

Discipleship & Mentoring



Equipping *U*niversity

Making Disciples

Making a Difference

www.gracefellow.net/eu

Intentional Discipleship is a Choice!

From Pastor Doug

A disciple is a learner by attachment to a mentor. This means that discipleship not only involves a mentor teaching a person the truths of God, Jesus Christ and the Bible but also living out those beliefs and practices while in a relationship and actively working side by side with his or her disciples. The desired result is not only affirmation of our Christian faith but also a transformation from one who simply believes in Jesus Christ to one who lives his or her life based on those beliefs.

Jesus Christ is our model for discipleship. He took a small group of men, spent time with them, taught them, got His hands dirty with them and encouraged them in the truths of God. Although not immediate, their lives were transformed. For us today our hope is the same. We hope to live out the truths of the Bible resulting in life transformation so that as believers in Jesus Christ we become true Christ followers.

Also in this process the mentor's life is as radically transformed as those he or she disciples. Equipping others and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ affects all involved. Discipleship is a process in which God's grace transforms all people that it touches.

There are many ways in which this process can take place. There is no set formula. The foundation is simply a willingness to invest and spend time with others, getting our hands dirty together. Read the different opportunities as stated here and prayerfully consider how God would involve you in His process of discipleship. You may be ready today to begin as a mentor or you may feel you need someone to come along side you. In either case the process must be intentional; discipleship does not happen by accident. To loosely quote St. Augustine, "It is best to act like it all depends on us but pray realizing it all depends on God."

Remember all parents are the primary mentors for their children. It is not the responsibility of the church or a Sunday school teacher to disciple and raise your children in the faith. They offer great assistance but the primary responsibility belongs to the parent. Equipping Corps offers great information to give parents a good foundation and start.

One on One Peer Mentoring:

This is the process of coming along side and individual and discipling them in the faith. It is easily comparable to a father-son or mother-daughter relationship and should only take place between those of the same gender. Again this is more than just a Bible study; rather both parties work together unpacking the necessary details in order that the disciple becomes a faithful Christ follower.

Mentoring Young Children:

There are children without both parents and/or parents who are unable to provide their role of mentor. This results in an opportunity or need for other Christians to jump in and begin discipleship. This should be done with the consent of the parent.

Mentoring Young Adults:

Here discipleship can take place in a one-on-one setting or even in a small group. An adult may decide to gather a group of college or high school freshmen mentoring them and investing into their lives as they prepare for graduation. The options and possibilities for discipleship are endless.

Life Transformation Groups (LTG):

These groups are a band of individuals (2-4 people of the same gender) coming together discipling each other. All are mentors and all are disciples. These groups meet weekly for personal accountability in the areas of their spiritual growth and development.

Home Ministry Groups (also called Cell or LIFE groups):

These groups meet in the home of a mentor or mentors (a married couple or a mentor team) to provide disciple to a broad group of individuals from church or the neighborhood. Groups usually meet weekly, share a meal, music, Bible study and prayer and encourage each other in the faith while evangelizing others in their community.

Market Street Groups:

These are similar to Home Ministry Groups but generally meet around a shared or common interest such as a hobby or service project. The group meets to not only continue their interest or service project but to challenge each other in their Christian faith while evangelizing others in their community.

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Pre-marriage and marriage Discipleship:

Here a mature couple offers to come alongside a couple who is about to marry or recently married. This could also be done for a currently married couple who needs guidance and discipleship to strengthen their marriage.

GOING FURTHER - Resources

Recommended Books:

[The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ](#) (by Bill Hull)

The Complete Book of Discipleship is the definitive A-to-Z resource on discipleship for every Christian. It pulls together into one convenient, comprehensive volume relevant topics such as spiritual growth, transformation, spiritual disciplines, and discipleship in the local church and beyond.

[Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time](#) (by Greg Ogden)

Sets forth a vision for transforming both the individual disciple and discipleship itself, showing how discipleship can become a self-replicating process with ongoing impact from generation to generation.

[To Follow Him: The Seven Marks of a Disciple](#)

(by Mark Bailey) Most Christians know that Jesus commanded us to "Go make disciples of all nations." Yet what did Christ intend? This book provides a biblical measuring stick to help readers discern what it means to be the type of disciple Christ urges us to be.

[It Starts at Home: A Practical Guide to Nurturing Lifelong Faith](#) (by Kurt Bruner, and Steve Stroope)

Possibly over 50% of children raised in Christian homes walk away from Christianity as adults. Believing the best strategy for turning the tide is to strengthen families, the authors seek to challenge leaders to restore their homes as the proving ground of meaningful success.

Recommended Website:

[Christian Multiplication Associates](#) offers great information for Life transformation Groups.

