

DEVELOPING & EMPOWERING

LEADERS GATHERING

Basics of Discipleship & Evangelism

BIG IDEA:

When we lead, we have to ask ourselves, “What environments are we creating for discipleship to take place? Where am I taking people? What is the destination?” Our destination for those we lead is maturity in Christ as seen in Colossians 1:28.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Colossians 1:28 “So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ.”

Discipleship Topic: Three Environments Where Discipleship Thrives

- **A Jesus Centered Environment**

- It is all about Him! The Apostle Paul made it clear that his message was all about pointing people to Christ.
- As leaders, we should always keep Jesus as the central theme of our message. (Colossians 1:28)

- **A Relationally Driven Environment**

- Maintain a relationship with Jesus. “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” John 14:15
- Point people to cultivate DAILY relationship with His Word and the Holy Spirit.
- Maintain relationships with other believers.

- Instead of teaching believers to follow rules and regulations, help them to discover what a relationship with Jesus is all about and what it looks like to follow Him.

- **A Multiplying Environment**

- The evidence of Jesus' discipleship is multiplication. A practical example is: the Gospel going forth in our families, jobs, and communities.
 - When we are joined with Jesus, His life is thrust into our spirit and we begin to produce fruit. This fruit manifests itself in lives around us changed by the presence of God flowing out of us. (John 15:5)
 - As we are rooted in Jesus, fruit is produced.
-

Evangelism Topic: The Power of Your Testimony

A good personal testimony contains three elements: (1) your life before Christ, (2) how you came to know Christ, and (3) your life after you received Christ.

- **Share Your Point of Struggle:**

- You may feel your testimony is not all that exciting but that's not the point. Our testimony is not about how bad we were but how good Jesus is. Your life before Christ could be explained as simply as "I was in a dark place." or "I struggled with _____." It is amazing how the Holy Spirit will lead you to someone who can identify with where you were in your life before Christ.

- **Share the Place of Change:**

- Tell in a few sentences how you came to know Christ. It could be that someone loved you enough to invite you to church or even told you of their own experience in receiving Jesus. Remember the feelings you experienced when you heard the Good News. Keep Jesus the focus of your experience. He is the one who changed you no matter how you arrived at that place.

- **Share the Power of Your Purpose:**

- Wrap up your testimony by telling how your life has changed since coming to Christ. Explain how a relationship with Jesus has given you a life that is free, full, and joyful? The listener needs to hear about the significance of a relationship with Jesus. Be careful to avoid "churchy" language that may not be understood by the listener.
-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does relationship opposed to religion mean to you? Why is it so easy for people to be satisfied with just a religious lifestyle?
2. Do you currently have someone you are helping to grow in their spiritual maturity? What is the next step for them?

3. When was the last time you shared your testimony with someone? What was that experience like?