



Seven Essential Tracks for Discipleship Content

Deliberate discipleship has a goal: the maturity of the believer to the glory of Christ (Col 1:28-28). There is flexibility in the selection of material to study with one's disciple as long as what is selected is Biblical and orthodox. The "X-factor" in discipleship is *life on life* 'soul care' in which the disciple learns by instruction and example to obey what Christ has commanded. **The list of seven essentials below is meant to be one among many possible suggestions for curriculum content.**

1.) Discipleship in the gospel. By this we mean the full-orbed gospel message which Paul designates, "the word of His grace" (Acts 20:32). It is common for this phase of discipleship to take a year and one half before the disciple has learned to consistently live a 'cross-centered life' founded upon dependence upon Christ and His grace (Gal 2:20). This gospel track also establishes the practical relationship between justification and sanctification.

2.) Bible study method. Hands-on hermeneutics (Bible interpretation) involves showing the disciple how to arrive at the meaning of the text. Gaining capacity in the steps of interpretation is essential in order for the disciple to learn to feed himself from the Word. Also, as the disciple learns this 'inductive Bible study method' he will gain the ability to prepare his own lesson plans/sermons.



Thankful for new opportunities to invest in disciple-makers.



Discipleship equipping in Santo Domingo, D.R.

3.) Biblical worldview studies. The advantages of reading books on biblical worldview are: 1) We learn to see the big picture (God's 'master plan'). In our age of fragmented knowledge, the unity of all things under the lordship of Christ is essential in order to have a joyful, unified Christian experience. 2) Biblical worldview gives us the biblical categories of thought by which to apply discernment to all areas of our culture.

4.) The spiritual disciplines. Within a discipleship relationship it is advantageous for the mentor to regularly explain to his disciple his own patterns of abiding in Christ: *prayer, Scripture meditation, confession of sin, communion, evangelism, fellowship, worship, and Scripture study.* The disciple will benefit from learning why these spiritual disciplines are inseparable from spiritual growth, and why they are essential in caring for one's relationship with God.

5.) Survey of Bible doctrine. A concise book of doctrine (doctrinal survey) is valuable in fleshing out one's biblical literacy. This includes systematic theology (along with O.T. and N.T. survey). The mentor, together with his disciple, study the great doctrines of the faith so that the intended use of each doctrine, along with its ethical ramifications are unfolded. This practical approach to theological study keeps truth and life joined.

6.) Pastoral ministry. In this discipleship track disciples are given experience of accompanying the mentor when he counsels and engages in personal ministry. Some of the situations will include: *evangelism, visitation of sick and shut-ins, ministry to the homeless, and prison ministry.* The disciple may also accompany the mentor in addressing the following counseling areas: *financial debt, backsliding, pornography addiction, sexual immorality, marital strife, etc.*

7.) Exposing the disciple to ministry opportunities.

The mentor actively seeks occasions for his disciple to exercise his gift. Discipleship is incomplete without an effort to unleash one's disciple to ministry. It is common for disciples to limit their own ministry potential by thinking solely in terms of traditional ministries such as full-time vocational ministry, or areas of service solely within the church campus (ushering, etc.). The mentor ought to think in terms of giving his disciple opportunities to minister in a variety of situations: *campus clubs, jail ministry, street evangelism, convalescent ministries, discipling new believers, hospitality, and foreign missions, etc.*

The Seven Essentials above are foundational. But, if the mentor finds himself working with more mature disciples, he is encouraged to consider going beyond the seven essentials into other areas of training. Additional areas include: *Christian apologetics, biblical languages, historical theology, biblical counseling, church history, homiletics, etc.*



Brothers who are growing disciple-makers.

At GFL we are actively training Christ-followers to be disciple-makers. The blessed result is that the local church can become a disciple-making community. If you'd like Jay to present a seminar on **Evangelism, Discipleship, or Christian Worldview** at your church or school, please contact him at jaywegter@gmail.com

Please pray for:

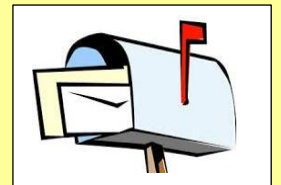
- Praise the Lord, Michele's tumor markers have gone from 71 to 17. Please continue to pray for Michele as she battles stage four cancer. Donations for her medical care can be sent to 3675 Marlesta Dr, San Diego, CA 92111.
- Please pray for the men that Jay is discipling at his home church, Barabbas Road Church. We are seeing a movement of God as these men are now investing in one another.

Our mission at GFL is to help equip individuals and churches to more fully embrace The Great Commission. The training we offer in evangelism and discipleship is 'hands-on' equipping. Instead of training in theory alone, we demonstrate how these Biblical commands can immediately be put to use.

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Jay, Michele and the GFL Team