Engage in spiritual conversations. Your various conversations throughout a day can present opportunities to talk about spiritual things and identify people who may be willing to consider what the Bible teaches. Jesus demonstrated this in John 4. He was bold enough to begin a conversation – and then took it from the meaningful to the spiritual.

Invite to assembly. Some people are at a place where an invitation will be quite effective (i.e. looking for a church, a subject of interest, etc.). But, you will not know it if you do not ask. Remember, though, that getting people to assemble is not the goal. The goal is to make disciples. So, you will still likely need to arrange Bible studies with them.

Give Bible study material. Many are interested in studying the Bible on their own. And, there are many tools available to help people study God's word. Perhaps you can give material about a subject that has come up in conversation or study through the same Bible series. Then, follow up by looking to go deeper and study together. To get started, just ask!

Invite to a Bible study. I cannot overemphasize the importance of studying the Bible together with others! This is the single best and time-tested way of helping people follow Jesus! To find those who are willing to study in this way, all you have to do is ask! Although not all your prospects will be willing to take this step, some may be willing.

Pray. All your discipleship efforts should be covered with prayer (Colossians 4:2-6)! Pray for opportunities, for wisdom, to find good soil as you plant and water, for your own efforts, for others, and about everything and everyone involved – and trust in God!

Conclusion

As a disciple of Jesus, you must do whatever you can to help others follow Jesus! In fact, you must make this a primary focus in your life. So, take your place in the 2 Timothy 2:2 model. Someone taught you. Now, you must teach others – so they can teach others, who will teach others, etc. just imagine the good for God's kingdom you can accomplish by fulfilling your role in this way! And, just imagine the victory for Satan if you do not!

"Disciple making is not my job." "Someone else is better suited to be a disciple maker." "I don't know how to help others be disciples of Christ." "I want to help people be disciples of Christ, but I don't know what I should do or where I should begin." Maybe you have made one of these statements or a similar one. One thing they all have in common is that they will prevent you from being as effective as you can be in the work of discipling. So, what we all need to get started (or restarted) with disciple making is three-fold: The proper motivation so disciple making does not get overlooked in our daily lives, a plan to know things we can do to help others be disciples of Jesus, and intentionality to execute the plan and accomplish the work.

The purpose of this lesson is to learn some basic information that will help you develop the right motivation, formulate a plan, and become intentional about the work of disciple making.

God Wants All Disciples To Be Disciple Makers

God wants you to be a growing disciple. A disciple is someone who learns from and imitates the Master, Jesus Christ. Being a growing disciple is necessary for several reasons. First, you must grow because you were like a newborn baby in Christ when you became a disciple and are expected to grow (1 Peter 2:2). Second, you must grow to set the right example of what a disciple should be. And, third, you must grow so you can be equipped to teach others.

Understanding the "Great Commission." The "Great Commission" is found in Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15-16. The goal of the "Great Commission" is not to baptize people, to fegl better about ourselves, to win religious arguments, to build big churches, etc. Instead, the goal is to make disciples! Then, notice the four steps Jesus identified in making disciples: Go to those who need help becoming Jesus's disciples, preach the gospel to

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series
Written by Eric Krieg
Watch video @ WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM/DGWS67

those who are not disciples, help people be baptized so they can be saved and begin to live as Jesus's disciples, and continue teaching those who are Jesus's disciples.

God expects you to be busy doing what you can in this important work. God expects disciples to mature so as to become teachers, defend their faith and hope, and help others be disciples (Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 3:15). Ephesians 4:11-16 shows you must do what you can as a member of the body and allow others to help you learn to serve God effectively (vv. 11-12).

View yourself as a disciple maker. Identifying yourself as a disciple maker by writing this truth on your heart and engraining it into every fiber of your being will dramatically impact how well you accomplish the work of making disciples! When you do this, everything will be viewed from a disciple making perspective. For example, you will always consider the impact your example has on other people serving Christ, view every situation as a possible opportunity to make disciples, study the Bible with the intention of growing as a disciple and being better equipped as a disciple maker, and make intentional efforts to make disciples.

Debunking Some Common Myths About Disciple Making

"Nobody's interested anymore." While many are not interested, God is still giving people the opportunity to repent (2 Peter 3:9). But, even if nobody was interested, your responsibility is still the same!

"I can't." While some can do more than others, every disciple can do something to make disciples (Philippians 4:13), as God does not give a law that is impossible to obey!

"Disciple making is not my job." God has given this work to every Christian, not just evangelists and elders (Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 3:15; Ephesians 4:11-16)!

"Someone else will do it." Rather than assuming someone else will do the work, you must take advantage of your opportunities to help those you can (Romans 10:13-18)!

"Inviting is disciple making." While inviting to the assemblies of the church is one avenue that can be used, some have no idea why they should come and Jesus said we should go and preach (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16)!

"Disciple making is an event." You must view disciple making as a lifelong process of planting and watering God's word (1 Corinthians 3:6), not just one campaign (i.e. door-to-door)!

"You have to barbeque first." While an established social relationship can help, these are not the only opportunities you should utilize (Acts 17:17)!

"Disciple making is just about reaching the lost." Jesus's instructions also included continuing to teach disciples to live as disciples, not just the lost (Matthew 28:19-20)!

How To Find Prospects

Always be prospecting. Finding people to help follow Jesus is not an exact science. So, you need to embrace the reality that prospects are everywhere people live, work, and play. You should always have a "going" mindset that is looking for opportunities (Colossians 4:3-4)!

People you know. You likely have many prospects among people you know (i.e. family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, parents of your children's friends, people you see and interact with regularly, social media contacts, etc.). Make a list of prospects – including a mixture of non-Christians, erring/weak Christians, and faithful Christians.

Intentional prospecting efforts. Don't *just* work with people you already know. Instead, you would do well to make intentional efforts to find additional prospects. While you can and should do this as you go about your daily activities, make intentional efforts designed to find prospects (i.e. door-to-door, social media, etc.).

People who know people you know. Your social network is far larger than you probably imagine. For, all the people you know have a network of people they know. Always be looking for opportunities to tap into the social networks of others with the gospel. You may simply ask if they know anyone who would be interested in studying the Bible.

Seven Things You Can Do Right Now To Make Disciples

Set an example of godly living. Your daily life should preach a consistent message of discipleship (Matthew 5:14-16). Your godly example can help people follow Jesus and your hypocritical example can turn people away from Jesus (Romans 2:24). Then, supplement that godly example with the necessary teaching.

Build stronger relationships. Established relationships can tap into the trust you have built with another (i.e. to help them accept an invitation to study with you, Acts 10-11; Acts 16). You would do well to be intentional about building stronger relationships so you can share your life with them, let your light shine, and be in positions to speak truth into their lives.