



GRADE Large Churches Right Choices Josh McDowell (Decision Making) **Smaller Churches** JOSH MCDOWELL (7-9)Another study choice... **Share Jesus Without Fear** William Fay & Ralph Hodge (4 Sessions) Large Churches The Mind of Christ T. W. Hunt & Claude V. King (Becoming like Jesus) **Smaller Churches** (7-9)Another study choice... Jesus On Leadership Becoming a Servant Leader C. Gene Wilkes (5 Sessions) Large Churches Masterlife Avery T. Willis (Christian Life & Growth) **Smaller Churches** AVERY T. WILLIS, JR. (7-9)Another study choice... Vital Truth LifeWay (24 books, 4 sessions each)

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GRADE



Large Churches **Smaller Churches** (7-9)

Search for Significance

Dawson McAllister & Robert S. McGee (Self Esteem)



Another study choice...

Survival Kit for Youth Ralph W. Neighbor, Jr. (11 Sessions)

Large Churches

Smaller Churches

(7-9)

When God Speaks

Henry & Richard Blackaby (Discerning God's voice)



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The Student God Uses Henry & Tom Blackaby (6 Sessions)

Experiencing God

(Knowing & Doing the Will of God)

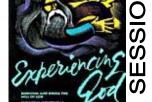


Large Churches

Smaller Churches (7-9)

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A Discipler's Job Description

(for small group discipleship)



In following the Lord's example of initiating a relationship with us through His Son, we are to model His example by being initiators in relationships. This is especially true of the relationship between the Discipler and the students in his or her group.

For example, when you happen to see a student who is in your group, don't wait for him to come and say, "Hi." You be the first one to go up to him. If the student misses a Discipleship meeting, don't wait for her to come to you, go to her. Make sure you are also taking the initiative in doing fun things with the student in your group as well. Look for opportunities to get on their turf. If he plays football, go watch him play in a game. If she likes to go shopping, take her shopping. Go to where they are, instead of waiting for them to come to where you are. Do not think of taking the initiative as a one time effort. Continue to make phone calls. Continue to send encouraging notes. Continue to set up times to meet even if they skip their one-on-ones. (It will happen) Decide now on your role as an initiator for the whole year, regardless of whether or not they *ever* initiate anything with you.

> A farmer cultivates the seed so that it may grow. He takes great care of it, protects it, nourishes it, etc. Through all of his efforts, his vision is not on the seed, but upon what the seed will become. This

is an excellent comparison to keep in mind as you cultivate, care for, and train the disciples in your group. Ask the Lord to give you vision for what each of your students will become. He is so faithful to let you see, if you ask Him. He already sees the finished result: their perfection in Christ. You need to "see" this, too. This will be the very thing that will help you to continue cultivating on the days when you feel like your labor is in vain. The farmer does not see an ear of corn the day after he plants the seed. He continually gives the basics for the life, the growth and the fruit of the seed, day after day, week after week. And finally he reaps the harvest. As a Discipler you will want to continue to give love, discipline, patience, kindness, etc. over and over again. "...for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary." (Galatians 6:9)

People need to be loved. People need to *know* that they are loved. You will be amazed at how your genuine love impacts the students in your group.

Let it be evidenced through your verbals and your

non-verbals. Communicate your love in many creative ways. Let them know how much they mean to you. Often the dynamic of a great big bear hug will be greater than anything else you can do. Give them a picture of what Jesus is like. Allow Him to love your students through you. And do not be afraid to give your heart away.



For all your words of wisdom, remember that humility is the best teacher. Let the students in your group know that you are a disciple, too. (The word disciple means "learner.") Place more emphasis on what God is teaching *you*, rather than on what you

think you need to teach them. They are learning much more from what you do than from what you say. For example, let them know how your Bible Study is speaking to you. Let them see you working on Scripture Memory. Let them see your burden for lost people. Let them see your heart. If you visit a nursing home, take one of your students with you. You ma never be the Bible Study Leader in your church. You may never teach a Sunday School Class. But your youth are watching you, and they are learning form you. There are so many ways that you can teach without ever formally "teaching." Remember, Jesus took the disciples with Him when he ministered to the sick. They watched how He responded to those who opposed Him. They observed His value system. It is interesting that He never organized a Bible Study group. Nor did He teach in a classroom. Instead, He taught from His life, and His disciples learned from Him. The most memorable things your students will learn from you will more than likely happen during a time when you never planned for them to learn from you at all. Do not be afraid to let them observe your life: strengths and weaknesses.



Communication is essential in building relationships. Learn to be the kind of communicator that puts others at ease to communicate with you. Ask good questions. Be a good listener, even if what

they talk about seems trivial to you. Do not make the student, who

probably feels intimidated seated across from an adult, feel uncomfortable or stupid because he could not think of anything to say. Try to think of things that she enjoys and would feel comfortable talking about. Do not expect to get into some great theological discussion when you meet one-on-one with your students. Do not take it personally if a student does not spill his whole life's story by the third time you have met. It takes time to earn the role of confidant. This is why the relationship part is so important in ministering to the students in your group. Don't pressure. And by all means do not give in to the temptation to wrap up your self-esteem in how someone confides in you. Discipling is not about how a student makes you feel about *you*, but rather how you love and serve *them* without expecting anything in return.

The Higher Goal. So far, we have looked at ways that you can be effective with the youth that have been entrusted to you. How can we sum up your responsibility as a Discipler. It is simply this: *Give them a picture of what Jesus is li*ke. If your goal is

to get them to perform by completing a bunch of Bible Studies, memorizing a bunch of scripture, etc., then you will do whatever it takes: manipulate, bribe, etc., to get them to do it. If your goal is get them to like you, then you may find it difficult to hold them accountable for commitments they have made or sin they are holding on to. Neither extreme gives a true picture of what Jesus is like. Jesus gives us a picture of one who requires commitment from His followers, but who shows mercy when they do not live up to their commitments. You must also take into consideration this overall goal (to give them a picture of Jesus), when it comes to things like how you respond, what tone you use when you teach, etc. There is rarely a ministry opportunity (even the very ministry that takes place in your own home!) when you should not ask yourself, "Will I give them a picture of what Jesus is like if I do so-and-so?" Simply be an imitator of Jesus in all that you do, and the Lord will use your life to impact many.