

### Why?

The “Be A Disciple” series was written to equip you with a tool for reproducing the basics of discipleship in a one-on-one or small discipleship group setting. This short list of topical studies contains essential topics we want everyone involved in our ministry to grasp and apply. Having these lessons prepared in advance helps people who are new to discipling feel confident and intentional in helping others. We have the lessons available as free .pdf documents on our website so they are easy reproduce. This series was written specifically with the needs of a new believer in mind. Mature believers will also be challenged if they approach the lessons with humility and if they actually do the discipleship challenges. The focus of this material is not passing on information—the goal is to help people develop simple habits that will set them up for a lifetime of fruitful Christian living.

### How?

- 1. Pray consistently and specifically for the person you are meeting with.** All discipling is, first of all, a work of God. Pray that your disciple will be receptive to the truth and apply the scriptures to their life. Keep a prayer list of those you are discipling that includes specific requests.
- 2. Choose the appropriate lesson and print it out ahead of time.** We have posted the lessons on our website in a specific order that we believe is generally best. However, we also want to remain flexible to the individual’s needs. If necessary, skip one lesson but make sure to come back to it later. Make sure you don’t get distracted for very long from the flow of the material. It is easy to get sidetracked on less important topics if you are not careful. There are hundreds of things a new believer needs to learn, but we want to make sure they learn the basics from this series. Be diligent to take them through all of the material.
- 3. Study each lesson thoroughly and read the “Leader’s Guide” before each meeting.** Look up the verses and make sure you understand the purpose behind each point and illustration. The illustrations will be explained in the Leader’s Guide, as many illustrations are just a few words on the handout that remind you to share it. If you have any questions, email [Paul@ChallengeCSUC.com](mailto:Paul@ChallengeCSUC.com).
- 4. Add your own personal touch when appropriate.** You will not need to add very much to the material, but occasionally adding a personal touch can help you connect on a deeper level. Share your own personal stories of how you have been changed by living out the Biblical principles in the lessons. Rick Warren says, “Personal is always most powerful.” You could even make a notebook with all your added personal stories and additional verses or illustrations.
- 5. Connect relationally before going through the lesson.** Ask them questions about their week and about life in general. Ask questions like, “What is one of the high points of your week?” “What is one of the low points of your week?” “What is God doing in your life?” “What are you learning?” Discipleship is all about relationship! 1 Thessalonians 2:8 says, “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”
- 6. Simply read through the lesson with meaning, look up the verses, and ask the discussion questions.** Our goal for this series is not to impress our disciples with complex concepts or drawings. We don’t want them to say, “I could never do that.” We want to start giving them a vision for reproducing right away. We want them to think, “I can do this with someone else!” Success in discipleship is loving them, pointing them to the scriptures, challenging them to take their next step with Jesus, and helping them multiply. The simpler we make our discipleship process, the more likely it will reproduce.
- 7. Challenge them to make S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Action Oriented, Realistic, and Timely) applications.** We provide suggested discipleship challenges at the bottom of each lesson. Make sure your disciple leaves with a specific plan of action that you can check up on next week.

8. **Always check up on the last week's "Discipleship Challenge."** Make sure that, if you gave them a challenge, you ask them how it went. For example: "How did it go memorizing Romans 6:23?" or, "Did you get a chance to read the article I gave you?" Throw a party whenever they accomplish their challenge! When they don't do the challenge, show grace but encourage them to make the challenges more of a priority. If they are not applying the material, it will not change their lives (James 1:22). You could ask, "What is one way that you could remind yourself to do \_\_\_\_\_ this week?"
9. **Ask how you can pray for them.** End your time by asking how you can pray for them this week and write down the request in your journal or discipleship notebook. Make sure to remember to pray for those things during the week.
10. **Always write down your progress and prayerfully evaluate specific needs they may have.** Regularly keep up with your one-on-one plan sheets. You can find these and print them out from our discipleship lesson page. Ask your disciple what questions they have about walking with God and what they want to learn about. Take some time to address these, but avoid going on long tangents about less important topics. Make sure to stay focused on the basics so they can get a solid foundation to build everything else on.
11. **Start the "Make Disciples" series as soon as possible.** The "Make Disciples" series has specific training and challenges that will help equip people to reach others and start discipling them. New believers need to be challenged to share Jesus right away. Otherwise, they may never develop the habit. We need to train people so that they "don't know any better" than to share Jesus (Acts 4:20)! Sharing Christ is one of the best ways for a believer to grow. Philemon 1:6 says, "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."
12. **Pray about the next step in your relationship with them.** Be selective in choosing who you will disciple long-term. After meeting with this person for a few months, it may be best to let your disciple get training from another person in the ministry or get them involved in a small group. It is essential that we practice the principle of selection when looking for people to invest in deeply. Jesus choose only 12 guys to spend the bulk of his training time with. We want to look for F.A.I.T.H. leaders (Faithful, Available, Initiative, Teachable, Heart for God and people) to pour our lives into. In order for multiplication to happen, we must focus on those who are willing to share Christ and make disciples. If your disciple shows these qualities, take their training to the next level and help them be all they can be for Christ's kingdom! Have fun!

#### Suggested Order of Lessons

##### "Be A Disciple"

1. Gospel
2. Follow
3. Word
4. Fellowship
5. Baptism
6. Scripture Memory
7. Prayer
8. Holy Spirit
9. Mission
10. Vision
11. Assurance
12. Identity in Christ
13. Love

##### "Make Disciples"

1. Why Share the Gospel?
2. Sharing Your Story
3. Why and How to Use Gospel Appointments
4. Three Habits for Everyday Outreach
5. Becoming an Inviter
6. Initiative Evangelism
7. Follow-up
8. Establishing
9. Equipping
10. Exporting
11. World Vision
12. Why and How to Use The "Be A Disciple" Series