

The Gospel Project for Adults, Spring 2015  
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 14

**Introduction: *Help your group connect with the major theme.***

Start by something to your group akin to the following: “Today’s session is Practical Discipleship. Jesus calls us to go into all the nations and make disciples. Let’s read an article about what Christians get wrong about discipleship and see if we can learn where to begin.”

Have someone in your group read aloud the article “What Christians Get Wrong about Discipleship” by Ann Swindell:

<http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/what-christians-get-wrong-about-discipleship>

After reading the article ask the question “What does it mean to make disciples of all nations and where do we begin?”

**Part 1: *Engage your group members by watching a video.***

The main precept we are focusing on in this section is discipleship as informal. Show your group members the video clip [“Everything Is Kung Fu”](#) (3minutes, 31 seconds). This clip is available on WingClips. In this clip, Dre is training to be the “karate kid.” After days of performing the monotonous task of taking his jacket off and on, Dre learns that he’s actually being taught a martial arts foundation. Following their viewing of the video, ask your group to consider how Dre’s trainer is discipling him.

Ask the group:

- What are the informal ways Dre is being trained?
- How can we apply this video to Christian discipleship? How does it relate to Deuteronomy 6:4-7?

## **Part 2: *Help your group grasp a concept.***

Say something akin to the following: “When I say the phrase ‘to give instruction,’ what comes to mind?” On a tear sheet or poster board, write down the group members’ answers. Their answers might be similar to the following examples: drill sergeant, leader, discipler, helper, friend, teacher, trainer, coach, and one who empowers.

Continue the discussion: “That is what Paul had been called to do for the church at Ephesus. God called him to give them instructions on how to live. He was called to lead them with the Word and to warn and prepare them. Paul also demonstrates discipleship by instruction to Timothy. He encourages him before his death with these words:

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, and you know that from childhood you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim. 3:14-15)*

Wrap up this section by asking the group to write down the name of one person they individually believe they have been called to instruct in the faith and ask them to begin praying for the Lord to open the doors necessary for them to begin discipling this person.

## **Part 3: *Build understanding by having group members personalize a subject.***

The session emphasizes that discipleship is being an imitator of those imitating Christ. Paul expresses this idea in 1 Corinthians 11:1: “Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.”

In order to grow in our relationship with Christ and obey Him, we need to be following Jesus *and* following those who follow Him. After reading 1 Corinthians 4:14 -21 and 11:1, ask everyone to divide into groups of 3-4 people and answer the following questions:

- Are you presently following an imitator of Christ? If so, name the person.
- What is it about this person's spiritual life that makes you want to become more like him or her?

Wrap up this point of the session by saying the following to the group: "After talking with one another about the individuals who have made a transformational impact on your life, pray in your small groups for each of them by name. Thank the Lord for how instrumental they have been in your lives."

### **Conclusion: *Closing Challenge and Application***

In this lesson we have learned that the church is called to practical discipleship. We must never forget that our main purpose is to glorify God through the making of disciples for Christ. Discipleship is informal and instructional as well as an imitation of Christ and those who follow Him. Ask your group members to write down what needs to change about their lives in order to be models for Christ that will help others grow in the Word. Challenge your group members to start today. Ask them to call their accountability partners and let them in on which areas they are working on in order to be able lead others closer to the Savior.

### **Teaching Tip of the Week**

It is important that we model for our groups the discipleship method. Natural relationships form in the context of groups, and this is often a way that the Lord shows to you those whom you should walk more closely beside. Jesus is our example that shows us that bigger is not always better. Jesus did life with 12 disciples and still spent more time with Peter, James, and John. Let's follow Christ's lead. In whose life are you investing?

Consider the following quote:

An effective evangelist who reaches 1000 people a day for Christ will win the world for Christ in 13,515 years. But a very effective discipler who teaches or trains two people a year to reach others for Christ has the potential to spread the message to the world in 33 years. As we continue to multiply ourselves, we multiply our ministry as well.

[Bill Donahue, *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2002), 67.]