



Valley Forge Baptist • April 21, 2024
 Pastor Scott Wendal • swendal@vfbt.org

The Timothy's Ministry of Discipleship

2 Timothy 2:1-7

If you want your best life, then you want to have growing healthy relationships – first of all with God, family, friends, fellow worshippers, and also co-workers. Disciple making is a key ministry that impacts every church, family, and school.

Reputable Bible scholars and historians place the apostle Paul at the end of his life in the Mamertine prison in Rome in 67 AD. It's just a short walk from the Roman colosseum to this dungeon that has held prisoners for over 600 years. Paul wrote his last letter before his execution to Timothy – the man he has faithfully mentored.

1. What is the purpose of the Ministry of Discipleship?

To make disciples through the relationship of mentoring. Discipleship is a key way to grow and develop healthy Spirit-filled Christians.

2. What kinds of Ministries can you be involved in with the Timothy's Ministry of Discipleship?

One-on-One Discipleship using Sequoia discipleship lessons, Sunday School teachers, attending Pastor Coulton's Next Steps class, and Connect small groups. Discipleship is simply pouring your life into someone else. It is making a difference one at a time - making deposits in the heart and life of someone else.

Paul's plan wasn't just to mentor somebody so they could be a healthy Christian but so they could be a reproducing Christian.

The apostle Paul challenges Timothy to join the ranks of those who spiritually "reproduce" themselves. In verse 2, he lists...

3. Four Generations of Disciples...

A. *Generation One: Paul*

B. *Generation Two: _____*

C. *Generation Three: Faithful Men*

D. *Generation Four: _____*

Jesus said a disciple will be like his _____.

4. Images of a Disciple Maker...

The Quality Exhibited

A. *Son, v. 1-2*

A spiritual son getting something from a father - "_____."

B. *Soldier, v. 3-4*

Don't be distracted by the world. Soldiers "Take _____."

C. *Athlete, v. 5*

It's going to require "_____."

D. *Farmer, v. 6-7*

Good farmers are "_____."

E. *Workman, v. 15-18*

The image here is "_____."

F. *Vessel, v. 20-23*

"Timothy, purify yourself, stay clean." "_____."

G. *Bondservant, v. 24-26*

Those who are dedicated willingly "_____."

Spiritual reproduction is not a new idea. It is, in fact, the principle Jesus communicated to His disciples in the Great Commission. Spiritual reproduction happens one life at a time. We refer to this as a mentoring relationship. We have the Sequoia Discipleship lessons.

Jesus poured His life into twelve men. He kept 11 of them. If you read the pages of the book of Acts, you read that these 11 men turned the world upside down. Acts 19:10 says, "all of Asia Minor was reached, both Jew and Gentile" in 24 months.

Jesus chose mentoring to reach the world. He chose 12, not 1,200. He stayed in Israel His whole ministry.

*Good _____ is a lot like good discipling.
There is no success without a successor.*

We need to stop saying, "I've never had a mentor," and say, "I'm going to begin." A mentor is a brain to pick, a shoulder to cry on, and a kick in the seat of the pants.

5. What is the Commitment to be a Discippler?

- 1) You need to be committed to a person, the Timothy.
- 2) You need to be committed to a process, the Sequoia lessons.
- 3) You need to be committed to a purpose. Reproducing your Christian walk in another.
- 4) You need to be committed to the Lord - that means you are digging in God's Word each day, praying, giving your tithes and offerings, dying to the "flesh", and sharing your faith. You do NOT need to be a perfect Christian - there are no "Perfect Christians."

We may ask, "Who would listen to me?"

- A) *Can you think of someone in your growing up years who had an influence in your life?*
- B) *What was the quality about them that gave them such an influence in your life? Most people say, "They gave me time. They cared about me. They encouraged me. They listened to me. They had character and integrity. They made me feel important. They had a good attitude."*

6. Who qualifies to be a discipler at VFBT?

- A. *A Church member. Someone who is saved, baptized, and committed to helping VFBT carry out the Great Commission.*
- B. *Faithful to the services - How can you ask a new Christian to be faithful to God's House if you are not faithful yourself?*

C. *Familiar with the basics of Christian living.*

D. *You want to make a difference. You want your life to count. You want to be useful for God and help a brother or sister in Christ.*

What is a Discippler?

A Discippler is a Christian mentor who is a Jesus follower who helps others follow Jesus in a one-on-one setting. Christian mentors don't need to be perfect. No one is perfect, not even spiritual mentors.

7. Key Qualities of an Effective Discippler:

A. *Great Disciplers _____ their life.*

It's a meaningful relationship that requires sacrifice. Effective mentors are honest about their past mistakes and take time out of their schedules to meet.

B. *Great Disciplers ask a lot of _____.*

Jesus often taught by asking questions like "Who do you say that I am?" or "Do you believe?" Jesus knew that asking questions is an effective way to help people learn and grow.

C. *Great Disciplers model a growing _____.*

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

Hebrews 13:7

D. *Great Disciplers have positive, edifying _____.*

They leave gossip outside the door. They are accepting rather than critical or judgmental. They are encouragers. That may not be your nature... but you can learn to change. When toxic complainers come around you, you can model for them Spirit-filled living with your words, attitudes, and actions.

"Be ye followers of me, even as I am also of Christ."

1 Corinthians 11:1

Are you a follower of Jesus Christ? Have you been born again?

Sign up to be a Discippler or a Timothy. Use the "Connection Card" and check "Discipleship" or go to www.valleyforgeconnect.org and click on "Discover Discipleship."