



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

FOLLOW-UP TOOLS FOR DISCIPLES

NOTES

Introduction

Once a convert is established in a growing relationship with God and has completed the *Convert Follow-Up Guide*, he or she advances to the *Disciple Follow-Up Guide*. The *Convert Follow-Up Guide* focused on growth through the hub and vertical spokes of the wheel; the *Disciple Follow-Up Guide* focuses on the *horizontal* spokes.



As the convert matures and focuses only on the vertical spokes of the wheel, he will find his life out of balance. We, as disciple leaders, must now work to balance the *vertical* and the *horizontal* aspects of the wheel and thus bring an equilibrium to his spiritual life.

In the early stages of the convert's new walk with God, he is normally highly motivated to share with others what God has done and is doing in his life. As quickly as possible, he must begin reaching out to family and friends.

Objective for Disciples

The *objective* is to help the disciple understand his individual commitment and responsibility to the Great Commission and its fulfilling requires a life *devoted* to discipling, which begins with the winning of lost people.

The four basic components dealing with this objective help bring about: *the horizontal reality of ministry, the importance of making Jesus Lord; developing evangelism and a desire to fish for lost people; making of disciples; and living a life of service with the local church.* Each of these four components will be discussed within this chapter. By focusing on them, we can help a convert to become a disciple who is *actively engaged* in the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission.

Making Jesus Lord

When a person invites Jesus into his life, the hub of the wheel is established. In the *New Covenant Relationship*, the Spirit of God doesn't dwell in a building, but in the temple of the believer's life.

Often, when a convert asks Christ to indwell his life, it is with the initial understanding that Christ is to act only as a co-pilot, assisting the new believer in doing a better job with his life. The convert realizes that he is not living up to God's expectations and needs the help of the Holy Spirit. Through continued reading and studying of the Word of God, he begins to realize that Jesus didn't come into his heart to be a co-pilot—He came to be the pilot, or Lord, of his life. The convert soon realizes that Jesus can't sit on his lap, and he can't sit on Jesus' lap—there simply isn't room in the pilot's seat for two people. Christ is the only one capable of acting as pilot. The only way to allow Christ to be the pilot is for the convert to surrender the pilot's seat into the Lord's hands so that He may navigate him into God's perfect will for his life.

This means he must turn over the controls of his life to Jesus. He must humble himself, swallow his pride, admit he cannot do it on his own, declare spiritual bankruptcy, and abdicate the throne of his life to the Lord's hands. This transforms the hub of his will into the Lord's throne room from which Christ may direct his life. It is only when this total surrender is made that a disciple will find the true joy and peace he has longed and searched for.

The *unholy trinity* of Me, Myself and I must be replaced by a *Holy Trinity*—the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

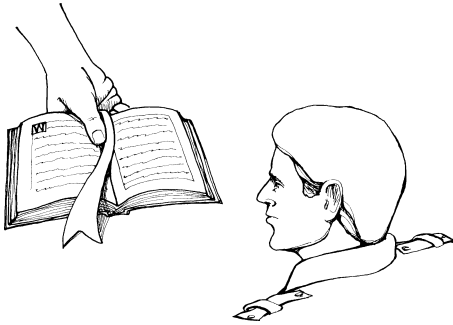
And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

(Luke 9:23)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

(Romans 12:1)

Becoming a Fisher of Men



Next, the new convert must become active in evangelism. **Evangelism** is the means by which we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with lost people. One of the reasons that God doesn't take us to Heaven once we are saved from our sins is because He wants to use us to spread the message to our lost friends.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

(Acts 1:8)

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

(John 20:21)

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

(Mark 16:15)

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

(Psalms 107:2)

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

(1 John 1:3)

One major emphasis of the *ETS* training has to do with the Gospel message and learning to present it effectively. Our main objective with the new convert was to ensure that there was a clear understanding of the message. As a disciple, that objective begins to focus on teaching the convert how to share the message by using the Socratic form of the Bridge Illustration, found in Lesson 1/7. In Lesson 1/8, the convert is taught how to open and control a conversation. Once in control of the conversation, he is in a position of sharing the Bridge with a non-Christian. This method of evangelism is taught in class by way of memorizing these tools and practicing them on one another until the convert has gained confidence in his ability to share these truths effectively.

NOTES

Learning to Make Disciples

This last horizontal spoke is called discipleship. Some groups have called this spoke “fellowship” because the fellowship of the early New Testament Church produced the disciples that they were commanded to make in the Great Commission.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

(Acts 2:41)

We see in Acts 2:41 that 3,000 were converted to Christ on the Day of Pentecost, just ten days after Jesus ascended into Heaven. Just prior to His ascension, Jesus gave the eleven the Great Commission. The book of Matthew reveals that the imperative of this commission is the act of making of disciples. This was to be the “marching orders” of the church. The first step to discipleship was the proclamation of the Gospel, so that people would repent of their sins and place their hope of salvation in Jesus’ atoning work on the cross.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

(Psalms 107:2)

This made them converts and born-again believers in Jesus Christ, but the imperative was to **make disciples**.

It should be noted that nowhere in the pages of Scripture are we ever commanded to make converts. Therefore, it is of little wonder that Acts 2:42 tells us:

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

(Acts 2:42)

They were ***steadfast in four basic components*** of making disciples:

Fellowship

Fellowship was designed to help these young converts become what Jesus had commanded the eleven to make—disciples. The verse is very clear as to the *content* of the fellowship that transforms a convert into a disciple.

Apostles' Doctrine

Matthew 28:20 —“Teach them to **observe (obey)** all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” The eleven were teaching the 3,000 all the things that Jesus had once taught. Not only were they dependent upon the Holy Spirit to remind them all that Jesus had taught them, but they were also dependent upon Him to bring conviction to the converts about these truths.

Breaking of the Bread

This refers to the celebration of the Lord's Supper, or Communion, which we are told about in the Gospel record and taught to practice in Paul's instruction to the Corinthian Church.

Prayer

Prayer gave the new believers the opportunity to interact with God over the things which He was commanding them to do. This dialogue brought about clarification, as well as convictions and obedience on the part of these new converts who were being equipped to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

This point of “learning to make disciples” has been belabored because the fellowship of many churches doesn't produce disciples. They are producing people who sit in the pews on Sunday professing Christianity, but fail to practice it in their daily lives. The wheel that we are trying to produce into the life of the disciple makes the disciple a part of the solution and not a part of the continuing problem plaguing the 20th century church.

When the hub and the spokes function in harmony, this brings the rim of obedience into a reality. Biblical disciples are actively involved in personal vertical growth in their own lives, balanced by a horizontal ministry of winning the lost and equipping the disciples for growth and service.



Serving in the Body

Jesus was very clear about His objective and purpose for this short vapor called “life.”

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

(John 6:38)

Jesus realized that He was on a mission with very strategic objectives to accomplish. As God’s servant, He gave Himself wholeheartedly to the fulfilling of the task. As His disciples, we must also realize that Jesus has left us with a very specific objective—the Great Commission.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

(Philippians 2:5-7)

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

(2 Corinthians 4:5)

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

(John 15:16)

The marching orders are very clear—each disciple should be fruitful in winning the lost and the making of disciples. In the New Testament Church, every believer is a priest. This we have examined very carefully in Lesson 1/3—*The Priesthood of Every Believer*.

As a disciple of Jesus, being a priest is our vocational calling and purpose in life. In God’s plan, there is a place of service to which God has assigned each of us. Jesus was very concerned that He not do His own will, but that He find God’s will and do it. We must also give consideration to God’s will and His place of service for us. Someday, each of us will be called upon to account for the stewardship of our lives in light of God’s will for us. Jesus tell us that there will be conflict if we try to serve two masters. A mature disciple comes to understand that his vocation is a priest, and his avocation has more to do with where he carries out his priestly function. So, whatever we do, or where we spend time in terms of employment, this is the place where we are called by God to carry out priestly function. With this clear understanding, we are not in conflict by trying to do what Jesus says is

impossible—serve two masters. We can now serve one master by being His priest in our homes, neighborhoods, places of employment and local churches.

God has beautifully scattered His discipling priests throughout the community so that every lost person will be surrounded by a sea of priests.

Practical Suggestions

Now that you have the person started and have completed the “Convert Follow-Up Guide,” keep him going by following the *ETS* “Disciple Follow-Up Guide.” It will take nine or ten months to a year to successfully complete all the areas listed in the guide.

With this guide you will need to employ all four of the relationships: recreational, structured, casual, and partnership. Many of the activities can be done in a group, but as the person matures and develops, you will want to spend more casual face-to-face time with him, getting to know him as an individual and trying to help him with his areas of struggle and need. As he learns how to share his faith and develops his testimony, you will want to team up in some partnership evangelism. He will learn more by watching you and by being drawn into your ministry than by anything else.

The guide will help you in the structured aspect of the training, but you will need to develop the recreational aspect. Find out what he likes to do and enter into it if possible. Remember not to let the fun and games fall by the wayside. It is important that the person sees the fun and excitement of the Christian life.

Tools Needed for the Follow-Up Guide

Disciple Follow-Up Guide

Following this lesson you will find a *Disciple’s Follow-Up Guide*. This guide covers the elements that will help your convert continue to develop into a mature, functioning disciple, and will direct you to tools encompassed within the *ETS* materials. The suggestions and ideas given on each item will help you to turn the various objectives into realities. Check off each item upon completion.

Disciple Application Guide

Once you have completed the *Convert Application Guides* in Books One and Two, continue by using the *Disciples Application Guides* in Books Three and Four. They will guide you step-by-step through the materials and tools which are designed to help you in your own personal growth as well as assist you in what to do with your disciple. At this key stage of growth, your disciple must become fruitful in

evangelism and discipling. Once the disciple has been taught what to do, the guide forces accountability for application, but it will be *your responsibility* to maintain that accountability. If you let the disciple audit the ministry part of this course, you are not helping him, you don't serve God, you don't serve your disciple, and you don't serve yourself. You allow yourself to become a part of the problem, rather than the solution.

In the beginning, evangelism and discipling can be a very scary undertaking. Many feel inadequate or lack the vision to obey and become fishers of men and disciple others. It is not easy to find role models within the church. It seems like there is only a small number who will not settle for sterility, and push on to become fruitful in this area of life and ministry. God is trying to enlist an army of dedicated disciples around the world who will provide this kind of leadership and to set forth a new role model. Trust God to give you courage and wisdom to become this kind of pacesetter for your convert or disciple.



**FOR I AM NOT
ASHAMED OF THE
GOSPEL OF CHRIST:
FOR IT IS THE
POWER OF GOD
UNTO SALVATION
TO EVERY ONE
THAT BELIEVETH ...**

(ROMANS 1:16)