

HOW TO BE A DISCIPLER

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. (Matthew 28:19–20)

The final command of the risen Christ is to *make disciples*. Yet, it seems that for all our programs, structures, processes, and budgets, the church today has largely lost sight of this vision. Therefore, we are thrilled that you have taken up the call to obey this foundational command. You're going to make a disciple!

There are undoubtedly many approaches to disciple making. Our aim is to be at once holistic and simple, thoughtful and yet accessible. That is why we've designed a discipleship pathway that utilizes many different resources in order to bring about the most life change.

This pathway is based on four essential directions that a disciple should be going: up (union with God), down (communion with others), out (justice and mercy), and back (making disciples).



The first 9 modules of your journey will deal exclusively with the first three arrows. Each module deals with one of the arrows, then the next module moves on to the next arrow, then the next, then we cycle back around. This continues for 9 modules, which means you'll have spent time dealing with each of the first three arrows for 3 modules each. Every module also has a specific *outcome*, or embodied practice that has to do with the direction of the arrow. Module 10 is devoted to the final direction: making disciples.

Here are just a few important things to understand as you begin your journey with your disciple.

1. **Be flexible.** This pathway consists of 10 modules of 4 meetings each. If you meet once a week, then you'll finish in 10 months. However, you certainly don't have to meet every week. The point is simply to complete each module. Two meetings a month is the recommended minimum, but do what works best for you.

2. **It's all about the outcomes.** Each module has a desired outcome that the disciple ought to embody. Each meeting's discussion and assignment are meant to help them establish that outcome in their lives. However, as a discipler, you have total freedom to adjust the assignments and discussions! If there's something you'd like the disciple to experience, use it! Just *make sure it will accomplish the outcome*. The outcome is the point, the assignments are simply one way to get there.

3. **Set the bar high.** Your time is valuable. You should only give your time to a disciple who is serious about being disciplined. If they consistently don't show up, don't complete assignments, or show a general lack of development, *do not feel bad about ending the relationship*. Jesus had high standards for his followers, so we should too. That's why each discipleship relationship should begin with signing the Discipleship Covenant.

4. **Multiplication is essential.** The point of all this is to make disciples *who make disciples*. From day 1, make sure the disciple knows that the goal is that they would one day do the same thing with someone else. This cannot be emphasized enough!

Finally, keep us in the loop! We want to help you and hear how it's going. Email us at spiritualformation@theransomchurch.org if you have any questions or comments.

Blessings!