

How to Go about Training Disciples and Disciple-makers

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I. Introduction.

- A. Training is imperative.
- B. Training is biblical. (II Timothy 2:20)

II. Principles for training.

- A. Training must be personal.
 - 1. Personal relationships acknowledge differences.
 - 2. It meets people where they are at with personal needs.
- B. Training is costly.
- C. Training takes risk and vulnerability.
- D. Training demands prayer. (Luke 22:31-32)

III. Training has direction.

- A. Relationship with God.
- B. Communion with people.
- C. Character.
- D. Skills such as evangelism, follow-up, speaking and strategic thinking.
- E. Vision.

IV. Training is different than helping someone.

- A. Helping ministry emphasizes felt needs.
- B. Training addresses actual needs.
- C. There is a greater level of trust and accountability in training than in helping ministry.
- D. The trainer controls the relationship in the training relationship while the helpee controls the curriculum in the helping ministry.
- E. The helping ministry is usually short term and the training ministry is long term.

V. Responsibilities of the trainer.

- A. Being clear with expectations.
- B. Giving adequate time for study.
- C. Being involved with the whole person.
- D. Being an observable example.
- E. Sharing correction when needed.

VI. Responsibilities of the trainee.

- A. They need to know God.
- B. They need to seek to serve.
- C. They need to have a learner's heart.
- D. They need to be honest.

VII. Training involves selection. (Luke 6:12-13, Acts 16:3)

- A. If one picks wrong in his training relationship, it will cost him.
- B. A disciple must be faithful, available and teachable.
- C. A trainer must be able to relate to a trainee.

VIII. Practical ideas.

- A. Get to know a trainee in a variety of situations before committing to a long-term relationship.
- B. Consider having a trial period before commitment for long-term.
- C. Ask a person to pray about what you have in mind first.
- D. Never lower your standards to attract a person.
- E. Look to advance God's kingdom, not your program.
- F. Emphasize encouragement and challenge, not correction and rebuke.

IX. Challenges.

- A. Pride.
- B. Using people to build your program.
- C. Training becoming more central than one's secret life in Christ.

D. Trusting one's experience rather than the Lord.

E. Expecting more from others than oneself.

F. Be careful to take more than you can handle.

G. Be willing to take some criticism.

X. Training involves the grace of giving—we must be careful how we build. (Ephesians 3:2, I Corinthians 3)

Application questions:

1. What tip for training disciples did you find to be the most valuable? Explain.

2. How would you respond to someone who says that being selective in training others shows favoritism? Explain.

3. What challenge do you think you would be most prone to in training others? What can you do to counter this challenge?
