

Discipleship Example

Please journey on with us as we review the full discipleship model. Below is an example of the actual steps of the discipleship process, discussion of the changes that occur and an example of a couple receiving discipleship for marriage conflict that will result in divorce if the relationship does not improve.

Step	Benefit/Change	Example
<p>History/Flesh Diagram</p>	<p>The person realizes the impact of early life experiences on their current relationships.</p> <p>False beliefs are identified along with the resulting impact on their current life and relationships.</p>	<p>Mary's father had little contact with her as she was growing up. Mary believes that she is unloved and doesn't feel God's love in her life. Mary finds it difficult to love others unless they love her the way she wants them to.</p> <p>Joe's father expected him to make his own way in this world. Joe believes that he must be self-sufficient and finds it hard to rely on God.</p>
<p>Renewing The Mind</p>	<p>Romans 12:2: <i>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.</i></p> <p>In this step of the process, real transformation begins. The power of the Holy Spirit begins a real and visible change process that will transform the person, their life, and their relationships.</p> <p>We teach 2 processes: Meditate on truth and replace the old belief with the new belief which is God's Word.</p>	<p>Mary replaces her belief of being unloved with God's truth in 1 John 4:19 that He loved us first and Jer 31:3, God loves her with an everlasting love.</p> <p>Mary begins to love others for who they are and not what she needs from them. She stops demanding that her husband love her. Her definition of love is beginning to change from a needy love to an unconditional love. Mary mood begins to change and she smiles more often.</p> <p>Joe replaces his old belief that he must be self-sufficient with God's truth in Phil 4:13 that he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him.</p>

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<p>Renewing The Mind Con't</p>	<p>Application: While meditating on the truth and replacing the old belief with God's truth during actual life situations, the person begins to take ownership for what they believe, to choose God's way, to focus on God and not their circumstances.</p>	<p>Joe begins to seek God's direction instead of his own. He begins to demand less from other people including his wife, children, and employees at work. He begins to transfer his burdens to the shoulders of God. Joe looks more relaxed and less stressed.</p>
<p>The Character of God</p>	<p>Here the person learns that God is who He says He is and not who they thought He was. They begin to understand the sovereignty of God and His impact on their family, relationships, work, Church, and entire life.</p>	<p>As Mary and Joe study the characteristics of God and meditate on the corresponding Scriptures, they begin to understand that they don't have to figure everything out. They begin to release control of their lives to God, become more trusting of others and seeking God's direction for their lives.</p>
<p>Our Identity In Christ</p>	<p>Here the person begins to understand and experience Christ's work on the cross and the new creation they are as a result. They begin to see that sinning is really a choice we make. Freedom in Christ becomes a reality.</p> <p>They begin to see that they have a choice to walk after the old beliefs and ways (flesh) or walk in the Spirit.</p> <p>Application: They continue to keep God's Word in the forefront of their minds. They begin to choose to walk in the Spirit.</p>	<p>As Mary studies and meditates on the Scriptures that define who she is in Christ she no longer sees herself trapped in a marriage but begins to see she is there because she has chosen to be there.</p> <p>She chooses not to fight back when unreasonable demands are made of her but to simply speak her wishes and desires in love and leave it up to her spouse to choose what he is going to do.</p> <p>She no longer tries to control the relationship. She knows she can't fix him but realizes God can. She doesn't see how God will do it but trusts that God will work it out. She knows that God <i>does</i> have a plan for her life and it is good.</p>

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<p>Our Identity In Christ Con't</p>		<p>Joe begins to realize that his identity is not in his work or his family. He has a new sense of freedom. The old fear of failure and guilt begin to fade away and don't drive his decisions and behaviors anymore.</p> <p>He begins to express his love for his spouse and children and has patience with others in the workplace. He finds time to attend activities with his wife and kids without being asked. He wants to go because he loves them and not out of a sense of guilt. His life is moving from one based on guilt and fear to one based on love.</p>
<p>Surrender</p>	<p>During this stage of the discipleship process, the person begins to experience the sovereignty of God. They choose God's will for their life and not their own plan. Christ becomes not just Savior but Lord over their life.</p> <p>Application: We walk through the meaning of surrender and the person is given the opportunity to fully surrender their life to the Lord. We use surrender pray.</p>	<p>As Mary surrenders her life to God fully, she gives up another level of control and sees that God's plan to fix her husband is to first make some changes in her. She sees that God's thoughts and plans are really different and higher than hers (Isa 55:8).</p> <p>Mary begins to focus on the changes that God is making in her. She no longer sees her husband as the problem and begins to love and respect the position and responsibility that God has given her husband. She begins to pray for his character, his walk with the Lord, and his leadership of their family.</p> <p>Joe has a whole new level of energy – both spiritually and physically. He begins to pray and seek God's direction throughout the entire day.</p>

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<p>Surrender Con't</p>		<p>He continues to let go of trying to control his wife and children and realizes he is not responsible for his family's happiness. He begins to work more appropriate hours and does not feel guilty or fearful. His decisions are based on God's Word and direction for his life.</p>
<p>Abiding In Christ</p>	<p>Our teaching in this phase is based on John 15, Jesus' teaching on the vine and the branches. The individual begins to live the surrendered life depending on God for direction and guidance in all areas of their life.</p> <p>They learn to wait on the Lord for God's timing and answers to their problems. They begin to rest knowing that the God who created them can also sustain them. They move from a self-centered self-sufficient existence to all-sufficiency in Christ.</p>	<p>Mary comes to realize and accept that their problems were allowed as part of their spiritual growth. It's ok that not all their problems are solved because she knows in her heart that God will continue the good work he started in both her and Joe.</p> <p>Mary's countenance has changed. She radiates the peace and joy that now resides in her soul. She sits up straight, very beautiful with her new hair style, able to speak calmly and confidently of how God has given her new purpose. She no longer twitches nervously in her chair.</p> <p>Joe's view of life has changed. He knows in his heart that God is faithful and His promises are true and it gives Him greater strength than he had on his own. Christ carries his burdens now and he has a relaxed look about him.</p> <p>He is confident that God is the provider for him and his family. God is his source of strength and wisdom. His wife and children respect him and come to him for advice. His household has become very loving and peaceful</p>

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<p>Forgiveness</p>	<p>We teach that God's forgiveness is complete for us and as a result we are called to forgive those who have hurt us. It's not an option, it's a command.</p> <p>So we teach that forgiveness is not about feelings but is God's plan for our health and well being. We teach the Biblical principles of forgiveness and the results of unforgiveness.</p> <p>Application: We teach the steps involved in forgiving someone and then give the individual the opportunity to forgive those that God brings to their mind.</p>	<p>As Mary sat before the Lord and forgave her father and husband she felt a new sense of freedom in her soul. The old feelings of anger and guilt associated with her belief that they never loved her enough melted away. She begins to love them both unconditionally even when they don't act loving to her. She is secure in Christ's love for her.</p> <p>As Joe forgives those that the Lord brings to his mind, he has a new sense of freedom. Old stored up anger melts away. Joe knows that he doesn't have to be the best in everything he does to be secure. His destructive level of competitiveness is gone. His security is now in Christ.</p>
<p>Boundaries</p>	<p>We also teach Boundaries using Dtrs Cloud and Townsend's Biblical-based materials. Here the individual learns how to make godly based decisions to have appropriate control of their life.</p>	<p>Joe and Mary arrive on time for their joint discipleship session. They are smiling and laughing and look relaxed. As they sit together holding hands it is apparent they love each other deeply.</p> <p>Joe reports that work is going really well even though he spends less time there. He sure enjoys the children's soccer games and the time that he and Mary now have together. He can't remember the last time they argued.</p> <p>Mary reports that she has never felt so loved by her husband, children, and friends although she knows they haven't changed.</p> <p>Their children really like the changes in them. Joe and Mary have decided to volunteer in the Youth Group at their Church.</p> <p>They both give God the glory for saving their marriage and changing their lives</p>