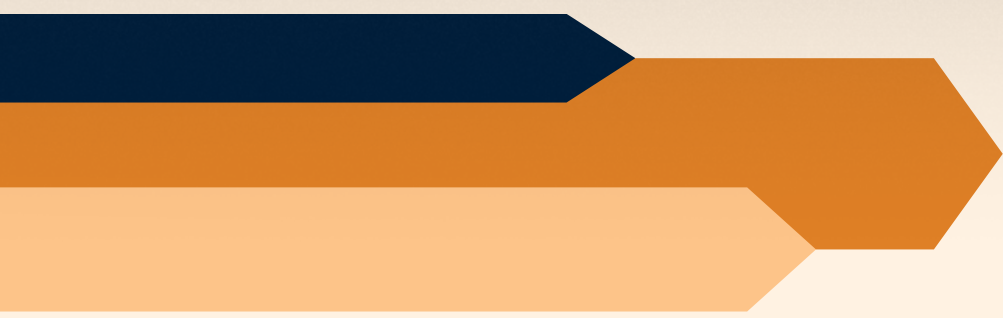




Small Group Leader R.I.B. Training



Table of Contents

3	Key Terms
4	Foundations
3	What is a Disciple?
7	Expectations
9	Community Shepherds
10	DTC Recommendations
12	4 Key Components of a Disciple-Making Church
13	Biblical Foundation for Relationship
14	Intentional Leader
15	Relational Environment: Introduction
16	Small Group Guidelines Defined
18	Relational Environment: Small Group Experience
23	Section Recap
25	Jesus Had a Reproducible Disciple Making Process
27	Disciple Making Process: Physical Stages
29	Discipleship Making Process: Spiritual Stages of Growth
31	Physical Stages of Growth Wheel
32	Section Recap
35	Group Lesson Template
36	Tips for Asking Great Questions
37	Annual Roadmap
39	Additional Homework
44	Quiz
45	Additional Resources

Key Terms

SGL: Small Group Leader

SG: Small Group

CARE: Community, Accountability, Responsibility, Encouragement

CS: Community Shepherd

DTC: Discipleship Training Class

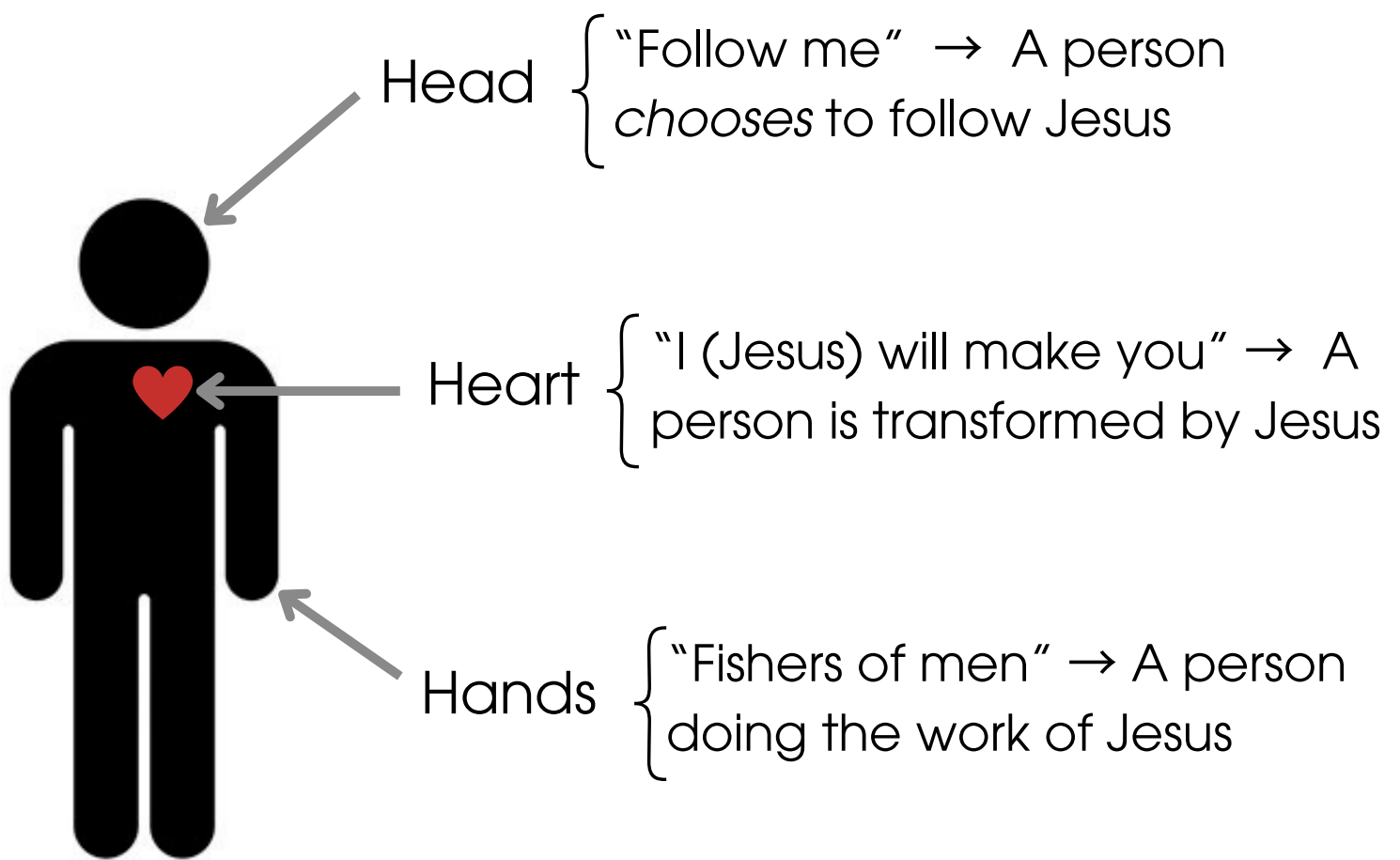
Base Camp: Weekend retreat dedicated for continued training & fellowship of DTC students.

Shepherds Gathering: A time for CS and SGL's to gather in fellowship as we are further trained, equipped, and encouraged.

- Frequency: quarterly (4 times a year)

What is a Disciple?

Matthew 4:19 says, *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*



Foundations

Mission: Helping friends become devoted followers of Jesus.

Vision: *"... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."*
(Hebrews 12:1-2)

Strategy: Be Invited, Belong to a Small Group, Believe and Be Baptized, Become a Volunteer, Be Trained, Be Sent

SMALL GROUP PURPOSE

The purpose of small group is to help people grow in spiritual maturity in their relationship with Jesus. Your role as a leader has significant value! Our intention is to equip you with tools and resources so that you can help others become devoted followers of Jesus.

GOALS OF A SMALL GROUP LEADER

To grow small group members to maturity in their relationship with Jesus so that they too can learn to make disciples of Jesus. We do this by sending mature disciples through DTC so that they may start their own small group.

Your role as a leader BEFORE small group:

6

- Read through the curriculum and discussion passages.
- Be aware of what God is showing you personally.
- Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them?
- Think through any announcements that may be necessary for the group to know, whether they apply to your small group specifically, or are church-wide announcements.
- You can find church-wide announcements here:
 - mygateway.tv/events
- You can find Small Group Leader-specific announcements here:
 - Website: <https://www.mygfcsmallgroups.tv/>
 - Email: smallgroups@mygateway.tv

Your role as a leader AFTER small group:

- Submit small group attendance via Church Center App (View tutorial on the Small Group Resource Page)
 - Keep up to date with current attendees (include visitors, those who no longer attend GFC, etc.)
- Think through these things:
 - Who am I intentionally praying for this week?
 - What needs can I, or others, meet?
 - Do I need to have a follow-up conversation with anyone from the group this week?
 - Who was absent from group, or from Sunday service?
 - Where are people at in the “Stages of Growth?” (see pages 16-18)
 - What is my part in helping them grow?

Couple's Groups:

- At least once a month, plan to break out into separate, gender-specific groups (i.e. men's and women's groups)
- Review your curriculum in advance to see what weeks would be most beneficial to break out and make those a part of your Annual Roadmap (see pages 37-38 for example)
- Communicate with the breakout leaders ahead of time when you are planning to break up into groups so that they are prepared

Expectations

- Non-negotiable:
 - Graduate from DTC
 - Faithfully attend quarterly Shepherds Gathering
 - Attend Base Camp during DTC training
- Time Commitment: We ask that you faithfully lead your small group for a *minimum of 2 years.*
- Proficient use of Church Center App
 - Taking attendance accurately and consistently
 - Managing group requests in a timely, responsive manner
- One on one (1:1) culture: Meet one on one with those you are shepherding.
- Communicate well & often:
 - Inform staff of host home changes
 - Have consistent check-in calls, texts, etc. with those you are shepherding
 - Let your conversations be open, honest, transparent
- Follow the trimester pattern: 3 months on, 1 month off
- Lead with authority & responsibility to care for and tend to your small group
 - This includes encouraging members to abide, be water baptized, and volunteer
- Competent level of facilitation, shepherding, & bible teaching
- Assist in making Small Group presence known throughout the church on Sunday's - this is *HIGHLY ENCOURAGED*
 - Via the Starting Line, Lobby, Small Group Docks, and The Den
- Serve/volunteer twice a month

- Baptisms: Please keep track of these within your group!
 - Baptisms are typically the first Sunday of every month, so please plan accordingly.
- Crisis Management:
 - Be empowered to handle group crises amongst those you are shepherding and provide support as needed.
 - Be mindful and use discernment of what situations/circumstances may need a witness present.
- “Full” Groups
 - Evaluate the size of your group; ask yourself, “Can I realistically have 1:1’s with all of these people while providing CARE?”
 - This is where conversations of accountability are really important! Your group may look full on paper, but re-evaluate if there is a member, or members, who is/are not consistent. They could be taking up a seat that’s valuable for someone else to grow!
 - Use this as a rule of thumb: Jesus had 12 people in His small group, and 3 of those 12 He kept very close.
- Potential New Small Group Leaders
 - Be aware of mature believers who are faithful, available, and teachable in your group.
 - Ask quality questions! (i.e. How is his/her abide time?)
 - These maturing believers can be asked to have one on one’s with others in the group
- Share the Gospel outside of GFC

Community Shepherds (CS)

Role of Community Shepherds:

- Community Shepherds are here to establish organization, provide varying levels of support, and provide CARE
- Your Community Shepherd is your primary point of contact. They are there for your support, prayer, counsel, crisis management, and celebration.

Stay in touch with your CS and inform them of the following:

- Group attendance (input in Church Center App)
- Baptisms
- New people/visitors (input in Church Center App)
- Member(s) in hospital
- Member(s) who have left the church
- “Win” Stories
- Potential New SGL’s
- Host home changes
- Any additional help you may need

“Be diligent to know the state of your flock and the condition of your herds.” - Proverbs 27:23

DTC Recommendations

When to Recommend Someone for DTC:

- Someone who is demonstrating a spirit led life style in which they are serving at church, they have been water baptized, they have a fruitful walk as an outflow of their abiding time with Jesus.
- They understand the importance and biblical model of worship, ministering to others, serving, generosity, fellowship, evangelism & discipleship.
- Faithful attendance to small group, church services, volunteering
- Available to take on more responsibility
- Teachable with a submissive character to the Holy Spirit
- Healthy God honoring home environment
- Stable Biblical marriage

Small Group

Lesson Building

4 Key Components of a Disciple-Making Church

Biblical Foundation: The Bible alone gives a clear and complete picture of what God wants done (His mission) and how He wants it done (His methods). The following four key components of a disciple-making church are built on a biblical foundation.

1. Biblical Foundation for Relationship:

We believe we are designed to be in relationship with God first and foremost, and secondly, we are designed to be in relationship with others. The purpose of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus who can make disciples of Jesus. We do this with the understanding that relationship is the key.

2. Intentional Leader:

An intentional leader understands that part of their role is to reach the lost, make disciples of Jesus, and create Christ-centered environments where disciple-making can happen. They understand where a person is spiritually and what is needed to help them grow. They keep track of their small group flock, prepare, and plan lessons to challenge and grow towards spiritual maturity.

3. Relational Environment:

A small group relational environment is facilitated by a leader who is intentionally modeling spiritual fruit (love, joy, etc.). The people involved are doing life together with a kingdom mindset. The relationships go beyond just the group time. They move from strangers to friendship. These relationships press into areas of privacy, transparency, and vulnerability.

4. Reproducible Disciple-Making Process:

This is the process for developing people towards Christ-likeness. This includes three parts. "MY PART" (the disciple), "THEIR PART" (the person being disciplined), and "GOD'S PART." Leaders understand the five stages of spiritual growth. They can identify where a person is spiritually and help them mature and grow at each stage of the spiritual growth process.

We believe we are designed to be in relationship with God first and foremost. Secondly, we are designed to be in relationship with others.

The purpose of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus who can make disciples of Jesus. We do this with the understanding that *relationship* is the key.

- We talk about making disciples, but how do we actually accomplish this?
- Scripture should always dictate doctrine - not the other way around.
- The same would be true for theology; Scripture should dictate our theology.

So when it comes to making disciples, we need to understand that Scripture gives us the method and model in which disciples are made.

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." - Genesis 2:18 (NIV)

- This passage is so interesting because Adam wasn't alone in the garden; God was with him. Adam had a relationship with God, yet God said it wasn't good for Adam to be alone.
- We were created for relationship with God, but we were also created for relationship with one another. Without relationship with one another, we are not complete.
- We find throughout Scripture that relationship with both God and one another is the key to making disciples.

As you hear the following verses, listen to them through the heart of relationship:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." - Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (NIV)

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." - Matthew 22:37-40 (NKJV)

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:34-35 (NKJV)

Intentional Leader

The Great Commission

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' - Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

In **Acts 2:42-47**, we get a clear picture of Christians living out intentional relationship with God and one another:

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
- Acts 2:42-47 (NKJV)

- They were joined together, devoted to the apostles' teaching, in fellowship with one another, and sharing the Lord's Supper.
- They prayed together and miracles and wonders were being experienced.
- All the believers were constantly meeting together.
- They shared everything they had. Selling their own possessions, they gave to those in need.
- They worshiped together at the Temple daily, met in homes, shared meals, and had great joy and generosity - all while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.
- "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Jesus made disciples in a relational environment using an intentional method, and He is asking us to follow Him. A small group with an intentional leader creating a relational environment built upon a biblical foundation follows the example of Jesus.

"So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle." - 1 Samuel 17:20

Relational Environment: Introduction

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.” - Acts 2:42-43

TARGET: *We want the participants to understand and experience a relational environment as Jesus modeled.*

Relational Environment:

A small group relational environment has an intentional leader and a biblical foundation. It is where people can connect, share real life, and help each other follow Jesus.

- Up next, we are all going to get to be a part of a real small group experience.
- As we move through the story, we want you to stay personally engaged. When we are done with our small group experience, we will have a time to debrief. Please hold back any questions regarding “how to’s.” There will be a time for that later in the debrief. You can write your questions down on the loose piece of paper that came with this booklet.
- We encourage everyone to share from their heart. Remember; you will get out of this what you put into it.

Small Group Guidelines Defined

CONFIDENTIALITY: Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN: Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond or what you are going to say next.

PAUSE: Allowing a pause in conversation after someone shares gives the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

SILENCE: Allowing silence in the group provides opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

CROSS TALK: Be considerate of others as they are sharing - no cross talking/side conversations.

RESCUING: Resist the temptation to rescue people. When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing.

FIXING: Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you may offer some advice.

SHARING: Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. If someone is sharing and makes a point that really connects with you, resist telling a story that makes the same point.

SELF-AWARE: Be self-aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. 16

“I” STATEMENTS: During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "you", "they", "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

PERSPECTIVE: During our discussions, you will be hearing from a variety of people on a variety of topics with a variety of perspectives. We want to encourage you to be aware that the topic is what's on the table, not your opinion. If someone gives a different perspective than your own, that's okay. Don't try to convince them of your perspective. Be aware of what is going on inside of you if someone shares a different perspective than your own on any given topic.

PERSONAL APPLICATION: It's important that we all use this time to consider where we are on any given subject or issue, and what God would have us do. How am I walking this out in my personal life? What changes does God want me to make?

FIGHT FOR RELATIONSHIP: Relationship reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise counsel.

- If someone sins against you: Matt 18:15-20
- Restoring someone in sin: Gal 6:1-5
- Forgive a sinner: Col 3:12-13
- Reconciling difference Matt 5:23-24, Matt 7:1-5

SPOUSE-APPROVED STORIES: Not all stories are appropriate to be shared outside of your marriage. Check in with your spouse before sharing your story.

Relational Environment: Small Group Experience

TARGET: *We want the participants to understand and experience a relational environment as Jesus modeled.*

MODEL A SMALL GROUP

STEP 1 - WELCOME

- Helps new believers, visitors, and members feel valued and welcomed.
- Starts the moment someone arrives, and ends when everyone is gone.
- Establishes a foundation for relationships.
- Helps bring focus and awareness.

STEP 2 - OPENING PRAYER

- Invites the Holy Spirit into our presence.
- Prepares our hearts for what God has for us.
- Shifts our attention from individual fellowship to the group.

STEP 3 - PURPOSE/VISION CASTING

- Encourages relationship with God and relationship with others.
- Expresses the purpose of meeting as a small group.
- Helps prepare our hearts and minds for the group.
- Must be in alignment with the vision and mission of your church.
- Challenges groups to grow and multiply (branch).

STEP 4 - SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| • Confidentiality | • Rescuing | • Perspective |
| • Listen | • Fixing | • Personal Application |
| • Pause | • Sharing | • Fight for Relationship |
| • Silence | • Self-Aware | • Spouse-Approved |
| • Cross Talk | • "I" Statements | Stories |

STEP 5 - SETTING THE SCENE

"Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of the religious law complain that he was associating with such despicable people - even eating with them!" - Luke 15:1-2

STEP 5 CONTINUED

In response, Jesus told 3 stories. The first was a story about a lost sheep, the second was a story about a lost coin, and the third was a story about a lost son. The Lost Son is the story we are going to share with you today.

As you are listening to the story, be thinking of the question we are going to ask you after the story: Currently in this season of your life, who do you relate to most in the story, and why?

STEP 6 - TELL THE STORY

- The Parable of the Lost Son - **Luke 15:11-32**
- Was anything added or omitted from the story?

STEP 7 - REBUILD THE STORY

STEP 8 - READ THE STORY

STEP 9 - DEBRIEF THE STORY

- Currently, in this season of your life, who do you relate to most in the story, and why?

Small Group Questions you can ask to further discussion:

- What did we learn about God from this story?
- What did we learn about Man from this story?
- How could you use this story to disciple someone?
- How do you apply this story in your life?
- What is God asking you to do?

STEP 10 - CLOSE IN PRAYER

Relational Environment: Debrief

TARGET: *We want the participants to understand that disciples can be made by combining relationship with God and others, with the Four Components of disciple-making; Biblical Foundation for Relationship, Intentional Leader, Relational Environment, Reproducible Disciple Making Process.*

An *intentional leader* understands that part of their role is to reach the lost. Another part is to make disciples of Jesus and create Christ-centered environments where disciple-making can happen. They understand where a person is spiritually and what is needed to help them grow.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you see in your small group facilitator today that demonstrated intentional leadership?
2. What did the small group facilitator do that helped make the small group a safe environment?
3. What did the small group facilitator do that encouraged people to respond?
4. Based on what you just experienced, and how you lead, what is God revealing to you?

RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENT:

This is a group of 3-18 people facilitated by a leader who is intentionally modeling spiritual fruit (love, joy, etc). The people involved are doing life together with a kingdom mindset. The relationships go beyond just the group time. They move from strangers to friendship. These relationships press into areas of privacy, transparency, and vulnerability.

1. What words would you use to describe the environment you just experienced?
2. What was the level of sharing and depth of transparency in the group?
3. What were some things about the environment that contributed to the transparency?
4. Was there a teacher?
5. How did having a facilitator vs. a teacher help build a relational environment?
6. Could the majority of the people in your church create a relational environment like the one you just experienced? Why or why not?
7. What would be the value of creating relational environments like the one you just experienced?

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION:

The Bible alone gives a clear and complete picture of what God wants done (His mission) and how He wants it done (His methods). All other components of disciple-making come from this perspective.

1. Did the small group experience encourage people to get into the Word?
Why or why not?

2. Did the learning of God's Word take place?

3. Did the Biblical story model affect the accuracy of the text?

4. Other than God's Word, what else is necessary to make Biblical disciples?

What are some benefits of Biblical story telling?

- People are challenged to memorize God's Word.
- Levels the playing field in the group - it doesn't matter how much or how little you know about God or the Bible.
- Creates places to play within the group - anyone can tell the story.
- It opens up more opportunities for people to lead groups.
- It's easier to put yourself into the story.

Section Recap!

Here's what we have learned so far

- What the Definition of a Disciple is.. “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- The purpose of WHY we do Small Groups
- Our Goals and Expectations for Small Groups
- The 4 Key Components to a Disciple- Making Church
 - Biblical Foundation for Relationship
 - Intentional Leadership
 - Relational Environment
 - Reproducible Disciple-Making Process

Homework Section Ahead

- Be sure to do the homework on the following page. Read through the story, take notes on what the story is telling you, and write your answers down in a journal or on you page.

Transition:

To conclude the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus covers several subjects like laying up treasure, anxiety, judgment, prayer, the golden rule and recognizing false prophets. When He finishes teaching, Scripture says the crowds were astonished at His teaching – for He was teaching them as one who had authority! Instead of simply passing on the teachings of the rabbis who came before Him, Jesus was teaching something original – so much so, that it shocked people!

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to build a house? What is the difference between the wise man and the foolish man? What does the rock and sand represent?
2. What do you think rain, floods and winds represent? Is this still true for us today?

Fundamental:

The Bible – “The rock” in this story is the Word of God, the Truth, the Way. Jesus is saying that there is a right way and a wrong way to live your life. The bedrock of Christianity is the Bible. We believe that it is the inerrant, inspired and infallible Word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17).

1. How did we get our Bible? (66 books, 40+ authors, written over 1500 years, same story; Council of Laodicea)
2. Has the Bible changed over time? (Dead Sea Scrolls; Textual criticism)
3. Is it really that important to read daily and memorize Scripture? (Heb 4:12)
4. If you chose to “build your own house on sand,” do you believe your house will fall?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Find a Bible reading plan and follow it. Find a method of memorizing Scripture.
2. Please read Matthew 8 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Bring young believers in your group into what Bible reading plan YOU follow. Volunteer to read along with them and answer any questions they have about what they are reading day to day. It is imperative that your disciples know that you believe the Bible is the Word of God and that you would be lost without it.

Prayer:

Pray that God will help hide His Word in their hearts. May Scripture be the standard by which they live and not compare themselves to others.

Jesus Had a Reproducible Disciple Making Process

TARGET: We want the participants to understand the concepts of Share, Connect, Minister, and Disciple (SCMD).

INSTRUCTION TO SCMD:

Jesus is the greatest disciple maker in history. He intentionally met people where they were in their spiritual growth and poured His life into them. Jesus utilized a method we have categorized as Share, Connect, Minister, and Disciple (or SCMD).

Jesus SHARED, CONNECTED, trained to MINISTER, and released to DISCIPLE.

SHARE:

Jesus SHARED with people who He was through words and deeds.

- Luke 5:1-3 (Jesus preaching to a crowd)
- Matt 4:19 (Jesus calling the first Disciples)

CONNECT:

When people accepted His message, He invited them to CONNECT with Him in relationship. During that time of sharing life together, He taught them the truth about God.

- Mark 9:30-31 (Jesus spending time with the Disciples)
- John 3:22 (Jesus spending time with the Disciples)

MINISTER: (Train to Minister)

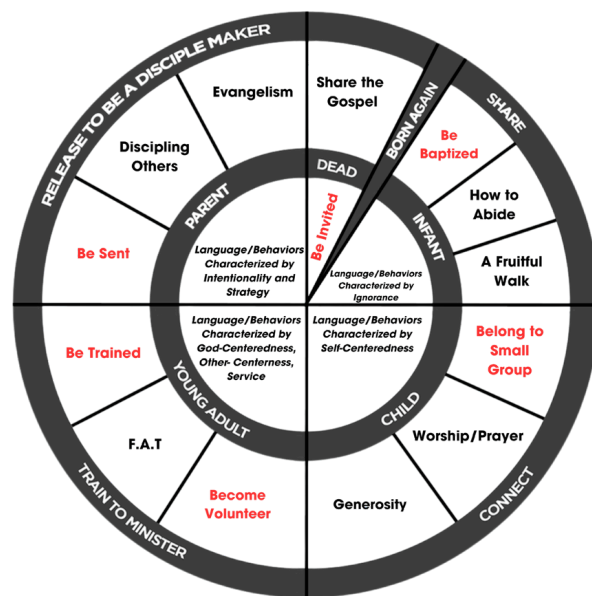
As these disciples grew, Jesus trained them to MINISTER to the lost and to other followers.

- Luke 9:1-6 (Jesus sending out the 12 Disciples)

DISCIPLE: (Release to Disciple)

Finally, after He rose from the dead, He deployed His followers to DISCIPLE others.

- Matt 28:19-20 (The Great Commission)



Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." - John 20:21

The Early Church Followed the Same Process

SHARE:

Peter **SHARED** with the crowd in Jerusalem. Those who believed were baptized, and 3,000 were added to their number.

- Acts 2:1-41

CONNECT:

The believers were together and had everything in common and **CONNECTED** by devoting themselves to the apostles teaching, fellowship, prayer, and sharing everything (meals, possessions, etc.).

- Acts 2:42-47 (Early church met together and the Lord added to their number daily)
- Acts 4:32-37 (Early church was united and shared everything)

MINISTER: (Train to Minister)

The early Church appointed seven men to **MINISTER** to the widows after hearing word that they weren't being taken care of.

- Acts 6:1-7 (Men appointed to serve in Jerusalem)

DISCIPLE: (Release to Disciple)

Paul uses his last words to encourage Timothy to remain passionate for Christ and remain firm in sound doctrine. Paul warns Timothy of false teachers and instructs him to flee from anything immoral, to stand firm in the faith, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- 2 Timothy 1:13 (Paul instructs Timothy to remember what Paul said and to keep it as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Jesus Christ.)
- 2 Timothy 2:2 (Paul instructs Timothy to be strong in the faith that is in Jesus Christ)

What should that look like for us?

- We **SHARE** our lives with people. As we do, we **SHARE** the Gospel with them.
- We **CONNECT** with those who accept the message, and as we do, we help them **CONNECT** with Christ and with other believers.
- As we do life with these new disciples, we help supply a place for them to learn how to **MINISTER** in Jesus' name.
- Finally, when they are ready, we release them to **DISCIPLE** others.

Discipleship Process: The Physical Stages of Growth

TARGET: *We want the participants to get to know one another on a deeper level. We must first model being open, transparent, and vulnerable to those with whom we have an intentional relationship.*

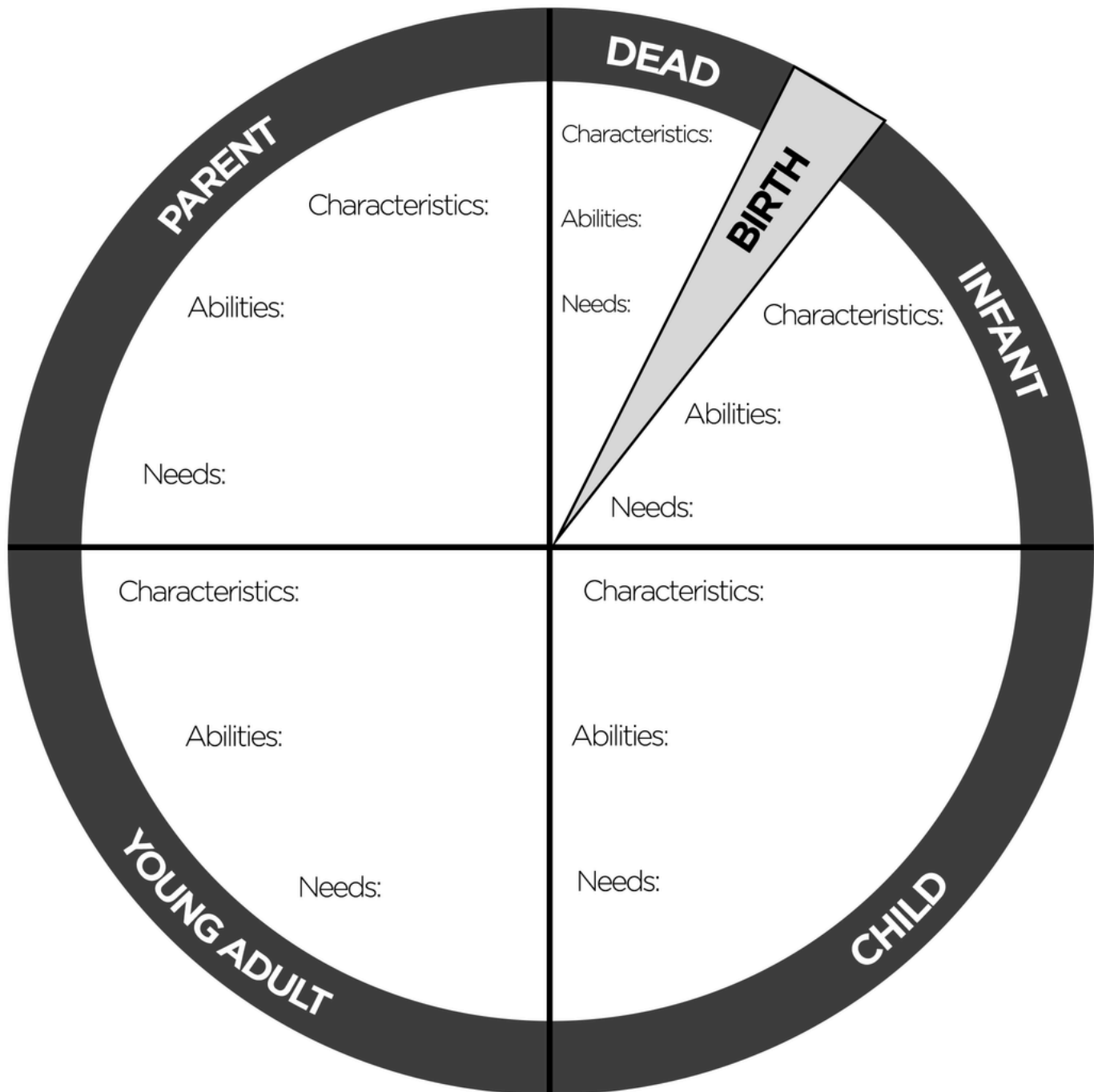
- We just spent some time exploring the process that Jesus used to recognize where His disciples were as he spent time with them.
- We also discussed that we have that same role as we intentionally disciple those we are in relationship with.
- As a disciple, we recognize there are different stages of growth. To help us discuss the process of spiritual maturity, we have divided up the process into stages: Dead, Infant, Child, Young Adult, and Parent.
- Before we jump in and look at them from a spiritual perspective, let's take a look at the physical reality (stage of life) for each stage: Dead, Infant, Child, Young Adult, Parent.

THE FIVE STAGES OF PHYSICAL GROWTH

1. DEAD
 2. INFANT (0-2 YRS. OLD)
 3. CHILD (3-12 YRS. OLD)
 4. YOUNG ADULT (13-25 YRS. OLD)
 5. PARENT (26 YRS. OLD & UP)
- Describe each PHYSICAL stage of growth (Dead, Infant, Child, Young Adult, Parent)
 - Describe their characteristics in a PHYSICAL sense. (age, actions, words)
 - Describe their abilities in a PHYSICAL sense.
 - Describe their needs in a PHYSICAL sense.

Discipleship Process: The Physical Stages of Growth

Characteristics, Abilities, & Needs



Now that we have looked at Physical Stages of Growth characteristics, needs and abilities, let's look at them in a *spiritual* sense and see how they compare.

Discipleship Process: The Spiritual Stages of Growth

TARGET: We want the participants to gain an understanding of the SPIRITUAL stages of growth.

DEAD

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." - John 3:3

People in this stage have not yet accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. They may completely reject God, or they may be seeking God. They may be "spiritual," and may even claim to know God or be a Christian. In reality, they are their own god.

Action Step:

- SHARE: Share the Gospel.

INFANT

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."
- 1 Peter 2:2-3

People in this stage have accepted Christ but have not moved much past that point. They can be new believers, or they might be stagnant, long-time Christians. Life is generally all about them and their needs.

Action Step:

- SHARE: Share the Gospel, share your life, and share new habits.

CHILD

"I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one." - 1 John 2:14

People in this stage are growing in their relationship with God and are also beginning to grow in their relationship with other Christians. They are applying God's Word in their lives and allowing others to walk beside them in their journey following Christ. However, it's still mostly about them and their needs, comfort, etc.

Action Steps:

- SHARE: Share the Gospel, share your life and share new habits.
- CONNECT: Connect to God, connect to home group, and connect them to purpose.

Y O U N G A D U L T

"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." - 2 Timothy 2:1-2

People in this stage are making a big shift from being self-centered to more others-centered. They're beginning to understand their role as a giver, rather than a taker. They're ministering to others and putting others first. They are being doers of the Word.

Action Steps:

- SHARE: Share the Gospel, share your life, and share new habits.
- CONNECT: Connect to God, connect to small group, and connect them to purpose.
- MINISTER: Equip for ministry, provide ministry opportunities, and release to do ministry.

P A R E N T

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.'
- 1 Corinthians 13:11-13

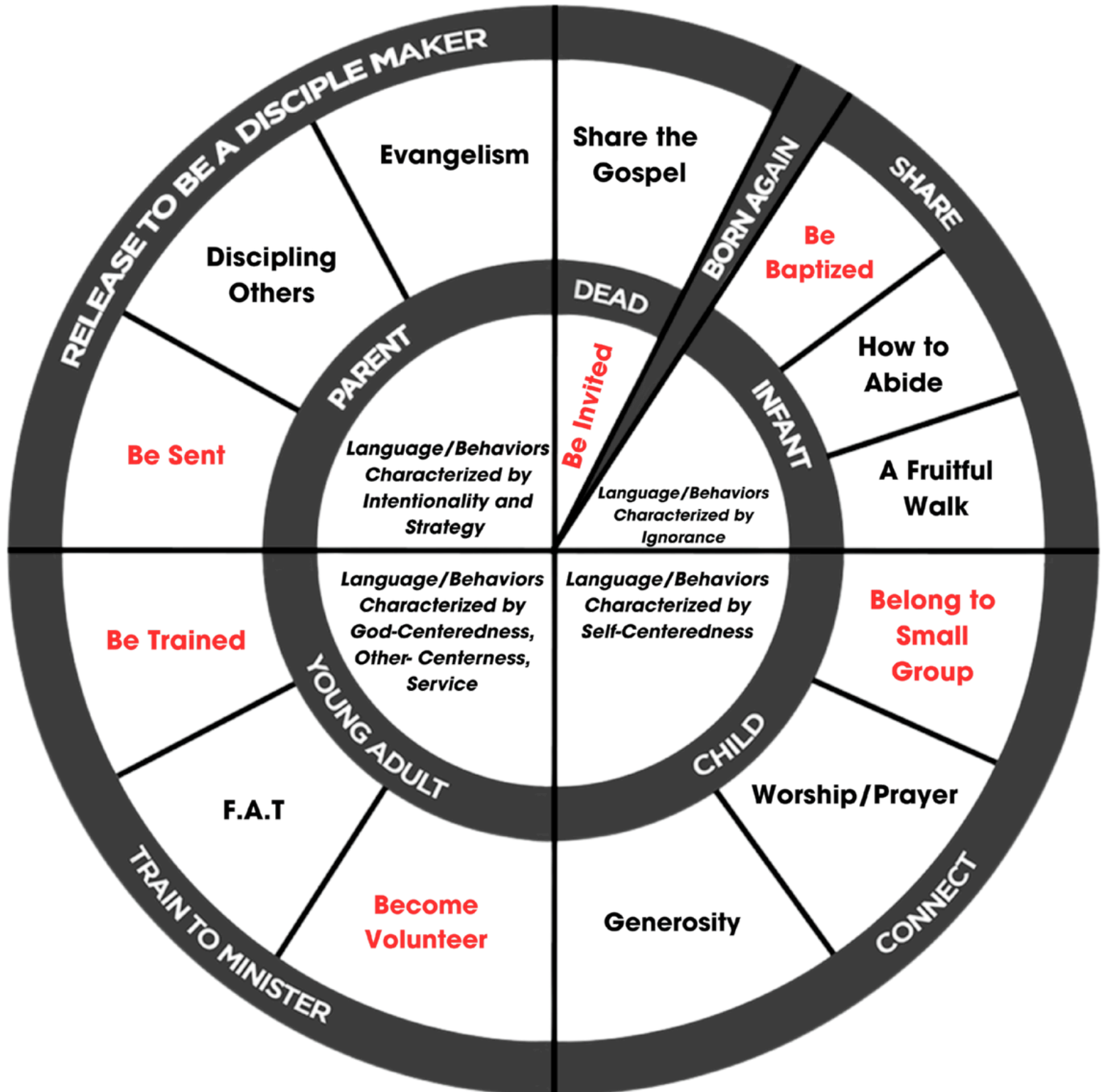
People in this stage have a solid understanding of God's Word and a deep, abiding relationship with the Father. They are living out God's Word in their daily lives. They are others-centered and God-dependent. They are able to reproduce mature disciples of Jesus by inviting others to follow them as they follow Christ.

Action Steps:

- SHARE: Share the Gospel, share your life, and share new habits.
- CONNECT: Connect to God, connect to small group, and connect them to purpose.
- MINISTER: Equip for ministry, provide ministry opportunities and release to do ministry.
- DISCIPLE: Explain discipleship process, release to Disciple another with your help, and release to disciple alone.

As the disciple maker, it is important to understand that you don't leave behind any particular stage as you grow spiritually, but that it is an accumulative process (S+C+M+D). Example: You will always keep sharing the Gospel. You will continually be connecting people to the body of Christ, etc.

Discipleship Process: Spiritual Stages of Growth



Section Recap!

Here's what we have learned so far

- The Physical Stages and Spiritual Stages of Growth allow us, as small group leaders, to be able to gauge where our small group member are in their walk with the Lord and Maturity Level as well as how to best help them grow.
- **Share:** Gospel, Life, Habits
- **Connect:** with Christ and Believers
- **Minister:** In Jesus Name
- **Disciple:** Released to Disciple

Homework Section Ahead

- Be sure to do the homework on the following page. Read through the story, take notes on what the story is telling you, and write your answers down in a journal or on you page.

Transition:

While in the temple, Jesus continues to teach the crowd using parables, answering about taxes and even the resurrection. Throughout Jesus' ministry, He was accused and questioned by Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes. Now we see even a lawyer jump in.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time

Discussion Questions:

1. I am told to love others as Jesus loved me. What practical things can I do to make this a reality? (Ps 73:25-26)
2. Who is my neighbor? (Luke 10:29-37)
3. What does it mean to love God? How is *agape* different from the other loves (eros, storge, philia)?

Fundamental:

The Great Commandment - The command at this point is to love our fellow Christians. But there is another side of Jesus' teaching: We are to love our fellow human beings, as human beings. We are to love all people, in fact, as neighbors. All people bear the image of God. They have inherent value, not simply because they are the objects of Christ's saving work, but because they are God's creation, in God's image. All people are our neighbors, and we are to love them as ourselves. We are to do this on the basis of creation, even if they are not redeemed, for all people have value because they are made in the image of God. Therefore, they are to be loved even at great cost.

1. How do we know that we have come to know God? (1 John 2:3-4)
2. What are his commandments? (John 15:12; 1 John 3:23-24)
3. Is the great commandment specific to Sunday or every second of every day?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Go out of your way this week to help your neighbor.
2. Please read Matthew 23 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Challenge your group to put their love in action – may it be more than words. Pay for someone's groceries, pull over to help change a tire, give someone the jacket you're wearing – choose to do little things that show you love God by valuing people.

Prayer:

God help us to love with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and help us to do the harder part, love our neighbor as ourselves - for this proves we really do love You.

Transition:

The life of Jesus was full of healing the sick, casting out demons, taking care of the poor, and doing many miracles. Despite all this, he knew the most important thing he needed to do was spend time with the Father. Today, we would say, Jesus is too “busy” in His time of ministry in this chapter. But after feeding the 5,000, Scripture says it was evening. And when Jesus walked on water, it was in the fourth watch of the night (3AM). If you had had a long night of ministry and knew an early morning of ministry and teaching was coming, what would you do?

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus wanted to spend time with His father?
2. Do you think it was important for Jesus to be on a mountain alone? Could he not spend time with the Father while with His disciples in the boat?

Fundamental:

Abiding - Abiding is spending time with Jesus. When we are able to spend time with Him, it reflects in our lives, we start to resemble more of his character and less of our flesh, and we begin to bear much fruit. In spending time with Jesus, we start to know more of who He is. John 17:3 says that Eternal Life is to know Him, and we can only know Jesus if we spend time with Him. Many of us think we know Jesus, but we don't. We just know OF Him. We make time for those we love.

1. John 15:1 says “I am the vine, you are the branches, and my father is the vinedresser.” What does this mean for our lives?
2. John 15:5 says “apart from me you can do nothing.” Obviously we can do a lot apart from Jesus – so what does He mean by “nothing?”
3. John 15:7 says “If you abide...ask whatever you wish, and it will be done...” How does spending time with Jesus affect our prayer life?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Ask your small group leader how they spend their abiding time during the week - which may include prayer, worship, reading, solitude, & meditating.
2. Please read Matthew 15 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Ask each person in your small group on a scale of 1-10 where their abiding time is at. Tell them you will follow up with them in your next one-on-one to see if they have improved.

Prayer:

Pray that the Lord gives you more of a desire than ever to be with Him and hunger after righteousness.

Extras:

Abide in Christ by Andrew Murray

Group Lesson Template

Meeting Date: _____

Vision: _____

Welcome		Welcome and introduce new people.
Opening Prayer		
Group Guidelines		
Vision Cast		The purpose of small group is to help people grow in spiritual maturity in their relationship with Jesus.
Announcements		
Ice Breaker		
Discussion Idea	Use <u>teaching tracks</u> to fill this portion.	The target for today's group discussion.
Today's Passage		Setting the stage for today's passage.
Head Level		Head: These questions helps us to examine what the Word shows.
Heart Level		Heart: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.
Hands Level		These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into our everyday realities.
Recap		Ask someone to recap, or summarize what was discussed in the lesson.
Prayer Time		Close in prayer. Share personal prayer requests & give everyone an opportunity to pray.

Tips for Asking Great Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS: The following questions are examples that will help you have a base to begin with and will give you ideas for developing your own questions.

Be intentional to ask all three types of questions (head, heart, hands) as you lead your discussion.

HEAD: These questions help us to examine what the word shows.

- What do you see God doing, saying, or showing about himself?
- Who are the people and what is going on with them?
- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you think the main point is?
- What does this show us about _____? (You can fill in the blank with - God/man/or the topic of discussion such as worship).

HEART: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- What do you see about yourself?
- Have you known anyone who is an example of this?
- What has it looked like when you have or have not known/believed/lived this in your life?
- What questions does this raise for you?

HANDS: These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into our everyday realities

- What is one way you can apply this truth to your life this week?
- What are you challenged to think/believe/do differently because of this passage and our discussion?
- How can you use this to disciple others?
- How does this impact you, your relationship with _____? (Fill in with family, fellow believers, work-place or community)

Annual Roadmap

The Annual Roadmap (see next page) gives you and your group a vision of where you are going throughout the year. This allows you to organize your curriculum to include fun service events, breakouts, and dates that you may be off due to holidays, etc.

Share this Annual Roadmap with your group so that your members can know what to expect each week. You can print the page and fill in the appropriate dates.

WINTER

**Holidays to keep in mind: New Year's Day, Valentine's Day*

JANUARY - Week of:

Jan. _____

Jan. _____

Jan. _____

Jan. _____

FEBRUARY - Week of:

Feb. _____

Feb. _____

Feb. _____

Feb. _____

MARCH - Week of:

Mar. _____

Mar. _____

Mar. _____

Mar. _____

SUMMER

**Holidays to keep in mind: Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Independence Day*

MAY - Week of:

May _____

May _____

May _____

May _____

JUNE - Week of:

June _____

June _____

June _____

June _____

JULY - Week of:

July _____

July _____

July _____

July _____

FALL

**Holidays to keep in mind: Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving*

SEPTEMBER - Week of:

Sept. _____

Sept. _____

Sept. _____

Sept. _____

OCTOBER - Week of:

Oct. _____

Oct. _____

Oct. _____

Oct. _____

NOVEMBER - Week of:

Nov. _____

Nov. _____

Nov. _____

Nov. _____

Additional Homework Pages

- Following this page are the next **4 Homework assignments**. You will be instructed on when Homework is due. We will have a comprehensive, open binder **quiz** at the end of DTC in regards to the Homework throughout **ALL** of DTC

Homework Section Ahead

- Be sure to do the homework on the following page. Read through the story, take notes on what the story is telling you, and write your answers down in a journal or on you page.

Transition:

If you were writing the story of God being born, what would it look like? Where would it happen? What would the parents be like? What period in history would it be? How would the event be celebrated?

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difficulty in believing in the virgin birth? Is it necessary? (Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6)
2. How would you describe eternal life – what actually is salvation? Is it just *not* going to hell? (John 17:3)

Fundamental:

Salvation – take a look specifically at verse 21. This is the primary reason that Jesus was born! To save! Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life.

1. Why do you and I need a Savior? (Rom 3:23; Rom 6:23; 1 John 1:8)
2. What do you and I need to be saved from? (Matt 22:13, Mark 9:48)
3. What is required for salvation? (Mark 6:12; Rom 10:9-10)
*Focus primarily on Repentance and Faith – knowing that both will be covered in later weeks.
4. Can you and I be saved by any other means? (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim 2:5-6)

Homework/Challenge:

1. What do you believe God is asking you to do in response to this story?
2. Please read Matthew 2 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Consider having the most recent convert share their salvation story. Or maybe share your own testimony!

Prayer:

Be bold about sharing the gospel as needed in your group! Is there anyone who needs to move from Spiritually Dead to Spiritual Infancy?

Transition:

Jesus has entered into Jerusalem as King! He is establishing His authority from the miracle of the Fig Tree to the Parable of the Talents. It is clear that Jesus is indeed the King. So, the decree of The King has gone out, inviting all to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time

Discussion Questions:

1. Who are the servants of which Jesus is speaking? Judges? Prophets? Kings?
2. Compare this version of the parable to Luke 14:16-24. What do you think about the excuses people made for not attending?
3. What does it mean for someone to be *called*, but not *chosen*? (John 6:44, 15:16; Eph 1:4-10)

Fundamental:

Heaven – 2 Pet 3:13 "We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth which righteousness dwells." The Promise of everlasting life and a place eternal in the Heavens is all through Scripture. Jesus is preparing a place for us, and it will be more beautiful than anything our eyes have ever seen (1 Cor 2:9). We all long to be home because, like the man who found the treasure hidden in the field, when we experience what heaven is like on earth, we can't help but obey Jesus' command to go into the highways and byways and compel them to come in.

1. What do you think heaven is actually like? Will there be an actual feast? What will we DO for all eternity? (Ps 33:13; Luke 23:43; John 14:2; Acts 1:11; Php 1:21-23; Heb 11:10,16; Rev 21)
2. Does everyone go? Why? (Matt 25:46)
3. What should we say to those that seem to be looking forward more to seeing their relatives again than seeing God face to face? (i.e. What is the true highlight of heaven?)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Share what Heaven is like this week with a stranger and invite them to Church.
2. Please read Matthew 23 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Be excited to meet God face to face (more so than being reunited with relatives...).

Prayer:

Lord, we ask for courage for when we go out into our jobs to invite them to Church and into the Kingdom. I ask that you put the person you want me to ask right in front of me this week.

Transition:

Matthew 21 finds Jesus arriving near Jerusalem after leaving Jericho in the previous chapter. His triumphal entry is accomplished riding a donkey and to praise, fulfilling a prophecy about the Messiah. Jesus cleanses the temple by removing the market, heals the blind and the lame, and presents lessons about faith and Israel's failed leadership. This leads into further conversations which Matthew compiles from Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can a Christian have the appearance of health and yet be fruitless?
2. What does it mean to bear fruit? (John 15:2-5)
3. What does Jesus mean by "the kingdom of God will be taken away..."?

Fundamental:

Bear Fruit - The greatest need of this country is disciples of Jesus. Churches are either shrinking, dying, or filled with uncommitted, undisciplined, and potentially false converts. These symptoms come from the same root issue: disobedience to Christ's command to make disciples. Disciples can't be mass-produced in a classroom or manufactured through seminary. Jesus' method of sacrificing and investing His time is still the only way in which disciples are handcrafted.

Christendom has, throughout the centuries, trusted that Jesus was divine, His words were divine and yet has quickly forgotten that His method was also divine. May we rekindle the old flames of sacrifice and devotion and walk the old paths upon which our Master has trodden.

1. Is fruit a necessity for salvation or is it a natural result of salvation? Does this mean that one is saved by works? (Eph 2:8-12, Jam 2:14-26)
2. Why does 1% of the Church make disciples? What is exponential power of trans-generational discipleship?
3. Have we behaved like the individuals in the Parable of the Tenants?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Read *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert E. Coleman as a small group.
2. Please read Matthew 22 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

The most important and practical way to evangelize and disciple: abide in Jesus.

Prayer:

Ask the Lord how you can bear more fruit, and if necessary, ask Him to prune you so that you can. (John 15:2-5)

Extras:

Born to Reproduce by Dawson Trotman

<https://youtu.be/guIJHQXK4Pk?si=33uaZA10q03tkSe0>

Transition:

Jesus has been baptized, tempted, started His ministry, called the first disciples and ministered to great crowds. Now comes one of the most famous “sermons” in all of history! The Sermon on the Mount reveals to us the supreme authority of Jesus over all other teachers and drives us to faith in Him as the One who fulfills the law of God on behalf of His people.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be “poor in spirit...”? What is “the kingdom of heaven”?
2. What do you think Jesus means by the word “blessed”? (Gen 1:28, 49:28; Ex 20:11; Job 1:21; Ps 1; Matt 16:17; Rev 22:7)
3. How does the progression of the Beatitudes illustrate the effect of the gospel in someone's life?

Fundamental:

Sin/Brokenness – Beginning in Genesis 3, sin entered the world. To sin means to miss the mark. God has set the standard of how we ought to live in His law. All of us have sinned. There is only one who never did – Jesus Christ. We must acknowledge that God alone has the right to judge us and tell us how to live – and when we rebel against His commands, that is sin. But we are not supposed to stay there!

1. What are we supposed to do when we recognize our sin? (Ps 38:18; Jam 5:16; 1 John 1:9)
2. What is difference between confession and repentance? Why is it important to do both?
3. What does Jesus mean by “blessed are the meek...”? Do we ever have a reason to be proud? Why does God oppose the proud? (Ps 138:6; Pro 3:34; Jam 4:6)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Take time to examine your heart and ask the Spirit to reveal any sin in your life. When you have realized your brokenness, confess your sins to someone – your small group leader is always available.
2. Please read Matthew 6 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

People do not enjoy being confronted over sin. They will typically make excuses for living the way they do. They compare themselves to other people instead of the standard of Christ. When it comes up, be prepared to have a conversation about our pursuit of holiness.

Prayer:

Pray that sin would truly bother your people and that they would confess and repent.

Quiz Section Ahead

- Please Remove the Following Quiz from the back of your “Foundations Book”
- Please be sure to Write your full name on your Quiz and turn it in to one of our Small Group Team Members.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

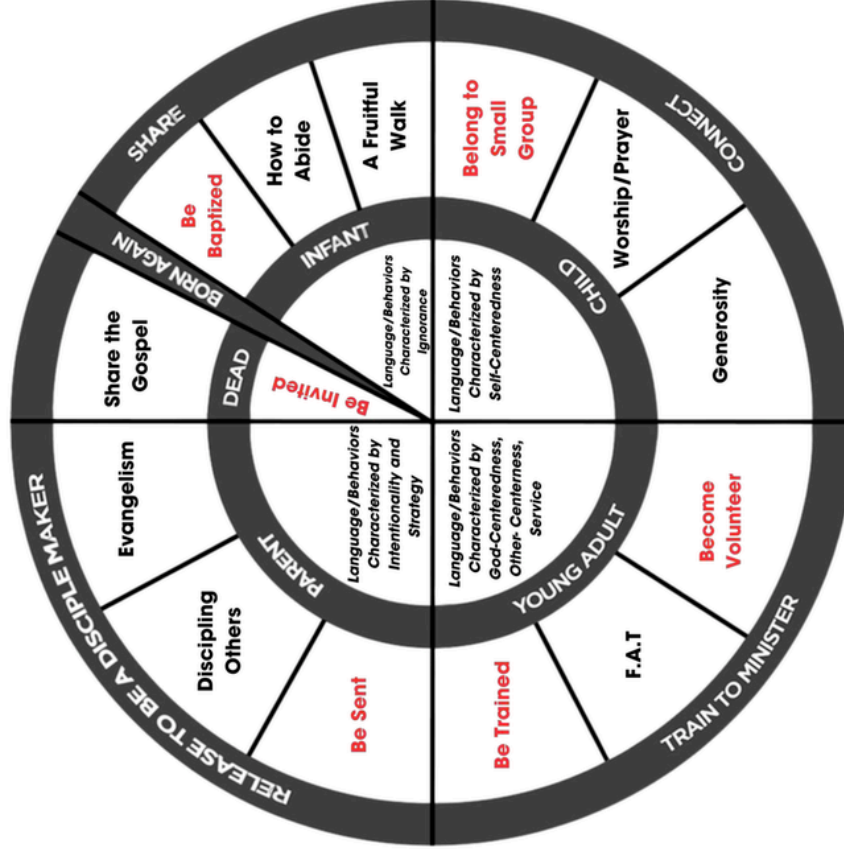
47	Spiritual Maturity Wheel
61	Small Group Leader Resources

SPIRITUAL MATURITY WHEEL

5 Stages of Spiritual

Maturity

- Dead
- Infant
- Child
- Young Adult
- Parent



Needs by Stage (S,C,M,D)

- Share with the Dead and Infant
- Connect the Child
- Train to Minister the Young Adult
- Release to be a Disciple maker with the Parent

Participant Worksheets

Spiritually Dead

My Part

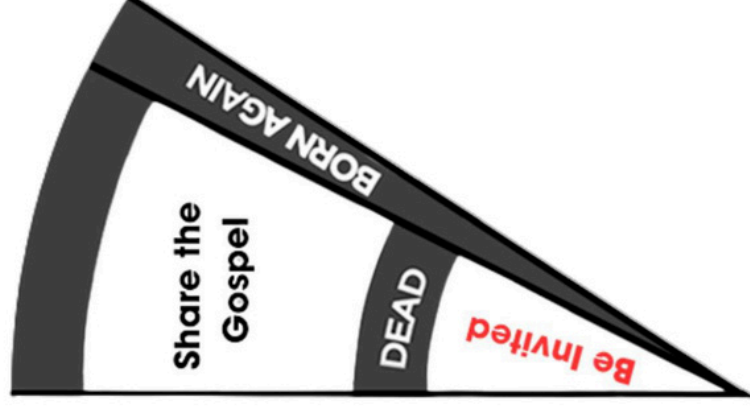
- What do they need from me?
- What kind of environment do I create in the group for them? What kind of environment do I create outside the group for them?
- What do I model?

Their Part

- They speak as....
- Their need

God's Part

- With the spiritually dead
- With you as the Parent



Infant

My Part

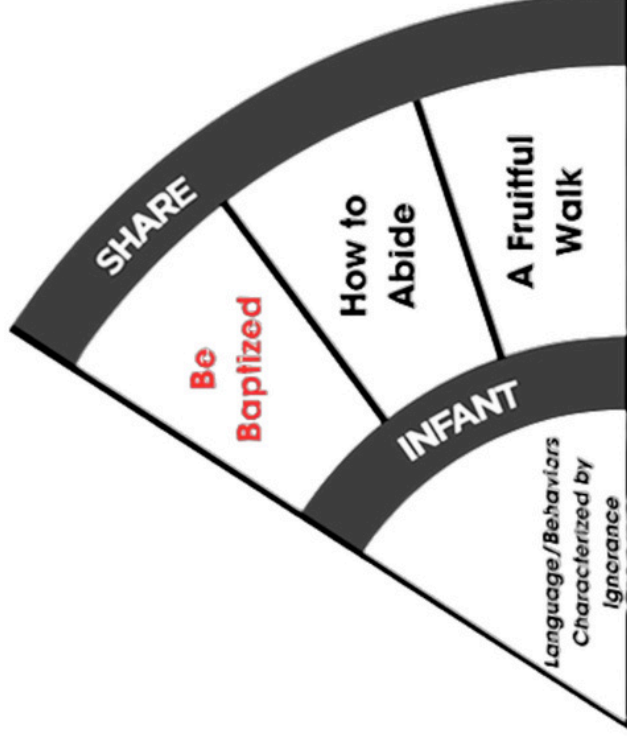
- What do they need from me?
- What kind of environment do I create in the group?
- What kind of environment do I create outside the group?
- What do I model?

Their Part

- They speak as....
- What is their need?

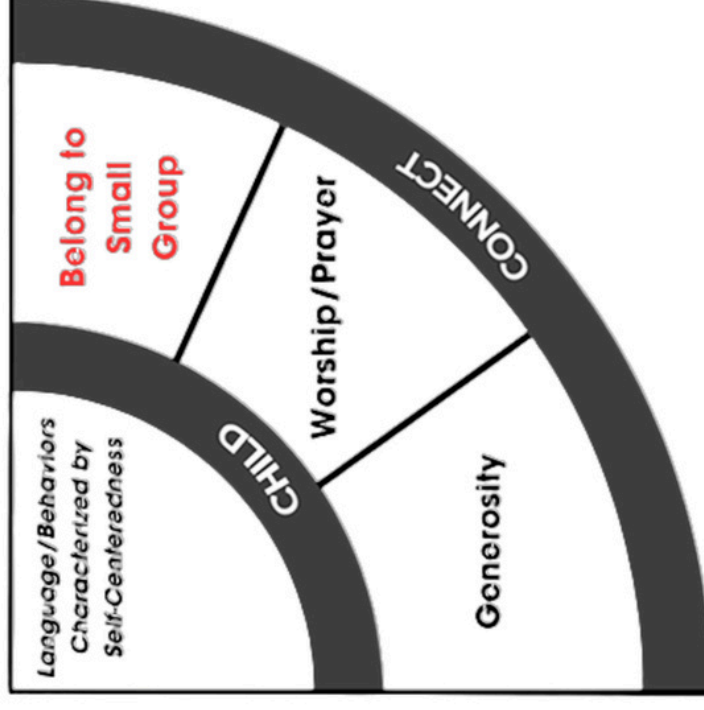
God's Part

- What is God's part with an Infant?
- What is God's part with you, the Spiritual Parent?



Child

- My Part
 - What do they need from me?
 - What kind of environment do I create in the group?
 - What kind of environment do I create outside the group?
 - What do I model?
- Their Part
 - They speak as....
 - What is their need?
- God's Part
 - What is God's part with a Child?
 - What is God's part with you, the Spiritual Parent?



Young Adult

My Part

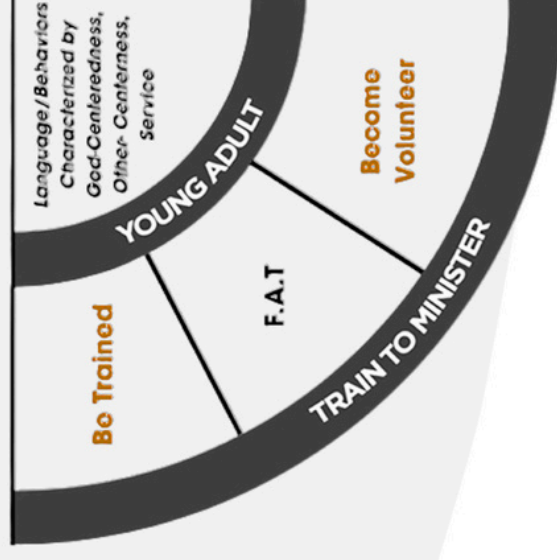
- What do they need from me?
- What kind of environment do I create in the group?
- What kind of environment do I create outside the group?
- What do I model?

Their Part

- They speak as....
- What is their need?

God's Part

- What is God's part with a Young Adult?
- What is God's part with you, the Spiritual Parent?



Parent

My Part

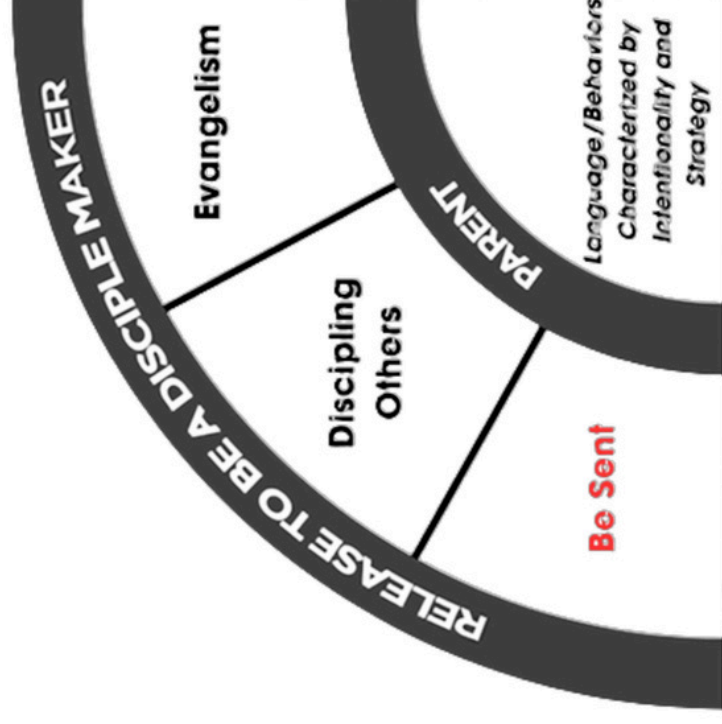
- What do they need from me?
- What do I model for another Parent?

Their Part

- They speak as....
- What is their need in order to grow?

God's Part

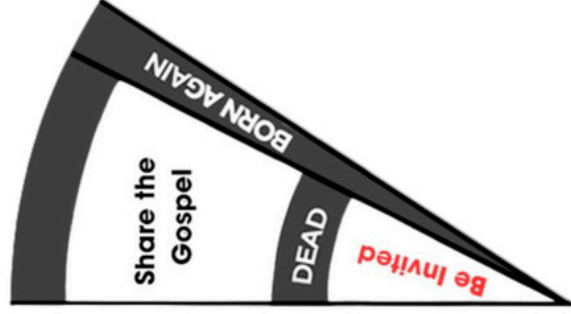
- What is God's part with a Parent?



Section Thought Starters

Spiritually Dead

Thought Starters



My Part

What do they need from me? They need answers to their questions, healthy relationships and someone to share the Gospel

What kind of environment do I create in the group for them? A healthy, welcoming environment, Value them, Love them, Show them forgiveness

What kind of environment do I create outside the group for them? Trust, intentional connection, 1:1 time

What do I model? What it looks like to walk with Jesus, transparency, realness, abide time

Their Part

They speak as.... "Many ways to God, I'm a good person, I have my own faith, That's good for you, I'm not religious"

Their need - Repent, Believe, Trust, Confess, Willing to engage, Let go of past hurts

God's Part

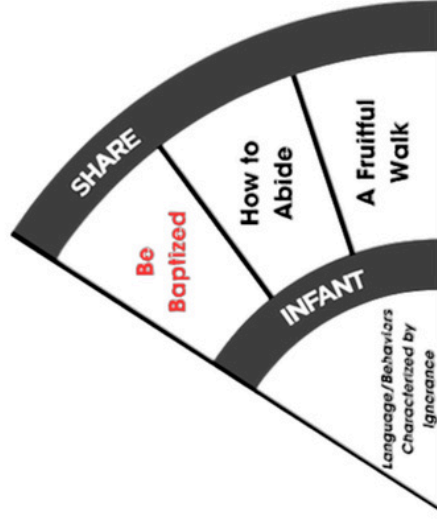
With the spiritually dead - Conviction, Invitation, Draw Them

With you as the Parent - Source of knowledge, Kindness, Fruit of the Spirit, Admonishment

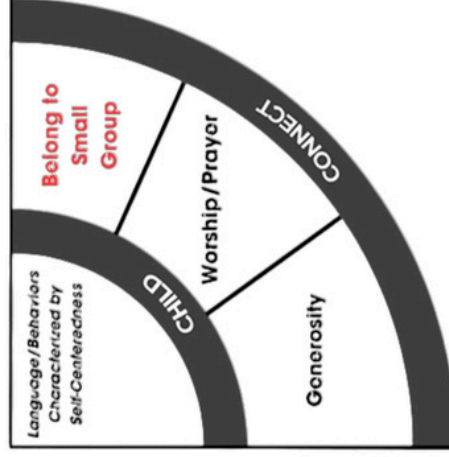
Infant

Thought Starters

- My Part
 - **What do they need from me?** Patience, Love, Kindness, Fruit of the Spirit, Admonishment
 - **What kind of environment do I create in the group?** Safe, Educational Supportive, Encouraging, Affirming
 - **What kind of environment do I create outside the group?** Available, Communicative, Challenging
 - **What do I model?** Integrity, Consistency, Teaching, Humility, Servanthood
- Their Part
 - **They speak as....** "I didn't know the Bible said that", "My spouse is my accountability partner, I don't need anyone else", "The church just wants my money", "I'm a good person", "Why do we have to go to church", "Church people are fake", "I'm too busy"
 - **What is their need?** Faithful, Available, Teachable, Engage, Listen, Ask questions
- God's Part
 - What is God's part with an Infant? Shepherd, Provide direction, Answer prayer, Give understanding
 - What is God's part with you, the Spiritual Parent? Discernment, Wisdom, Refreshment, Guide deep conversation, Lead



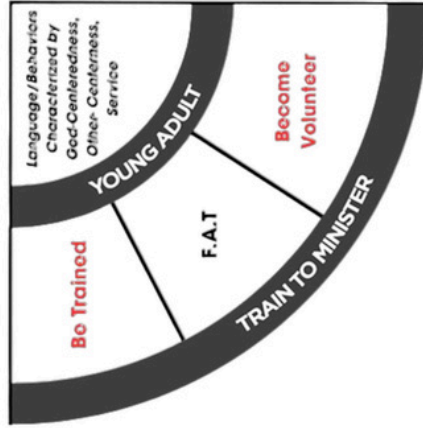
Child



Thought Starters

- My Part
 - **What do they need from me?** Guidance, training, boundaries, lessons, disciple, love, care, prayer, commitment
 - **What kind of environment do I create in the group?** Loving, accepting, secure, welcoming, instructional, structured
 - **What kind of environment do I create outside the group?** Involved, connected, follow-up, available, relational
 - **What do I model?** Vulnerable, Service, Prayer, Bible study, Abide, Faith, Generosity
- Their Part
 - **They speak as....** "I love my small group, don't add anyone else, don't break up the group", "Not taking care of my needs", "I didn't like worship, if only they could do...", "Too hot, too cold, too loud, too long...", "Need pews instead of chairs"
 - **What is their need?** Biblical principles, Express needs, Serve others, Navigate conflict
- God's Part
 - What is God's part with a Child? Conviction, Correction, Reveal areas to confess
 - What is God's part with you, the Spiritual Parent? Humility, Help in guiding, Help them to connect with others to grow with

ge to disciple
rtunity to give
o share the
ow to pray,
e fruit of the Spirit
roup like this", I
me across
ave an idea how
ning, Manage
ith, Speak to
hat's next,

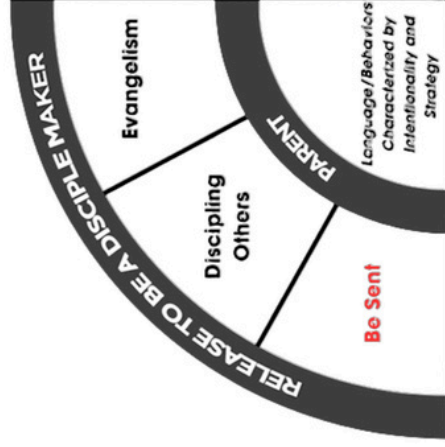


- **My Part**
 - **What do they need from me?** Encouragement, Prayer, Mentor, Challenge to disciple
 - What kind of environment do I create in the group? Safety, Valued, Opportunity to give input, Give them a role to lead
 - **What kind of environment do I create outside the group?** Challenge to share the gospel, Service opportunities, Skill development and training, 1:1 time
 - **What do I model?** How to relate with others, How to minister to others, How to pray, Abide time and prepare a Bible study, Handle conflict biblically, Model the fruit of the Spirit
- **Their Part**
 - **They speak as....** "I love my small group, there are others who need a group like this", I will serve in the nursery so that others can attend", "In my devotions, I came across something that I have questions about", "Do you think I could teach?", "I have an idea how I can fix xyz, can I help?", "I'm going to invite my friend..."
 - **What is their need?** Willing to listen, Prayer, Love, Encouragement, Training, Manage time
- **God's Part**
 - What is God's part with a Young Adult? Show them His will, Grow their faith, Speak to them in their quiet time
 - What is God's part with you, the Spiritual Parent? Give discernment on what's next, Wisdom to grow, Lead

Parent

Thought Starters

- My Part
 - **What do they need from me?** Love, Grace, Relationship, Time, Accountability, Correction, Modeling, Be served, Church Family
 - **What do I model for another Parent?** Transparency, Priorities, Submissiveness, Grace, Mercy, Equipping, Prayer, Relationship
- Their Part
 - **They speak as....** "Someone at work asked me to explain the Bible to them, pray for me", "We get to baptize someone from our group tonight. I want to help them get plugged into the church as a volunteer", "I realize that discipleship begins at home. Will you hold me accountable to discipling my kids?"
 - **What is their need in order to grow?** An ongoing relationship with other spiritual parents, Accountability, People to disciple
- God's Part
 - What is God's part with a Parent? Provide guidance, Continue to mold, Provide wisdom



RESOURCES

Small Group Leader Website

mygfcsmallgroups.tv

Small Group Leader Facebook

Church Center App

Small Group Team Email:
smallgroups@mygateway.tv