

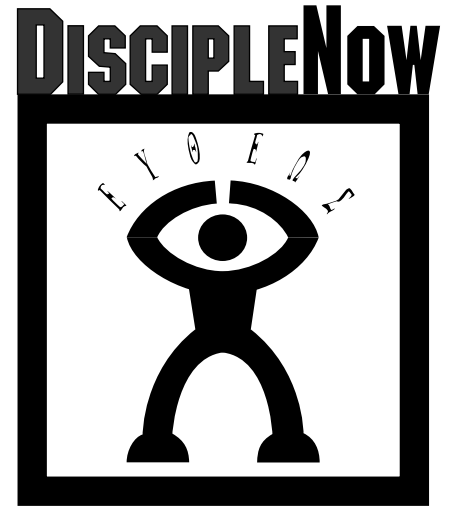
Student Contact Letter (example)

(Date)

Dear Student:

One of the greatest weekends in your life is coming! Our DiscipleNow weekend is (date). You have probably already heard us talk about DiscipleNow around our church. This fantastic weekend is only (xxx) weeks away.

Activities begin on Friday evening with a rally. Then you will join (number) other students at one of our host homes. You will spend the next two days at that home sharing with one another in Bible study, recreation, fellowship, eating, and sleeping. Sunday will be an exciting day as we share in worship, Bible study, and fellowship. The weekend closes with the Sunday evening worship. This weekend is for you and any of your friends that you would like to invite.



Enclosed you will find a registration and release form for your parent or guardian to complete and sign. The steps listed below will guide you through the registration process.

1. Have parent or guardian complete and sign the release form.
2. Registration begins this Sunday.
3. Bring your completed form and registration fee to church with you. (You can't register without these!)
4. Registration deadline is Sunday, (deadline date).

Student Guidelines

1. You will be representing Christ and our church. Your behavior all weekend should reflect this.
2. You are a guest in the home of your host family. Be responsive to requests and suggestions. If you break something in the host home you will be responsible for paying for the damages.
3. You will need to participate in each session of DiscipleNow, including meals and sessions.
4. You will not be allowed to leave the home of your host family unless you have arranged this with the DiscipleNow coordinator in advance and have written parental consent.
5. Do not bring CDs, cassettes, radios, electronic games, or portable TV. There will be way too much to do to need any of that. Alcohol, drugs, fireworks, and weapons are prohibited, of course.
6. You will be assigned a host home. When you register you may include the name of a friend you would like to be placed with.
7. The weekend is moving toward a commitment service on Sunday. Be responsive to God's Spirit.

If you have any questions about the weekend, give me a call (phone number).

Sincerely,

(Signature)

P.S. Please share this letter and these forms with your parents.

- Snacks
- Six pack of soft drinks
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow

What-to-Bring

- Bible
- Notebook
- Pen or pencil
- Recreation and casual clothes
- Sunday clothes

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Towels and washcloth

Parent Information Letter (example)

(Date)

Dear Parent,

(Dates), are really important dates in the youth ministry of (church name). This is the date for our DiscipleNow weekend. DiscipleNow centers around small-group discipleship in a home setting for a weekend. Each group will have 6 to 10 students and will be led by an awesome adult leader. The weekend is composed of Bible study, recreation, and relationship-building activities. Each session builds on the previous session, so it is important for students to attend the entire weekend! Activities begin on Friday evening with a rally at (time). Students will be taken to host homes after the rally. Your students will be ready to go home after Sunday morning worship, but please bring them back Sunday evening for a closing worship service.


The cost is (\$) per person, which includes all expenses for the weekend. Please complete the registration information, sign the releases, and return with registration fee. (Note: Include any cancellation policy and any scholarship information that is appropriate.) We can only accommodate (goal) students this year; so, get your registration in Sunday to make sure you have a place. You can be a vital part of the weekend by:

- (1) Encouraging your teenager(s) to attend.
- (2) Opening your home for 6 to 10 teenagers and a leader for the weekend.
- (3) Providing food items for one meal during the weekend for one of the host homes.
- (4) Praying for the weekend.

Thank you for all you do as a parent! I know you want the best for your teenager, and this weekend will be the best! If you have any questions or if you want to help with any part, please call my office at (phone number)!

Sincerely,

(Signature)



Registrant Confirmation Letter (example)

(Date)

Dear Student:

I am excited you are going to be a part of DiscipleNow. It will be one of the most incredible weekends of your life. This letter is written to let you know as much as possible about what you need to do in order to get the most out of the weekend.

Schedule: Friday night, (date), is our opening DiscipleNow rally. You will need to be at the church (location) by (time). You will find out at the rally who will be your leader and host family and who will be in your group. There will be time set aside for you to get to know your group members, leader, and host family and find out about the schedule for the weekend and ask questions. Remember: DiscipleNow concludes with the evening worship service Sunday night.

- Car permission: If you need to bring a car to your host home during the weekend, please fill out the enclosed card. Your parents and I must sign the card. Give the completed card to your host family. (You can make this a separate handout.)
- Time-away permission: If you have a calendar conflict include it on your information sheet. It will need to be signed by you and your parents. (You can make this a separate handout.)

If for some reason, you are not going to be able to attend the opening rally, please note that on the time-away permission form. Give me a call so we can let you know Friday what group you are in and where they will be. DiscipleNow is going to be one of the greatest weekends of your life. If you have any questions about the weekend, give me a call (phone number).

Sincerely,

(Signature)

Student Registration

Student Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ E-mail address _____

Age _____ Date of birth _____ School name _____ Grade _____

Father's name: _____ Mother's name: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____ Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____

Brothers or sisters:

Name _____ Age _____ Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____ Name _____ Age _____

One person I would like to be with during the weekend is: _____

Medical and Insurance Information

Family Insurance Company _____ Policy # _____

Family Physician _____ Phone _____

Check all that apply and give appropriate information below: None Allergies Asthma Bronchitis Diabetes
 Dizziness Heart Trouble Kidney Trouble Sinusitis Stomach Upset Other (please explain below)

List any prescription drugs the student will be taking during the weekend; state frequency and dosage for each. None

Permission

_____ (student's name) has my permission to attend DiscipleNow weekend.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Car Permission

- Car use is not restricted.
- I understand that I am to use my car to get to and from my host home during DiscipleNow. All other times must be approved by my host family.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Time Away Permission

- Permission to leave is not granted.
- Permission to leave is granted on (date) _____, (time) from _____ to _____

for the following reason: _____.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Leadership Information *(May be used as a Sunday announcement sheet or as a handout during enlistment or orientation.)*

You hold one of the most important positions with regard to DiscipleNow. Without your committed effort, many students may not be touched by this weekend experience. Your attitude about DiscipleNow will be contagious! If it is exciting and positive, almost all those you personally contact will come. Your commitment to the following is necessary:

1. Begin praying for the following:
 - Yourself and your role in DiscipleNow.
 - That student who never misses your class.
 - That student who is an irregular attender.
 - That student who never attends.
 - That student who may not be in your class or department but who you want to be a part of DiscipleNow.
2. Begin talking about DiscipleNow. Mention all the information you can—date, cost, who it's for, and so forth.
3. Begin writing personal notes to each member of your class and to other youth regarding DiscipleNow.
 - Cards (available).
 - After you write the notes, bring them to me and I will mail them from the church.
4. If possible, visit each student in your class. Answer any questions the student may have about the DiscipleNow weekend. By this time, they will have received materials concerning DiscipleNow. Sign them up when you visit them. Take a few key students from your class with you.
5. If you have someone that you would like for me to visit regarding DiscipleNow, please call *(phone number)*. Let me itemize the intensive period in the schedule for each of us.
 - (date)* Student leaders send notes to class members
 - (date)* Visitation "blitz" week
 - (date)* Registration deadline
 - (date)* DiscipleNow begins

Once again, the part you play in DiscipleNow is so important. Without you, it won't be all it could be!



Commitment Form

I believe God wants me to continue growing more Christlike in all areas of my life. Therefore, I commit myself to God in the following ways:

I have made the following decision(s) during this weekend:

- Profession of faith in Christ
- Rededication of my life to Christ
- Commitment to full-time Christian service
- Commitment to a daily quiet time of prayer and Bible reading
- Other _____

I want to continue my discipleship walk with Jesus by being involved in the following types of study (check all that apply):

- A weekly discipleship group.
- Survival Kit class for new Christians
- Short-term discipleship study (specify: _____)
- Other: _____

With God's help I commit myself to these,

(signed) _____

I have some questions about the type of discipleship I need. Please contact me about this.

Student Data Worksheet

- The best thing about me is:

Because:
- The quality I admire most in others is:

Because:
- The possession I value and care for the most is:

Because:
- Ten years from now I hope to be or do:

Because:
- The most difficult thing I have to do in school is:

Because:
- My favorite subjects in school are:

Because:
- Nothing satisfies me more than to spend an evening or weekend:

Because:
- When I have to do this it really gets on my nerves:

Because:
- The activities I do daily include:
 - read my Bible
 - pray
 - witness to lost friends
 - have a personal quiet time
 - memorize Scripture
- Sometimes people really irritate me when they:

Because:
- The one thing my parents would like to change about me:

Because:
- I know for certain that I have eternal life and that I will go to heaven when I die.
 - True False Not certain
- On a scale of 1-10 (with 1 being lousy and 10 being incredible), my life is a _____.
Because:
- The toughest thing about being a teenager is:

Because:
- The one thing that would have made my childhood happier is:

Because:
- I occasionally have doubts about God.
 - True False
 - These doubts are about:

Questions about life that I would most like to have answered this weekend are:

- How can I learn to love and accept myself more?
- How can I lead others to Jesus?
- How should I respond to those who hurt me?
- How can I know for sure I am a Christian?
- How can I make and keep new friends?
- How can I know God's purpose for my life?
- How do I say no to the things and crowd that are wrong for me?
- Other: _____

Private Conversation Record

Begin with the Preliminary Questions and then move to the areas that you feel led by God to explore in depth. Keep some notes to give to the DiscipleNow coordinator. You do not have to cover all of the areas on this sheet.

Name _____

Preliminary Questions

Do you feel that the youth group at our church is a loving group?
 yes no sometimes

Do you feel that you have a close family? yes no Why or why not?

Are you more afraid of disappointing God or friends? _____ Why?

If you could stand in front of God and ask Him one question, what would it be?

Relationship with Christ

Have you come to a point in your life that you know for certain you have eternal life and you will go to heaven when you die?
 yes no not sure

Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" What would you say?

How would you characterize your walk with Christ?
 hot cold warm? Why?

If you could improve in one area of your walk with Christ, what area would it be?

Do you know how to tell someone to accept Jesus Christ as Savior?
 yes no not sure

Spiritual Disciplines

Are you finding difficulty in any of the following areas:
 quiet time
 Scripture memory
 prayer
 Bible study
 witnessing

Parents and Family

How are you getting along with your father? mother? brothers and sisters?

What are some of the conflicts you are experiencing at home?

How do you feel God can help with these conflicts?

How can you be a part of the solution to these conflicts?

School

What are your favorite subjects?

How are your grades overall?

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

Are you involved in sports or other extracurricular activities?
 yes no

Do you have any conflicts with students or teachers at school?
 yes no sometimes

Do you do your best in studying?
 yes no sometimes

If you could change your school, what one area or problem would you change?

Opposite Sex

Do you have a boyfriend/girlfriend?
 yes no

If yes, how is your relationship with your boyfriend/girlfriend?

Have you been able to set some dating standards? If yes, what are some?
 yes no

How do you deal with impure thoughts?

Friends

Who are your three closest friends?

-
-
-

Why are they special to you?

Is there anyone with whom you have a broken relationship? If so, why?

Do you feel you have difficulty developing friendships?
 yes no sometimes

Looking Beyond the Weekend

DiscipleNow fits into your church's overall plan to help students grow in their faith. By planning ahead you can build upon the natural attraction and excitement of a DiscipleNow weekend to begin or improve discipleship in your church. One of the responsibilities of the Follow-up Committee is to assist you after the DiscipleNow weekend is over. As you consider the questions below, anticipate where new leaders will be needed and begin their preparation before the DiscipleNow weekend.

What is discipleship?

- Discipleship is a lifelong journey of obedience to Christ that transforms a person's values and behavior, and results in ministry in one's home, church, and the world.
- Discipleship is bringing the total life under the control of Christ.

Discipleship is not an event, a study, or series of courses. It is a growing, dynamic relationship between a believer and God. The job of adult leaders of student discipleship is to be a catalyst of that relationship. Studies, events, and activities are tools to help with that process.

What happens after DiscipleNow? Consider the following:

- Your youth ministry will probably grow following a DiscipleNow weekend. Anticipate the need for new leaders and additional space. How will you integrate new students into your youth ministry? *The BodyLife Journey, Student Edition* is a great resource for getting new students involved in your church.
- What materials or resources will be needed to continue discipling students? Decide on discipleship courses you will offer for new Christians and students who are ready to dig deeper into their faith. Order resources before the weekend.
- How you will counsel students who accept Christ, make rededications, or make commitments to Christian ministry? Train adults to be ready to offer guidance as soon as decisions are made.
- How will you disciple students who become new Christians during DiscipleNow? *Survival Kit for Youth* is an excellent resource for new Christians.

An Intentional Ministry of Discipling Teenagers

An intentional ministry of discipling teenage students in a local church is a declaration by youth leaders that they intend to be driven by Kingdom principles and shaped by spiritual values. A church without discipleship is not the kind of church Jesus commissioned. A church that discipled students is a church that fulfills its potential as a center for transforming ministry in a devastated and needy world.

Every church can develop an intentional ministry of discipleship for students. A solid discipleship strategy addresses the needs of teenagers including the need to know the foundational teachings (doctrines) of Scripture, the need to have an intimate relationship with God that comes from spending time alone with Him, the need to be on mission with Christ by sharing their faith with unbelievers, the need to use their spiritual gifts to be a part of God's ministry to the world, the need to live pure lives including sexual abstinence until marriage, and the need to grow in wisdom by applying the principles of Scripture to their lives.

The Basic Student Discipleship Plan

The study *Basic Student Discipleship* (ISBN 0-6330-7370-9; leader guide ISBN 0-6330-7635-X) is the beginning of a long-term strategy to help students grow into a deep walk with Christ through the personal investment of a leader, the accountability of peers, and personal study all under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. *Basic Student Discipleship* is an eight-week study that introduces students to essentials for walking with Christ. After students take this basic course (ideally as 7th or 8th graders), they continue to grow by taking additional challenging discipleship courses in each of the eight areas covered in *Basic Student Discipleship*. Some of us call this plan "the student discipleship spider" because of the eight legs. Offer students one course each fall and spring semester, and they will hit all of the legs in four years.

Consider these courses for each of the legs of the spider:

The Cost of Discipleship—*Experiencing God, Youth Edition* (ISBN 0-8054-9925-3; leader guide ISBN 0-8054-9924-5)

Accountable Relationships—*The Relationship Revolution* (ISBN 0-7673-9868-8; leader guide ISBN 0-7673-9872-6)

Setting Priorities—*Setting You Free to Make Right Choices* (ISBN 08054-9828-1; leader guide ISBN 0-8054-9829-X)

Digging into Scripture—*A Student's Guide to Studying the Bible* (ISBN 0-6330-0454-5)

Reaching Up in Prayer—*In God's Presence, Youth Edition* (ISBN 0-7673-0001-7)

Making Eternal Investments—*Jesus on Leadership, Student Edition* (ISBN 0-7673-9487-9; leader guide 0-7673-9488-7)

Following My Guide—*Standing Tall When Tempted* (ISBN 0-6330-0459-6)

Christlike Character—*The Student God Uses: Transformed for His Purpose* (ISBN 0-7673-9368-6)

The Discipling Cycle

Another alternative for on-going and challenging discipleship is The Discipling Cycle. Developed by veteran youth minister Andy Harrison and his wife Kim, this three-year series of discipleship materials builds a strong foundation for teenagers for a lifelong walk with Christ. Each book is 30 weeks long and designed for a school year.

The Discipling Cycle Series: Becoming Christlike (ISBN 0-6330-0460-X; leader guide ISBN 0-6330-0461-8) helps students to develop the character of Christ.

The Discipling Cycle series: Understanding God (ISBN 0-6330-3539-4; leader guide ISBN 0-6330-3538-6) teaches students to develop a lifelong intimacy with God.

The Discipling Cycle Series: Seek, Share, Serve (ISBN 0-6330-2337-X; leader guide ISBN 0-6330-2338-8) focuses on how to be a part of God's mission in the world.

The books are not sequential. Students can begin with any of the three titles. The authors recommend that a church has all students studying the same book each year, then move onto the next one. Students can jump in as the cycle gets to a study they have not yet taken.