**I. Review / Reflection**

Can you see yourself convening and being a part of a group?

What could you envision happening in your congregation/campus/workplace in 3-5 years if you had a growing network of reproducing discipleship groups?

**BS-BS: BUILD SLOWLY, BUILD SOLIDLY**

**II. The Life of Discipleship**

1. **Selection**

*Jesus looked for disciples*

* Pray for discernment
* Pray that God will raise up suitable candidates
* Concentrate on leaders/learners

- *“We don’t have a leadership problem in the church, we have a discipleship problem.”* — Greg Ogden

* Notice receptive hearts

- Especially those drawn to us

- There are typically a few within our influence

* Keep a low profile

1. **Invitation**

*Invite the potential partner(s)*

* Tell them you were drawn to them in prayer
* Review the study and the standards
* Discuss the concept of signing a covenant
* Don’t decide right away

- Ask the person to prayerfully consider

- Ask them to prayerfully consider another

* Model transparency

- Avoid being judgmental

- Practice prayerful listening

*“The sign of true, growing, gospel disciples is their* ***gentleness****... The harder you are on yourself and the gospel, the easier you are on other people.”* — Tim Keller[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. **Association**

*Jesus stayed close to his disciples*

* Bring them into the routine of your daily life
* Seek ways for casual fellowship
* Arrange times together for prayer and study
* Occasionally arrange for extended periods of fellowship for reflection

- Good time to review the standards/covenant

- Good time to re-visit any goals/milestones

* The principle is just being together!

*“If we let ourselves, we shall always be waiting for some distraction or other to end before we can really get down to our work. The only people who achieve much are those who want knowledge so badly that they seek it while the conditions are still unfavorable.* ***Favorable conditions never come****.”* — C.S. Lewis

1. **Supervision**

*Jesus held disciples accountable*

* Regularly check on them
* Work in regular, frequent times of review

- Ask questions

* Affirm their strengths and self-worth
* Work on attitudes and character traits
* Avoid becoming authoritarian
* Keep the focus on Christ, nor yourself!

**TRUST BUT VERIFY**

**III. Conclusion**

1. **Obey: Develop and share this vision for discipleship**
2. **Obey: Cultivate your methods and put them to work**
3. **Obey: It starts with you!**

*“Every Christian must see themselves as the link to the next generation.”* — William Barclay

*“We must* ***get into action*** *and* ***obey****.”* — Dietrich Bonhoeffer[[2]](#footnote-2)

*“[God] doesn’t give options for people to consider; he gives commands for people to* ***obey****.”* — David Platt[[3]](#footnote-3)

*“…discipleship is not an option.”* — Tim Keller[[4]](#footnote-4)

*“The life of discipleship is…****obedience*** *to the Son of God… It is now only a question of yes or no, of* ***obedience*** *or disobedience.”* — Dietrich Bonhoeffer[[5]](#footnote-5)

*“But then discipleship can tolerate no conditions which might come between Jesus and our* ***obedience*** *to him.”* — Dietrich Bonhoeffer[[6]](#footnote-6)

*But Samuel replied, “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your* ***obedience*** *to his voice? Listen!* ***Obedience*** *is better than sacrifice, submission is better than offering the fat of rams.”* Isaiah 15:22 (ESV)

*If you love me, you will* ***keep my commandments****.* John 14:15 (ESV)

1. Timothy J. Keller, “The Call of Discipleship,” *Knowing & Doing* (Winter 2011), 12 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (New York, NY: Touchstone, 1995), 78 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. David Platt, *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream* (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2010), 121 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Keller, “The Call of Discipleship,” 12 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ibid., 76 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*, 61 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)