



15 Truths for Equipping Disciple-Makers

brook hills: college ministry

Introduction

When Jesus said in Matthew 28, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,” it was not a command for a select few. Rather, it was marching orders for every believer throughout the ages. In many churches, there is a false notion that only the professional Christians should be seeking to multiply the gospel, while the rest of the Body of Christ sits idly by.

At Brook Hills, we want to combat that unbiblical notion by challenging every believer in the local church to be a disciple-maker. Our hope is that this resource will equip you as a Christ-follower to be an effective disciple-maker.

This resource is intended to be...

Gospel-Centered

As you study and implement this resource into your disciple-making relationships, the hope is that the gospel will remain central. All true transformation is a result of the power of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Disciple-makers are unable to change individuals; that is something that only the Spirit of God can accomplish.

Word-Saturated

The hope is that each disciple-maker will spend time studying, meditating, and thinking through how to best communicate God’s Word. Therefore, the primary focus should always be on particular passage in the “Scripture to Teach” of each section. A sermon outline from David Platt on the particular passage of Scripture is listed in each section to serve as a supplemental resource.

Obedience-Based

Disciple-making is about obedience. Jesus commanded us to “teach them to obey all I have commanded.” By utilizing the “Connection” and “Application” sections, you will be able to lead those whom you are investing in to develop a pattern of obedience in their own life. Challenge those whom you disciple to not just hear the Word but to do it.

Prayer-Drenched

Invest time in prayer for those whom you disciple, and pray for discernment about what God wants you to teach them. Desperate prayer is an indication that your confidence is in God’s transforming power and not in your own methods. This resource is meant to help you. It is not a mandated outline that you must follow. Adapt it to fit the needs of those whom you are seeking to disciple.

Worship-Fueled

Disciple-making is fueled by a life that is satisfied in Jesus Christ and is seeking to glorify Him in everything. Investing in others should be an overflow of your adoration of Him and of your abiding relationship with Jesus. Apart from Him, you can do nothing.

How to Use this Resource

Each section in this resource has five components:

Biblical Truth
Scripture to Teach
Sermon Outline to Assist
Connection
Application

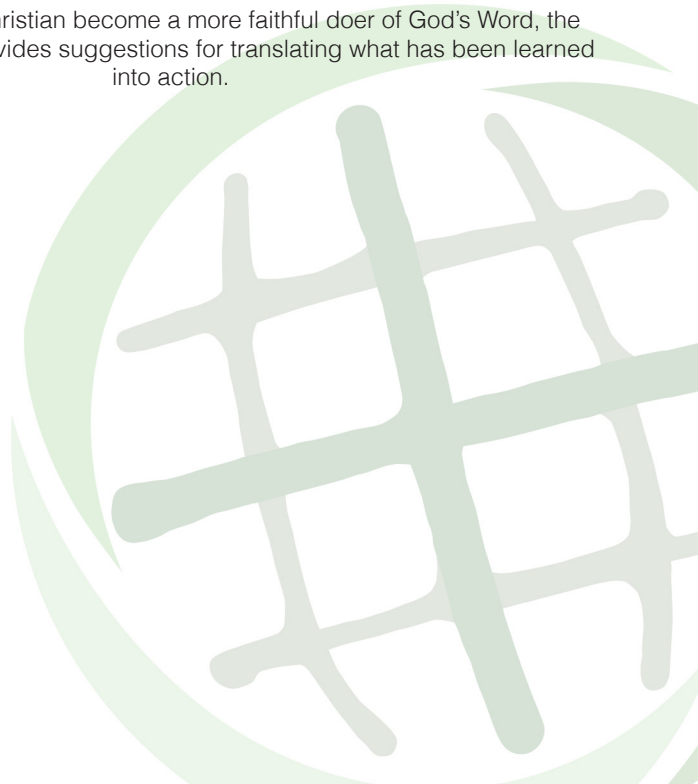
The *Biblical Truth* provides essential content for communicating and teaching this material to others.

Using the biblical truth as a guide, study the passage(s) listed under the *Scripture to Teach* section. Your teaching should be based on these texts from God's Word.

As a resource, we have provided the *Sermon Outline to Assist*. The sermon is supplemental to the Scripture, and it should be used to aid your understanding of the text and topic. The intent is to teach the Scripture and not the sermon.

The *Connection* portion highlights how the biblical truth connects to the lives of those being taught.

In order to help the Christian become a more faithful doer of God's Word, the *Application section* provides suggestions for translating what has been learned into action.



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Part 1: Christ Saves Us

The Gospel



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Why do we need to know the gospel?

Biblical Truth: Spiritual deception is a very real danger that we all must be aware of. Jesus gives a stern warning in Matthew 7 that many will be deceived into thinking they are saved when in fact they are not. We must base our salvation on what God has revealed in Scripture not on man's sayings (e.g., prayer of salvation, accept Christ into your heart, etc.).

Scriptures to Teach

Matthew 7:13-28 (primary); Genesis 1-3; Romans 1:18-3:20

Sermon Outline to Assist

Lifeflood Series: "Gospel: Why It's Important" (3/30/08)

Connection: Remind those whom you're discipling of their need for Christ to save them from their sin and from God's wrath. Explain that both rebellion and religious activities leave us dead in sin. As Scripture teaches, they should only base their salvation on faith in Christ and the repentance of sins.

Application:

- Share your salvation testimony with those whom you're discipling. Your testimony should contain the five elements of the biblical elements of the gospel (the character of God, sinfulness of man, sufficiency of Christ, necessity of faith, and urgency of eternity). See the Threads sermon series from July 2008 in order to learn more about the five elements of the biblical gospel.
- Ask them to write out their own testimony, which should also contain the five elements of the gospel.
- Key questions that will help guide you in developing a biblical testimony:
 - (1) What is your understanding of God?
 - (2) How did you come to the realization that you were guilty before God?
 - (3) How has the death and resurrection of Jesus overcome your guilt?
 - (4) How have you responded to the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection?
 - (5) What circumstances/people influenced your decision to trust in Christ?
- Have them practice sharing their testimony during small group.
- Look for an opportunity to model sharing your testimony with someone else while they are with you.

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What is the gospel?

Biblical Truth: God created each of us for His glory. However, we have all sinned and fallen short of His glory. Therefore, we are in desperate need of salvation from our sin and from God's wrath. Jesus alone is able to remove our sin and to reconcile us with God. Only God's grace through faith in Jesus can save us from sin and eternal separation from God.

Scriptures to Teach

Romans 3:21-26 (primary); 8:1-39; Galatians 2:15-21; 4:1-7

Sermon Outline to Assist

Lifeblood Series: "What We Believe"(4/13/08)

Connection: Share with them the good news of Jesus Christ. Explain the five elements of the biblical gospel with those whom you disciple to ensure that they know the gospel, and emphasize Scripture's commands for believers to share the gospel with others.

Application:

- Share with them the gospel in your own words in 150 words or less (with the five elements of the gospel).
- Have them write out the gospel using their own words.
- Challenge them to begin to memorize Romans 3:21-26, which clearly articulates the gospel so that they are able to share the good news with the lost world.
- Write down 5-10 names of friends, family members, fellow students, co-workers, etc. that are not followers of Christ. Challenge them to prayerfully consider how they might take the gospel to them.

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How do we respond to the gospel?

Biblical Truth: In John 3, Jesus teaches that we must be “born again” to enter into the kingdom of God. What does this mean? As a person is born physically to enter into this world, so a person must be born spiritually to enter the kingdom of God. This happens when God reveals one’s need for salvation, changes the heart, and enables belief in the gospel. The ultimate question in this life is, “Am I born again?”

Scriptures to Teach

John 3:1-21 (primary); Galatians 3:10-14; Ephesians 2:1-10

Sermon Outline to Assist

Lifeflood Series: “What Happens When We Are Born Again” (4/20/2008)

Connection: Consider the ultimate question, “Am I born again?” How and when has God revealed your need, changed your heart, enabled your belief in the gospel, and began to transform your life?

Application:

- Spend time together worshipping the God who poured out His mercy and grace in sending Christ as the substitute for our sin.
- Continue to pray for those whom you are engaging with the gospel.
- Develop an intentional plan for how you will take the good news to unbelievers. As you do this, ensure that you are fervently seeking God through prayer to change unbelievers’ hearts by the power of the gospel.

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Part 2: Christ Unites Us

The Church



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What is the church?

Biblical Truth: The church not a building to visit or an event to attend. It is a local body of baptized believers joined together under biblical leadership to grow in the likeness of Christ and to express the love of Christ to each other and to the world around them.

Scriptures to Teach

Ephesians 4:1-16 (primary); Acts 2; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Sermon Outline to Assist

IMPACT Series: "The Gospel and Church Membership" (2/1/09)

Connection: Share with those whom you disciple that, as followers of Christ, we should commit our lives to a local church where we can begin to show the gospel to fellow believers and to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. Local church involvement is not an optional commitment for the follower of Christ.

Application:

- If they are not currently committed to a local church through membership, encourage them to do so as soon as possible.
- If they are not connected at all to a local church, ask them to join you each time your church gathers.

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What is the importance of baptism and the Lord's Supper?

Biblical Truth: Baptism and the Lord's Supper are two religious rites that Jesus commands believers to celebrate in the church. Therefore, we need to be faithful to God by participating in these sacraments; however, these two sacraments do not save us. Baptism is a public symbol by which we identify with Christ and with the church through immersion in water, and by partaking of the Lord's Supper with fellow believers, we are remembering together Christ's death for our sins and celebrating the fact that He will one day return.

Scriptures to Teach

Baptism: Matthew 3:16-18; Acts 2:37-41; Romans 6:1-4
Lord's Supper: Matthew 26:17-30; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29.

Sermon Outline to Assist

Covenant Community Series: "Baptism" (3/22/09) and "Lord's Supper" (3/29/09)

Connection: If they are believers and have not been baptized, encourage them to set up a time to be baptized in their local church. Encourage them to participate in the Lord's Supper through their local church.

Application:

- If they have not been baptized, go with them to talk with a church leader about their baptism.
- Before they take the Lord's Supper, explain to them the significance of this sacrament and discuss Scripture's teachings about personal examination and confession before taking part in this meal (1 Cor. 11:27-29).

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What does biblical community look like?

Biblical Truth: Acts 2 presents a beautiful picture of true biblical community where believers grow together, serve together, and share with one another. Believers have been made alive through the grace of God, possess spiritual gifts for the building up of the church, and are designed to proclaim the glory of Christ in all nations. The gospel does not allow us to pursue Christ alone; rather, it creates a community that knows and honors God as Father and loves and serves one another as brothers and sisters. At Brook Hills, the primary avenue for biblical community is disciple-making small groups.

Scriptures to Teach

Romans 12:3-21 (primary); John 15:12-17; Acts 2:42-47

Sermon Outline to Assist

Engage Series: "Engage in Community" (9/26/07)

Connection: We are to follow Christ's example in loving and serving others. If those whom you disciple have not sought biblical community through the local church that aligns with the picture presented in Scripture, encourage them to do so. As we are on mission with God, we are in need of other believers to encourage us and to challenge us.

Application:

- If you have not done so already, invite them into your small group/biblical community.
- Lead by example. Others should see sacrificial love within the biblical community where believers give their attention, time, resources, and energy to care for each other and to serve the world.
- Continue to pray that God will give your community great mercy for each other, for the people in your city, and for all nations.

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Part 3: Christ Grows Us

Sanctification



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What is the story of God?

Biblical Truth: All of Scripture, Genesis to Revelation, reveals who God is and how God redeems his people for His kingdom. In the end, God is glorified by a countless throng of people from every nation, people, tribe, and language singing a new song, "Worthy is the Lamb!"

Scriptures to Teach

Exodus 34:6-7; John 1:1-18; Revelation 5

Sermon Outline to Assist

Epilogue: "Re-Creation" (1/2/11)

Connection: Let the sovereignty of God over all creation for all time give you comfort and assurance that He will accomplish His purposes through His people. Pray, study God's Word, and examine your life to see if there are specific areas where your life does not align with God's revelation in Scripture. Grow in your understanding of this story by studying and meditating on the Word, and continue to seek ways to share this story with everyone God places around you.

Application:

- Encourage one another to share the story of God with family, friends, co-workers, and others whom you encounter.
- Pray that the big story of God dwarfs the small story of your life in how you live on a daily basis.
- Put the glory of Christ on the forefront of your minds instead of your own name and glory. Discuss together if God's story is reflected in the way that you live (e.g., school, work, personal relationships, resources, etc.). How can your life better reflect the glory of Christ?

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What is the importance of prayer?

Biblical Truth: Prayer is an avenue of communication between God and us. Because of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, we have direct access to God at all times. Prayer involves adoring God for who He is, confessing sin, interceding for others, bringing our requests to Him, and thanking Him for what He has done.

Scriptures to Teach

Luke 11 (primary); Matthew 6:5-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sermon Outline to Assist

Lifeline Series (7/07)

Connection: Encourage each other to spend daily time in prayer. Pray as you go about your day, for by doing this, prayer will become a lifestyle and not simply an activity done at various times throughout the day.

Application:

- Spend time in prayer as a biblical community.
- Demonstrate how to pray to God. You could go on a prayer walk to show them what it looks like to “pray as you go.”
- Take a text of Scripture such as a psalm and demonstrate how to pray through the Word.
- Encourage them to further study what God’s Word teaches about prayer.

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What does it mean to abide in Christ?

Biblical Truth: When you put your faith in Christ, He comes to live in you. This gives you a life empowered and transformed by the Holy Spirit. Through His death on the cross, Christ exchanged your life for His life, and this exchange enables you to live eternally with Christ. As believers, we have a relationship with Christ, and a relationship requires continual communication if it is to grow. Abiding in Christ involves regularly confessing sin in our lives, talking to Him, listening to Him through studying His Word, meditating on Scripture, and praising and enjoying Him.

Scriptures to Teach

Colossians 1:24-29; John 15:1-17

Sermon Outline to Assist

Abide Series: "The Disciples Identity" (9/9/07) and (9/16/07)

Connection: Encourage them with the truth that Christ abides in them and that they abide in Christ. This should bring confidence when walking through temptation or suffering because Christ has been victorious over sin and death and because His power now resides in them forever. Thank God for this amazing exchange.

Application:

- Discuss what it practically looks like to abide in Christ (e.g., prayer, confession, studying Scripture, etc.). Simply having the Holy Spirit inside of you does not necessarily mean that you are abiding in Christ.
- Communicate with them the importance of seeing sin as the pursuit of a lesser joy. Only by relying on His power in us can we overcome these areas of sin that hinder our relationship with Christ.
- Discuss how you are taking steps to confess your sins to God and to biblical community.

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What does it mean to work out my salvation?

Biblical Truth: The grace of God undergirds our salvation, and our salvation is a past event, a present process, and a future prize. We have been saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved. To work out our salvation, we trust in the justification of God, believe He is sanctifying us daily, and eagerly await our glorification at the end of the age.

Scriptures to Teach

John 15; Philippians 2:12-13 (primary)

Sermon Outline to Assist

Lifeblood Series: "How We Live" (4/27/08)

Connection: We must radically depend on God's work in our lives, devote completely our lives to him, and rest assured that He will finish the work He began in our lives.

Application:

- Discuss what it looks like to practically work out our salvation in the way that we live each day.
- Pray with them that God gives you both a yearning to live a life of obedience to the commands of God.
- Encourage one another to take heart that God does not leave any work unfinished. He will carry on to completion your sanctification until the day of Christ Jesus.
- Spend time rejoicing in the overflowing mercy of God.

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Part 4: Christ Sends Us

The Mission



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What is the mission of my life?

Biblical Truth: Christ made it clear that the mission for every Christ-follower is to reproduce the gospel through disciple making. Often, Christians' lives and churches are filled with programs, events, and activities that distract us from the one thing God has commanded us to do - "make disciples." It is imperative that we know to be actively making disciples but also know how to do this, and in His relationship with the Twelve during His earthly ministry, Jesus modeled how to make disciples.

Scripture to Teach

Matthew 28:16-20 (primary); John 17; 1 Thessalonians 1

Sermon Outline to Assist

Follow Me Series: "Make Disciples (2/11/07) and
Impact Series: "By Making Disciples" (2/2/09)

Connection: Encourage those whom you disciple to see that their life should be spent "glorifying God by making disciples of all nations." Ensure that they understand that all Christians, not just a select few, should be actively making disciples. The Great Commission is not optional for believers.

Application:

- Develop an intentional disciple-making plan. Consider where God has placed you and the relationships He has given you and begin to ask the question how you can live missionally in your own context. How will you glorify Christ in your personal devotions, in your relationships, with your possessions? How will you pray for the nations, provide resources for global ministries, go to the nations, and mobilize others to pray, learn, give, and go? How can you best multiply the gospel with your life?
- Consider how you will share the Word, show the Word, teach the Word and serve the world with those whom you disciple.
- Assist those whom you disciple in developing their own disciple-making plans.

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Where does the mission of God lead us?

Biblical Truth: The Great Commission is a call for the church to penetrate all people with the gospel, to make disciples, and to teach them how to follow Christ. Our worship of God should fuel in us a desire for all individuals to come to know and worship God, and the mission of Christ is to see people from every tribe and nation to come to know and worship God.

Scripture to Teach

Matthew 24:14; 28:16-20 (Primary); Revelation 7; Psalm 86:9

Sermon Outline to Assist

“What Happens to People Who Never Hear About Jesus?” Sermon (11/8/08)

Connection: Currently, there are over 6,000 people groups who are unreached with the gospel. Therefore, our aim must be to see these peoples reached with the good news. This does not mean we all must move to one of these areas, nor does this mean our efforts in reached places are without purpose. However, it does mean that our disciple-making efforts are always intended to reach the unreached, which involves us raising up more laborers in a reached context and us engaging people in an unreached context. When it comes to local and global ministry, the mission calls us to a both/and, not an either/or. No matter what our address is, we should live for the sake of the nations being reached with the gospel.

Application:

- Consider how you can come alongside those whom you disciple to pray for the unreached (see the joshuaproject.net & Operation World), to give resources in order to proclaim the gospel to the unreached, and to go to the unreached (short-term, mid-term, and, if God leads, long-term).

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What about urgent spiritual/physical need?

Biblical Truth: Over two billion people in the world live on less than two dollars a day. Preventable diseases and malnutrition claim countless lives all over the world. Also, over a billion people have never heard the gospel. God has blessed us as Americans with resources at our disposal and the gospel of Christ in our hearts to address these needs plaguing impoverished and unreached places in the world. Christ has also given the Church the command to care for the widows and orphans by being His hands and feet in the world and to proclaim His gospel as we go about our lives. We are called to abandon everything for the glory of Christ and the spread of His gospel to all people.

Scripture to Teach

Luke 14:25-33 (primary); James 1:27

Sermon Outline to Assist

Radical Series: "What the Gospel Demands" (9/7/08)

Connection: The cost of following Christ is great, for He has called His followers to abandon everything for the glory of Christ and for the spread of the kingdom of God. Ask Him what He wants you to sacrifice for the physical and spiritual needs of people in the world.

Application:

- Consider how your life can be used to impact this broken world with the gospel.
- Remind those whom you disciple that not all are called to go to the mission field long-term, but in staying here, our lives should look distinctly different in light of urgent physical and spiritual needs around the world.
- Seek God's direction for how your lives can better reflect these truths.

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What does the church on mission together look like?

Biblical Truth: Biblical community and the mission of God are inseparable. God has called us to enjoy a relationship with Him but also to extend His glory to the end of the earth. This is the purpose of our lives and of our biblical communities.

Scriptures to Teach

Psalm 67:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:13

Sermon Outline to Assist

“Ultimate Disconnect” Sermon (2/5/06) and
IMPACT Series: “Of all Nations” (2/22/09)

Connection: Individual members of biblical community do not go on mission alone. We need to be surrounded by other Christ-followers who proclaim the name of Christ and seek to make His glory known in all nations.

Application:

- Consider what “nations” have come to your city. Research where these unreached people live, go to school, work, and hang out.
- Go to them for the purpose of building friendships. Take the gospel to these peoples by developing relationships with those whom you come in contact.
- Pray and prepare to go to the unreached on a short-term or mid-term mission trip. Your local church leadership can help guide you to work alongside existing partners on the ground where you can assist in on-going church planting efforts among the unreached.
- Pray for missionaries as they spend their lives in other contexts, and pray for those who do not trust in Christ as Savior and Lord.

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