



## START A DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRY INSIDE (AND OUTSIDE) YOUR CHURCH

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The objective of this workshop is to serve as a launching point of ideas for those who wish to start a life-on-life discipling ministry in their church or most any setting where one man with a vision for the multiplying effect of the Great Commission reaches out to affect another life for Jesus Christ.

There is no such thing as a "one size fits all" approach to establishing and running a discipling ministry. Each environment is different. Consider Shamgar:

*"And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel."* – Judges 3:31

The nation of Israel was oppressed under the enemy occupation of the Philistines. Shamgar was an individual who was not a professional soldier and was not outfitted with the latest and most formidable weaponry of the time. He carried a cattle prod (ox goad) and he used it to help deliver Israel. Shamgar did what he could where he was with what he had. That should be our approach to ministry.

What works for us in Dallas may not work for you, but elements of it sure can. We can all learn from each other and if we stay connected we can be of great help to one another.

In the summer of 2003 another fellow and I taught a class of ten people at Watermark Community Church. We called the class The Equipped Disciple and we used the Navigators 2:7 training material which is available through Navpress. From that first class grew a ministry of discipling that is establishing and equipping hundreds of men and women every year and also raising up leaders and laborers who are committed to the vision of The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). We are seeing people come to Christ and we are helping them to grow and become fruitful themselves. The Timothy principle works!

*"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."* – II Timothy 2:2

Paul trained Timothy who trained reliable men who likewise passed it on to others.

The Navigators 2:7 Series as the centerpiece of this ministry and the classroom is just one of the tools used to accomplish the objective of teaching, training and building in the lives of others. The Equipped Disciple ministry is not a program and the people involved are not interested in reproducing classes, but rather to join the small stories of our lives in the big

story of His purpose in the transformation of His people and the building of His Kingdom. A successful discipling ministry must extend beyond the borders of the classroom into the everyday lives of others.

How do you start a discipling ministry? You start with one man. Where do you find him? To find a man, you need a fishing pond.

What ponds are available to you?

- Home
- Work
- Social
- Church

What has been your experience with these ponds? As fishermen for Christ, we don't catch and release. We catch 'em and clean 'em.

II Timothy 2:2 tells us to look for a RELIABLE man. Ask God for a F.A.T. man.

**F**aithful  
**A**vailable  
**T**rainable

*"I CAN MAKE A FAITHFUL MAN ABLE, BUT I CAN'T MAKE AN ABLE MAN FAITHFUL."  
(unknown sage)*

Don't look at the outward appearance (smart, gifted, powerful), but rather the inward (faithful, available, trainable).

In your approach to ministry, follow the model of Christ:

*Love the World    →    Evangelize    →    Preach  
Help Many        →    Establish     →    Teach  
Pour into a Few   →    Equip         →    Train*

As you can see, there is a place for EVERYONE in the ministry of Christ and we should take the same approach with the people in our lives.

Your ministry should have a clear objective so you can know where you are going and can develop plans for how to get there. For example, our mission in the Equipped Disciple ministry is . . . .

*To establish and equip believers in a fruitful and highly personal walk with the Lord and to develop leaders and laborers with an instilled vision of reproductive ministry to help fulfill the Great Commission, one individual at a time.*

Our calling is the same, but we all live in different places populated with unique individuals of all ages, life stages and backgrounds. As different as our battlegrounds may be, we serve the same Commander and His purpose doesn't change. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost and He uses men like you and me to effectuate His purpose in the lives of others. With the Word of God as our foundation and the Spirit of God as our Architect, we can build a successful discipling ministry. Like Shamgar, we can do what we can where we are with what we have.

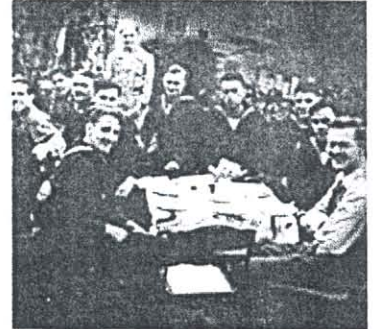
## BASIC TRAINING



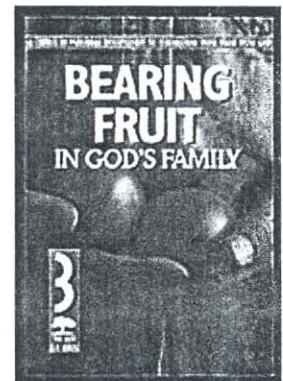
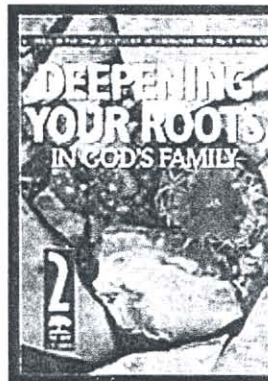
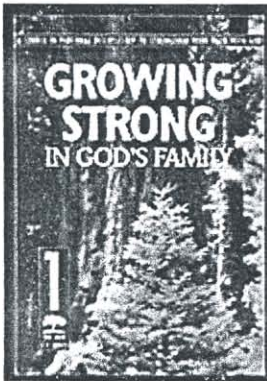
Dawson Trotman



THE NAVIGATORS



## 2:7 SERIES



## RESOURCES

### Navigators 2:7 Series:

[http://www.navigators.org/us/ministries/cdm/about\\_cdm/resources/books/items/27%20Series](http://www.navigators.org/us/ministries/cdm/about_cdm/resources/books/items/27%20Series)

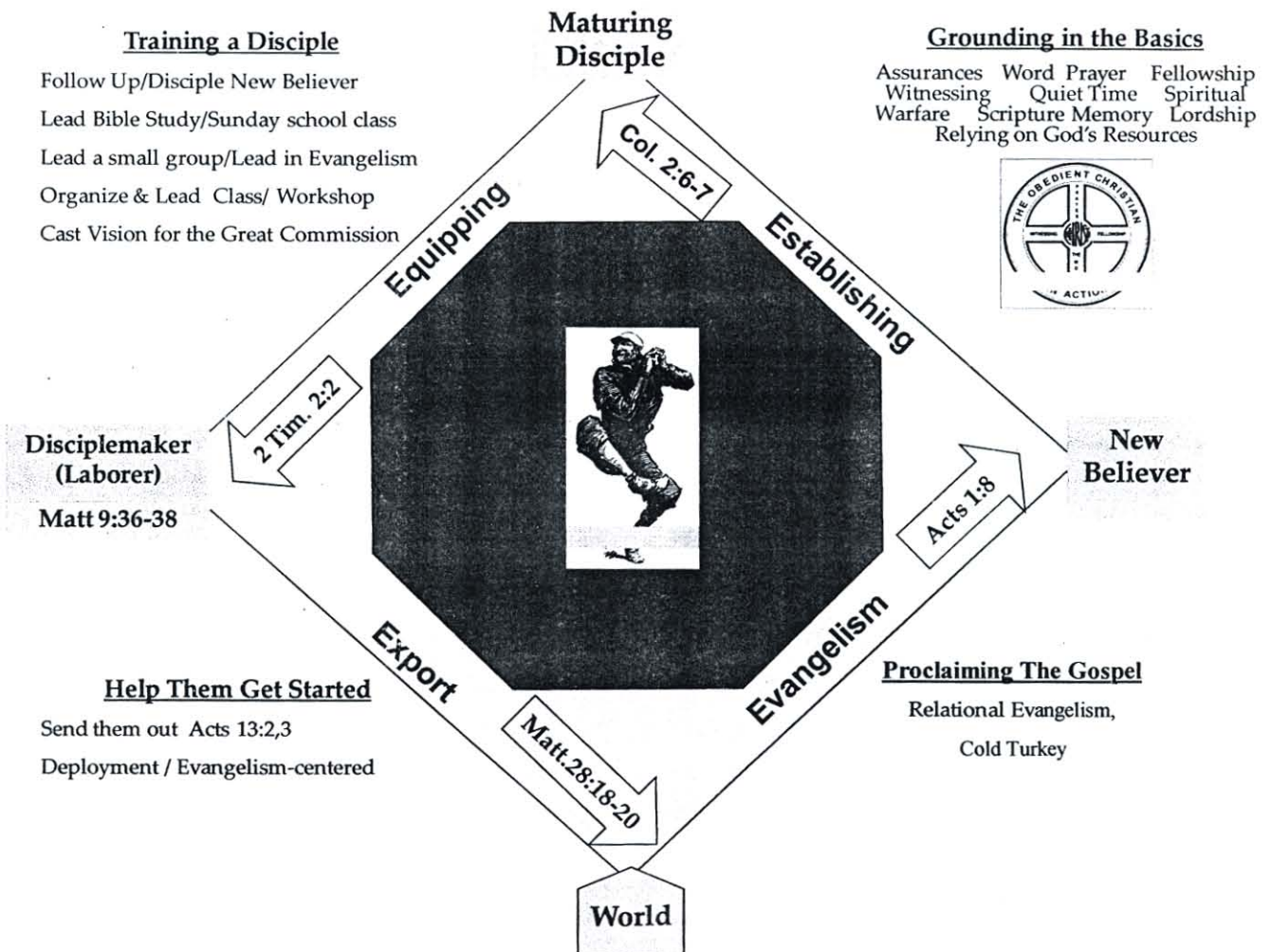
This series is an exceptional discipling tool for starting a discipling ministry in your church and other small group environments. Check out the free downloads of leader's guides, scripture memory verses and even the workbooks from the classic 2:7.

### Navigator Messages Online:

[www.discipleshiplibrary.com](http://www.discipleshiplibrary.com)

You have to see this website to believe it. It houses a fine collection of Navigator speakers and others sharing on a wide range of highly relevant topics. Keep checking in for new additions.

## THE BASEBALL DIAMOND ILLUSTRATION





It's a lot like boot camp for believers. Equipped Disciple is a three-part discipleship class designed to help you become rooted, built up and strengthened as a fruitful follower of Christ. The series begins by covering the basics of prayer and Bible study and continues by helping you grow stronger in outreach, discipleship and the disciplines of the Christian life. But perhaps the best way to understand how Equipped Disciple can change your walk with Christ is to talk to those who've experienced the transformation themselves. Bill Roberson, Bobby Rodriguez and Michael Bambach have all enjoyed the rewards of being disciplined by other strong followers of Christ, and the privilege of discipling new believers as they build a solid foundation of faith. Here's how these three men have encouraged and challenged one another over the years:

**Bill Roberson:** With the help of a friend I was discipling, I launched Equipped Disciple in the summer of 2003. We began the first class with 10 people, and the next semester my friend took that group through Equipped Disciple 2 while I taught a new group the 1st class. Since then, people have been applying what they've learned by sharing Christ with others and discipling new believers. As a result, more than 1,100 people have taken part in Equipped Disciple so far.

One of the men I've had the privilege of discipling is Bobby Rodriguez. When we met, Bobby was a young, single guy who was just learning about what a relationship with Christ was all about. As he went through Equipped Disciple, it was obvious to me that he was a reliable man who had a real talent for teaching others. He began leading in this ministry and discipling a young man named Michael Bambach. Michael has gone on to serve others, and I've seen the discipleship that began with Bobby go on to four generations of new believers (so far).

Leading and discipling other men as we follow Christ has been a real blessing in my life. When I'm helping others, I must be certain that I'm practicing what I preach. Discipling others strengthens me in ways I might miss out on if I wasn't in leadership. And it's given me a

chance to see an explosion in 'spiritual multiplication,' as men and women share Christ with others and disciple new believers toward a fruitful relationship with Him.



**Bobby Rodriguez:** Through Equipped Disciple, I got to know other men, like Bill, who had been steeped in God's Word. They had unbelievable wisdom and helped establish the foundation for spiritual growth in my life. I emulated what I learned from them in my own walk with Christ.

I met Michael Bambach through Equipped Disciple. He was a brand new believer, and what I immediately noticed was his genuine desire to know more about God's Word. His eagerness to learn more about the Bible made the time we spent together even more rewarding because I had to be more diligent to study Scripture in order to disciple him. He's gone on to lead in Equipped Disciple, and help many other men know the Truth about Christ. Today, I continue to disciple other men and also lead 4th and 5th graders toward faith in Christ as a staff member on Watermark's Crossroad45 team. What a privilege it is to see faith take root in the lives of kids and adults, in the same way it did in my life in my early 30's.



**Michael Bambach:** I became a believer on October 26, 2006, and joined Equipped Disciple because I didn't know what I was supposed to be doing as a follower of Christ. Bobby Rodriguez was my group leader through all three classes, which was awesome. Through the process, I was taught the building blocks of faith, and as I grew deeper in my relationship with Christ, I learned how to share my testimony and the gospel with people who needed to know Him. It was a great experience, and God used it to make it clear that I needed to begin to help others learn the vital things that Bobby Rodriguez showed me. I started leading in Equipped Disciple and continued to sharpen my skills in discipleship and Bible study as well.

Today, my relationship with the Lord is rich. I've been able to use Scripture to speak into the lives of others in my community, family (and with myself). And I've shared the gospel with several people, including my mother, who is Jewish, but non-practicing. Along with my friend, Kevin McConaghy, we are leading a community group of young adults with special needs. We have three members so far, and are beginning to go through the first lessons in Equipped Disciple. It's challenging, but worth it to know that these men may come to understand God's forgiveness, grace and love for them.

The discipleship I received has not only strengthened me as I lead Equipped Disciple, but it's also helped me as I recently married my beautiful bride, Jennifer. She's involved in the classes as well, and we have been able to continually encourage one another with the Bible reading we do together. It's taught us how to love God first and keep Him in the center of our lives. Through Christ, we're both blessed way beyond what we deserve.

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*The next series of Equipped Disciple classes begins in mid-February. See the Equipping Opportunities ad in this edition of Watermark News for details. Sign up at [watermark.org/events](http://watermark.org/events).*