

Lesson 7: Putting it All Together

As we begin today, let's look back at all the material we've covered thus far...

Lesson 1: Being a Witness, Part 1

In this lesson we learned about the prediction of our witness, the goals of our witness, the audience for our witness, and the methods of our witness. In other words, we covered the “what” of witness, the “whom” of witness, and some of the “how” of witness. The “what” portion covered the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20) and three important concepts for witness: “go, not come,” “all, not some,” and “make disciples, not church members.” We then turned to the “whom” of witness, with a look at the *oikos* list and the FISHing chart. Finally, we began our discussion of the “how” of witness by writing and practicing our testimonies.

Lesson 2: Being a Witness, Part 2

In this lesson we further discussed the “how” of witness by learning to bridge to the Gospel. Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well (John 4) was the foundation of our study.

Lesson 3: Being a Witness, Part 3

This lesson was our final look at the “how” of witness. In this lesson we covered the Three Circles Gospel Presentation, a simple way to share the good news with someone who has not yet trusted in Jesus.

Lesson 4: Hearing and Obeying God's Word, Part 1

You may remember that we took two lessons to learn a method for studying the Bible, God's Word. In Lesson 4, we introduced the concept of inductive Bible study and the three-column format which uses the headings of “Scripture,” “My Words,” and “I Will.”

Lesson 5: Hearing and Obeying God's Word, Part 2

Our second lesson on studying the Bible covered group Bible study. We discussed the rationale and scriptural basis for studying the Bible in groups, then discussed how to gather a group and how to adapt the three-column format for the group setting.

Lesson 6: Prayer

Our lesson on prayer first addressed *why* we should pray, and then proceeded to introduce the **ACTS** model of prayer (**A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, **S**upplication). We also discussed what it means to ask something according to God's will, and how we can use the Bible as a guide for our prayers.

Where Do We Go from Here?

ARE YOU PREPARED?

- Read 2 Timothy 2:1,2 again. What was Paul (the trainer) telling Timothy (the trainee) to do?

As trainees ourselves, each of us shares the call that Paul gave to Timothy. Now that we've reached the last Disciple-Making Training Lesson, each of us needs to get serious about taking others through these lessons. This is a clear action step to help make 2 Timothy 2:2 a reality in our own lives.

For any number of reasons, you may not feel prepared to do this. Consider these points, though:

- The woman at the well (John 4:28–42) and the Gadarene demoniac (Mark 5:1–20) were effective in sharing the good news about Jesus, and Jesus specifically commissioned the latter to do so. How much experience and formal training did they have? What made them effective?
- Read 2 Peter 1:1–4. What do these verses indicate about each believer’s preparedness to live life as Jesus intended?

You have now gone through six foundational lessons in disciple-making. Many Christians will live their entire lives and never have access to a “curriculum” this straightforward and practical. Armed with the experience of having gone through the lessons yourself, you are ready to use them as a tool. As you lead others through them repeatedly, your skill as a disciple-maker will grow.

A FORMAT FOR MEETING

You may have noticed by now that our meetings have tended to follow a certain format, and this is intentional. As you walk through the Disciple-Making Training Lessons with new trainees, bear in mind that three elements should be present in each meeting:

- The **Looking Back** portion of the meeting comes first, and this is the time in which we look back to how things have gone between the last meeting and the present one. Make sure to include time for catching up on life events and for asking one another how you did on your “I Will” items from last time. This is also a good time for the leader of the group to cast vision by reminding members of the big picture of disciple-making. Several classic vision-casting vignettes are available at bit.ly/1XCqgOX.
- The **Looking Up** portion of the meeting is the part where you cover the new lesson for the day. We call this “Looking Up” because we are looking to God for new insight from the Scripture.
- The **Looking Forward** portion of the meeting is where we determine “I Will” items for next time. It’s also the slot in which we allocate time for any extra practice of the disciple-making topic under discussion.

When executed well, this “Three-Thirds Format” provides constant learning, obedience to that learning, and accountability for obedience. You may find this format useful even beyond the disciple-making context.

What About *This* Group?

By now you’ve probably built good relationships with the people in your current group. Furthermore, you need to be in an environment where you can receive ongoing support so that your own disciple-making efforts don’t burn you out. That’s why we recommend that you continue meeting with this group for a minimum of six months into the future.

Though you’ve now completed the basic seven Disciple-Making Training Lessons, the inductive Bible study method you have learned (see particularly Lesson 5) is a means for your group to continue indefinitely into the future. Any portion of the Scripture or series of passages works for study, but the 26-week discovery Bible study (bit.ly/1NMAs3U) or the Gospel of Mark would be great options to begin with.

Notice that this creates a natural progression for all new groups of believers that you or your trainees will form: first, seven meetings covering the basic seven Disciple-Making Training Lessons; second, group inductive Bible studies for several months. By the end of this time, we pray, enough new groups will have formed to keep you plenty busy.

A Disciple-Making Lifestyle

In the end, your effectiveness as a disciple-maker will be in proportion to the degree to which you hear, understand, and obey the Spirit of God as He leads you to love other people. When we submit ourselves to God's leading and surrender our agenda for His, we become attuned to ways in which we can selflessly meet others' needs. This and only this lifestyle paves the way for bringing what you've learned to bear in the lives of those who don't yet know Jesus. Trying to apply these principles without an others-centered lifestyle is a path toward manipulating people, not making disciples who make disciples.

- What is the biggest barrier you face in adopting a Spirit-led, others'-centered lifestyle? How can you support one another in overcoming those barriers?

Looking Forward

TIME TO PRACTICE

Prepare each other to lead a disciple-making group. Ask one another the following questions:

- What qualifies you to lead a disciple-making group?
- What are the three elements of the meeting format we discussed? What would you cover in each one?
- As a new group of believers forms, what will you study initially? What are the fundamental lessons we use all about?
- What will your group use for long-term study?

SET GOALS AND PRAY

Take a moment and prayerfully consider how God's Spirit might want you to put this lesson into practice. Identify a short-term, measurable action step—an "I Will" item—that you can accomplish by His help within this week. Then share these "I Will" items with one another and close the meeting by praying for one another, that God will help you through His Spirit to succeed.