

WEEK THREE, DISCIPLE MAKING

Introduction and Chapter 1, "The Difference that Makes the Difference" *Growing Up*

You Are Entering A War Zone

Last year, about a month into leading a disciple-making group, a leader told me, "I'm being attacked in ways that I've never been attacked before! Why didn't you tell me it was going to be so intense?" To avoid making that mistake again, let me be clear, **"You are engaged in spiritual warfare."** So, a couple of thoughts in that regard:

- Prepare yourself!!! The enemy hates what you are doing! *I know, a lot of exclamation points.* However, it is true. **The enemy never gives up anything or anyone without a fight.** If you don't stay prayed up, if you don't stay close to Jesus, you will not be the disciple nor the disciple maker God wants you to be AND the enemy will "eat your lunch." I know we don't study spiritual warfare until many months down the road, but I'd encourage you to read over Ephesians 6:10-20 and be aware of the spiritual warfare going on around you. **Stay on your knees (stayed prayed up) and on your toes (be alert).**
- Perhaps no spiritual discipline in spiritual warfare is more necessary than prayer. Jesus prayed for His disciples! He prayed for them before He chose them (Luke 6:12-13). He lived a life of prayer before them. At the end of His earthly life, we see Him praying for them (John 17).
 - **Making disciples is a supernatural ministry. The people you are leading to become disciple makers will not become that because you are sincere, smart, friendly, organized, or mean well.**
 - **Your ministry of disciple making will rise no further than your prayer life for those you are seeking to disciple.**
 - Talk to them, get to know them, ask them how to pray for them, AND THEN pray for them. Pray the word of God for them. One of my favorite passages of Scripture to pray for those I am discipling is found in the book of Colossians. It is a prayer of the Apostle Paul,

*For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have **not ceased to pray for you** and to ask that you may **be filled with the knowledge of His will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, to please Him in all respects, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the **knowledge of God**; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience (Colossians 1:9-11).*

Highlights From *Growing Up*

I won't seek to give you a "lesson plan" for *Growing Up*. As you and the people in your group read and discuss it, you will all glean a wealth of insights. However, I will provide some thoughts to aid your discussion.

- **Robby pointed out the need for discipleship through a survey by David Olson. (Pages 8-9). Share your thoughts on the meaning of those numbers.**
- **Discuss the importance of Robby's statement on a proper perspective on the purpose of a discipleship group, "The goal of every D-group is for the mentee, the one being disciplined, to become a mentor; to multiply-make other disciples. In essence, the D-group is designed for the player to become a coach. Leaders must communicate this purpose at the outset of the group. If it is not discussed early on, members in the group will adopt a consumer mentality; with a short-sighted, self-serving focus. The heart of discipleship, as Christ modeled and instituted it, is that you are not learning only for yourself. You are learning for the person whom you will mentor in following Him" (Pages 13-14).**

Some of you are leading a disciple-making group for the first time. The following is what we have discovered is effective as you plan your weekly meeting.

Your Weekly Meeting Schedule

- First, take a few minutes to **catch up** with one another and ask how can you **pray for one another**. (Remember, week one was an introduction time.) You have to be balanced here. Without meaningful and genuine fellowship, the weekly meeting becomes cold and dead. However, you can easily spend thirty minutes “catching up” with one another each week. *Ladies, I am writing this from a male perspective—I’m clueless on telling you how to relate with one another. God will give you wisdom.*
- **As the leader, take notice** of what people are sharing. Take appropriate notes. Doing so will communicate interest AND it will help you remember how to pray and what to ask them about both outside of the group time and when you come together next week.
- **Pray**. Sometimes I’ll pray. Sometimes I’ll ask someone else to pray. Sometimes, we will all pray. *If you aren’t sure if everyone is comfortable praying out loud, I’d say something like, “I don’t know if everyone is comfortable praying out loud, but I’m going to assume that you are. You’ve signed up for a year-long disciple making emphasis. Over a year’s period of time, we’re going to get to know one another very well. God’s not impressed with any of us, but He loves us all. Let’s just talk with Him.” (I wouldn’t do that in a Life Group or some other settings, but they have volunteered for a year long intensive process, so I’d lovingly, but boldly press on). If someone is not comfortable, talk about it privately afterwards. Don’t push, but encourage them to pray with everyone else.*
- **Quote your verses**. I try to do this early because usually everyone has worked hard on them and wants to say them while they are fresh on their minds. If someone wants to quote another version than the NASB, I have no problem with that. Ask them for their card (they’ll have to make that

themselves—blank business cards at an office supply place are cheap) to help them be accountable. *Personally, I am not a “stickler” for perfection in Scripture memory. However, neither am I comfortable with someone getting 50% of the verse each week. You setting the example of mastering the verse each week will go a long way towards communicating the value of intently hiding the Word of God in our hearts.*

- **Share what God is teaching you from His Word.** As I said last week, **“We have one textbook, The Bible.”** We have some other great books that we study, but only One Book that is our guide. Getting everyone on one plan, such as (but not limited to) The One Year Bible is the best way to get everyone on “the same page” as to what they are reading and studying. Each week, encourage group members to share what God said to them. Until they become disciplined themselves you need to set the pattern of sharing specifically about what God impressed to you that week. The best way (and something Robby Gallaty emphasizes) is to journal what God says to you. You want them to move past mere reading and saying something of a surface or cursory level. *Personally, I am more focused with someone hearing from God and writing down what He said to them that day than I am them reading the entire reading of that day just to get it read. **It’s more about feeding on the Word of God than simply reading the Word of God.***