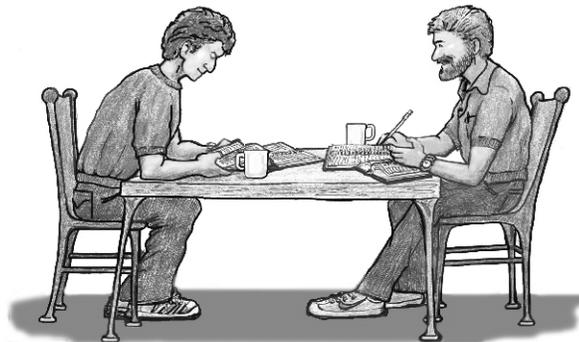




A Tool For Personal Discipleship

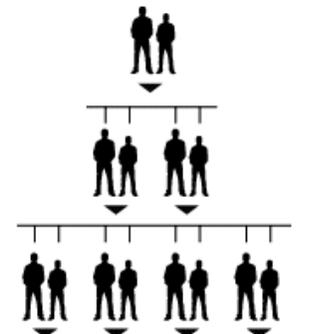
A Guide for Spiritual Mentoring



Spiritual Mentoring / Parenting



Spiritual Fruitfulness



Spiritual Reproduction

Discipler Training International

A non-denominational discipleship ministry providing free discipleship resources for training disciplers (spiritual mentors) to help every Christian grow in spiritual maturity (Colossians 1:28), spiritual fruitfulness (John 15:8) and spiritual reproduction. (2 Timothy 2:2).

www.disciplers.org

About DTI

Our desire is to make these discipleship /spiritual concepts as understandable as possible, especially to newer and immature believers. Please send any comments or suggestions to enhance accuracy or clarity to info@disciplers.org.

I want to thank my wife, Toni, and our ministry co-workers, Frank and Jeannette Meitz, who have provided insights and recommendations to improve this ministry, promote personal discipleship, and help believers toward spiritual maturity, spiritual fruitfulness, and spiritual reproduction. - Art Barkley

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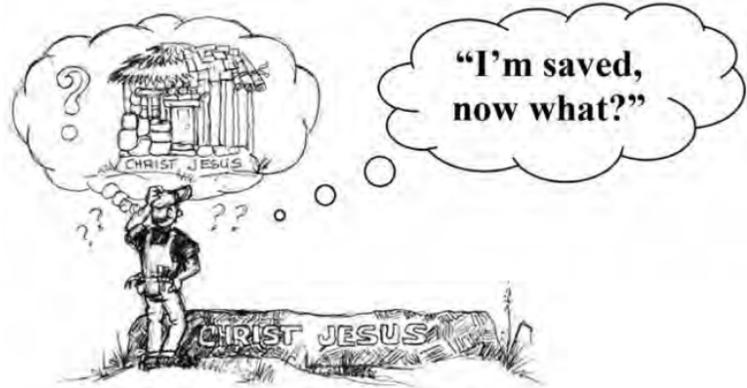
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Introduction

After a person accepts the gift of salvation, they typically are hungry and open to understanding how to live the abundant Christian life, **but often don't know how or where to begin.**

They may listen to sermons and podcasts, are told to read their Bible but struggle to understand it, and tend to model their behavior after other believers, often leading to wrong conclusions. So they end up wandering in a "spiritual desert" rather than living the abundant life God has promised.

Just as a newborn baby needs immediate and intentional care, we have found that "baby Christians" will flourish with intentional individual attention.



A Tool for Personal Discipleship

(available in .pdf and electronic App format) is intended to help believers discover the answers to the "now what?" question by stimulating conversations between a mentee and their spiritual mentor that encourage spiritual growth and walking in dependence on the Lord under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The workbook lessons are not designed to be given to the mentee with the expectation that they will understand them on their own without personal mentoring. This is not academic material to be studied just to acquire knowledge. Although having Biblical knowledge is important, the goal is for the believer **to KNOW God** and have an intimate relationship with Him – **not just know ABOUT Him.**

Three Phases In The Tool (*curriculum*)

Phase 1—Understanding the Christian Life

- Foundational concepts and principles to be used in the mentoring process, focusing on inward transformation and the heart attitude rather than behavior manipulation.

Phase 2—Mentor Training

- Guidelines for those who want to disciple/mentor other believers

Phase 3—Amplified Discipleship Concepts

- Lessons to deepen understanding of Phase 1 concepts

***A Tool for Personal Discipleship* has proven effective in spiritual formation and is focused on:**

- Cultivating a relationship with the Lord (heart attitude) rather than behavior manipulation
- Learning to trust in God's character
- Understanding how to relate to the personhood of the Holy Spirit
- Allowing God to transform their thinking, resulting in behavior that is pleasing to Him
- Making a decision to recognize and surrender to Him as their Lord, not just as their Savior
- Continual abiding in harmony with and dependence on the Holy Spirit

For long-time believers the DTI process will help identify gaps in spiritual understanding and address spiritual needs in order to strengthen their relationship with the Holy Spirit.

A Tool for Personal Discipleship can be used:

- In a one-on-one mentoring relationship (or one-on-two)
- In group study
- For personal study and growth
- In training faithful believers to mentor others, which will help identify gaps in spiritual understanding and accelerate their growth

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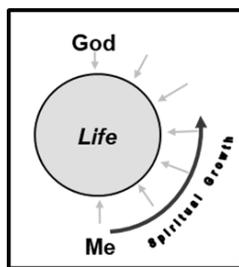
Discipler Training International Free Resources

RESOURCES to train and equip faithful men and women (laity, not just leaders) as Spiritual Mentors and to implement a discipleship culture in your church.

- “Redefining Discipleship”
 - Discussion on possible reasons why the Church is not having a greater impact, along with potential solutions
 - Visit our website or scan this code with your phone for this document*
- Mentor video training tools
 - Listen to the author teach on each lesson from a live class
 - Video of “Equipping The Saints” live training sessions
 - Additional video snippets / teachings are imbedded in each lesson in the App
- “Facilitation Training Guide”
 - Useful tips for mentoring and for Small Group leaders
- Implementation Guidelines
 - Ideas and tips to effectively establish a disciple making culture in your church
 - Sample forms and agendas for follow-up
- YouVersion Bible App devotionals (*Search for "DTI" in Plans*)
- DTI will consider requests to conduct live remote training or onsite training for pastors and leaders, with a commitment and plan to implement discipleship utilizing DTI.



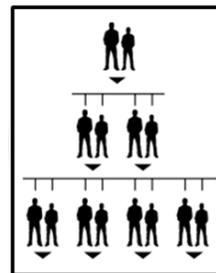
The Purpose and Goal:



Spiritual Maturity



Spiritual Fruitfulness



Spiritual Reproduction

- **Colossians 1:28-29**(Paul wrote) *We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. I labor for this, striving with His strength that works powerfully in me.*
- **John 15:8** (Jesus said) *My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples.*
- **2 Timothy 2:2** (Paul wrote) *You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.*

A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT THE MATERIALS:

- This workbook, by design, doesn't use much **jargon** or "**Christianese**." People who have been around church a long time can often repeat the words without understanding their meaning, and persons with no church background may have no idea what is being discussed!
- The material intentionally does **not get into doctrinal issues** that might divide or cause distractions from the purpose of helping them learn to listen and depend on the Holy Spirit. (The Pastors can clarify doctrinal specifics.)
- **In addition to text**, lessons also contain **diagrams**, since many people learn visually.
 - The lesson point explains the diagram, one element at a time, which should make it clear.
 - When using the App, you may find it **helpful to print an entire larger diagram ahead of time** (for clarification) so you can look at the bigger picture together while you read through each element.
 - If you want more explanation on any diagram, contact us (info@disciplers.org) or watch the training videos in the Mentor Training section on the DTI website, or listen to the explanation video snippets in the App.
- **Scripture** quoted is from the Holman Christian Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.
 - The Bible verses are displayed **to facilitate the conversation** and help to keep you on track.
 - While **Scripture verses are sometimes truncated** to keep the focus on a particular concept being discussed, this is NOT intended to serve as "proof text", or just to prove a point by presenting partial Scripture. When it is appropriate, we encourage you to read the verses in context to the complete passage.

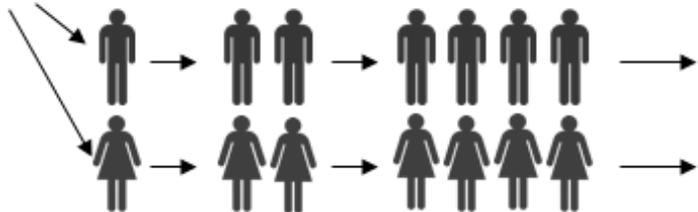
Suggested Timeline for Mentoring

(Preferably one-on-one, but can be in a Corporate Setting with Mentoring Role-Play)

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Purpose:	Understanding the Christian Life To focus on the mentee's personal relationship with God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping them to become dependent on the Holy Spirit 	Mentor Training Mentor training with the focus on mentoring others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role play (in class) 	Amplified Discipleship Concepts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review previous concepts • Expand understanding • Share mentoring experiences
* Length	6-9 months ±	1-2 months ±	6 months or more


 Be available to the Holy Spirit's leading to mentor others → →

* Note: Time frames are estimated, not critical, and are calculated on meeting 1 - 1 ½ hour each week.



Important: Preference should be given to using these lessons on a one-to-one basis, although they can also be used effectively in a class setting. However, add role-play for mentoring others so they can envision themselves doing it.

These lessons are not designed to be simply read through like a newspaper, but rather to be personalized by the discipler, and to serve as a means to stimulate dialog and address spiritual issues and concepts that need to be internalized in order for each Christian to become an effective and useful tool in His hands to come alongside others. For most Christians the lessons will be most beneficial through discussion and explanation.

A Note from the Author

We believe there are some foundational **principles** that all believers, especially newer believers, need to understand and internalize. Often Biblical “knowledge” is presented to new Christians rather than **personalized** instruction of Biblical “principles” to **apply** in their lives to help them mature more rapidly.

New believers need to be quickly introduced to a life of walking in **dependence on the Lord**. (*A manual for a car or computer may have the exact specifications and a great description, but to learn to drive a vehicle properly or operate a computer, most people would greatly benefit from individual mentoring.*)

We believe God is pleased by the attitude of a disciple (an apprentice learner), who is concerned about allowing God to use them and minimally interested in defending their personal viewpoints. All our beliefs should be open for Him to alter. Please prayerfully consider the validity of the concepts presented here, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Our passion to help believers grow to spiritual maturity, spiritual fruitfulness, and spiritual reproduction in Christ is knit together with our desire to be true to Scripture. We believe that God has provided provision for every believer to grow from infancy to maturity in Christ so as to become **a spiritual reproducer** (disciple-maker).

We believe that one of the main reasons there is a lack of spiritual vitality in the Christian community is the failure to clearly explain essential Biblical concepts and goals to new converts **initially** so they learn them early in their walk. If such principles are presented early on, new believers will be saved from much unneeded frustration as they seek to understand God’s purpose for their lives.

For most converts the **first few months** are critical. New believers will tend to **adopt** the outlook and value system of those they associate with during the formative part of their Christian walk. This is the time to take advantage of the initial **hunger to learn and grow** that characterizes the normal new believer.

Too often new believers are simply placed in the mainstream (Sunday) services and small groups and expected to somehow **assimilate** Biblical understanding. It is therefore not a surprise to see that many new believers come to the conclusion that Sunday services are the most important spiritual experience of the week, rather than developing a spiritual walk with God that is a 24/7 experience.

Caution: Please do not give these lessons to someone without adequate explanation. We usually tend to assume that others understand more than they actually do. If the disciple grasps and applies the concepts presented in this workbook, the energy and hours you have invested in them will be well worth it.

- Art Barkley