

I. Bible Focused Discipleship

- **This application is based on three Biblical principles:**
 1. The Holy Spirit is the Primary Agent in Discipleship
 2. The goal for the disciple is to walk in truth and light as the Holy Spirit reveals it.
 3. The goal of the evangelizer/discipler is to discover where the Holy Spirit is working and cooperate with Him in bringing about a full-term, healthy and natural spiritual birth.
- **It also relies on three presuppositions:**
 1. An ongoing friendship or willingness to develop a personal, discipling or mentoring relationship.
 2. The Disciple accepts responsibility for spiritual growth.
 3. The Bible is the best guide for spiritual growth at all levels of spiritual development; therefore it is the primary Salvation Tract and Discipleship Manual.

Step One: Building A Friendship Bridge For The Gospel

- I found a simple guide to help me ask the right questions to build quality relationships (FORM):
 - F - Family
 - O - Occupation
 - R - Religion
 - M - Message.

In my first visits I seek to get a picture of their family, vocation, and religious roots. I usually initiate "Religion" with something like "Can you tell me about your spiritual roots ...did you grow up attending a church?" My goal is gathering information. Getting into theological issues or correcting faulty beliefs is usually counterproductive at this time. "Message" is what I feel the Lord wants me to leave with them after listening and learning.

In follow-up visits I pickup where we left off... beginning with family: "Last time we met you mentioned that Susie was getting some medical tests... How did they come out?" Then "You shared that you were having a conflict with a co-worker... Did you get it resolved?" If a major need surfaces, I often take most of our time to minister there. When I get to "Religion" I again pick something they shared in our last visit to help launch more interaction.

As our friendship builds the Lord provides an opportunity to challenge them to personally settle the "God Issue" by a more formal 6-8 week investigation of Christianity and the claims of God's word.

Step Two: Establishing A Discipleship Relationship

- A. The discipler/disciple agree to meet regularly, preferably once a week for a designated time frame (usually 6-8 weeks which can be renewed as appropriate).
- B. The disciple agrees to study the Bible in the following way:
 1. Four to seven times each week they will read the Bible until an insight or a question strikes them. How much they read is not the issue, they read until an insight or question surfaces.
 2. They journal the insight or question, noting reference and date. Some may just list key words, or just mark passages in their Bibles, others may write volumes; the goal is to be able to recall the item at the discipling meeting.
- C. At the discipling meeting:
 1. I usually continue to follow the "FORM" pattern and take time to process where appropriate.
 2. At the "R" step I ask them to share one or more items from their journal.
 3. The items shared will soon reveal where the Holy Spirit is working and that is where I work.
- D. Application Insights
 1. This adaptation is not only very effective in personal evangelism but flows naturally into discipling the new believer.
 2. Note: Salvation Tracts, Discipleship manuals, Books, etc. are used as auxiliary materials to help with specific issues that surface when the Holy Spirit is ready to process them. The Holy Spirit, through their Bible study, remains the guide in this process; plus, we do not have to have a lesson on how to study the Bible... it's built in.
 3. While this adaptation requires a high time commitment to building relationships, I have found that it is also time saving in that I have almost zero preparation time and I don't waste a lot of time with people that are not serious about encountering the real Jesus.