

A practical, down-to-earth,
and Christ-centered approach
to intentional disciple-making.

What is Discipleship? A Biblical Guide to Disciple-Making



General Session Workshop

Discipling Believers
Friday, June 22nd, 2021
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Facilitators:
Bishop W. Michael Fields
Lady Melissa F. Fields

2021 COOLJC Hybrid International Convocation
July 22nd-24th, 2021

THE YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP
Discipling Believers Today For A Purpose-Driven Tomorrow
Each One, Reach One, Teach One!

The
Disciple-
Making
Mission of
the Church

Matthew 28:16-20

This is a useful tool for those who want to
leave a legacy of changed lives.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bishop W. Michael Fields and Lady Melissa F. Fields

Bishop W. Michael Fields and Lady Melissa F. Fields have been married for 26 years. They presently reside in Prince George's County, Maryland.

They enjoy working together, connecting with family, going for drives, and switching the television stations consistently from Westerns, to CNN, to Networks or films made exclusively for women.

Their teenage daughter, Shekinah; refers to them as, "You Two ... Love Birds!"

They serve The Lord as one at Greater Refuge Temple in Washington, DC.

Bishop and Lady Fields also serve as Pastor and First Lady to the Refuge Temple Annex, Bronx, New York, Church Family.

The Fields are the Bishop and Leading Lady to The Mid-Atlantic Diocese of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.,

Bishop and Lady Fields were presented with the Apostolic Anchor Award by Revival Fire Fellowship for the impact that they have made on the apostolic church at large through standard, consistency, and faith in God.

As a ministry couple, they enjoy serving together as the host and hostess of the Apostolics United Conference.

This husband and wife duo are keenly aware that disciple-making is the greatest cause on earth: effectively and intentionally multiplying disciples in the way of Jesus is a top priority.



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Intentional discipleship will fuel the local church, diocese, and the international growth of the Church of Our Lord, Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc., Guidance must be provided if we are to effectively fulfill The Great Commission.

KEY DISCIPLESHIP TERMS

Any effective disciple-making guide would include key definitions. Below are poignant terms that every disciple should be familiar with:

Disciple – someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus (Matthew 4:19).

Discipleship – the state of being a disciple.

Disciple-making – entering into relationships to help people trust and follow Jesus (Matthew 28:18–20), which includes the whole process from conversion through maturation and multiplication.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." ~ Matthew 18: 20

"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another...~ Romans 12: 9-10



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THE GREAT COMMISSION

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18-20

STEPS TO TAKE TO FORMULATE AN ONE-ON-ONE OR GROUP DISCIPLE-MAKING FORUM

Intentional discipleship has a framework that aligns with God's Word. This is a time-tested and step-by-step system for formulating effective discipleship programs. The five key steps to take when forming an effective disciple-making group are:

- Step #1: Listen
- Step #2: Recruit
- Step #3: Prepare
- Step #4: Engage
- Step #5: Release



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Step 1: LISTEN:

The first step when forming a new discipleship group or a one-on-one program is to get in step with the Holy Spirit, and listen to God. Disciple-making relationships must be built upon the foundation of prayer. Discipleship relationships that are carnally thrown together in a hurried and prayerless fashion will not produce the best discipleship results.

Many Bible patriarchs and matriarchs received their marching orders from heaven before moving forward. Let's look at the call of Moses and the prayer conversations that laid the groundwork for Moses leading God's people out of bondage. First, God confronted Moses and arrested his attention at the scene of the burning bush (Exodus 3:2-5) before releasing Moses to lead the people of Israel. A brush fire in the semi-desert is nothing exceptional, but Moses was intrigued by the nature of this particular one. Moses heard his name called and responded, "Here I am" (Exodus 3:4). This is a statement of availability, not location. It is imperative that discipleship programs are bathed in prayer. The impetus must be heaven's instruction. Second, the Lord introduced Himself as the God of the patriarchs and communicated his intent to rescue his people from Egypt and to bring them into the land he had promised to Abraham (Exodus 3:6-9). Third, God commissioned Moses to go to Pharaoh to bring God's people out of Egypt (Exodus 3:10). Fourth, Moses objected (Exodus 3:11). Although he had just heard a powerful revelation of who was speaking to him in this moment, his immediate concern was, "Who am I?" In response to this, God reassured Moses with a promise of God's own presence (Exodus 3:12a). Finally, God spoke of a confirming sign (Exodus 3:12b). He is still speaking today, "Go ye therefore..."



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Step 2: RECRUIT:

Intentional disciple-makers “go after” people who fit the AFTeR acronym. Great candidates for discipleship are: available, faithful, teachable, and reliable. Below is a breakdown of the attributes of disciples who are ready for you to “go AFTeR.”

Available -- Are they willing to make time for spiritual growth? Or are they distracted by other agendas?

Faithful -- Do they have a track record of following through on commitments or do they flake on?

Teachable -- Are they open to learning new things, or are they closed-minded? Do they display a desire to grow in Christ, or are they content to remain where they are?

Reliable -- Do they show up when they say will? Are they honest?

Intentional and praying disciple-making Christians; yield to their local leadership before beginning an one-on-one or group discipleship-making program. Disciple-makers should have the character traits above. This is key in fulfilling The Great Commission.



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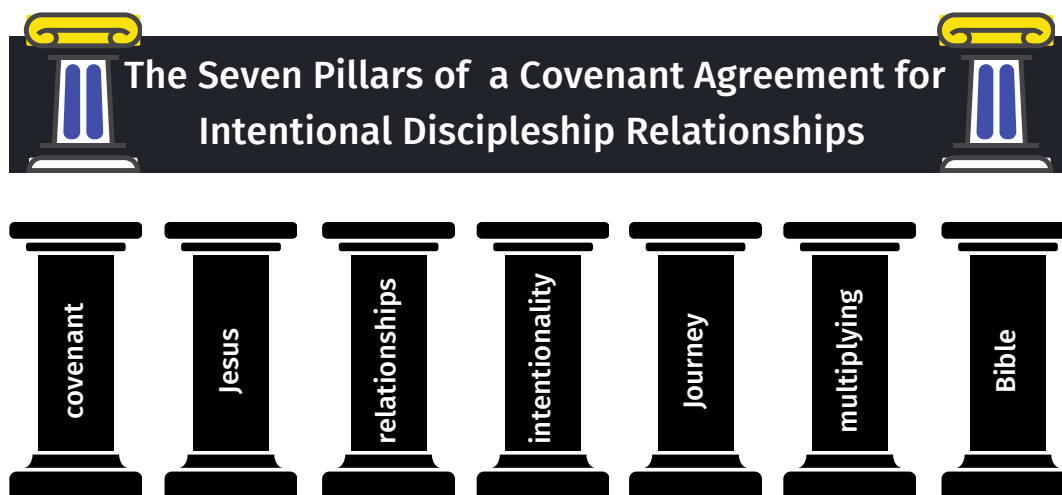
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Step 3: PREPARE:

With Step 1 and Step 2 completed; it is time to move forward to Step 3; prepare. Every intentional discipleship program must include a time of preparation.

Spiritual growth and relational depth are a journey that requires intentional commitment. For this cause, discipleship leaders may include a covenant agreement in the beginning phases of the program. There are many covenants in the Bible. Some covenants were made by God to man, while other commitments were entered into by one human being to another.

If the disciple-making leader decides to make an agreement for all candidates; the agreement verbiage should include the following terms: covenant, Jesus, relationships, intentionality, journey, multiplying, and the Bible. These seven components are the pillars of a sound covenant agreement that will produce effective disciples for God's glory.



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Step 4: ENGAGE:

A healthy group establishes rhythms that foster unity and togetherness. This also applies to intentional disciple-making. When the discipleship meetings begin; careful consideration should be given on how to engage disciples. What day of the week will the meetings be, what time will the meetings be, where will the meetings be held, what is the curriculum, etc., The atmosphere for fellowship should be Holy-spirit saturated and unforced, safe and secure, and transparent and transformative. Enrolled disciples should be able to be themselves, comfortably reveal secrets, express fears without the fear of being judged, and talk about real life in a safe environment. The setting must take participants beyond the façade of perfection and surface-level conversation. Jeff Vanderstelt said, “If we are to be disciples of Jesus who are being reformed and restored to become more like Him, we need to have people in our lives, up close and personal.” Developing an intake form will help disciple-making leaders gather information about the disciples during the first meeting. This step will build in familiarity and put everyone at ease early. Below is a sample intake form:

DISCIPLE-MAKING INTAKE CARD	
<i>Please print legibly</i>	
Name	E-Mail Address
Telephone Number	Date Baptized
Date Filled	Date of Birth
Please share some of your baptism and infilling experience	
Please share some general info about your family and your hobbies	

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Step 5: RELEASE:

This is the final step in developing an intentional and effective disciple-making program. Disciple-making is about reproduction and multiplication. It's about sending people out to disciple others.

CONCLUDING THOUGHT:

You may find that you prefer meeting one-on-one over leading a small group of ten or twelve. All of the elements taught today and are contained in this small guide are foundational to Jesus' method of discipleship. This is a framework that is useful for intentional disciple-making.

Anyone who is interested in beginning a disciple-making program; should consider these five broad steps. Taking these steps will help develop effective and lasting disciple-making relationships. Again here are the steps:

- Step #1: Listen
- Step #2: Recruit
- Step #3: Prepare
- Step #4: Engage
- Step #5: Release

It is our prayer that you are effective in fulfilling The Great Commission. "Then saith He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few ..." Matthew 9:37 Will you answer the call for labourers?

