



PRESERVING
BIBLE TIMES

MAKING DISCIPLES JESUS' WAY

First Century Wisdom for Today



January 2016
Doug Greenwold

Agenda

FRIDAY NIGHT

6:30 PM	Session I
7:45 PM	Break
8:00 PM	Session II
9:30 PM	Adjourn

SATURDAY MORNING

8:30 AM	Session III
9:45 AM	Break
10:00 AM	Session IV
11:15 AM	Break
12:15 PM	Adjourn

Topical Progression

Introduction to Making Disciples...State of the Kingdom...A Sound Diagnosis... Revisiting the “Great Commission”...What Was a First-Century Disciple Like?...Making Disciples in the First Century... Useful Frameworks...Putting Frameworks to Work...Prerequisites for Co-Discipling ...Influencing the Decisions of Others...Co-Discipling and Mentoring Wisdom...Helpful Discipling Resources...Discipling Self Evaluation

Objectives

To Repent = To Fundamentally Change the Way You See and Understanding Things

- Changing our paradigm of what it means to be a disciple and how disciples are made.
- Taking greater ownership and responsibility for your own discipling.
- Greater confidence in providing spiritual advice and guidance to yourself and others.
- Personal and corporate revival through a process of intentional disciple making.

About Preserving Bible Times

Preserving Bible Times (PBT) is a faith-based ministry with a vision for preserving and presenting Biblical Truth and meaning through integrating the Biblical text with its visual, historical, geographical, literary and cultural context. PBT's strategy is to creatively assemble a “tool box” of frameworks and Bible Times related images and contextual elements that will allow the Scriptures to increasingly come alive for 21st Century people as they did for 1st Century hearers. As part of its charter, PBT has assembled one of the finest archives of Bible Times related images in the world. These resources are shared in a variety of ways, e.g., seminars, conferences, retreats and publications, with Christian organizations to encourage believers and to further equip the pew in the Body of Christ.

As a non-profit, 501 (c)3 tax-exempt corporation, Preserving Bible Times depends on the contributions of like-minded people, as well as revenues from its image archives and its “Bible in Context” resources to 1) continue studying the cultural and historical context of the various Biblical periods, and 2) sharing this contextual information in a variety of media forms, e.g., print, video and digital, with followers of Jesus Christ everywhere.

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Expectations

- Not Comprehensive – Our Focus Will Be on What We Have Missed.
- Diagnostic Perspective: 90% Toward an Effective Therapy.
- Modest Expectations: A Few Things You Can Start to Do Differently.
- Able to Get Outside our Traditional Evangelical Paradigms - Evangelism
- Our Approach: Convergence Will Take Some Time.
 - Revisit Our Paradigms & Challenge Our Assumptions.
 - Develop Some Tools & Perspectives.
- Issues of Passion, Knowledge and Process: **See Graphic on Page 23**
 - Desire Does Tend to Get Things Done
 - So What Are We Praying For?
 - Do the Most Important Thing First!

The State of the Kingdom – Latest Barna Research

- 1% of church leaders feel today's churches "*are doing very well at discipling new and young believers.*"
- Only 8% of pastors feel their church is "*doing well*" in discipling.
- Only 20% of Christian adults are involved in some sort of discipleship activity (broadly defined).
- Only 25% of Christians feel "discipleship" is even relevant anymore.
- Many Christians tend to be quite satisfied in their spirituality, perhaps edging toward complacency.
- Needed: Tools to help people examine the reality of their spiritual growth, not merely how they perceive it.
- Millions of Christians believe that discipleship is a solo affair...not much emphasis on the communal, relational nature of spiritual growth.
- For good or bad, small groups are the disciple-making format preferred by most of today's church leaders.
- Less than 25% of Christian adults are being discipled by someone. Only 19% are discipling someone else.
- According to a majority of pastors, a "*comprehensive discipleship curriculum*" is perceived as by far the least important element of effective discipleship.
- "*Discipleship*" is no longer a preferred term... *spiritual growth, spiritual journey, and being Christ-like* are much more preferred.
- Only 1 in 5 Christians have any specific spiritual goals or a growth plan.

20 Reasons Why “Discipleship” Died (RIP)

(90% of an effective therapy is rooted in a sound diagnosis)

Non-discipleship is the elephant in the church – Dallas Willard

Trying to be a disciple of Jesus is not the same thing as training to be His Disciple – Bruce Demarest

1. Unlike Solomon, the church in America cut the “make disciples” (MD) baby in half, creating two new (non-biblical) words - *evangelism* and *discipleship*. This separation has had adverse consequences. It allowed the church to prioritize “saving” over discipling. We never did get around to doing much discipling. That takes too much effort; plus it can be messy and frustrating. But at least we saved them!
2. We assumed that people will know how to disciple others – they don’t. How can you pass along something you have not experienced?
3. We failed to challenge people to take responsibility for their own discipling, and they didn’t.
4. We emphasized “*knowing*” over “*doing*” and “*being*.” And valued orthodoxy (*right thinking*) over orthopraxy (*right doing*). Then we falsely equated the acquisition of knowledge with spiritual maturity.
5. We aimed at too small/narrow a target. We failed to disciple the whole person. Peter Scazzero postulates there is no spiritual maturity without corresponding relational and emotional maturity. Why do we fill people up with biblical facts while still letting them continue as emotionally maladjusted, relational misfits in our midst?
6. Faith became more a creed to assent to than a lifestyle imperative verb to be lived out. Then life got separated into two spheres – sacred and secular – which gave rise to compartmentalized Christianity.
7. We confused being a convert/believer with being a disciple of Jesus. End result: Too many “casual Christians.”
8. We don’t know what a first-century disciple of Jesus looks like, e.g., attributes. So how then would we know what we are trying to reproduce or become?
9. In teaching truncated versions of biblical Christianity, we failed to reproduce ourselves - Two out of three children raised in a Christian home are lost to the faith by age 30. As a result, the life we are “living” isn’t something they care to emulate.
10. We treated MD as a periodic program that deserves an occasional emphasis rather than a purposeful, life-long process that is always Job #1, i.e., “*Discipling is everything and everything is discipling*”
11. We took our eye off the MD ball and were seduced into offering “therapeutic consumerism” events where we felt people are itching; e.g. parenting skills, financial skills, divorce recovery, etc., etc. No time left for transforming Bible study and discipling.
12. We failed to grasp the genius of Jesus’ experiential “*Do and Teach*” (Acts 1:1) pedagogy for MD, substituting in its place a Westernized classroom, cognitive approach of “Teach and Maybe Do.”
13. We have a 21st-Century, Westernized, industrialized, urban understanding of Jesus which is not the Near Eastern, village, agrarian, Jewish Jesus of the Gospels which show us how (contextually) to MD.
14. MD takes place in community with transparency and intimacy. Too many believers are functional Long Rangers in the church, strangers in the worship crowd. We need to rediscover the biblical paradigm for our life together.
15. We fostered a church model where clerics have taken the place of the “priesthood of ALL believers.” We have seminaries (mostly) training church managers, not shepherds of the flock who model discipling.
16. The narcissism of the culture has spilled over into the church resulting in people who think being a disciple of Jesus is a personal journey in self-development, self-actualization and self-fulfillment. Wrong! Missing are obedience, submission, emulation of Jesus, communion with God and the Body, and yes, joy unspeakable.
17. We assumed that MD would automatically happen if people hung around the church long enough. It didn’t. As a result we were not intentional about MD and thus failed to create a church climate that was conducive to discipling.

18. The old mentoring model is not working. Most of the gray hairs still don't see themselves as quite ready (yet) to disciple others. They always seem to need to read a few more spiritual books!
19. We have been dispensing spiritual/biblical facts without frameworks that tie everything together. Ever tried to work a puzzle without seeing the box top? That's why we created a biblical framework for MD – it's a missing piece that makes a huge difference.
20. It isn't the "Great Commission." That phrase is not in the text. Apple trees don't have to be exhorted to make apples. That's just what apple trees do! In the Greek, Matt. 28:19 reads much more as the "Great Given" - of course disciples will be making disciples (MD). Like apple trees, that's what disciples (super) naturally do!

Some Foundational Thoughts

Every believer is a disciple of Jesus. The point is whether or not they are obedient disciples. --- Michael Wilkins

Evangelicalism, particularly American evangelicalism, is failing the modern Church. Evangelicals have done a superb job of evangelizing people, of bringing them to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, but they are failing to provide believers with approaches to living that keep them going and growing in spiritual relationship with Him. --- Alister McGrath

It takes great strength and courage to move out of our comfort zones and claim new ground spiritually. And in fact, our greatest potential for growth lies in our areas of weakness. --- Bruce Demarest

If you want something that you have never had before, you had to do something that you never did before. --- Arthur Andrews

If we always do what we have always done, then we will always get what we have always gotten. --- Larry Wilson

There can be no following without a previous forsaking. --- John Stott

Introduction

John the Baptist and 1st-Century Repentance: Change the way you "see" something.

Examine the Evidence: It's not working very well!

The Willow Creek wake-up call

The Capital Hill dilemma – What do you do when everyone is under 30?

Revisiting Matthew 28:19 The Great Commission/Assumption/"Omission"?

"*Making Disciples*" is a seamless reality to the first-century Hebrew mind.

We've done the impossible: Divided up "making disciples" into "*Evangelism*" and "*Discipleship*." And that has given rise to "non-discipleship Christianity."

Remember the context of "*Follow Me*" (See Graphic on Page 23)

The 2X2 Matrix of "*Weak and Strong*" and "*Evangelism and Discipleship*"

John 15:1&2 The Master Disciplemaker at Work

The Father is always leading in disciple making – Don't feel it's solely up to you.

Look for "repositioning" times in the lives of others.

Case Study: Suddenly unemployed and "*60 Days before the Lord*."

What is a Disciple Like?

Discipling: A life-long process, transforming believers to think, act and love like Jesus which begins, inwardly, with a personal response to the Gospel and moves outwardly in a nurturing **community** with others engaged in that process who share a **passion** to **advance the Kingdom**. --- Regis Nicoll & Michael Wilkins

Revisiting the Robust First-Century World of the Rabbis and Disciples...

Purpose of the Yeshiva Paradigm: Discernment & Becoming Little Rabbis

Wrestling with God's Word was always a Given.

No easy answers, no simple formulas, No spoon-fed acrostics.
Discernment in the gray issues of life so as to always honor God.

ROLE PLAY: Meet *Yohanan*, a new disciple of Rabbi *Akevia*

GROUP Exercise: Describe Some of the Inherent Characteristics of a First-Century Disciple:

-
-
-
-
-

Jesus: A Very Different Rabbi!

- He chose His disciples – Had to!
- He contradicted the rabbinic sages
- He never sat underneath any of the well-known rabbi's of His day
- Took Disciples from another rabbi – John the Baptist
- Rabbi's would say they are bringing the "light." Jesus said "I am the Light"

Two Very Different Worlds -- See Following Table

First-Century World of Making Disciples (**THEN**)

The World of Western "Discipleship" (**NOW**)

Compare and Contrast Making Disciples

THEN and (most) Discipleship NOW

(Taken from Page 36 of *"Making Disciples Jesus' Way,"* "Rabbis and Disciples" Chapter)

World of Making Disciples (THEN)

Hebrew Way - Doing, Action, Concrete
Integrated Context is Understood
All About Integration & Synthesis - Keeping Things Together
"Believe" is a Verb - Something You Do
Emphasis on Consistent Behavior
Community More Important than the Individual.
Sacrifice Personal Rights for the Benefit of the Community
Cooperative in Nature
Willingly Submissive to Authority
Comfortable with Seeming Paradox
Submit to Rabbi's Interpretation
Willing to Wrestle with the Text for Long Periods of Time
Memorized their Scriptures
Live Life in Community
Live Integrated, Holistic Lives
Desire to be A Disciple
Total Surrender to their Rabbi's Interpretive Authority for Living
Nothing is Hidden from from Rabbinic Scrutiny
Life Issue Oriented
Dialogue Intensive
Focused on Men

World of Western Discipleship (NOW)

Hellenistic Way - Thinking, Words, Ideas, Abstract
Most Biblical Context is Missing
About Analysis, Categorization & Labels - Taking Things Apart
"Belief" is a Creed - Consenting to Propositions
Much More of an Emphasis on Ideas
Individual More Important than the Community.
Sacrifice Community Harmony for the Sake of Personal Interests
Competitive in Nature
Submissive to no One, Except Myself
Want Everything Clearly Resolved
Create my own Interpretation of the Text
Preference for Quick, Simplistic Answers Through Brief Encounters with the Text
Widespread Biblical Illiteracy
Functional Lone Rangers
Live in Two Spheres (Sunday/Rest of the Week)
Often Content to Just "Believe" in Jesus
Partial, Elective Surrender to Jesus' Authority when Convenient
Much of our Lives is Hidden to Others
Conceptually Oriented
Information Transfer Intensive
Seems More Women are Being Disciplined Than Men

New Paradigm Needed: Co-Disciples and Learning Partners

- **Visiting an Orthodox Jewish Seminary (*Yeshiva*) Study Hall**

- A cacophony of noise!
- Pairs of students orally studying together
- That dynamic is called *havruta*

- **Each Student is Paired with a *haver* (hah-VAIR)**

- A *haver* is a study friend
- Plural is *haverim*
- Much study of the Torah is done in community

Acquire for yourself a rabbi, and get yourself a haver
- Mishnah *Pirke, Avot* 1:6

- **Three Striking Statements**

*When two sit together and exchange words of Torah,
then the Divine Presence dwells among them*
- Mishnah *Pirke Avot* 3:32

*Where two or three come together in my name,
there am I with them.*
- Matthew 18:20

*And He summoned the twelve and began to send
them out in pairs.*
- Mark 6:7a

- **Implications**

- Need to rebalance Western emphasis on privacy in solitude, silence and Bible Study with community (public) engagement with the Scriptures.
- Having *haverim*, which we will consider to be **co-disciples** or **peer-disciples**, is crucial to transformational development...Examples
 - C&O Barge Canal Walks
 - Can't turn my back on a public commitment to another

Thoughts taken from Chapter Five, "Get Yourself Some *Haverim*," from Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg, *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus*, Zondervan, 2009

Contextual Perspective on How Jesus (Re)Made Disciples

Acts 1:1 and the Power of “Do and Teach,” not “Teach and Maybe Do!”

- Sometimes it’s best to first experience the Gospel, then talk about it later!
- New mission’s perspective: Disciple people into conversion!

Luke Chapters 5-8 and the Paradigm-Changing Power of the Experiential

Note what Jesus did not do...

- No lecture series on why you should love the “despised”
- No seminar on “*How to Touch Lepers*”
- He just did it! “Disciples, we’ll talk about it later.”

Daily Walking with Jesus and the Twelve:

- Shock therapy as observant Jewish paradigms are being wrenched away from these new disciples.
- “*Come and See*” what I have in store for you today!
 - We can emulate “*come and see*” with others in our networks!
- What was Jesus doing?
 - Deconstructing old paradigms.
 - Detoxing them what their culture had done to them.
 - Creating New Paradigms
 - Simon Encounters Jesus – Luke 5: New paradigm for fishing!
 - First discipling detoxing experience – “Touching the Leper”
See *Encounters with Jesus: The Rest of Their Stories* for more examples.
- “*Do and Teach*” / “*Come and See*” ILLUSTRATIONS:
 - Rockbridge YL Camp and Capernaum Week.
 - Me praying with a professional?

Fessinger’s Cognitive Dissonance Theory

- The interrelationship of changing Attitudes and Behavior.
- Much for the church to learn.



The Importance of Frameworks... Which Are Not Formulas!

Why Frameworks Matter...

- Structures the Asking of Good Probing Questions (P/Q).
- Facilitates a Sound Diagnosis – Personal and Corporate.
 - Address the Relevant Issues, Don't Major in the Minors.
- Can Help Focus Paradigms that Need Changing.
- Can Stimulate and Structure a Spiritual Growth Plan.

Backdrop: Where are the Protestant Spiritual Directors?

- The “*JoHari Window*” of Awareness. **See Graphic page 24.**
- **Needed: A New Paradigm** – Teaching People to Take Ownership of and Responsibility for their own Discipling.

Paradigm Changing Frameworks

THE JOHN 15 FRAMEWORK plus Luther's Three Enemies of the Christian

Level 1 The Right Spheres and the Issue of Balance.

Level 2 Specific Issues of ...

Knowledge and Understanding,
Attitude Cultivation and Barrier Removal,
Transformational Experiences, and
Spirit-Filled Living Desired Outcomes.

NOTE: Co-discipling and mentoring are not necessarily a clean, neat, linear process!

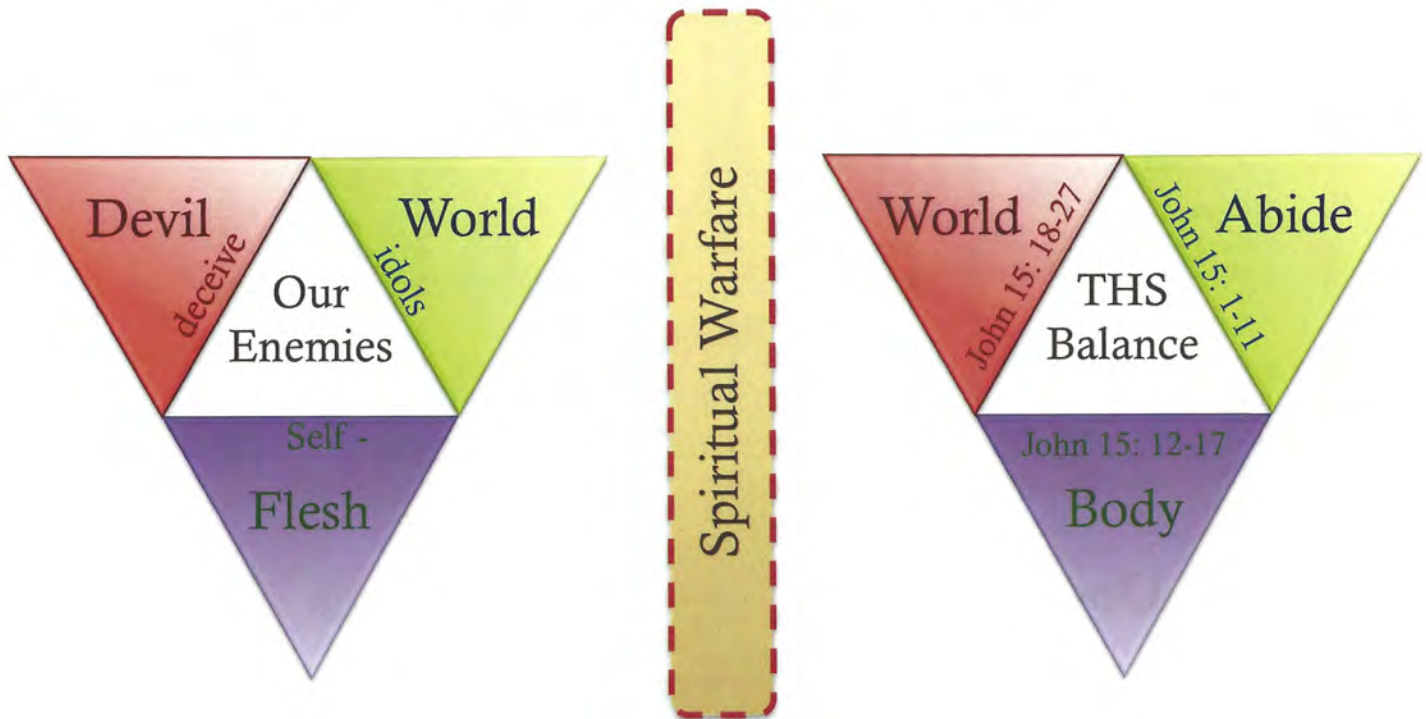
OTHER FRAMEWORKS:

PETER SCAZZERO'S SPIRITUAL/EMOTIONAL/RELATIONAL MATURITY FRAMEWORK

The sad truth is that too little difference exists, in term of emotional and relational maturity, between God's people inside the church and those outside who claim no relationship to Jesus Christ. – Peter Scazzero

DR. DAVID ALLEN'S “BERMUDA TRIANGLE OF THE SOUL” (24)

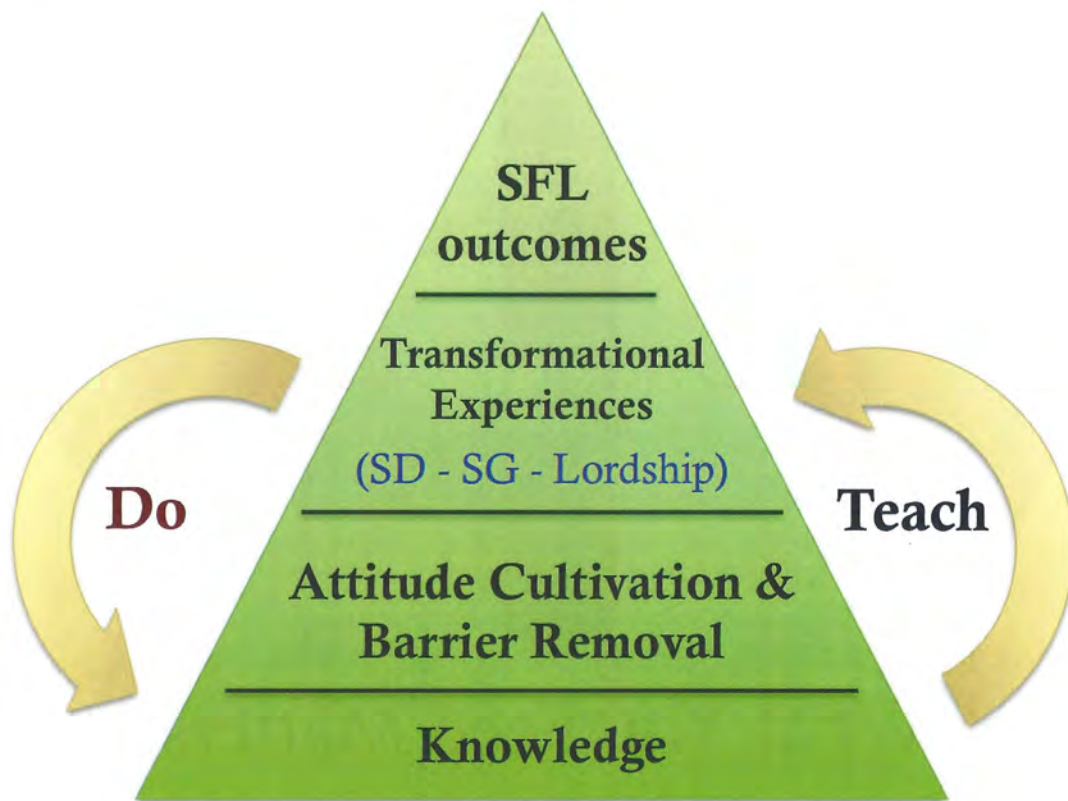
A Biblical Framework



What You Feed Matters!

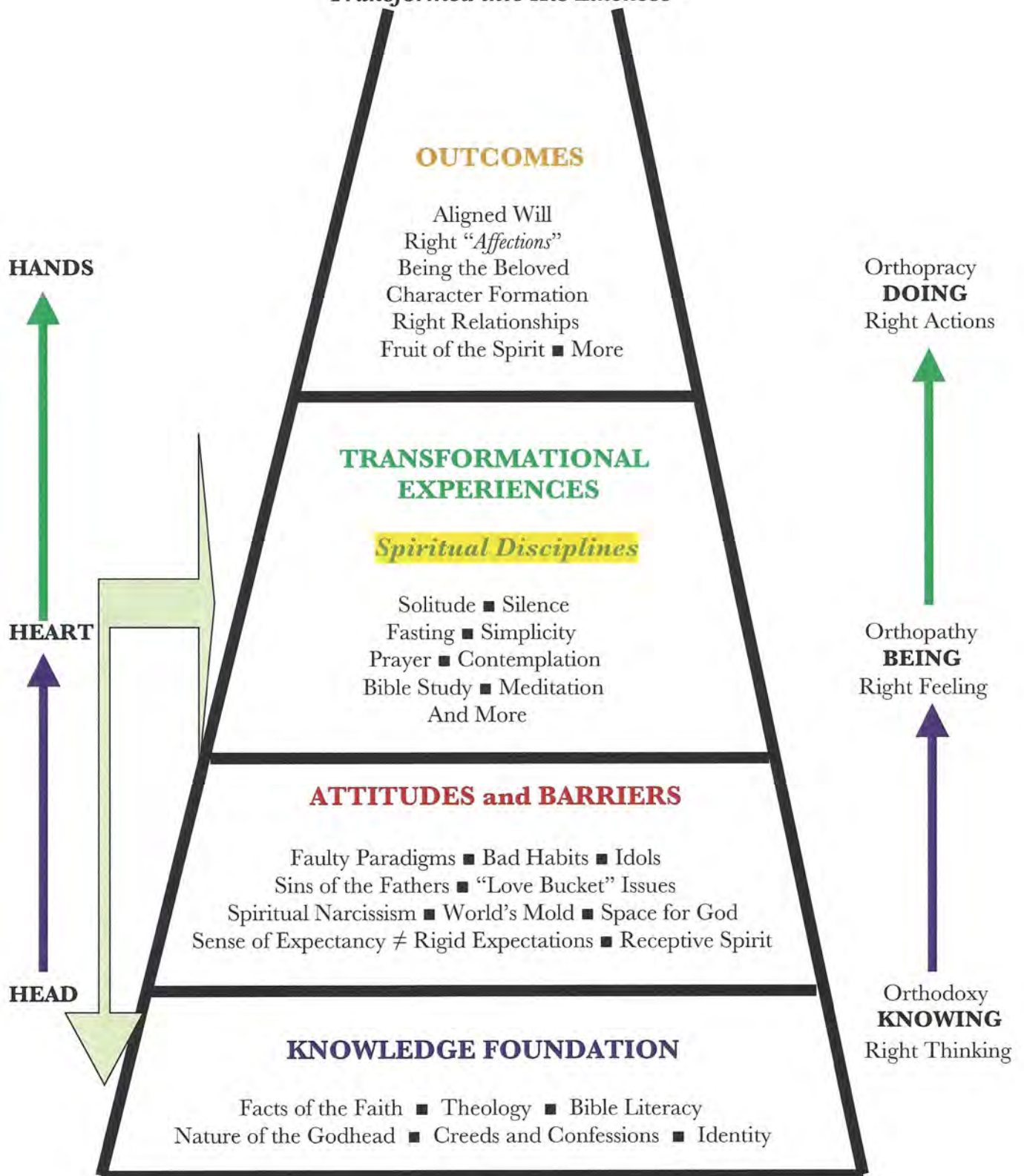
Spiritual Formation & Discipling Ingredients

(Information → Penetration → Transformation)



The “Abide” Sphere

“Transformed into His Likeness”



“Body Life” Sphere

Fruitful Living

OUTCOMES

Will Alignment
Fruitful Ministry
Life in the Spirit
Loving our Neighbors
Being a Priest/Priestess
Burden Bearing ■ Serving
Authentic Community ■ More

TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Spiritual Gifts

Faith ■ Giving
Wisdom ■ Knowledge
Teaching ■ Discernment
Prayer ■ Exhortation
Helps ■ Hospitality
Leadership ■ Mercy
Pastor ■ Service
And More

ATTITUDES and BARRIERS

Spiritual Narcissism ■ Do-it-Yourselfism
Flawed Paradigms ■ Sense of Eternity
Lone Rangerism ■ Availability ■ Accountability
Priesthood of ALL Believers ■ *Bermuda Triangle of the Soul*

KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION

Body of Christ ■ Worship & Celebration ■ Discipling
Fellowship ■ Spiritual Gifts & Calling ■ Vocation/Avocation

HANDS



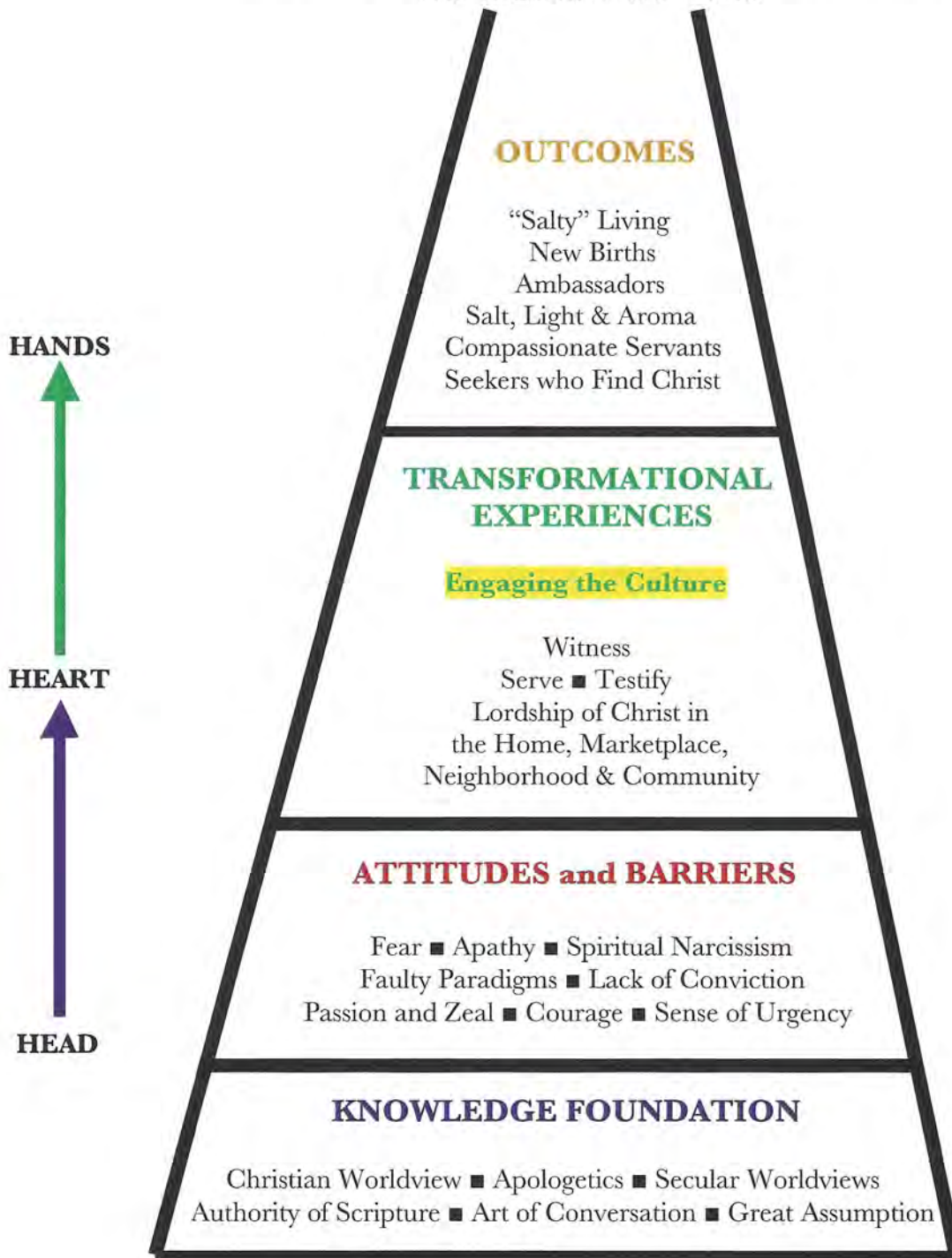
HEART



HEAD

“Engaging the World” Sphere

Our Mission in the World



A Prerequisite for Mentoring and Being a Co-Disciple:

The GRACE and TRUTH Teeter-Totter

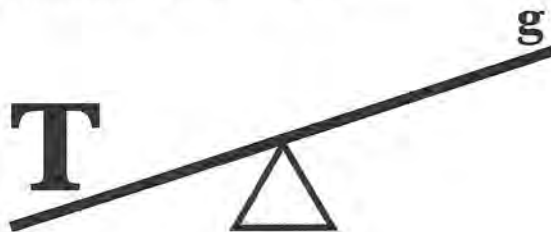
Jesus' Pattern for Interacting with Others

- John 1:14 and the practical theology found in sequence.
- E. Stanley Jones: Truth without preceding grace is a bludgeon – it wounds people.
- Young Life Motto: Earn the right (through Grace time) to bring the truth.

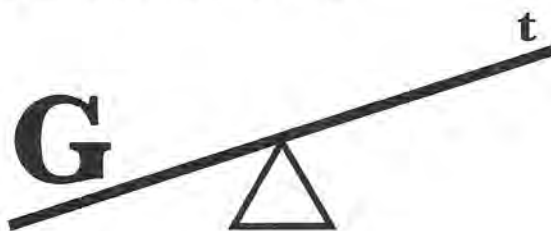
Balance: The Key to Healthy (Mentoring and Co-Discipling) Relationships:



Tilting Tendency #1: The Chronic Truth Teller



Tilting Tendency #2: The Chronic Grace Giver



OBSERVATIONS

- Everyone has a tilting tendency.
- Every ministry has a tilting tendency depending on who leads it.
- Being equally yoked and “iron sharpens iron.”
- Grace Time takes time - often measured in years.
- Grace Time needs to be frequently re-established – don't presume on prior Grace Time.
- Grace Time is more than nice words – requires caring deeds.
- Truth Tellers tend to have few friends.
- This Teeter-totter is even harder than you think – Luther's understanding of a “good” deed.
- It's best to be invited into Truth Time than to force yourself in uninvited.

A Framework for Influencing the Decisions of Others

The Interrelationship of **V**alue and **P**rice (thank you Heartsill Wilson!)

$$\frac{\mathbf{V}}{\mathbf{p}} \geq 1 \text{ (yes!)} \qquad \frac{\mathbf{V}}{\mathbf{P}} \leq 1 \text{ (no!)}$$

- **People are Remarkably Consistent in How They Make Decisions**
 - That keeps all of us honest!
 - It's all in their perceptions – perceptions are people's reality!
 - People always have alternative **V**alue options...
 - Examples: marriage, clothes, starting a Diet, going to church
- **Discipling is About Value Presentation, Value Clarification and Value Demonstration**
 - Value is all inclusive: tangible & intangible contributors.
 - Financial, emotional, intellectual, relational & lifestyle issues.
 - Remember: If you can't present or demonstrate **V**alue, your only option is to lower the **P**rice.
- **Jesus and Value Presentation**
 - Lived out a consistent pattern of first establishing the great value of being part of the Kingdom of God, e.g.,
 - Accepted into a new Kingdom,
 - Healed,
 - Forgiven and Freed,
 - Cared for and Loved by God, and more.
 - Later presented the **P**rice – the cost and its consequences, e.g.,
 - Deny yourself and pick up your cross.
 - Lose your life to gain it.
 - No turning back, and more.

Next Issue: How do I Sort Out What is Really of Value to Another Person?

Separating Needs/Desires (N/D) with Probing Questions (PQ)

It's a Given: People will readily tell you their **Desires**, but seldom their true **Needs**.

Need to discern the difference between a person's **N/D**. Why?

Framing Good **Value** creation statements are rooted in a solid **Needs** assessment.

So how do you start to understand a person's **N/Ds**?

Do that by asking good **Probing Questions (PQ)** to bring **Needs** into focus.

Frameworks facilitate the asking of good **PQ**.

The art of conversation and dialogue are necessary skills.

Requires a commitment of time combined with patient listening.

A Necessary Sequence

- Presuppositions:
1. You are reasonably settled in our life and
 2. You care about other people growing in Christ.
 3. Willing to invest in **Grace Time** with another.

Use FRAMEWORK → PQ → N/D → V/P → *Discipling Decisions*

Jesus' Approach

- Perfectly Settled: He knew who He was and why He had come.
- Had His Father's heart for people.
- Invested authentic **Grace Time** in people and His disciples.
- Had a Framework always in view: *The Kingdom of God*.
- Asked great **PQ's**, e.g., the lawyer in Luke 10:26 – two good **PQs**.
 - Knew the **Desire** issue in that lawyer's life –to "*justify himself*" and also knew the real **Need** issue in his life – a new heart that would give him a new paradigm of who his neighbor is.
- Knew the **Value** of being in the Kingdom of God and the **Price** it takes to become a citizen of it.

Getting Underway

Terminology

- No one is ever to be our Rabbi except Jesus.
- Therefore, everyone else in the Kingdom is a Co-Disciple/Peer-Disciple.
 - Either as a *haver* or as a
 - Leader Co-Disciple with certain spiritual gifts, e.g. teaching, wisdom, knowledge, pastor, who can open up the Scriptures with and for us.
- Mentoring is a subset of Discipling
 - Often mentoring focuses on a specific task(s) or skill(s), e.g., teaching.
 - Discipling focuses on the transformational maturity of the whole person.

We Are All Familiar with Mentoring

- Note how the following are “made:”
 - Board-certified surgeons, nurses, electricians, school teachers,
 - Bio-chemists, counselors and golf pros.
- Common to each are
 - Placing ourselves under the watchful oversight of others with a proven proficiency and emulating what they model us.

Kind of Mentoring/Co-Discipling: From Informal to Formal, Unaware to Aware

- Remember: An ideal mentor does not exist.
- There is a progression of mentoring/co-discipling from
 - Informal to formal.
 - Occasional, to frequent, to intensive.
- Examples
 - Intensive (longer periods of time)
 - Discipler, Coach, Spiritual Guide/Advisor.
 - Occasional (Shorter periods of time)
 - Counseling, e.g. getting a perspective on a phase of life issue.
 - Teacher, e.g. how to do lead a Bible study.

Goal of Mentoring/Co-Discipling

- More intimacy with God.
- More of a sense of being a child of God.
- Developing a unique role in Kingdom responsibility in the Body Life and World spheres.

Motivators

- A hunger for intimacy and something more relational. While we espouse independence, we have a deep down need for interdependence.
- No longer content with platitudes – want a deeper depth of experience.
- Desire for Spiritual Intelligence, not just IQ or Emotional Intelligence.
- Being a spiritual midwife developing the birth of insights to another as well as to yourself. Its purpose is transformational, not informational.

Getting Started

- Pray for the opportunity.
 - Most co-discipling/mentoring takes place without those labels ever being overtly used, or even thought of.
- Overture a possible co-discipling covenant partner or covenant group.
 - More effective discipling seems to occur in groups of 3 or 4.
- Be willing to invest in Grace Time with our *haver* or *haverim*.
 - Grace Time usually takes longer than you might think!
 - Share your respective life stories.
 - Conversation and dialogue will open windows into the lives of others.

While Prayerfully Listening/Observing, Remember the Abide/Body/World Framework as you look for

- **Abide** issues, **Body Life** issues, **Engaging the World** issues.
- As you do so, be quietly asking yourself...
 - What **Knowledge** pieces seem to be missing?
 - What **Barriers** might seem to be in place?
 - What **Attitudes** need to be cultivated?
 - What **Experiences** seem to be missing?
 - What **Plateaus** seem to be evident?
 - Any **Character** issues revealing themselves?
 - What “**Bermuda Triangle of the Soul**” issues do you sense?
 - Any out of **Balance** issues?
 - What **Transformational Outcomes** do they seem to desire?
- Respond as the Spirit leads with appropriate **Probing Questions**?

Then

- Review “*Discipling/Mentoring Wisdom*” tips periodically.
- Pray Constantly.
- Relax! Ultimately the Spirit of Christ does the discipling.



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Because Context Matters

Discipling Wisdom for Practitioners

Approaching the Peer-Discipling, Co-Discipling, and Mentoring Process¹

1. Respect the uniqueness of each person (uniqueness in the Godhead).
2. Particularize/individualize your approach. No one-size-fits-all formulas or templates.
3. Ask yourself: Do you really care about his/her spiritual growth and development?
4. Mentoring is always a Value/Price decision for both parties.
5. We are seeking to transform people from rugged individualists to relational, community persons in Christ.
6. It is the depth to which Christ is relevant to our own brokenness that we are able to “touch” another.
7. Probe early on the motives and attitudes of the mentoree/co-disciple - Important there be a receptive spirit.
8. Be clear what the other’s expectations are:
 - Negotiate time frames and differing expectations.
 - Define areas of focus and endpoints.
 - Define how best to deal with areas that need improvement.
9. First and foremost be a genuine friend.
10. The heart of a mentoring ministry to another is found in the heart. So keep it in the heart. Conviction is not cognitive. It is sacrificial.
11. Need to be self-conscious about sharing too much with another.
12. Be careful not to become a soul archaeologist, of digging around too much in another’s life.
13. Beware of mentoring because you need to do it or if it becomes a power trip.
14. Best to always have your mentoree close in prayer after each time together (listen carefully - his or her prayer will reveal much about what has just happened)
15. Misconception: You have to know it all, have done it all, and well, before you can disciple another! Rather it’s more to listen carefully and share what you know and have experienced.
16. Anyone can mentor another if they have learned something from God and are willing to share it.
17. We minister out of our failures and brokenness, not out of our “successes.” It won’t take long before our own weaknesses and shortcoming will become apparent to others.
18. Always good to periodically evaluate: 1) How’s it going?, 2) What adjustments might be needed?, 3) Where is the need for “continuous improvement” indicated?

Discipling is a Journey, a Life-Long Process, not a Periodic Program, “System” or a Straitjacket Formula.

The Journey is from self-centeredness to becoming Christ centered.

You are not competing to see who can do it best!

Be careful that your methodology not take a higher priority than following Jesus.

From Jonathan Edwards...

No Christian lives in continuous victory over sin.

Regarding secret sins, it does not necessarily mean victory over these sins, but being committed to dealing with them.

It's not the size of the sin, but your attitude towards it.

Personal Piety

Nothing will minister more to your co-disciple/mentoree than your own personal piety.

Remember G. K. Chesterton: *All education is implication.*

Discipling Chemistry Matters: Beware of Square Pegs & Round Holes.

Best place to start as a compatibility check is with his or her life's story.

Cultivating a Biblical Perspective.

Discipling is not a journey into personal self-development and self-fulfillment.

Discipling Requires Prayer and Work, as well as Work and Prayer.

Remember: You never disciple alone. Let the Spirit lead.

It is often non-linear - can often be two steps forward, one step backward. Expect it.

Beware of a microwave mentality - God's way is often a slow bake.

Spiritual Disciplines and “*Making Space for God*” will always be a Necessity.

Consider ways you can put “*Do and Teach*” and “*Come and See*” Together.

Touch the Kingdom of God through a shared experience, then talk about it later.

Increasing Biblical Knowledge Should Never be Mistaken for Spiritual Growth.

Asking for More Commitment Will Not Necessarily Drive People Away.

Always Lead with Grace, Bring the Truth Later.

The importance of investing in “Grace Time.”

Remember Luther's definition of a “good” act – it will drive you to your knees.

Most Peer-Discipling and Co-discipling Occurs Without Even Using Those Labels.

¹From a discussion with Dr. James Houston

Helpful Discipling Resources – Good Friends

(Organized by Discipling Framework Sphere and Category)

Abide – Knowledge – View of God

Knowing God – J. I. Packer
Knowledge of the Holy – A. W. Tozer
The Holiness of God – R.C. Sproul
The Sovereignty of God – A. W. Pink

Abide – Attitudes & Barriers

In Search of the Heart – David Allen
Touching Godliness through Submission – K. P. Yohannan
The Divine Art of Contentment – Thomas Watson

Abide – Experience

Celebration of the Disciplines – Richard Foster
Prayer – Richard Foster
Space for God – Don Postema
The Pursuit of God – A. W. Tozer
Satisfy Your Soul – Bruce Demarest
Devotional Classics – Foster and Smith
Great and Beautiful God – James Bryan Smith

Life Together – Knowledge

Life Together – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
The Incendiary Fellowship – Elton Trueblood
The Cost of Discipleship – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Life Together – Attitudes & Barriers

The Call – Os Guinness
Making Disciples Jesus' Way – Doug Greenwold
The Reformed Pastor – Richard Baxter

Life Together – Experiential

Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow – Peter Wagner
Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: Unleash a Revolution in your Life in Christ – Peter Scazzero
The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship That Actually Changes Lives – Peter Scazzero

Engaging the World – Knowledge

True Truth – Art Lindsley
Classical Apologetics – Sproul, Gerstner & Lindsley

Engaging the World – Attitudes & Barriers

Know What You Believe – Paul Little
Questioning Evangelism – Randy Newman

Engaging the World -- Experiential

How to Give Away Your Faith – Paul Little

All Three Spheres

Good and Beautiful God, Good and Beautiful Life, Good and Beautiful Community – *The Apprentice Series* – James Bryan Smith
God Space: Where Spiritual Conversations Happen Naturally – Doug Pollack

Summary Graphics

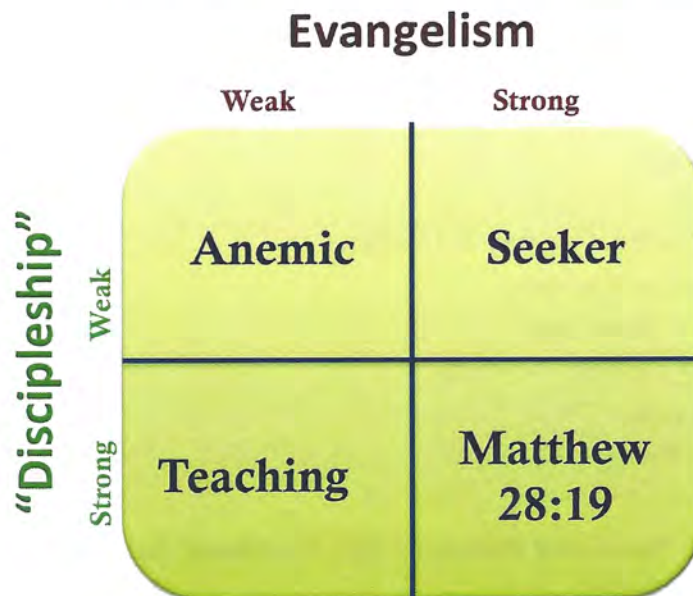
Weekend Orientation

Our Focus: Three Overarching Themes



Areas of Ministry Emphasis

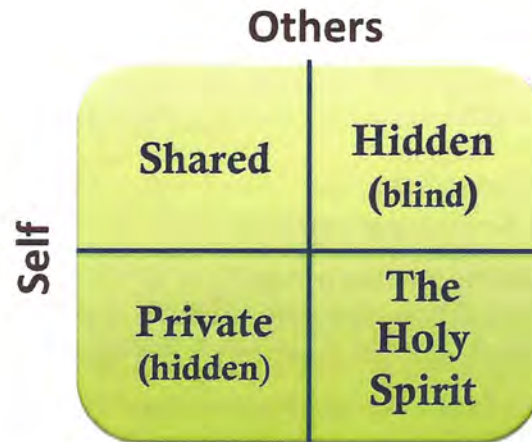
Areas of Emphasis



Summary Graphics

The JoHari Awareness Window

The JoHari Awareness Window



On our own, we can only know part of who we are!
That's why we need others in our lives!

Dr. David Allen's "Bermuda Triangle of the Soul" Graphic

Explains the Human Condition

"Bermuda Triangle of the Soul"© – Dr. David Allen

False programs for
happiness – addictions
& obsessions



Discipling Self-Evaluation

- Do I really want to be a disciple of Jesus? Or am I content to remain a believer? Am I willing to devote the same passion, energy and commitment to being a disciple of Jesus as I have devoted to my career and profession?
- Reflect back on prior times of significant spiritual growth and ponder what circumstances and dynamics caused that to happen? What insights from the past speak to you in the here and now?
- What gives me joy and satisfaction in life?
- What is the balance in my life right now between **Abide** time, **Body Life** time and time spent **Engaging the World**? Am I avoiding time in one or more of these three spheres, and why?
- What do I tend to think about when I have nothing else to think about? May reveal your “god.”
- In terms of the framework categories, reflect more deeply on each aspect (will illustrate by focusing on questions prompted the **Abide-Knowledge** category).
 - How would I describe God to another person?
 - What is my understanding of how God sees me? (C.S. Lewis thought this was THE question).
 - What is my view of God (which A.W. Tozer says is the most important thing about a person)?
 - Are the spiritual disciplines a consistent part of my life?
 - What would my last 100 prayers reveal about my actual view of God?
 - Do I implicitly (or explicitly) live out a works theology – that I can earn God’s favor. What might that say about my understanding of Grace?
 - How does God’s Sovereignty over all things shape how I approach and live each day?
 - What is my understanding of God’s Holiness? How does that understanding shape how I view and deal with my sin?
 - How might my earthly father have shaped my perception of my heavenly Father?
 - What fruits of the spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) are most evident/least evident in my life?
 - Some of the common barriers to spiritual growth are laziness, prayerlessness, indecisiveness and unconfessed sin.¹ Strike any cords?
 - Some things to reflect on from other areas of the discipling framework might include:
 - What is my compassion index these days? Do I have a servant’s heart?
 - Do I know my Spiritual Gifts and am I using them regularly for God’s glory?
 - What is more important in my life right now than Christ and His Kingdom (might provide clues where your idols are to be found)?
 - Am I clear what my vocation is (disciple of Jesus) and what my avocation is (lawyer, doctor, engineer, programmer, nurse, teacher, nurturer of children, etc. etc.)?
 - How many people know me well? Do I want others to know me well?
 - When was the last time I reached out and “invited” someone else into my life?
 - What defenses/excuses do I use to keep people at a distance?
 - What are my “besetting sins,” those things/areas that seem to regularly trip me up?
 - Am I aware of character issues where I am weak?
 - Am I content or not? What is the source of my contentment or discontentedness?
 - What False Narratives might I have bought into? e.g., “I’m an introvert, so I’m not cut out for discipling relationships.”
 - What flawed paradigms have I knowingly or unknowingly embraced?ⁱⁱ
 - Where am I still a prisoner of the past (my childhood, youth) when it comes to emotional issues of abandonment, humiliation and rejection?

- When you have asked similar questions and reflected on the various aspects of the discipling framework, then under the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit ponder:
 - Do any of my answers give me cause for concern?
 - Where do I sense the Holy Spirit nudging me right now?
 - What resources would be helpful for me to use to address some of the issues in my life revealed by these self-inventory questions (see some proven discipling resources organized by framework category on page 22)?
 - Am I willing to create a spiritual growth plan where 1) I have some cause for concern, 2) where the Holy Spirit is nudging/prompting me?

ⁱ Undated handout from the Navigators entitled “*Overcome the Barriers to Spiritual Growth*” by Skip Gray

ⁱⁱ For a fuller development of false paradigms we all too frequently embrace, see Doug Greenwold’s chapter 8, “*Paradigms: Barriers to Spiritual Growth, Making Disciples Jesus’ Way*” *Wisdom We Have Missed*, third edition (Bible-in-Context Ministries, Columbia, MD, 2012) 97-112.

Attributes of Disciples of Jesus

Desire (passion)

Intentional (purposeful and strategic call to mission)

Submits (EVERYTHING is under God’s Authority)

Compassionate Community (manifesting mercy)

Improving (growing, not stuck on a plateau)

Piety (your righteousness - best gift to another)

Literate (knows/loves/shares God’s Word)

Emulates (accurately reveals Jesus)



FROM PRESERVING BIBLE TIMES

MAKING DISCIPLES **Jesus' Way**
...wisdom we have missed

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January 22 & 23, 2016

Presented by

Doug Greenwold, Senior Teaching Fellow

Preserving Bible Times

THESIS: Discipling is a shared journey in following Jesus where we walk together and submit to one another out of our reverence for Christ.

THEME VERSE: A student is not above his teacher (rabbi), but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher (rabbi). Luke 6:40 (added)

THE CHALLENGE: When it comes to making disciples, someone once observed: When all is said and done, a lot gets said and very little gets done!

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