

Leader's Guide

Helping others
follow Jesus

Discipleship

Learn • Live • Love



Introduction

Preface

Although many Christians have grown up in the church, many foundational principles may not have been grounded in their lives. This is therefore the first of three main books that will be used for our **Discipleship 360°** journey in ICC. It is designed as an introduction to some of the key foundational truths and principles in the Christian faith. It is hoped that by going through this book with your family, friends and leaders, you will develop a strong foundation in Christ; and you will be equipped to make disciples.

Discipleship

In many cases, discipleship has been reduced to a church program. However, we must realise that Jesus had a strategy for making disciples, and so should we. We must create a discipleship culture in ICC that becomes part of our lifestyle.

After introducing a new believer to a personal relationship with Jesus, this needs to be followed by teaching, and challenging them to 'Christlikeness'. Thus, the purpose of this book is to equip believers to move from spiritual infancy, to embracing their call and commission to make disciples. We recognize that making disciples takes more than a program or a study— it involves relationships and leadership among other things. Systems enable ordinary people to do great things. **We realize that if we do not create a systematic process, discipleship will only be left to the experts.**

"Jesus said, 'Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

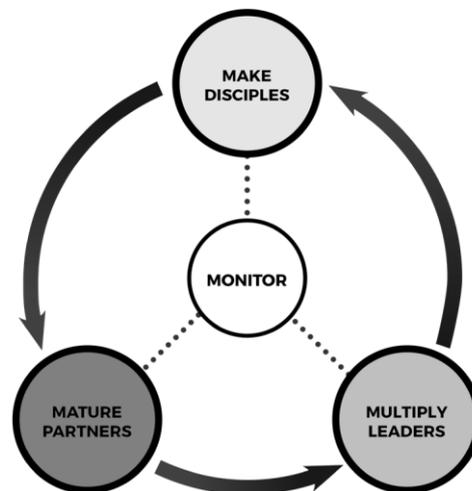
Matthew 28:19-20

Paul explains the process when he says, “Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work & build up the church, the body of Christ.” **Ephesians 4:11-12**

Hence, the goal of discipleship is **to be like Jesus**, and to be **fishers of men**.

The Discipleship 360° Journey

We believe making disciples is the key mission of the church. In the Christian context, a disciple is a learner, a student and in this instance, a follower of Jesus Christ. This book *Make Disciples* launches the first stage of the **Discipleship 360° Journey**:



Make Disciples

As we make disciples we want people to establish the following measures (the 5 'E's), according to **1 John**:

1. **Encounter Christ** – as Saviour & Lord (have a **revelation** & daily relationship with Jesus Christ).
2. **Enforce the new life** – from Sin to Grace (**separation**).
3. **Enjoy God’s word** – journal, pray & obey the Bible (**transformation**).
4. **Engage in the local church** – love & serve people (**activation**).
5. **Evangelise** – the lost children of God in the power of the Holy Spirit (**demonstration**).

To achieve this, we must realise disciples are made in a community of faith (God's household of faith) by teaching, modelling and fellowship through one-on-one discipling, discussions in small connect groups (of 10 to 12 people) and Sunday celebration services. This book is both a self-study resource and a discussion guide. Over eight weeks you will do four self-study readings a week, followed by a fifth summary study in a small connect group discussion with a connect pastor/facilitator.

Mature Partners

We also believe that every believer should be equipped to do the works of the ministry. God has given each of us gifts (**Romans 12**) and an assignment which needs to be activated for His kingdom. The task of the five-fold ministers is to equip the people for ministry.

Partners invest their: Time, Talents, and Treasure. Partners carry the: Vision, Values, and Vocabulary.

- ③ Partners are those who embody the spirit of Epaphroditus (**Phil 2:25**) of whom Paul called his *fellow brother* (family), *co-worker* (working for the gospel) & *fellow soldier* (to fight the spiritual battles).
- ③ Partners are also *vision carriers*, carrying the vision of the house; and *vision carers* who care for the vision by caring for people and the leaders.

Multiply Leaders

We want to develop leaders for the local church, as well as, in the seven mountains of the world (the social sectors in society e.g. entertainment & sports, education, business, science, family, politics and religious world).

We look for the 5C's in a leader:

Character, Competence, Chemistry, Capacity, Commitment

There will also be several electives that are designed to build on what you have learned in each phase. The electives may be supplementary books that focus on certain key topics raised in these main titles.

As you go through the **Discipleship 360°**, we pray that you will experience a transformation by the renewing of your mind as you find your acceptance, value and belonging in Christ alone.

We also pray that the gifts and calling God has placed in you will be activated and demonstrated, as you discover God's purpose and destiny for your life.

In conclusion, we have been called to be the *Church without walls*—who are 'the salt and light of the world', and as such, we must be empowered to influence our family, our community, our city, our nation and the world. Even if you have been a Christian for many years, we encourage you to keep growing to maturity in Christ.

1) What is Discipleship?

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

MATTHEW 4:19

Discipleship. All Christians know it is important, but few know exactly what it means. Even fewer have a clear strategy to make disciples. By looking at Jesus in the Gospels, we can see a clear discipleship strategy and pattern.

When Jesus calls a person to be His disciple, He issues a three-fold call.

1. Discipleship is a call to FOLLOW JESUS.

The starting point of being a disciple is to follow Jesus.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

MATTHEW 4:19

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve – designating them apostles – that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.

Mark 3:13-14

The first twelve disciples were able to physically follow Jesus as He ministered around Galilee. During Paul's time, Jesus was no longer walking the earth in flesh and blood. Paul taught the Corinthian believers to follow Jesus by imitating and following godly people.

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1)

15 Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me. (1 Corinthians 4:15,16)

2. Discipleship is a call to FISH for _____

Jesus expects all who follow Him to reach out to the lost.

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mark 1:17)

Following Jesus does not mean we cut off all contact with non-Christians. Rather, it means we actively seek to introduce them to Jesus. Matthew answered the call to discipleship and immediately had a party at his house to introduce his friends to Jesus.

9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. 10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and “sinners” came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors as ‘sinners’?” 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ [a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Matthew 9:9-13

3. Discipleship is a call to FELLOWSHIP with other believers.

None of the original disciples attempted to follow Jesus alone. Following Jesus meant following along with other disciples. In time, as they walked with Jesus and with each other in close fellowship, their relationship developed into a spiritual family.

Biblical fellowship is more than greeting a few church members in the lobby before or after a worship service. Real fellowship means Christ-centred community.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all[a] sin. (1 Jn 1:7)

26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,” 27 and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. (John 19:26-27)

In summary, the call to discipleship is a call to build relationships with God, God's people, and lost people.

- The call to follow is a call to build relationship with GOD.
- The call to fish is a call to build relationships with God's _____ children.
- The call to fellowship is a call to build relationships with God's _____.

IMPORTANTLY

1. Come & See

2. Come & Follow

3. Come & Die

- ***If any of you wants to be my follower, you MUST turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily and follow me. If any of you try to hang on to your life, you will lose me. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. (Luke 9:23-24)***
- ***Taking up your cross – the cross was an instrument of DEATH.***
- ***'In view of God's mercy, I plead with you to present your bodies as LIVING SACRIFICES, holy and acceptable to God. This is your reasonable act of worship. (Romans 12:1-2)***

2) Discipleship Principles

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

EPHESIANS 4:11-12

Most Christians agree that making disciples should be top priority. Many fail to make disciples because they do not know how to start or what to do. The Ephesians 4:12 Strategy gives a clear starting point and direction to the discipleship process.

What is the Ephesians 4:12 Strategy?

1. A DISCIPLESHIP-based church growth strategy

There are many ways to grow a church. Few are discipleship-based.

While excellent worship, preaching, community service, kids' ministry, and other traditional pillars of church growth are important, the Ephesians 4:12 Strategy sinks or swims on small group discipleship.

2. A CHURCH -based discipleship strategy

Discipleship

Many Christians feel quite content to allow paid clergymen and staff to do all the work. "After all," they may ask, "If I am not a preacher or missionary or something of the kind, how can I be properly engaged in ministry?" The answer lies in their seeing the Great Commission as a lifestyle encompassing the total resources of every child of God. Here the ministry of Christ comes alive in the day-by-day activity of discipling.

Robert Coleman

The Master Plan of Discipleship, 1998

Most of the best discipleship material is produced by para-church ministries. The Ephesians 4:12 Strategy is designed to work in a local church.

Foundational Discipleship Principles

Following are four foundational discipleship principles that are essential for the Ephesians 4:12 Strategy to work. These principles are timeless and apply to all cultures and church sizes.

1. Every church, every ministry, and every discipleship group

can _____.

*6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it **grow**. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things **grow**. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one **purpose**, and each will be rewarded according to his own labour. (1 Corinthians 3:6-8)*

- V.6 plant, water, _____
- V.7 plant, water, _____
- V.8 plant, water, one_____

The one purpose of planting and watering is growth. The Ephesians 4:12 strategy will help every church, every ministry, and every discipleship group consistently grow:

- STRONGER
- LARGER
- More INFLUENTIAL

2. Every disciple should make DISCIPLES

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in [a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

Matthew 28:18-19

- No matter where you WORK.

- No matter what your AGE.
- No matter when you were SAVED.

Too often, we act like only full-time ministers or people who have been Christians for a long time can make disciples. The Apostolic Mandate to make disciples (Matthew 28) was originally given to men who had questioned, doubted, and even denied Jesus. Spiritual progress, not perfection, qualifies a person to make disciples.

3. Every minister should prepare others to MINISTER.

11 It was who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service..." Ephesians 4:11-12

The Protestant Reformation emphasized the priesthood of all believers, restoring the biblical pattern of relating to God. The modern church needs a "Discipleship Reformation" that will emphasize the ministry of all believers, restoring the biblical pattern of ministry.

The job of the "minister" is to prepare others to minister, not to do all the ministry. One goal of the Ephesians 4:12 Strategy is to get ministry out of the hands of the experts and into the hands of every believer.

GOAL OF: EPHESIANS 4:12 STRATEGY
One goal of the Ephesians 4:12 strategy is to get the ministry out of the hands of the experts and into the hands of every believer.

Three Levels of Preparation

- God prepares good works for us in advance.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

- Spiritual leaders prepare us for good works through discipleship.

...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up... (Ephesian 4:12)

- We prepare ourselves for good works by keeping our lives clean.

If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

2 Timothy 2:21

All three levels of preparation are necessary for us to be and do all God has called us to be and do.

4. **Every soul is valuable to GOD**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Value is determined by the price one is willing to pay. God paid the ultimate price to redeem lost souls. Since God places such a high value to lost people, we must learn to see them the way He sees them.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36)

When we see people the way God sees them, we will have compassion on them and we will see that they are:

- HARASSED
- HELPLESS and
- ripe for _____.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What did you learn from this lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

3) Discipleship Priorities

19 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19,20

What are we trying to accomplish in the discipleship process? What are our goals? If we do not understand basic discipleship priorities, the Ephesians 4:12 will become just another lifeless church program. The following five priorities represent what we are trying to accomplish in the discipleship process.

Five Discipleship Priorities

1. FOUNDATIONS

The first goal of discipleship is to establish spiritual foundations in the life of each disciple. The following scriptures teach three important truths about foundations.

- Obedience establishes spiritual foundations.

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. (Matt. 7:24, 25)

- Jesus is the only foundation.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)

- Repentance is foundational.

Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.” (2 Timothy 2:19)

2. FREEDOM

One goal of discipleship is freedom from all destructive habits and sin patterns. Discipleship produces breakthrough when we realize that freedom comes from Jesus.

*17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:17,18)*

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

3. FAITH

Faith was always an issue when Jesus disciplined the twelve. He stretched their faith, commended people with faith, and corrected those with little faith.

...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

1 John 5:4

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:12

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

4. FRUITFULNESS

Since we believe that every disciple should make disciples, one goal of discipleship is fruitfulness. John 15 speaks of five levels of fruitfulness.

- No Fruit

"He cuts off every branch in that bears no fruit..." John 15:2

- Fruit

"...while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes..." John 15:2

- More Fruit

"...while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." John 15:2

- More Fruit

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing... 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:5,8)

- Lasting fruit

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the father will give you whatever you ask in my name. (John 15:16)

5. FAMILY

Jesus expected His disciples not just to follow Him, but to walk with one another. He spoke of them as family.

47 Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." 48 He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" 49 Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

Matthew 12:47-50

Paul used family terms such as father, brother, and mother to describe discipleship relationships.

11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:11,12

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,

Ephesians 2:19

BROTHER → CO-WORKER → FELLOW SOLDIER

Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true BROTHER, CO-WORKER, and FELLOW SOLDIER. And he was your messenger to help me in my need.

Brother (Community)

- we are first and foremost God's family. We should enjoy the fellowship as God's family.
- If we have too much community (family time), without corporation (work) - nothing would get done.

Co-worker (Corporation):

- Jesus said, "I must be about my Father's business". If we didn't do any work, then the Great Commission would not be fulfilled.
- We must work hard to see the fruits of our labour in ministry.
- If we have too much corporation (work) without community (family), then it could lead to no joy or rest.

Soldier (Cause):

- We are in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6). We must understand spiritual authority, accountability and submission. We must pray, move and stand with one purpose and understand the vision God has given us.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What did you learn from the lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

4) The Discipleship Measures/Indicators

2 Tim 2:2 *“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others”.*

Having looked at the priorities, we can now turn to the indicators of discipleship. The priorities are what we hope to accomplish in discipleship. The indicators of discipleship will look at what we want to achieve in each individual through the discipleship culture.

The discipleship indicators in the book of John is built on the five E's:

1. Encounter God: Encounter Jesus Christ (Revelation)

1 John 5:11-12 *‘And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life’.*

Discipleship starts with an encounter with God. Our most important encounter is when we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

But encountering God is more than a once-off experience. We need to encounter Christ on a ongoing daily basis. Because we are all created for an intimate relationship with God, prayer, worship and journaling God’s word is how and where we can encounter and intimately know the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 22:37, 38 says *“Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’* This is the first and greatest commandment.

2. Enforce the New Life – Move from Sin to Grace (Separation)

1 John 3:9 *“Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them. So, they can’t keep on sinning, because they are children of God”.*

This speaks about repentance. Repentance is about a change of direction – turning from sin and turning to God. Disciples begin to turn away from sin to embrace the grace of God.

This involves:

- Daily Confession of sins

1 John 1: 9 says *“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness”.*

- Resist the sources of temptation.

1 John 2:15-16 says *“Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world”.*

- Receive counsel from others e.g. pastoral guidance or life coaching

James 5:16 says *“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results”*.

3. Enjoy and obey the Word of God (Transformation)

1 John 2:5 *“But **those who obey God’s word** truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him”*.

Romans 12:2 *“Don’t copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”*

There are more Bibles in print today than ever before. Most Christians today own a few Bibles, paper-based or electronic. But a Bible on the shelf or simply an app on the phone is useless. To be a healthy disciple of Jesus, feeding on God’s Word must be our priority. Jesus said, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine”.

This involves:

- Acknowledging the authority of the Word of God
- Journalling the Word of God daily.

4. Embrace the local church (Activation)

1 John 2:7, 9-11 *“...love one another...If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. Anyone who loves a fellow believer^[b] is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness”*.

We are not just called to believe, we are called to belong. A Christian without a church is an oxymoron. God made us part of a spiritual family when we believe. That’s why Paul said in

Ephesians 2:19 *“So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family”*.

This involves:

- Attending the corporate worship service regularly
- Join a connect group regularly

5 Evangelism (Demonstration)

Matthew 28:18-19 *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the*

commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

The whole aim to make disciples that make disciples. Evangelism and discipleship are Siamese twins that cannot be separated.

The local church strategy:

In order to help each individual reach these indicators, ICC provides the following strategy and pathways:

Measures/ Indicators	Tools	Activities
Encounter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal prayer (altar) • Corporate prayer (altar) • Water baptism • Holy Spirit Baptism
Enforce the New Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Disciples • Book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect group • Encounter Camp • Life Coaching
Enjoy and obey the word of God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible • 21 Days with Titus • Make Disciples Book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journalling • Make Disciple Classes/connect
Embrace the Local Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature Partner Book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICC Welcome lunch • VIP classes • SHAPE assessment • Volunteering in different ministries
Evangelism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evangelism training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evangelism through connect • Lead discipleship group

5) How to Lead Connect Groups

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying... (MATTHEW 5:1-2)

Jesus made disciples in small groups (connect groups). He also ministered to the individual disciple when the need arose. Connect group discipleship versus one-on-one discipleship is not either-or, but both-and. Jesus did both. Rather than discipling twelve men individually and independently of each other, Jesus built a team spirit into His disciples. When one needed private ministry, Jesus ministered to the man privately, but most of their discipleship was a group project. It is not enough for disciples to relate to Jesus, they must relate to each other. If we want to get past addition to multiplication, then we must minister to the twelve and to the one, to the group and to the individual.

What is a Healthy Connect Discipleship Group?

Just as a human body consists of small cells, the church body is made of life groups. Everyone agrees about the nature of a biological cell, but there are many different ideas about church cells or discipleship groups. To understand the Discipleship 360 strategy, we must understand what a discipleship group is and what it is not.

A Connect Group is **NOT** a...

- Needs-focused care group where each person comes to talk about problems and receive personal pastoral care.
- Leader-centred Bible study where each person comes to listen and learn from a Bible expert.
- Fellowship-based social time where each person comes to meet Christian friends.
- Spiritual gift experiment group where people can try out spiritual gifts on each other.
- Accountability group where everyone goes through a spiritual checklist.
- Home group where food is served and whole families gather for fellowship.
- Mini-church service complete with worship, offerings, and preaching.

People in a healthy life group may meet needs, study the Bible, and fellowship with each other, but the ***primary purpose is to make disciples.***

- The Ephesians 4:12 Strategy utilizes two types of Connect groups:

A. OPEN OUTREACH CONNECT Groups

We need to reach out to every sector of the society.

Our outreaches are focused on three main sectors of the society:

- The **CAMPUS** is the ground where the nation’s future leaders are studying.
- The **COMMUNITY** is where the family, the basic unit of society is located.
- The **CORPORATE** is where the marketplace people are found.

B. CLOSED DISCIPLESHIP CONNECT groups

A connect group is a combination of non-believers, new believers and mature believers. The goal is to MAKE DISCIPLES, equip and empower them to do the great commission.

- The CONNECT groups in the D360 Strategy exists for one reason: To MAKE DISCIPLES

	Outreach Connect (What we've been doing for years)	Connect Discipleship Group (Discipleship 360 Campaign)	Connect Pastors Network Group
Who	Open to all	Closed	Connect Pastors only Led by a Network Coach
Size Limit	None	10 (including the leader & assistant)	3-7 including the Coach
Time Limit	90 mins	60 mins	120 mins
Purpose	Grow the group	Make Disciples	Mature & Multiply Leaders
Gender	Open	Open - some can be men-to men, women-to-women	Ideally men-to-men, women-to-women
Where	Anywhere	Anywhere	Anywhere
When	Anytime	Weekly	Monthly (preferably over a meal)
Process	Evangelise & Connect to Church	Make Disciples - Learn-Live-Love	Equip & Empower

HOW to LEAD A Connect DISCIPLESHIP Group Meeting (60 Minutes)

Leading a Connect Discipleship group well requires preparation for the connect group meeting. Here are some tips:

Before the connect meeting:

- Be at least 1 week ahead in your readings – MAKE DISCIPLES book.
- Come prepared with your notes (see below) so you don't have to read word for word from the SUMMARY chapter in the book
- Remind the group to do their daily readings (days 1 to 4) and to come ready for the discussion. Remind them about the schedule/ venue for the weekend meeting in the middle of the week (e.g. if you have a Friday night connect meeting – send out the reminder by Wednesday).
- Pray for those who will attend and ask God to use you to minister to them and for them to grow in their relationship with God.

During the connect meeting:

- *Your notes can be organised into these segments:*

1. WELCOME - (5 to 10 minutes) -

- find out how people are doing, any answered prayers/ testimonies, introduce the new study (link to last week's study)

2. REINFORCE LEARN, LIVE, LOVE - (3-5 minutes)

- Ask: 'How do we put these 3 areas of Learn, Live, Love into practice?'
- *Get responses from 2 people.*
- Script: "We are all excited at the process and for us as a church to a discipleship process that is systematic, that focuses on growing us to become like Christ."

3. REITERATE the Agreement & Commitment -

- reiterate this at every meeting (especially the first 1 to 4 weeks).
- Script: "I trust that all of you looked at the agreement and personal commitment? How did you find it?"

4. QUICK REVIEW

- Script: "I hope all of you looked at Days 1 to 4 in the Make Disciples book. How did you find it? What stood out for you?"
- *Get responses from 2- 3 people.*

5. Summary of the week & discussion

- Script: Let's turn to page 18-21 for our summary of the week.
 1. How did this change your perspective of God? Did you believe in the existence of God? What convinced you about the existence of God?
 2. How would you explain the 'trinity' in your own words? What analogies would you use to describe the trinity to someone new?
 3. What attributes of God stood out for you? Which attribute do you find hard to relate with?

USING SUMMARY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Each summary has several main points followed discussion questions. These questions are designed to be asked in the group discussion time and also to help the leader to prepare the lesson and to think of ways to communicate the point.

6. Now that we've learned about all these truths:

- How can we best live this out?
- How do we demonstrate this to people around us? In our workplace, school, home?

After the connect meeting:

- Follow up on people who had questions or any concerns during the meeting
- ASAP - Update your G-net pastor of any relevant feedback about how the D360 culture is going
- Continue to **whatsapp** or message people during the week to find out how they are going with the daily studies

How to Lead an Open Outreach Connect group

The outreach is the starting point of the discipleship process, which is designed to introduce people to Jesus and help them grow in their faith. In leading an outreach, we can use the Connect group material (e.g. discussion of Sunday sermons). An outreach group has four parts:

1. **WELCOME (WARM-UP/ ICEBREAKER) & WORSHIP** (10-20minutes)

Each outreach can begin with a warm-up question/ ice-breaker or praise reports. The warm-up is designed to give everyone a chance to speak and to get to know each other. Each lesson in the group material includes two or three

warm-up questions. Use only one warm-up question, designate who will answer first, and encourage everyone to answer. Good warm-up questions:

- Have no right or wrong answers
- Ask for opinion or experience
- Are not controversial
- Are connected to the Bible study topic

Worship – If everyone in your group knows each other fairly well, you could have a shortened ice-breaker or warm up question

2. **WORD** (15-20 minutes)

The Word time is a short and practical Bible teaching on the text or topic of the week. This brief teaching is followed by a time of personal application where each person is encouraged to share how they will put the lesson into practice. During the warm-up and personal application, everyone is encouraged to talk, but during the Word time, only the leader talks.

Each lesson begins with key verse and introductory comments which can be read out loud or summarised. Don't pretend to be an expert or a Bible know-it-all. How much of the Bible you obey is more important than how much you know.

Tips:

- The outreach meeting is more than a Bible study. It requires a good facilitator, not an expert teacher.
- Let the Bible speak for itself.
- Remember, the goal is to minister to the needs of the people, not to finish a Bible lesson.
- Be led by the Spirit, not the material.
- Use illustrations and tell stories to explain the Bible verses.
- Each lessons should be adequate for a one meeting.

3. **Personal APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

In an outreach, we facilitate a biblical discussion so people can do it, not so they can simply know it. The whole point of teaching is for practical and personal application.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:22-25)

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against the house, and it fell with a great crash. (Matthew 7:24-27)

Tips:

- Most lessons include several application questions.
- Choose a few, you don't have to discuss all the questions.
- An effective standby application question that can always be used is:
"What did you learn from this lesson and how will it affect your life?"
- Ask the application question and designate who will answer first.
- Do not allow people to argue or be critical of others.
- Remind everyone to apply the lesson to their own life, not someone else's.
- Outreach leaders must cry out for wisdom to know when to balance or correct weird and unbiblical applications.

Insensitive correction and criticism can kill the group, as can unchecked heresy.

4. PRAYER for everyone to Fish for People

In the CONNECT group we empower everyone to fish for people. We do this by encouraging each one to be involved in the outreaches where the fishes are or to start one whether campus, corporate or community.

How to Kill a Discipleship Group

The D360 Strategy of OPEN outreach groups and CLOSED discipleship groups works in small churches and large churches, in Asian nations and European nations. As simple as it is, there are several proven ways to fail. The following lessons were learned the hard way:

1. No mixing **BUSINESS/ MARKETING OF ANY KIND** with discipleship.
2. No mixing **POLITICS** with discipleship.
3. No **PRIVATE / ONE-ON-ONE** ministry to someone of the opposite sex.
4. No **MATCHMAKING**.
5. No borrowing / lending **MONEY**. (If there is a real need please advise your G-Net pastor and/or Connect Group Overseer – Ps Faith / Olivia).
6. No **PROMOTION** of para-church ministries or any event, spiritual or secular, through the small groups.
7. No **GUEST** speakers.
8. No receiving **TITHES** and offerings.

DYNAMIC CONNECT GROUPS

We will be switching from *CLOSED to OPEN to CLOSED to OPEN* connect groups. This is an important dynamic to understand. We will be going to a 3 term format starting now!

- **TERM 2 - May, June, July, (August) -**
 1. FOCUS: MAKE DISCIPLES -D360 campaign (church wide)
 2. Closed Connect groups finishing Make Disciples book.
- **TERM 3 – Sept, Oct, Nov, (Dec) -**

1. FOCUS: Elective Topics / Sunday sermons.
2. Mix of OPEN Connect groups & some CLOSED Sunday discipleship groups (who will do MAKE DISCIPLES).
3. Continue growing the Multiplied/ New Connect groups & clusters started in May.

- **TERM 1 – Jan, Feb, Mar, (April) 2019**

1. Focus: Electives / Sunday sermons
2. Mix of OPEN & CLOSED connect groups
3. Sunday (Closed) Discipleship groups

CONNECT PASTORS NETWORK

- Regular meals with your network coach/ (G-pastor), at least every 4 to 6 weeks. These gatherings are to build you up - spiritually and from God's word, encourage you in the vision, discuss and clarify any pastoral or church concerns or issues.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What did you learn from this lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

6) How to Start the Discipleship Process

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). JOHN 1:41, 42

The outreach is the heart and soul of Ephesians 4:12 Strategy for discipleship-based church-growth. If the outreaches are healthy, then the disciples will multiply. If the outreaches become ingrown, then the whole system shuts down. The purpose of the small group ministry is to make disciples, and discipleship begins with evangelism.

The Right Attitude

Evangelism must be more than a method or message to be effective.

We must have the right attitude.

1. Attitude of RECONCILIATION

- Evangelism is about restoring relationships.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18,19)

2. Attitude of an AMBASSADOR

- Evangelism is about representing Christ.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

3. Attitude of FRIENDSHIP

- Evangelism is about reaching out to others.

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:10-13)

The Right Focus

Rather than attempting random acts of evangelism targeting strangers, outreach groups focus on relational evangelism, especially:

1. FAMILY

Evangelism in the New Testament was not just about the individual, but also the family.

He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' (Acts 11:13,14)

When she and the members of her household were baptised, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. (Acts 16:15)

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptised. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole family. (Acts 16: 31-34)

Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptised. (Acts 18:8)

2. FRIENDS

The best place to start making disciples is with people who know and trust us. Matthew and Cornelius are good examples for us to follow.

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" (Matthew 9:9-11)

Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along. The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. (Acts 10:23, 24)

Who are the lost?

When Jesus sent His twelve disciples into the ripe harvest fields, He told them to go to the lost.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. (Matthew 10:5,6)

In the same way, we are also called to the lost. But, who are lost? Jesus compared the lost in need of a Saviour to the sick who needs a doctor. Who are the sick and lost that we are to reach?

- Unsaved
- Unchurched
- Backsliders
- Compromisers and counterfeits
- Lost sheep
- Sick sheep
- Starving sheep
- Abused sheep
- Wandering sheep
- Sheep without a SHEPHERD

How to outreach through the connect groups

In your connect group, get everyone to make a list of at least ten friends, family members, or acquaintances who are not active church members. The group will fast and pray together for one month, specifically praying for the needs of these people.

After four weeks of prayer and fasting, some of the people you are praying for will be more open to the gospel and will be more interested in visiting your small group.

The Prayer List

The following worksheet is designed to help identify people who will potentially be interested in your outreach group.



