to live by, etc. A totally committed Christian is not perfect, however, they are constantly progressing in their walk with God.”<sup>12</sup>

#### TOTALLY COMMITTED TEAMWORK (Romans 12:3-8)

As part of the body of Christ, we are all given a spiritual gift. We all have a responsibility.

Every person has a God-given talent and personality. Every believer also has a God-given spiritual gift.

What spiritual gifts and abilities do you believe you have? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

How can you use your spiritual gifts and abilities in the church? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### TOGETHER IN AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY (Romans 12:9-21)

The local church should be structured in such a way that encourages people to be themselves. The church cannot minister to each other’s needs unless we are real with one another.

Romans 12:14-21 – Romans 12 discipleship is also seen in our relationship with those who would harm us. True disciples of Jesus will let God deal with vengeance while they focus on doing what is good and responding to others in love.

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<sup>11</sup> Noland, Chris. Discipleship Revival. Outskirts Press 2014. p. 74

<sup>12</sup> Noland, Chris. Discipleship Revival. Outskirts Press 2014. p. 75

## Section 4: How the local church can make disciples

There are many ways in which discipleship takes place in the local church. The church has several programs that helps us in the discipleship making process. It must be understood, however, that such programs are not discipleship itself. They are tools that enable us to make disciples.

What are some of the programs in your church that enables and supports discipleship? \_\_\_\_\_

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### 4 AREAS OF DISCIPLSHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH:

#### 1. Sunday School

Ken Hemphill says, “The Sunday School is the finest integrated church growth tool on the market today.”<sup>13</sup>

#### FOUR TOOLS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL:

- A. Biblical learning tool
- B. Accountability tool
- C. Ministry training tool
- D. Multiplying tool

How are the 4 tools of Sunday School implemented in your Sunday School class and what areas needs to be improved? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 2. Small Group Ministry

Small group ministry may include: Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Home Bible studies, Youth and Children ministries, Men’s ministry, Women’s ministry, etc.

Small groups help people to connect with other believers in a way that helps them to grow in their walk with God.

#### 3. Discipleship Mentorship

“Every believer should have a mentor while at the same time they should be mentoring someone else. We all need someone who is a little more ‘spiritually advanced’ than we are, to take us by the hand and walk with us through the ups and downs of the Christian life.”<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Hemphill, Ken. Revitalizing the Sunday morning dinosaur. Broadman & Holeman Publishers. 1996

<sup>14</sup> Noland, Chris. Discipleship Revival. Outskirts Press 2014. p. 97



**Section 5: Discipleship Mentoring**

What comes to mind when you hear the term ‘Discipleship Mentoring’? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Discipleship Mentoring is the one and one or small group connection between a mature believer and a new or young believer.

The goal in Discipleship Mentoring is to assist a new believer in their walk with God by connecting them with a mentor who will walk with them through those early days of their faith.

At FBC Decherd we use the *Survival Kit for New Christians* as a follow-up resource for new believers. When someone comes to know Jesus as their Savior we will then connect them with a Discipleship Mentor who will meet with them regularly as they go through the *Survival Kit for New Christians*.

ASPECTS OF DISCIPLESHIP MENTORING:

1. Relationship (developing an on-going relationship between the new believer and their mentor)
2. Prayer (praying for and with the new believer as they begin their walk with God)
3. Accountability (helping the new believer to overcome temptation and to be faithful in daily Bible study, prayer, and regular church attendance)
4. Bible Literacy (helping the new believer to develop a habit of Bible study)
5. Meet (meet regularly with the new believer to go over their progress in the *Survival Kit for New Christians*)

In considering the aspects of Discipleship Mentoring, which aspects do you find most important and which aspect do you wish someone did for you? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**ASPECT #1 – RELATIONSHIP**

It is important that every believer develops a relationship with other believers. We cannot live the Christian life on our own. We need each other. Developing on-going discipleship relationships is vital to our spiritual growth. Below are a few things to consider when developing a discipleship relationship:

1. The relationship must be a proper relationship (men should disciple men and women should disciple women)
2. Spend time developing friendship (participate in mutual hobbies, go out to eat together, have dinner with each other’s families in your homes, work on ministry projects together, etc.)
3. Text and call one another regularly throughout the day (this provides opportunity for greater encouragement)
4. Participate in ministry together (Christian relationships are best developed when we work together)

**Section 5: Discipleship Mentoring**

**ASPECT #2 – PRAYER**

Having a prayer partner is both encouraging and powerful. Discipleship Mentors should develop a habit of praying for those they are mentoring and lead them to engage in a life of prayer.

How does it make you feel to know someone is praying for you? \_\_\_\_\_

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**ASPECT #3 – ACCOUNTABILITY**

It is difficult to properly engage in Discipleship Mentoring without some level of accountability. We all need someone who is watching out for us and helping us to do what is right.

Principles of Accountability:

1. Be Open and Honest (it is difficult to hold each other accountable without total openness)
2. Be Discreet (accountability partners should be confident that what is shared in private stays in private, unless it is something that may be physically harmful to them or someone else)
3. Be Real (a Discipleship Mentor must keep it real, don't put unrealistic expectations on the one you are mentoring and be completely straightforward and honest)

**ASPECT #4 – BIBLE LITERACY**

One of the primary purposes for Discipleship Mentoring is to encourage the Study of God's Word and to increase in Biblical knowledge. A Discipleship Mentor should be one who has participated in a Bible Doctrine and Biblical Interpretation Class. He or She should have a basic understanding of the Bible and how to properly interpret the Bible. It is the responsibility of the Mentor to help the new believer to have a grasp on the content of the Bible and to know how to study the Bible.

Ways to encourage Bible literacy:

1. Memorize Bible verses together
2. Read the Bible through in a year
3. Encourage participation in Sunday School and Discipleship classes
4. Meet once a week to discuss the Sunday sermon together

What are some other ways you can encourage Bible literacy? \_\_\_\_\_

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Section 5: Discipleship Mentoring

ASPECT #5 – MEET

It is impossible to properly disciple someone without meeting with them regularly. The first step in Discipleship Mentoring is to set a time and place to meet weekly for prayer and discussion. This provides opportunity for greater spiritual growth and accountability.

USING THE SURVIVAL KIT FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

Every Discipleship Mentor must complete the *Survival Kit for New Christians* themselves and be very familiar with that resource. Going through this resource with a new believer is the first step in developing a mentoring relationship.

For a copy of *Survival Kit for New Christians* and to learn more about being a Discipleship Mentor, please call the church office.

NOTES

Lined area for notes, consisting of approximately 25 horizontal lines.