

Following Up a New Believer

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I. Follow-Up Discipleship: process of bringing a babe in Christ into spiritual maturity.

II. Biblical Basis

A. Teacher/Spiritual Parent

1. Obey our Lord (John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10, 14; 20:21).
2. The Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)
3. Abide in Christ to bring forth much fruit (John 15:5).
4. Appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
5. Teach the Word of God and set a godly example (Deu 6:6-7; 1 Tim 4:12; Phil 4:9; Heb 5:12-13).
6. Teach the "young" Christian how to feed on the Word of God himself (Acts 20:32; Eph 4:22-24; 2 Tim 2:15).
7. Teach faithful men who will teach others (2 Tim 2:2).

B. Student/New Disciple

1. Grow from immaturity to maturity (2 Peter 3:18; 1 Cor 3:1-2).
2. Desire the pure milk of the Word (1 Peter 2:2).
3. Be faithful, available, teachable, and accountable (Luke 16:10; Matt 4:19-20; Prov 2).
4. Be a spiritual child like Timothy (2 Tim 3:10-11; 1 Cor 4:17).

III. Initial Discipleship (1st Base going toward 2nd)

- A. Common mistakes after someone becomes a believer.
 - 1. False assumptions.
 - a. New converts will become involved in a fellowship.
 - b. New converts will naturally grow in Christ.
 - c. New converts know the how-tos of spiritual disciplines.
 - 2. Short discipleship programs.
- B. Discipling is a life-long process, but the first step is follow-up.
- C. Help the new believer get established in Christ (Heb 5:12-13; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Cor 3:1-2)
- D. What makes a good follow-up one-to-one meeting? **WOLEP**
 - 1. Word – Did we open the Bible? Did we share our quiet times? Does he use the five methods (hear, read, study, memorize, meditate) for getting a firm grasp of the Word? (Psalm 119:9-11; Heb 4:12))
 - 2. Observe – Did I touch a felt need? What did I do to meet it? (James 2:15-16)
 - 3. Listen – Did I listen? Ask questions. (Prov 10:19)
 - 4. Encourage – Did we laugh? (Prov 17:22)
Did I affirm?(Heb 3:13)
 - 5. Pray – Did we pray together? (Matt 18:20; James 5:16)
- E. Resources: *Beginning With Christ/Lessons on Assurance; Growing Strong in God's Family* (first book of 2:7 series)
- F. Teacher/Spiritual Parent Responsibility
 - 1. Have an interceding heart. Pray for the new believer. (1 Thes 1:2)
 - 2. Have an initiating heart. Initiate help. (1 Thes 2:2)
 - 3. Have a motherly heart. When appropriate, be gentle. Listen rather try to fix, keep silent rather than speak, and put your arm on the shoulder rather than exhort. (1 Thes 2:7)
 - 4. Have a fatherly heart. At times boldly exhort your new believer to take bold steps. (1 Thes 2:11)
 - 5. Have an open heart. Be vulnerable. Be real. Be transparent. Get together. Open your home. (1 Thes 2:8)
 - 6. Have a blameless heart. Have congruence between your message and your behavior. (1 Thes 2:10)
 - 7. Have an honest heart. Be sincere in your motives and pure in your methods. Ensure your conduct is faultless. (1 Thes 2:3-6)

IV. Intermediate Discipleship (Approaching 2nd base going toward 3rd)

- A. Serve Christ together.
 - 1. Missions.
 - 2. Serving projects.
 - 3. Share gospel together with someone.
- B. Five Pitfalls that are not so much mistakes in *how* we do one-to-one discipling, but our *attitudes* toward it:
 - 1. Problem-solving. Puts the mentor-mentoree relationship into a counselor-counselee mode.
 - 2. Listening only. Suggest opening Bibles to see what God says about his concerns/issues.
 - 3. Repeating the how-tos. Open his mind to new topics that touch a felt need.
 - 4. Graduating prematurely. Advance him in his walk when he is ready.
 - 5. Fruit-inspecting. Have a plan to take your mentoree to the next step; otherwise you could fall into the trap of "performance" checking (quiet times, church attendance, winning souls).

V. Your Plan: Take a few moments and jot down the next steps you need to take.

- A. If you are not currently discipling someone, who would you like to disciple and what initial steps are you going to take to get started with him?
- B. If you are currently discipling someone, what are your next steps with him?

Sources:

- 1. *Down to Earth Discipling: Essential Principles to Guide Your Personal Ministry*, Scott Morton, 2003, NavPress.
- 2. *How to Disciple One-on-One*, Roy Robertson, 1986, The Navigators, Singapore

Stages of Personal Ministry: Topics to Share

Reaching / Evangelism Stage

- Be together socially on their terms...be friends genuinely.
- Read the gospels of John and Mark together.
- Explain your personal spiritual journey.
- Draw out a gospel illustration.
- Meet other believers.
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Establishing / Discipling Stage

- Teach assurance of salvation.
- Share "Beginning with Christ." (Show how to memorize scripture.)
- Teach devotional life and prayer by doing it together.
- Teach the hand illustration (five methods for getting into the Bible).
- Teach meditating on God's Word.
- Have regular Bible study together either one-on-one or in a group.
- Teach the wheel illustration (balanced walk with Christ).
- Teach sexual purity.
- Teach "bridge to life" evangelism tool.
- Share the gospel with friends naturally.
- Teach biblical relationships.
- Teach family responsibilities.
- Teach how to handle money.
- Teach biblical giving (to whom, how much).
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Equipping Stage

- Study Matthew 9:35-38.
- Study process of evangelism.
- Be involved in evangelism or discipling together.
- Teach life-management skills and dealing with stress.
- Teach "Overcoming Bitterness, Regret, and Disappointment."
- Study "Why Am I Committing the Same Old Sins?"
- Study spiritual gifts.
- Show how to do in-depth Bible study.
- Show how to lead small groups.
- Graduate to a "peer" relationship with you.
- Affirm and empower.
- Study "calling."
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