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Disciplemaking 2 Being His Witness

CONCLUSION

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" Matthew 28:18-20

These words are our Great Commission. Witnessing is the beginning of disciplemaking. Be available and ready to bring people to faith in Jesus. And after they have come to Christ, help them become disciples. This lesson gives some ideas to start that process. It also provides a simple overview of *Disciplemaking 2 ... Being His Witness* to help you stay on course.

New Believers: The first steps of discipling new believers.

The starting point of the Christian life is when a person believes in Jesus ... that moment when he or she is born again. New birth produces a spiritual baby. Then obstetrics need to be replaced by pediatrics. Your role changes from witness to disciplemaker.

Teach the basics of being a Christian to them. Do this in the first several days after they have received Christ. *Bible Basics One* (available from Acts One Eight) provides good starting material for this. It includes four simple lessons on Salvation, Eternal Security, Prayer, and the Bible. It is easy to teach and easy to learn.

Get them into a good Bible. If needed, buy it for them. A New American Standard translation is good. A *Ryrie Study Bible* version of the *New American Standard Bible* includes helpful notes and study tools. An *NIV* might be good if they need an easier-to-read Bible (7th grade reading level) ... but it compromises accuracy for readability. Suggest that they begin reading the Gospel of John.

Encourage them to be baptized ... or baptize them. It's part of the Great Commission.

Get them into a Christ-honoring fellowship of believers. Be sure that it includes meaningful worship and accurate teaching. Explain communion to them so that they understand its significance.

After they have a basic foundation, get them on a milk-to-meat growth plan. Teach *Disciplemaking 1* to them at some point after teaching *Bible Basics One*. Then teach *Disciplemaking 2* to them. All of these are available from www.MyDisciplemaker.org.

A REVIEW OF WITNESSING

This course can help you become a better witness. Study it, learn it, apply it ... and you will be a better witness. Review the whole course about once per year to brush up on your skills ... or to get back on track. And for a quick review, study this overview of the process of witnessing.

Get ready.

Recruit a witnessing partner or team. Follow the Biblical pattern ... there is strength in numbers. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Proverbs 27:17

Pray. Pray every day for the boldness to speak, for the words to say, and for opportunities to witness (open doors). Pray specifically for lost people, for yourself, and for your witnessing partner. Ephesians 6:18-20, Colossians 4:2-4, James 5:16-18

Learn the Gospel. You can't explain what you don't know. Learn the facts, the flow, the verses, the prayer, and the invitation. Be able to explain it and illustrate it. Practice until you are comfortable sharing the Gospel. Ephesians 6:15, 2 Timothy 2:15, 24, 1 Peter 3:15

Get with them.

Be in the world. Spend time with non-believers ... don't be isolated. Make meaningful contact with them. Give your life away to them, care for them, and serve them. Earn the right to listen ... and earn the right to be heard. Speak with your words and actions. Luke 15:1-10, John 17:13-18, 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 2:7-8

But don't be of the world. Be a friend of sinners ... but don't be a friend of sin. They will believe your message if your life is consistent with your words. Be a clean and useful vessel. John 17:13-18, 1 Corinthians 9:20-22, 2 Timothy 2:19-20

Get to the Gospel.

Make progress. Think of witnessing as a process ... not a one-time event. Witnessing is like building a brick wall ... one brick at a time. Seek to make progress. Keep the door of opportunity open. Moreover, be helpful rather than hurtful. Let your words be a salve rather than a sword. Gently correct ... don't stir up anger. Proverbs 15:1-2, Colossians 4:5-6, 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Invite them. Offer the Gospel and invite them to put their faith in Christ. Have the goal of winning them to Christ. Be bold and sensitive. Persuade ... exhort ... beg ... invite them. 1 Corinthians 9:19-22, 2 Corinthians 5:11, 20, Matthew 11:28-30