

Paradigm Discipleship

CC @ UNM Foundational Resource Series

Disciple Making Philosophy

Begin and end with the Gospel

- Use the lesson plans we have developed to lead your disciple through a discovery of the true Gospel.
- Diligently and continuously remind them that their faith and hope is in Christ alone.
- Your investment needs to be from an overflow of your own relationship with Jesus. Your motivation and direction needs to be a true love of Jesus and His Word.

Prayerfully look for a major paradigm shift in your disciple

- Your goal is to see your disciple live in the reality that their identity is in Jesus. Jesus is not a part of *their* life; they have died and *their* life is now hidden in Christ.
- Your disciple should begin to love Jesus more than they love anything else. They should begin to hate their sin instead of hide it.

Be urgent with regards to their spiritual growth

- Take your responsibility seriously; pray about the “next step” in their development; **do not wing it**, rather think and pray about where to go next.
- Do not allow your discipling relationship to degrade into complaining sessions or aimless stories about life in general.
- Pray for your disciple! Challenge them with truth and trust in God to do the work. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “Spiritual love speaks more to God about a brother than to a brother about God.”

Trust the LORD and His Word

- Trust that as you pray, the Holy Spirit will guide you. God will give you insight and discernment as you trust in Him to invest in your disciple.
- Your goal is to see Jesus, not you, developed in your disciple. Be sure to trust in His words more than yours. God has given you His Word, the Bible, so use scripture as your content. Avoid turning to philosophy or amateur psychology, but let the Spirit in you speak truth from God’s word to your disciples.
- Consistently exhort your disciple to spend time with Jesus through prayer and Bible study. You want your disciple to depend upon Jesus for hope and truth, not you. Do not answer **all** their questions. Do not be the expert **all** the time.

Teach and exhort “in context”

- In each meeting, find out what God is doing in their life. Challenge them to be specific. Don’t let your disciple get away with vague generalities. Turn to passages that your disciple read throughout the week, ask what they learned about God, about themselves and how it applies to their life.
- Look and listen for connections between what you planned to cover and what God is teaching them. Always bring them around to the Way, the Truth, THE Life!
- Expect fruit in your disciple’s life, be quick to reveal it to them, and glorify God together. An effective way to see fruit is to ask them to develop a lesson covering what God is teaching them. Have them teach it to you – it will benefit them by challenging them to systematically think about where God is working.