



LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Session VII: Creating the Environment for Discipleship

MC Leadership is about facilitating a healthy discipling environment where a small group of people consistently experience the gospel together and are learning to submit every area of life to the Lordship of Jesus.

Eight Necessary Qualities of a Healthy Discipling Environment:

I. Empowered/Led by the Holy Spirit: (John 14:15-20, 16:7-15, 1 Cor. 2:10-14, Romans 8:5-14, Galatians 5:16-26). Only the Holy Spirit can change hearts and _____ lives. The Holy Spirit is the primary _____ and equipper of people. We can do nothing apart from Him (John 15:5).

-What does it look like to disciple in submission to and in partnership with the Holy Spirit?

II. Gospel-saturated: (Romans 8:28-29; Galatians 2:14; Matthew 15:1-20, 20:20-28; Luke 6:1-11, 8:1-15). The gospel must permeate the discipling environment. It is ultimately the answer to every problem and the motivation to submit every area of life to the Lordship of Jesus. As the gospel seeps into every crack and crevice of our lives, we walk more and more in submission to Jesus, for our good and his glory. The truth of the gospel when connected to experience is much more likely to be remembered and applied.

-Can the people in my Missional Community apply the gospel to their own lives? Each other's lives? Do our casual conversations often go to the gospel?

III. Community Involved: (Matthew 8:23-27, 9:9-13, 9:35-38; Luke 22:14-23, 22:39-46). The role of a Missional Community leader is important as a _____ discipler, but much learning, modeling, and sharpening takes place between _____ in the group, as they serve together and experience life together. Without a high level of accountability, most people are likely to keep significant areas of their lives hidden and in sin. A group of trusted friends is usually the only safe place where sin can be _____ and _____.

-Do the people in your MC see themselves as disciplers, even if they aren't considered leaders?

IV. Missional, Serving Others: (Matthew 8:1-3, 8:14-17, 10:5-8; Luke 9:10-17, 18:35-43) Jesus placed a high value on service and evangelism to those who were not yet his followers, especially to those in great need. Jesus was consistently exposing the disciples to different kinds of people, in different kinds of places, with different kinds of needs. Many of these people were physically, relationally, emotionally, or spiritually needy. He often placed the disciples in situations where they could learn to love and

serve “the least of these” by watching him or by serving alongside him. Character qualities like love, compassion, servanthood, sacrifice, and generosity are more likely to be integrated into a person’s life, as they enter into the lives of others and frequently demonstrate the above qualities in the context of those relationships. Spiritual growth is often more significant when people serve _____ the church family and serve people who are desperately needy. It’s very important for these things to be practiced frequently, so that they become part of a person’s lifestyle, rather than a project that they participate in a few times a year.

-Can compassion, generosity, sacrifice, etc. be “taught into” the life of a believer? How does it happen?

V. Frequent and long-term: (Matthew 4:18-23, 9:35-38; Luke 8:1, 8:22). A discipler must be with his or her disciples _____ and must care for them over the _____.

-Is it possible to truly disciple someone with the 2-4 hours a week that are spent together in most discipling relationships? How much time do you think it should take?

VI. Experiential: (Matthew 9:9-13, 9:18-33; Luke 8:26-56, 17:11-14). People learn much more when they _____ something than when they just _____ something. For this reason, we need to help people experience life lived in line with the gospel (Gal 2:14). We need to live closely with them _____ of church gatherings, engaging in life, relationships, and ministry together.

-How can your MC live and experience more together in a given week or month?

VII. Personally Modeled: (Matthew 8, 9, 14:13-21; Luke 5:12-13, 13:10-17, 14:1-6). Disciples need to see most of what is expected of them lived out in the day-to-day example of their discipler. If a person can not see a model of what they should be doing, it will be difficult for them to do it well or consistently themselves.

-How can you model as much of a Christ-like lifestyle as possible for those you are discipling? (Prayer, Life on Mission, Hospitality, etc.)?

VIII. Multiplication Minded: (Matthew 4:19, 10, 28:19-20; Luke 10:1-3, 10:17-20). Part of being a disciple of Jesus is making disciples of Jesus. This goal of multiplication, with “disciplee” becoming discipler, should be _____ and _____ from the beginning. Though every person is not a gifted leader, every person is spiritually gifted and called to be a discipler as part of some form of gospel-centered community on mission.

-How can you give the vision to those you are discipling to become disciplers in the next 1-3 years?