

THE
DISCIPLESHIP
PLACE

Discovering and Developing
Christlike Disciple Makers



SESSION 1

Introduction to Being
and Making Disciples

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Being and Making Disciples

SESSION OVERVIEW

BEING A CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLE

KNOWING GOD'S WORD IS ESSENTIAL TO CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLESHIP

COMMUNICATING WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF DISCIPLESHIP

INTENTIONALLY INFLUENCING NON-CHRISTIANS TO KNOW JESUS

DISCIPLING OTHER CHRISTIANS TOWARD MATURITY

DISCIPLING/MENTORING MATURING CHRISTIANS TO DISCIPLE OTHERS TOWARD MATURITY

HOW CAN WE MULTIPLY THE MAKERS OF DISCIPLE MAKERS?

APPLICATION

REVIEW QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR MENTOR AND PARTICIPANT

LEARNER OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, you should:

- Understand the importance of being a Christlike disciple
- Understand what it means to disciple others toward maturity in Christ
- Explore the need to multiply disciple makers

Introduction to Being and Making Disciples

INTRODUCTION

The [Church of the Nazarene](#) is committed to “making Christlike disciples in the nations.” Nazarenes perceive “Christian discipleship is a way of life. It is the process of learning how God would have us live in the world. As we learn to live in obedience to the Word of God, in submission to the disciplines of the faith, and in accountability to one another, we begin to understand the true joy of the disciplined life and the Christian meaning of freedom. Discipleship is not merely human effort, submitting to rules and regulations. It is the means through which the Holy Spirit gradually brings us to maturity in Christ. It is through discipleship that we become people of Christian character. The ultimate goal of discipleship is to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Nazarene Discipleship International ([NDI](#)) endeavors to carry out the Great Commission to children, youth, and adults in preparation for a lifetime of being and making Christlike disciples in the nations. Hal Perkin’s book [Walk with Me](#) addresses our need to both be and make disciples. Successful completion of this course necessitates application of Perkin’s book as we endeavor to be co-workers with Christ in building His church. Every Christian should be able to answer two basic questions: “Who is discipling you? Who are you discipling?” This session will help you understand some values and practices that can guide you to a positive response.

Please read the “Preface” of Hal Perkins’ book [Walk with Me](#) in preparation for this session.

WHO IS DISCIPLING YOU? WHO ARE YOU DISCIPLING?

Every Christian should be able to answer these questions: Who is discipling you? Who are you discipling? This course will help you discover the various values and practices that can guide each of us to a positive response. Please read the assigned portions of Hal Perkins’ book [Walk with Me](#) in preparation for each session. Several other resources readings include:

- [The Africa Study Bible \(NLT\)](#)

- David Busic's *Way, Truth & Life Videos*
- [Church of the Nazarene Nazarene.org website](#)
- Church of the Nazarene *Journey of Grace*
- [The Foundry Publishing Bible-based lessons](#)
- The Foundry Publishing's *Reflecting God*
- Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) [Bylaws](#)
- Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) [website](#)
- Nazarene Discipleship International [video resources](#) of the LC2021 workshops - Rev. Hal Perkins' "Multiplying Christlike Disciple Makers" Part 1 and Part 2 videos
- [Nazarene Essentials website](#)
- [One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism website](#)
- Charles Chic Shaver's *The Bible Speaks to Me about My Witness* on the Wesleyan Holiness Digital Library
- Charles Chic Shaver's Basic *Bible Studies for the Spirit-filled and Sanctified Life*
- Charles Chic Shaver's *Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians* [leaflets](#), [ESL booklet](#) and [digital](#)
- Charles Chic Shaver's *Conserve the Converts*
- The Wesleyan Holiness Digital Library (WHDL)

THERE ARE 7 SESSIONS IN THIS COURSE:

Session 1: Introduction to Being and Making Disciples

Session 2: How Are We Being Disciplined?

Session 3: How Do We Disciple Lost Persons until They Repent and Believe in Jesus?

Session 4: How Do We Disciple Believers to Know and Follow Jesus and to Obey All He Taught?

Session 5: How Do We Disciple Maturing Christ-followers to Make Disciples?

Session 6: How Do We Mentor Disciple Makers to Also Make Disciple Makers?

Session 7: Conclusion? No, We Must Keep Repeating This with Others!

SESSION 1: BEING AND MAKING DISCIPLES



NOTES

BEING A CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLE

Our Nazarene Essentials notes are **essential** for each Christian to be engaged in a lifelong journey of being a Christlike disciple. Christlike disciples maintain certain priorities such as:

- Having a deep and sincere passion to follow Jesus;
- Depending completely on the power of Christ for obedience;
- Manifesting a humble spirit of servanthood;
- Developing spiritual gifts for the purpose of edifying the Body of Christ;
- Practicing personal stewardship in all areas of life;
- Being committed to the Body of Christ through mutually accountable relationships;
- Living in daily experience with the Holy Spirit for sanctification and empowerment for ministry;
- Intentionally devoting oneself to Jesus daily through time in God's Word and prayer.

KNOWING GOD'S WORD IS ESSENTIAL TO CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLESHIP

Our Nazarene Discipleship International "Core Principles" (**NDI**) **Bylaws** reminds us that Jesus placed a high priority on teaching His disciples from the Scriptures. His knowledge of the Scriptures combined with His instructions shaped their knowledge of God and the work of the Holy Spirit. As **One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism** points out, "It is God's intention for 'all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth' (1 Timothy 2:4). God wants everyone to know the good news about Jesus Christ, what the New Testament identifies as the gospel. Implicit in Christ's command to 'Go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19) is the necessity of oral tradition in communicating the faith. Nevertheless, in addition to the living transmission of the good news through our verbal witness, we rely on Holy Scripture which is the gospel's proclamation in written form." Learning the Scriptures, through individual and group study helps disciples

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to become more like Christ. When we study the Word of God, which is living and active, we uncover who God is, how God loves, and how we are to love others. In doing this, we allow God to speak to us, mold us, and sanctify us. Being actively engaged in the systematic study and application of the Word of God is a catalyst for spiritual transformation and growth. As we grow and learn, we begin to fully understand and obey God's mission for His disciples to go and reach out to unbelievers with God's love. When we allow the Word of God to transform us, we are modeling to others the importance of learning God's Word.

COMMUNICATING WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF DISCIPLESHIP

Our NDI "Core Principles" (NDI) *Bylaws* also reminds us that prayer was expressly modeled by Jesus, who taught His disciples to pray. In its purest form, prayer is communicating with and responding to God. Jesus' disciples were instructed to teach each following generation of disciples to pray. The Scriptures reveals that intentional and consistent prayer nurtures and develops our relationships with both God and others, enabling us to see and experience God's activities through His prevenient, saving, and sanctifying grace. Prayer is the bedrock upon which all other ministry efforts are built. As we pray, God inspires us to be actively engaged in the world. Through prayer, we participate in the Holy Spirit's transforming power, both for ourselves and for our neighbor. Prayer guides us to spiritual success. By deepening our relationship with God through prayer, we experience the Holy Spirit's guidance and find greater measures of spiritual growth and direction. Through intentional, specific, and consistent prayer, the Body of Christ becomes the eyes, hands, and feet of the Savior.

INTENTIONALLY INFLUENCING NON-CHRISTIANS TO KNOW JESUS

Wherever Christ-followers are, we intentionally influence non-Christians to know Jesus. This might be called evangelism-discipleship. Our NDI "Core Principles" points out that with our actions and our words, we teach what we know and live out who we are (Romans 8:29). We are Christ's witnesses. As Charles "Chic" Shaver points out in *The Bible Speaks to Me about My Witness*, to witness means to simply tell the story of what God has done for us. We desire to make others aware of Jesus, who He is and what He has accomplished, and to let them know that they can also have a relationship with the God who created them. Outreach is a part of every disciple's calling. Every disciple, while faithfully living and loving like Jesus, is to be engaged in nurturing genuine relationships with others. Through a disciple's prayerful and compassionate action, God is reaching out and preparing hearts to receive salvation. When disciples are in relationship


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with non-believers, they are obeying Jesus' command to go into all the world to proclaim the good news to all creation (Mark 16:15). God's compassionate and redemptive love is foundational to discipleship and the appropriate motivation for Christian outreach. Compassionate outreach reveals God's love for humanity. God is continually reaching out to prepare people's hearts to receive salvation. It is a disciple's care for non-believers, both local and global, that places a face and hand to God's grace and love. Therefore, a disciple's authentic and loving relationship with non-believers is essential to communicating the beauty of God's grace and salvation.

DISCIPLING OTHER CHRISTIANS TOWARD MATURITY

Our NDI "Core Principles" (NDI) *Bylaws* points out that mature disciples should be engaged in discipling other Christians toward maturity, intentionally and strategically influencing them to know and follow Jesus through authentic relationships. In the same way that Jesus gathered travelling companions around Himself, we, as His disciples, are called to journey together as members of the Body of Christ. Everyone committed to the Great Commission should be engaged in relationships that honor God and edify the Body of Christ. The core of our faith and life is to love God and love others. Understanding God's unconditional love for us and the practice of unconditional love for each other will result in unity in the Body of Christ. This unconditional love knows no cultural, generational, or structural bounds and is made possible only through the working of the Holy Spirit. When we deeply care for one another, we discover our rich identity in Christ, resulting in our spiritual growth. Such loving relationships help us walk the path of holiness because we are receiving both encouragement and loving correction. These Spirit-enabled relationships are necessary as we support one another in living a fully surrendered and Spirit-filled life.

DISCIPLING/MENTORING MATURING CHRISTIANS TO DISCIPLE OTHERS TOWARD MATURITY

As explained in *One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism*, the Church of the Nazarene "came into existence to preach, teach and model holiness of heart and life as the missional core of its vocation to make Christlike disciples in the nations." Mature disciples should be engaged in discipling/mentoring maturing Christians to disciple others toward maturity. Many faithful Christians are already involved in discipleship ministries, but our NDI "Core Principles" reminds us that intentional mentoring and equipping are significant to spiritual growth. The Gospels reveal that Jesus' methods of discipleship were through personal mentoring and equipping of a chosen group of individuals. It was these methods that helped Christianity grow and transform society. Mentoring and equipping are steps


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in the discipleship process that introduce new believers to Jesus and reveal how to follow Him personally and fully. Mentoring is also a loving way to teach accountability and introduce non-believers to the full knowledge of Christ. All disciples are challenged to grow and become Christlike when every disciple is providing and receiving mentoring. To become all that God has created us to be as Christ's disciples, we need to be willing to grow and to help others grow as Jesus did. Therefore, mentoring and equipping others on the journey of discipleship are essential to Christian growth and maturity.

HOW CAN WE MULTIPLY THE MAKERS OF DISCIPLE MAKERS?

We need more mature disciples to be intentionally engaged in discipling/mentoring other mature disciple makers, who in turn are helping others in making Christlike disciple makers. Hal Perkins' book *Walk with Me* offers a few steps to help foster and develop disciple makers. These include:

- **Select:** Watch and pray for a FAST disciple (Faithful, Available, Submitted, and Teachable).
- **Invite:** Invite a FAST disciple to pray about transitioning from being disciplined to formally making disciples.
- **Model:** When a FAST disciple agrees, say: "You watch me make disciples at our group."
- **Train:** As the FAST disciple progresses, say: "You and I can start a new group, but first you can practice with me in private."
- **Coach:** At an appropriate point in development, say: "Now, you make disciples. I'll help by participating, plus I'll watch you facilitate. Then, later we'll talk, and I'll give feedback."
- **Family:** Again, at an appropriate point in development, say: "Though I will leave your weekly meetings, I do not leave you. I will invite you to a monthly meeting of disciple-makers."
- **Repeat:** You will look for FAST disciples from your group, repeating the above steps.
- **Multiply:** You leave monthly meetings to start your own monthly meeting for your disciple makers.

It is our hope that you are already finding ways to implement the *Journey of Grace* denominational discipleship framework in your area of ministry. We trust that the sessions that follow will further guide your discipleship journey with Jesus and other Christ-followers.

APPLICATION



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1. Read the new Nazarene Discipleship International ([NDI Bylaws](#)). Describe the mission of NDI in your own words.
2. Read the new Nazarene Discipleship International ([NDI Bylaws](#)). Describe how NDI wants to assist local churches.
3. Read the new Nazarene Discipleship International ([NDI Bylaws](#)). Describe how NDI's five core principles are essential to promoting discipleship.
4. Read the preface of Hal Perkins' book *Walk with Me*. What five categories/ components of discipleship does Perkins list? Which two are the most challenging and often left out?
5. Go to the Nazarene Discipleship International [video resources](#) for the LC2021 workshops and watch Rev. Hal Perkins' "Multiplying Christlike Disciplemakers: Part 1" video. Describe what kinds of disciples we are commissioned to make.
6. Go to the [Way, Truth & Life videos](#) and watch the "Introduction" video (11:39 duration) to discipleship as a journey of grace with Jesus. Describe Jesus as the "the Way, the Truth, and the Life".

EXAM



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1. Which of the following are priorities for Christlike disciples?
 - A. Having a deep and sincere passion to follow Jesus
 - B. Depending completely on the power of Christ for obedience
 - C. Manifesting a humble spirit of servanthood
 - D. All of the above (A, B, and C)
 - E. None of the above
2. Which of the following is NOT a priority that Christlike disciples maintain?
 - A. Developing spiritual gifts for the purpose of edifying the Body of Christ;
 - B. Practicing personal stewardship in all areas of life;
 - C. Being uncommitted to the Body of Christ through mutually accountable relationships;
 - D. Living in daily experience with the Holy Spirit for sanctification and empowerment for ministry;
 - E. Intentionally devoting oneself to Jesus daily through time in God's Word and prayer.
3. Our NDI "Core Principles" reminds us that Jesus placed a high priority on teaching His disciples from the Scriptures.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. When we do not allow the Word of God to transform us, we are modeling to others the importance of learning God's Word.
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. Which of the following is NOT true about communicating with God through prayer?
 - A. Prayer is an unessential part of discipleship.
 - B. Intentional and consistent prayer nurtures and develops our relationships with both God and others.
 - C. Prayer is the bedrock upon which all other ministry efforts are built.
 - D. Prayer guides us to spiritual success.
 - E. Through intentional, specific, and consistent prayer, the Body of Christ becomes the eyes, hands, and feet of the Savior.

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6. Which of the following are true about intentionally influencing non-Christians to know Jesus?
 - A. With our actions and our words, we teach what we know and live out who we are.
 - B. We are Christ's witnesses.
 - C. A disciple's authentic and loving relationship with non-believers is essential to communicating the beauty of God's grace and salvation.
 - D. All of the above (A, B, and C)
 - E. None of the above

7. Which of the following is NOT true about discipling Christians toward maturity?
 - A. Mature disciples should be engaged in discipling other Christians toward maturity, intentionally and strategically influencing them to know and follow Jesus through authentic relationships.
 - B. In the same way that Jesus gathered travelling companions around Himself, we, as His disciples, are called to journey together as members of the Body of Christ.
 - C. The core of our faith and life is to love God but hate our enemies.
 - D. When we deeply care for one another, we discover our rich identity in Christ, resulting in our spiritual growth.
 - E. Spirit-enabled relationships are necessary as we support one another in living a fully surrendered and Spirit-filled life.

8. Mature disciples should be engaged in discipling/mentoring maturing Christians to disciple others toward maturity.
 - A. True
 - B. False

9. Intentional mentoring and equipping are insignificant to spiritual growth.
 - A. True
 - B. False

10. When we watch and pray for a FAST disciple, which of the following is NOT what we seek?
 - A. A faithful disciple
 - B. An available disciple
 - C. A disciple who is fully submitted to God
 - D. An undependable disciple
 - E. A teachable disciple

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR MENTOR AND PARTICIPANT



NOTES

Be prepared to discuss the following with your mentor:

1. Review the exam questions and answers. Discuss any issues or questions they raise for you.
2. In what ways do you think pluralism is a positive idea? How can it be helpful?
3. How does the classic Christian faith conflict with pluralism?
4. What did you read in the session that was most helpful to you in understanding pluralism?