

Practice for Jesus' Discipleship Branch Plan

Introduction:

Jesus' Discipleship Branch Plan for Nurturers, presented in John chapter 15:1-17, provides a sound biblical basis for lighting the fires of a disciple making movement by youth nurturing the 4/14ers so that they become God's agents of mission.

Jesus' discipleship model illustrates shared Christian praxis which results from the interaction with the biblical text through the lens of personal experience with a view to application in the life of the disciple. Faith is more caught than taught so hearing and engaging in the Word with an affinity group provides the basis for growing faith to serve in God's Kingdom purposes as His agent of mission. We learn best through relationships.

Spiritual formation that leads to becoming agents of mission builds Christian identity, community, integrity, and diversity centered on the person of Jesus Christ. A.B. Bruce demonstrates how disciples became the apostles for the church as they walked with the Master. The first 13 sessions in this Branch Plan are all about lessons from the life of Christ for new disciples, taken from the "The Training of the Twelve," by A.B. Bruce.

Those who abide in the True Vine experience the deep settled assurance of an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ that ignites the heart to bear fruit as His agent of mission. Small group sessions 1 to 13 are designed to take three months taking one session per week, preferable at the same time and the same place with the same thirteen people. Once you have completed the thirteen weeks it's time for you to go and identify, select and recruit 12 people to associate, mutually encourage and challenge using this same material.

Nota Bene/Note Well:

This document is for the branch/small-group facilitator only. The branch/small group members have a different sheet which includes only the session number and the Scriptural text, text to memorize and spaces for filling in the conclusions of the group.

The columns below are from left to right as follows: session number, date to meet as a small-group, text to memorize, text to study, one word summary, brief highlights.

Luis Bush

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Facilitators Planning Sheet for the Three Month Discipleship Group Meeting

Session 1: Date to Meet: John 1:29–51 Beginnings: Beginnings of all things that have grown to greatness... sources of the River of Life, the earliest blossoms of Christian faith, the humble origin of the mighty empire of the Lord Jesus Christ

Session 2: Date to Meet: Luke 5:1-11 Fishers of Men: The twelve arrived at their final intimate relation to Jesus only by degrees. In the first stage they were simply believers in Him as the Christ. In the second stage, fellowship with Christ assumed the form of an uninterrupted attendance on His person, involving abandonment of secular occupations to some degree. The last and highest stage of discipleship when they were chosen by their Master from the mass of His followers, and formed into a select band, to be trained for the great work of the apostleship.

Session 3: Date to Meet: Luke 5:27-32 Calling

Session 4: Date to Meet: Mat 13:11-17 Hearing and Seeing

Session 5: Date to Meet: Mat 6:5-13 Lessons in Prayer

Session 6: Date to Meet: John 13:1-17 Lessons in Humility

Session 7: Date to Meet: Luke 9:1-11 The Mission

Session 8: Date to Meet: John 15:1-10 Abiding in Christ

Session 9: Date to Meet: John 6:1-15 The Miracle

Session 10: Date to Meet: John 6:16-21 The Storm

Session 11: Date to Meet: John 6:32-58 The Bread of Life

Session 12: Date to Meet: John 6:66-71 The Sifting

Session 13: Date to Meet: Mat 16:13-20 Peter's Confession

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Branch Plan Weekly Small Group Meeting Time Allocation

7:00 Begin with each of 12 people saying memorized text (5 minutes)

7:10 The person assigned on the sheet relates how he/she lived out the central idea of the text on which we reflected last week (5 minutes)

7:15 Prayer by person assigned on the sheet for the person who shared (5 minutes)

7:20 Teaching assigned passage of Scripture by person assigned on the sheet using 7 questions as follows: what?, who?, when?, where?, why?, how?, so what? In this process the facilitator invites members of the group to answer questions involving as many people as possible. (15 minutes)

7:25 The group facilitator for this date facilitates the reflection process out of which arises the central idea of the text which is to be summarized and then written down in 1, 2 or 3 words. The whole group needs to come to agreement. If there is no consensus then the facilitator for the week makes the final decision. Each person writes down on their sheet of paper in the appropriate box what the central idea that they need to live out the next week is (15 minutes)

7:40 Sharing the testimony by one of the people in the group about their deepening life of faith (5 minutes)

7:45 Prayer of one person for the life of the person who shared (5 minutes)

7:50 Words of encouragement and challenge the group facilitator (5 minutes)

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Session	Date	Memory Text	Person to Share Living Lesson from Previous Week	Teaching Text	Person Teaching	Central Idea/Lesson Learned from Text	Person to Share Testimony of Deeping Faith
1		Jer. 2:14		John 1:29-51			
2		Joshua 1:8		Luke 5:1-11			
3		Psalm 119:105		Luke 5:27-32			
4		Pro 3:5-6		Mat 13:11-17			
5		Acts 4:12		Mat 6:5-13			
6		Micah 6:8		John 13:1-17			
7		Mt 28:19-20		Luke 9:1-11			
8		John 15:5		John 15:1-10			
9		1 Co 6:19-20		John 6:1-15			
10		Isa 9:6		John 6:16-21			
11		Phil 4:19		John 6:32-58			
12		1 Co 10:13		John 6:66-71			
13		2 Ti 3:16-17		Mat 16:13-20			

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