

The “How-to”s to Discipleship:

Thank you for your heart to pour into others by building them up as followers of Christ! Your willingness and commitment to pour into others lives, is truly making an investment for eternity and to God’s Kingdom! This is by no means an exhaustive look at discipleship but it is my hope and prayer that this will grow and stretch both you and the student(s) you meet with to have a more intimate walk with Jesus.

What is discipleship?

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Discipleship Material:

- The “COMPASS”
 - <http://www.centerfieldproductions.com/subscription/compass/>
 - Click on “login”
 - Username:* chicagocru
 - Password:* matthew28
- “Life Concepts” Follow-Ups
 - <http://godsquad.com/discipleship/lifeconcepts.htm>

DISCIPLESHIP

IS NOT:

- *taking disciples through a series of Bible studies or training materials
- *meeting for Bible studies or D-Times weekly
- *a relationship to a student in your Bible study
- *primarily a strategy or method

IS:

- *primarily an expression of a relationship with Jesus
(not relationship with staff or students) - focus must not be on leader

Purpose: mature in relationship with Christ -Col 1:28

"...admonishing, teaching --> present every man complete in Christ."

What dangers can occur when our focus in discipleship shifts from our relationship with Jesus to a particular method, strategy or person?

forget first love

unmotivated - "burned out"

people follow and overly depend on leader

legalism

lose big picture

etc....

***METHODS, STRATEGIES AND PEOPLE ARE USED IN DISCIPLESHIP, BUT ARE NOT DISCIPLESHIP IN THEMSELVES!**

WHERE ARE WE TAKING DISCIPLES?:

If our goal is not just to get through certain materials or to get a person to certain conferences or to faithfully attend a BS what is our goal for disciples?

holy lives

committed to Great Commission

priority on relationship with Christ

understands grace

etc....

******Long-term desires for disciples determine what we do with them now******

Preparation for Discipleship:

Before you jump into discipleship, let's go over the four points about discipleship listed below. On "The Compass" there is an option to listen to a talk or read a transcript of the talk relating to each of these four points given by Roger Hershey:

1. Right Reason for Discipleship:

- o It's Biblical
- o Jesus did it
- o Benefits are far reaching: (healthy community, ministry growth, ministry longevity)

2. Right People for Discipleship:

- o Faithful: Do they follow through? Do they want to grow?
- o Available: Do they have time to meet?
- o Teachable: Are they willing to learn, or do they think they have it all together?

3. Right Components for Discipleship:

- o Relationship Building
 - Ask questions, listen, spend time together, encourage them, demonstrate vulnerability
- o Word of God
- o Do ministry together (Share your faith with them, like Jesus did with his disciples)

4. Right Content for Discipleship:

- o Focus on specific goals and needs in their life right now
- o Cover content that is foundational to everyone's Christian walk (The Compass is a great tool.)
- o Share biblical convictions that God has already built into your life. You will most passionately pass along the things God has worked out in your life. (i.e. prayer, spirit filled life, fasting)

Within the first few appointments:

Talk through the following questions. Also, it might help with vulnerability to share your story with them.

1. What would you say discipleship is?

- Good to see their needs, but also to see if their expectations are biblical and realistic.

Biblical examples:

- o Jesus and His disciples (Throughout the Gospels)
 - Jesus modeled ministry, did it with them, and sent them out to do it on their own.
- o Barnabas & Paul
- o Paul & Timothy

2. What are one or two areas that you would like to see growth in this summer?

3. What are one or two things to which you would like me to keep you accountable?

- Use page 10 (these are tough questions, but very important things for us to make sure we are helping students think about)
- For some questions, it may be good to ask 1 on 1 (for those doing group discipleship)

4. Who would you, by faith, like to take steps towards sharing the Gospel with this summer?

* I would review question #3 & #4 often.

**"Discipleship without evangelism is Christian Counseling!"
(Someone famous said this, but we can't remember who)**

Windows of the Soul:

Window into his world:

What is his family like?
What is his relationship with his dad like?
How does he get along with other siblings?
What are his interests?
What does he do for fun?
What are his goals in life?
Who are his heroes?

Window into his intimacy with God:

What is his relationship with God like?
How does he talk about God?
What does he struggle with in relationship with God?
What does he find delightful about his relationship with God?
Does he* have a meaningful quiet time? Know how? Plan? Purpose?
Does he know how to pray? Why pray? Does he do it?
Does he talk about God with other believers? Non-believers? Why not?

Window into his relationships with others:

Who is he friends with? What kind of friend is he?
In a crowd, does he initiate with new people or hang with those he's comfortable with?
Is he a good listener?
Is he a people gatherer?
Is he goal oriented?
Is he laid back and easy going?
(If applicable) What is his interaction with his girlfriend like?
How does he lead? From head, heart, or agenda?
Is he an up front leader? Is he a behind the scenes organizer?
What inspires him?
What communicates love and acceptance?

*DISCLAIMER: "He" will be used to simplify life for the typist. "He/She" is, of course, implied.

Compass Tool intro

The Compass is what I recommend to use for discipleship curriculum. Why? Because it is information that is foundational to *everyone's* Christian walk. I want to make this easy for you by providing a tool to go through the desired content. This is not a time based curriculum. The heart behind it is that you would move through the levels listed below, but feel free to supplement this curriculum to meet the need(s) of the student. (FYI: Page 5 has a full list of all the studies for you to look over with your student to see what would be most helpful for them.)

*Note. In the Compass lessons, if there is a reference to a model, i.e. the leadership model, please ask your Campus Crusade for Christ staff contact to explain that to you. The Compass is very user friendly, but it has a few Campus Crusade for Christ phrases in it....so just ask. We would be happy to explain it to you.

Level 1:

From "*Walk by Faith*" on the Compass: Please make sure that the student you are meeting with grasps these 5 foundational areas listed below and is proficient in teaching them as well.

(For mature students, have them teach this to you. Feel free to cover multiple topics if they are teaching you.)

- Assurance of Salvation
- Spirit Filled Life
- The Word
- Justification by Faith
- Fellowship

Level 2:

From "*Walk by Faith*" on the Compass: Please choose 4 of the remaining 9 lessons to go through.

Before moving to level 3, go through the lesson "*Sharing the Gospel*", and take them out sharing their faith at least 1 time. (If you are unsure about how to go about this, your staff contact person would be happy to help with this.) Feel free to go through all the "*Walk by Faith*" topics. They are great foundational truths!

Level 3:

From "*Communicate your Faith*" on the Compass: Please choose at least 6 of the 15 lessons to go through.

Before moving to level 4, go through the lesson "*Sharing your story*", and have them communicate by memory their 3-5 minute testimony which has a gospel presentation included in it.

Level 4:

From "*Multiply your Faith*" on the Compass: Please choose at least 6 of the 14 to go through.

Please conclude your Compass lessons with the "*World Vision*" lesson.

Have them then read one the following books: *Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman , *Come Help Change the World* by Bill Bright, or *Let the Nations be Glad* by John Piper.

Compass' list of Lessons:

Walk by faith:

- Assurance of Salvation
- Position in Christ
- The Spirit-Filled Life
- Fellowship
- The Word
- Prayer
- Sharing the Gospel
- Justification by Faith
- Confession
- Growth
- The Importance of Church
- Obedience
- Eternal Perspective
- Time Management

Communicate your faith

- Initiative Evangelism
- Successful Witnessing
- Personal Purity
- The Four Laws
- Transitions to the Gospel
- Scripture Memory

- Worry
- Stewardship
- Gospel Illustrations
- Leading a Small Group
- Motives for Evangelism
- Sharing Your Story
- Responses to the Gospel
- Apologetics
- Conflict Resolution

Multiply your faith

- Spiritual Multiplication
- Challenging to Discipleship
- A Primer on Discipleship
- How to Use Satisfied
- Follow Up
- World Vision
- Spiritual Battle
- Relationships of a Leader
- Roles of a Leader
- Responsibilities of a Leader
- Trials
- Sanctification
- Discerning God's Will
- Pride and Submission

Intro to LIFE CONCEPTS:

This is an example of how to use the Life Concepts.

WITH WHOM:

- A new believer
- Freshmen
- As I meet also others, they then go over this with their disciples
- I can model it for them with one of their disciples
- I can watch them go through it with a different person

WHY:

- To give them simple truths to know and understand
- To help them begin to see they can transfer this information to others
- To keep it simple, so multiplication and transfer of truths can continue

HOW:

As I meet with someone, I'll say things like:
"Glad we could get together. I thought we could go over something. It's a pretty short lesson. I've been going through with it with everyone.

Let me ask you, let's say you met a new believer or someone who is really young in their faith and really doesn't know much. What are the first few

things you'd try to teach them?"

They'll say things like: salvation, faith, how to pray.

"yeah, the basic things like salvation, assurance, love, faith, prayer, how to read the Bible. Probably not things like which bible translation is the best or predestination or other things like that.

Well, **this is a series of five lessons.** Are they the best first five? Not necessarily. It's hard to know what would be the 'right' order, but they are really good starting point. They are assurance, confession and sin, two on the Holy Spirit, and one on growth and fellowship.

I thought we could go over it for two reasons. The first is to help you have a clear grasp on some of these truths. You'll probably know them. But I think it's one thing to know something, and another to have a scripture reference to it and be certain.

And the second reason is to help you be able to share this with others. I mean, why should I be the only one to help others grow in their faith. You can do this, too. So, this will help you know the concepts, but also be able to articulate the truths as well. Is that cool?"

Discipleship

Motivating People from the Word

The following are common problem areas encountered when discipling others. Use these verses to help your disciples deal with problems and walk closely with Christ.

Initiative Evangelism

Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 16:15, 8:38

Luke 24:46-47

John 4:34-36, 17:18, 20:21

2 Corinthians 2:14-17, 4:13, 5:18-2

Colossians 1:28-29

1 Thessalonians 1:8, 2:2

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Examples of Initiative Evangelism:

Acts 4:29-31, 5:42, 8:4, 9:19-22,

11:19-22, 17:5-7, 19:8-10

1 Corinthians 9:16

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

Commitment and Love for God

Matthew 6:31-33, 10:34-39, 16:24-26, 22:37-39

Luke 6:46-49, 14:26-33

John 14:15, 21, 23

Acts 20:24

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

Galatians 6:7-8

Ephesians 4:22-24

Philippians 3:7-14

Colossians 3:1-3

1 Timothy 4:7-8, 6:11-12

2 Timothy 2:3-6, 21, 22

Hebrews 2:12-13, 4:1-2

1 Peter 3:15

1 John 2:4-6

2 John 6

Time

Matthew 6:33, 16:24-26

Romans 12:1-2

Ephesians 5:15-18

Philippians 3:7-8

Colossians 3:1-3

1 John 2:4-6

Mark 10:29-30

Submission to a Group or a Leader

1 Corinthians 16:15-16

Ephesians 5:21

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

1 Timothy 5:17 Hebrews 13:7, 17

1 Peter 5:1-6

Desire to be a Disciple/Leader

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 20:28-31

Colossians 1:28-29

1 Timothy 4:6, 3:1

2 Timothy 2:2, 24-25

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Hebrews 5:12-14

Paul's Example

Acts 20:36-37

2 Corinthians 11:28-29, 7:3

Galatians 4:19

Philippians 1:8, 21-25

Being a Leader and a Servant

Matthew 20:25-28

Mark 9:35

Romans 12:10, 16

1 Corinthians 9:19

2 Corinthians 4:5

Galatians 5:13

Ephesians 5:21

Philippians 2:3

Working through Opposition

Matthew 10:24-32
 John 15:18-21
 Ephesians 6:10-17
 1 Thessalonians 5:24
 2 Timothy 1:7-9, 3:10-12
 Hebrews 10:32-36
 James 4:7
 1 Peter 1:6-7, 4:12-14, 5:8-10
 1 John 3:13

Dating a non-Christian

Psalm 1:1
 Matthew 6:21
 John 8:42-44
 Romans 8:6-8
 2 Corinthians 6:14-16
 Galatians 5:17
 Ephesians 5:7-11

Dating a Christian who's not walking with God

Psalm 1:1
 Matthew 6:21
 Romans 8:6-8
 Galatians 5:17
 Ephesians 5:7-11

Doubting God

Romans 14:23, 4:18-22
 Ephesians 4:14-16
 Colossians 2:8-10
 Hebrews 11:1, 6
 James 1:6-8

Discouragement because we don't see Results

John 15:5, 4:34-38
 Galatians 6:7-9
 1 Corinthians 15:58
 2 Corinthians 4:1
 Hebrews 12:3
 James 5:7-8

Personal Bible Study

Acts 17:11
 Romans 10:17
 Colossians 3:16
 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17
 1 Peter 2:2

Eternal Perspective

Romans 8:18
 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
 Philippians 3:20-21
 Colossians 3:1-3
 1 Timothy 6:18-19
 Hebrews 12:1-2
 1 Peter 1:17-19

Desire for Prayer

Matthew 7:7-11, 21:22
 Luke 18:1, 11:5-8
 Romans 8:26-27
 Ephesians 6:18-20
 Colossians 4:2-3
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
 1 Timothy 2:8
 Hebrews 4:15-16, 13:15

Love for Others

John 13:34-35, 15:10, 12, 14, 17
 Romans 12:9-10, 15:7
 1 Corinthians 13:1-7
 Ephesians 4:29-32
 Colossians 3:12-15
 1 John 2:9,11, 3:10,15,16

Training

Acts 2:42, 19:8-10
 Ephesians 4:11-16
 Ephesians 4:11-16
 Hebrews 10:24-25



Discipleship Covenant:

Person doing the discipleship:

I commit to meet at our agreed upon time. I commit to come prepared. I commit to offer you 3 things in our relationship: grace, truth, and time.

Grace:

I accept you.

You don't have to perform for me.

You have the freedom to fail.

You can be honest with me.

Truth:

I love you the way you are and too much to let you stay that way.

I am committed to the Word and will use it if I see areas that need to be addressed.

Time:

Growth takes time.

We are both in process and neither of us has arrived.

I agree to keep things confidential that we discuss during our time together.

x _____

Person being disciplined:

I agree to come to our scheduled appointment.

I agree to be honest and to have a teachable attitude.

I agree to keep things confidential that we discuss during our time together.

x _____

Covering Accountability Questions:

Though some questions are great for spurring on openness in a group setting, others may be better discussed 1 on 1. The purpose of these questions are not to condemn but to bring healing, accountability, and growth. "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." –James 5:16a

Suggestion: Begin by asking

Are you ready to be honest about the following questions I am going to ask?

- It is possible that maybe they are not quite ready to talk about something that might have just happened.
- That is OK. Say we will talk about this later. They may need time to talk to the Lord first.

1. Have you been consistent to spend time in the Scriptures and in prayer?
2. Do you have any unresolved conflicts?
3. Have you spent quality relationship time with family and friends?
4. Have you depended upon the Holy Spirit this week instead of your own strength?
5. Have you told any half truths or outright lies (maybe to put yourself in a better light to those around you)?
6. Have you shared the Gospel with a non-believer this week, or moved toward spiritual conversation with your friends that don't know Jesus?
7. Have you had any sexually inappropriate attitudes, thoughts, or actions? Viewed pornography/masturbated?
8. Are you taking care of your body?
 - exercise - good sleeping habits - cutting or any other self mutilation behaviors
 - eating properly (Are there any issues or potential issues with an eating disorder?)
9. Have you allowed any person or circumstance to rob you of your joy?
10. Are you following thru with your responsibilities? Are you managing your time well?
 - Productive with your time
 - Wasting time away with video games, facebook, TV, etc
11. Have you been involved in underage drinking, drunkenness, smoking, or drugs?
12. Have you repented of these things and experiencing forgiveness?
13. Have you been truthful with your answers today?
 - Gives them an out just in case.

These are NOT to be used as a checklist!!!!

The Compass

a tool for disciplers



CenterField
PRODUCTIONS

Turning Lost Students into Christ-Centered Laborers

Challenging to Discipleship

Conversation On the Journey

Oftentimes, we tend to initiate discipleship relationships without making clear what we are really talking about. A student might think you have agreed to get together every once and awhile for dating advice, while you are thinking she has agreed to meet for in depth one-on-one theological tutoring. If my own experience is any guide, often neither disciple, nor discipler, has a clear vision of what discipleship is.

That tends to lower the overall quality of our discipleship, and set us up for the discipleship equivalent of the "Let's just be friends" conversation; You've been discipling someone who isn't all that interested in having a ministry. Then you hear a talk on investing your life in the right people, and realize you aren't. So you get together with your disciple to "break up" so you can go train the next Billy Graham. You feel like a jerk, they feel like you're a jerk, and it's just plain lousy. Ah, the joys of ministry.

Here's a better idea. How about if, from the very beginning, you communicate a clear and compelling vision of discipleship that is consistent with Scripture and the mission of Campus Crusade for Christ? That way, you can help your potential disciple discern if discipleship in Crusade is for them. If so, great! Let's get to work. If not, that's okay. The body of Christ is large, and there may be a better place for them in another fellowship. It's much better to learn that now, rather than later. And if they are on the fence, an attractive picture of how they can participate in God's purposes just may catch their heart and compel them to come with us. No matter what happens, it's good to be clear up front.

What follows is a sample script for that conversation. I can't anticipate every response you might get, but this should give you an idea of what and how to communicate. Bring your own personality to bear, but don't stray from the key concepts. They are proven winners.

The Conversation

"Thanks so much for getting together this afternoon. I was really glad you told me you were interested in learning about these student-to-student discipleship relationships. Have you been able to get a sense of what Crusade is all about?"

[They respond.]

This Week's Excursion

This lesson will teach you a method for challenging students to discipleship in a way that casts vision and makes clear what we mean by discipleship.



“Yeah, those things are all true. It’s crazy how many things are going on all the time. But if there were one verse I’d put as a banner over Cru, it would probably be Matthew 28:18-20. Are you familiar with that at all?”

[They respond.]

“Let me read it to you. Jesus is talking and He says this:

‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

“Those are the last words Matthew records from Jesus’ mouth. In that passage, Jesus says the key thing He wants us to do is go and make disciples. Really, the purpose of Crusade is to obey that verse. We want to be His disciples, and help others to be, too.”

[On the top of a sheet of paper write “Matthew 28:18-20 – Make disciples.”]

“There’s a lot that is involved in being His disciple, but I think of three things, primarily. A mature biblical disciple is one who walks by faith, communicates his faith, and multiplies his faith.”

[Write “Walk by faith,” “Communicate your faith,” and “Multiply your faith,” down the left side of the paper as section headings, leaving plenty of room between each.]

“We are all in the process of growing in each one of these all the time, and we never completely finish any of them, but there’s kind of a progression, nevertheless.

“If someone is a new, or younger, believer, and they’re learning how to walk by faith, what sort of things do you think they’d need to learn about?”

[Let them respond while you write down their answers under “Walk by faith.” Some answers might include prayer, Bible study, going to church, etc.]

“Yeah, that’s great. We all need to learn and apply those things. God loves faith and He wants us to learn to trust and obey Him. In addition to what you said, I think about really believing that He has forgiven us, and that His love can’t be earned, because it’s a gift, and how we should live in response to that.”

[Jot down whatever you said to augment their response.]

“A lot of Christians sort of stop right there, and never experience all that it means to be His disciple. He doesn’t only want us to be His disciples. He said that He wants us to make disciples [refer to Mt. 28:19], and that means we need to tell others about Him.

“If you were to be a disciple who didn’t only walk by faith, but also communicated your faith, what sorts of things do you think you’d need to learn?”

Next Steps

I’d recommend you role play this twice. First with you as the discipler, and then with your disciple in the lead. Make sure your disciple is able to give this challenge well. The obvious application is that they do this when they challenge someone to real life discipleship, which is not an opportunity you can necessarily manufacture. If they are already discipling someone, but never challenged them properly, it’s not too late to go over this so as to clarify expectations.



[Let them respond while you write down their answers under “Communicate your faith.” This may be harder for them than “Walk by faith.” Some answers might include how to share the Gospel, answer questions about Christianity, get past their fear, etc.]

“Yeah, there is a lot of stuff that someone would need to know, but it’s kind of hard to put it in words if you haven’t thought about it much. It would be great to be able to tell the story of how you became a Christian in a way that can help others understand the Gospel. It’s good to know some illustrations that make clear why Jesus died, or Bible passages to explain it. There are a ton of things that can be helpful to someone who wants to communicate their faith. I just know that I hate feeling stupid, so if I don’t know how to start and have a conversation with somebody about Jesus, I’m probably not going to do it. That’s why Cru is so interested in helping people learn, and be comfortable sharing their faith. It’s hard. But it’s also really important, so we want to help you comfortably succeed.”

“So, a mature biblical disciple is one who walks, communicates, and finally multiplies his faith. Take a look at verse 20. Jesus says, ‘Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.’ If you think about the immediate context here, what would you include in the things the new disciples are supposed to obey?”

[Let them respond. What we’re driving at is the command to make yet more disciples.]

“That’s right. Jesus is basically telling His disciples to make more disciples who will love and obey Him, and make yet more disciples who will love and obey Him, and so on. In fact, that’s supposed to continue indefinitely so that two thousand years later you and I would be able to hear the Gospel and become His disciples. But it would be a tragedy if the chain broke with us. I want to be His disciple, which means I want to walk by faith myself. And I want to communicate my faith, so that others can know that He loves them, too. But I also want to help those new, younger believers to do the same. I don’t only want to pass the torch to them. I want to teach them how to pass it to others. I don’t only want them to be followers of Christ, as great as that is. I want to help them be leaders for Christ. That’s what it means to multiply your faith.

“That’s what Paul was talking about in 2 Timothy 2:2. He said to Timothy, ‘And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.’”

[Draw a little chart of multiplication: Paul to Timothy, Timothy to the reliable men, The reliable men to the others.]

“It’s supposed to keep going.”

“Imagine you were trying to multiply your faith into the lives of others. What kinds of things would you need to know?”

Side Trails

centerfieldproductions.com has an mp3 example of this conversation taking place. You can find it in the Additional Resources section of Multiply Your Faith.



[Let them respond while you write down their answers under “Multiply your faith.” This may be the hardest yet. Some answers might include how to lead a Bible study, disciple someone, follow up a new believer, be a leader.]

“Now, when you look over what we’ve come up with here, do you get a sense of what we mean by discipleship? A mature biblical disciple is one who walks by faith, communicates his faith, and multiplies his faith.”

[Let them respond.]

“I’m only able to disciple a couple of guys, but my commitment to them is to do whatever I can to help them become mature biblical disciples, with the ultimate goal that they would walk by faith, communicate their faith, and multiply their faith. That is really the heart of Crusade. It’s what we are all about. Does that sound like something you are interested in participating in?”

[Let them respond.]

“Where do you think the entry point is for you? I mentioned earlier that we never really graduate from one level to the next, but would you say that mostly the next step for you is to learn to walk by faith, communicate your faith, or multiply your faith?”

[Let them respond.]

“That’s great. We believe that the next four years of your life can shape the trajectory for the next 50 years of your life. You can be in a place now where you get the encouragement, training, and experience so that you can have a fantastic impact for Christ for the rest of your life. Not only would you enjoy the adventure of walking with Jesus, and not only would you leave behind a legacy of younger students who are influenced by you, but everywhere you go, for the rest of your life, you can help men and women know the purpose for which they were made. You can have a huge impact, and literally change people’s lives.

“That’s what we do. We help students walk by faith, communicate their faith, and multiply their faith, so that God gets the praise that He deserves, now and always.

“If what we are doing sounds like something you would like to do, too, I’d be thrilled to disciple you. We’d get together every week for an hour or so and do these things we’ve talked about. It’s a big commitment for both of us, cause it’s serious stuff. So why don’t you hang on to this sheet, and think about it, pray about it, and then later on this week, we can talk and see what you decide. Any questions now, though?”

[Let them respond.]

Thanks again for letting me tell you about this. I really appreciate your time.”

End

Notes to Self

The Compass is the discipleship curriculum for Campus Crusade for Christ’s Campus Ministry. It was created by Centerfield Productions, the field based division of CruPress. We’d love to hear your feedback on this lesson. Please write us at centerfield@uscmm.org

Your notes might look something like this when you're done:

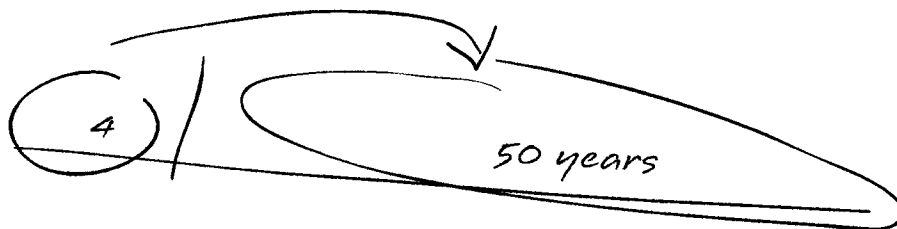
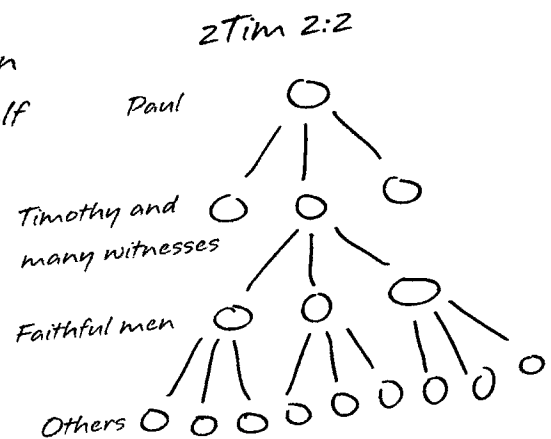
Matthew 28:18-20- Make Disciples

Where do you think is the best entry point for you?

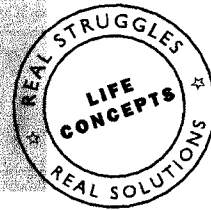
Walk by faith
prayer
know the Bible
go to church
who is the Holy Spirit?

Communicate your faith
how do you share the gospel?
apologetics (answers to hard questions)
telling your story about coming to Christ
starting a conversation about Jesus

Multiply your faith
leading a Bible study
follow up a new christian
disciple someone yourself



Stepping from *Uncertainty* to Confidence



Comparing Our Stories

Everyone experiences uncertainties in their relationship with God at one time or another.

My experience...

Your experience...

What questions or uncertainties have you had about Jesus Christ and your relationship with Him?

Considering Our Struggles

Consider the impact doubts and uncertainty have on relationships. Imagine a new marriage relationship that is filled with doubts...

Doubts about the relationship:
Will this really last?

Doubts about the partner:
Is this the right person?

Doubts about themselves:
Am I really committed?

What impact would doubts like these have on a marriage? Why?

How could similar doubts have an impact on our relationship with Jesus? Why?

Common Questions and Uncertainties

Who is Jesus?

Is He really who I think He is?

What does He want to do in
my life?

What does He really want
from me?

What has happened to me?

Did I do it right?

Do I need to do it again?

Was I sincere enough?

Can I lose my relationship with
Him?

Exploring the Solution

John wrote a letter to help give confidence to believers who were becoming unsettled by false teachers (1 John). As you read the following portion of Scripture, use the questions to help you discover how John dealt with the problem of uncertainty.

1 John 5:9-13

⁹We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. ¹⁰Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

(5:9)

What is testimony?

What makes testimony trustworthy?

What has God made testimony about?

(5:10)

Since God has given us testimony, what two options exist?

What is true if we believe God?

What is true if we don't believe God?

(5:11)

God's testimony says two things are true? What are they?

(5:12)

What two kinds of people are there?

Is it possible to have the Son and not have the life?

Is it possible to not have the Son and still have the life?

Is it possible to think you have the life but don't?

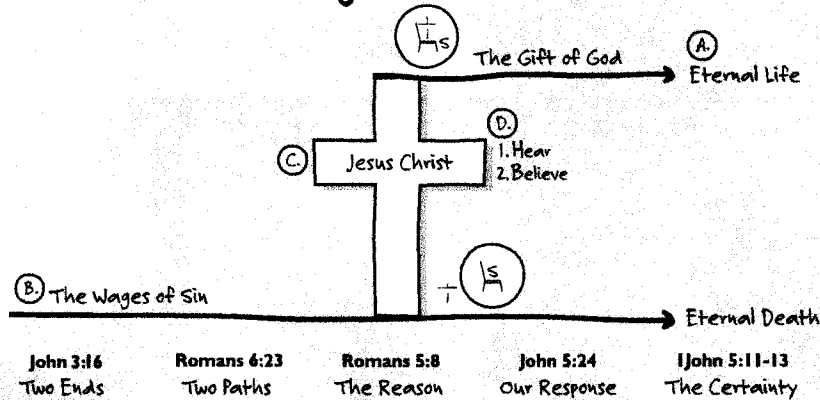
Is it possible to have the life but not be sure?

(5:13)

To whom is John writing these things?

Why does he write them? Does John believe we can know we have eternal life?

Examining the Sketch



The Issue: How do I know if I have the Son?

A. Read John 3:16.

What two possible destinies are described in this verse?
Which destiny does God desire for us? Why?

B. Read Romans 6:23.

What have we earned? How?
What does God desire to give us? How?

C. Read Romans 5:8.

What compelled God to give His Son to die for us?
Why did Jesus have to die?

D. Read John 5:24.

According to this verse, what is my part in salvation?

Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He rose from the dead and is now alive as the Lord of life. Each person who hears the message, turns from going their own independent way, and trusts Jesus Christ to be their Savior, passes from "death" to "life."

Look back at 1 John 5:11-13.

According to this sketch, where is the person who has Christ?
Where is the person who does not have Christ?
Where would you put yourself on the sketch and why?
On a scale of 0-100%, how sure are you that you now have eternal life?

Summary: Based upon the promises given by God, everyone who has the Son can be assured that they have eternal life with God.

Taking Steps

John wrote many other things to help give us confidence:

To those who were uncertain about Jesus and whether they believed in Him, he wrote the Gospel of John (see John 20:30-31).

Read the Gospel of John.

Look for the evidence that Jesus is the Son of God.

Mark the explanations of how we are to respond to Him.

To those who believed in Jesus but were uncertain about eternal life, he wrote the letter known as 1 John (see 1 John 5:13).

Read 1 John.

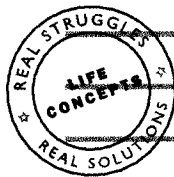
Mark the statements with the word *know*.

Look for what these statements tell us about:

What we are to believe.

What we are to do.

How we are to love.



Next Concept

FROM UNCERTAINTY TO CONFIDENCE

➔ **FROM FEELINGS OF UNWORTHINESS TO FORGIVENESS**

FROM BEING UNABLE TO EMPOWERED

FROM BEING UNPREPARED TO EQUIPPED

FROM BEING UNDEVELOPED TO MATURITY

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