

ASIAN LUTHERAN DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES



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ADULTS/IMMIGRANTS TRACK

By Rev. Chi-shih Chen

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INTRODUCTION

Building and multiplying disciples for Christ – how can this great work be accomplished? The basic goal of this project is to create a new process or identify an existing process that will fulfill discipleship training within a reasonable timeframe (such as one year) and show the real results of bearing fruits. Then disciples can be multiplied, with discipleship becoming our way of living for the rest of our lives.

Our focus will be simple and practical:

- 1) to generate true disciples
- 2) to impact our ministries
- 3) to come up with a process that can be reproduced by others.

What does the Bible tell us about how people become disciples? Read the following three passages:

²³ Then he said to them all, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. ²⁵What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?’ (Luke 9:23-25)

³⁷He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Disciples are, therefore:

- 1) **followers** -- who deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Jesus
- (2) **lovers** – who love the Lord their God with all their hearts, souls and minds, and love their neighbours as themselves
- 3) **makers** – who make disciples of all nations

Read on for more of Jesus' teachings:

³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions." (Luke 14:33)

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples.'" (John 8:31)

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

What do these passages say about what true disciples must do?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

THE CRITICAL PATH

During his lifetime on earth, Jesus Christ faced four types of people: the crowds, the followers (such as 70 in Luke and 120 in the day of Pentecost), twelve disciples and the inner circle (Peter, James and John). We need to select people as Jesus did and find people willing to commit themselves to receive the training.

Jesus is our model. Discipleship is not a choice, but a must in our ministry. The Evangelism Strategy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) indicates that the ELCA understands discipleship as a critical calling.

Evangelism Strategy of the ELCA:

- Objective I: Call the Church to Prayer
- Objective II: Prepare and Renew Evangelical Leaders
- Objective III: Teach Discipleship
- Objective IV: Start and Renew Congregations

THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS

There are some basic requirements in the discipleship journey. As disciples, we need:

1. a vision to inspire us
2. humility and accountability to receive training
3. structures and relationships to make the training effective
4. methods and processes to guide us in the journey

In this document, we will focus on various methods and the processes for the discipleship journey.

THE PROCESS: MODELS

Bill Bright, the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, used a four-stage procedure in his discipleship training. Many churches are using this format. In fact, by looking through the vision and mission statements of the ELCA, we can see a four-stage process also.

1) Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Mission Statement

- Stage 1** *Marked* with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.
- Stage 2** *Claimed* by God's grace for the sake of the world, we are a new creation through God's living Word by the power of the Holy Spirit;
- Stage 3** *Gathered* by God's grace for the sake of the world, we will live among God's faithful people, hear God's Word, and share Christ's supper;
- Stage 4** *Sent* by God's grace for the sake of the world, we will proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serve all people following the example of our Lord Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the world

2) Bill Bright:

Process for Building and Multiplying Disciples – Bill Bright				
	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	PART 4

PRINCIPLE	WIN	BUILD	TRAIN	SEND
METHOD	Present the gospel, evangelize	Follow-up appointment and Christian growth Bible Study; new Christians learn assurance of salvation to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit	Discipleship groups; members learn to witness	Multiplication of groups; members start their own groups
MATERIALS	Four Spiritual Laws, "JESUS" video, "A Man Without Equal" video and book, "Jesus and the Intellectual," or "A Great Adventure" booklets	"Five Steps of Christian Growth" Bible Study	"Five Steps to Sharing Your Faith" Bible Study or "Reaching Your World" video series	"Five Steps to Making Disciples" Bible Study
LEVEL	Basic Training	Intermediate Training	Advanced training	Leadership Training

2) Bill Hull:

Process for Building and Multiplying Disciples – Bill Hull				
	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	PART 4
PRINCIPLE	Come & See	Come & Follow Me	Come & Be with Me	Remain & Unleash ME
METHOD	Here we gather & interest you in Christ	Here we train you to be a self-feeding Christian	Here we let you lead through apprenticeship	Let them do it Unleash them
MATERIALS	Worship, evangelistic events, small groups, our home	In the Word, prayer fellowship, your witness, love for others	Growth-Group leaders' training: learn to confront, to delegate & lead, to pastor & care for	Train them to be: staff church planters missionaries elders/deacons
LEVEL	We care for you and bond you into the congregation	We help you express your gifts	Trained disciples are now candidates for serving	Here we unleash you

4) Rick Warren:

Process for Building Disciples -- Rick Warren				
	BASE 1	BASE 2	BASE 3	BASE 4

PRINCIPLE	WIN Committed to Membership	BUILD Committed to Maturity	TRAIN Committed to Ministry	SEND Committed to Mission
METHOD	Knowing Christ	Growing in Christ	Serving Christ	Sharing Christ
MATERIALS	CLASS 101 Discovering Saddleback Membership Membership Covenant	CLASS 201 Discovering Spiritual Maturity Maturity Covenant	CLASS 301 Discovering My Ministry Ministry Covenant	CLASS 401 Discovering My Life Mission Mission Covenant
LEVEL	Basic Training	Intermediate Training	Advanced Training	Leadership Training

5) River of Life – a Chinese church:

Process for Building and Multiplying Disciples – (River of Life)				
	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	PART 4

PRINCIPLE	□□□□ (Child)	□□□□ (Youth)	□□□□ (Father)	□□□□ (Worker)
GOAL	□□□□□□□□ □ (Help believers to join the group or church)	□□□□□□□□ □ (Help believers to establish their relationship with God)	□□□□ (Equip and train the believers)	□□□□□□□□ □□ (Involve believers in teaching or evangelistic ministries)
MATERIALS	101□□□□□□ (Choice of life) 102□□□□ (Believe and Be Baptized) 103□□□□ (Devotion and Prayer) 104□□□□□□ □ (Join in the group or church)	201□□□□ (A whole new life) 202□□□□ (Led by the Holy Spirit) 203□□□□ (Fundamental Truths) 204□□□□ (Whole being salvation)	301□□□□1 (Preaching in Power I) 302□□□□ (New Testament) 303□□□□2 (Preaching in Power II) 304□□□□ (Kingdom Migration)	401□□□□ (Ministry in Power) 402□□□□ (Old Testament) 403□□□□□□ (Internship training for group leaders) 404□□□□ (Evangelism and satellite churches)

6) Larry Stockstill:

Process for Building and Multiplying Disciples -- Larry Stockstill				
	LADDER 1	LADDER 2	LADDER 3	LADDER 4

PRINCIPLE	WIN	CONSOLI- DATE	DISCIPLE	SEND
METHOD	Evangelism 1. Pray for three for 30 days 2. Open cell group 3. Net meeting 4. Celebration service 5. Water Baptism	Consolidation 1. Phone call in 24 hours 2. Visited in 72 hours 3. Assigned to a cell 4. New cell member is then entered into the Pre-Encounter, Encounter, Post-Encounter track	School of Leaders 1. Bible school for leaders (three 10 week sessions) 2. Re-Encounter Weekend (Level 2) 3. Begin your own cell group	SEND 1. Establish a cell group 2. Minister to in order to minister 3. Winning souls
MATERIALS	The Journey to Freedom 1. The Journey to the Cross 2. The Journey Through the Cross 3. The Journey With the Cross	Discover I 1. Building Your Foundation 2. Strengthening Your Family	Discovery II 1. Charting Your Vision 2. Conquering Your Land	Discovery III 1. Forging Your Team 2. Cultivating Your Gifts
LEVEL	Basic Training	Intermediate Training	Advanced Training	Leadership Training

7) Our Model:

Process for Building Disciples --- Chi-Shih Chen

	BELIEVERS →	DISCIPLES →	LEADERS →	MINISTERS
PRINCIPLE	<p>WIN Marked with the cross of Christ forever,</p>	<p>CONNECT <i>Claimed</i> by God's grace for the sake of the world, we are a new creation through God's living Word by the power of the Holy Spirit;</p>	<p>DISCIPLE <i>Gathered</i> by God's grace for the sake of the world, we will live among God's faithful people, hear God's Word, and share Christ's supper;</p>	<p>SEND <i>Sent</i> by God's grace for the sake of the world, we will proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serve all people</p>
METHOD	<p>New Creation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making the Decision 2. Entering the Journey 3. Righteousness 4. Recovery 5. Deliverance <p>Marked with the Cross</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Through Jesus Christ 2. On the Cross 3. With the Cross 	<p>Connect to God</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soaking in the Spirit 2. One in Christ 3. Filled with the Spirit 4. Walking in the Spirit 5. Worshiping the Father <p>Connect to Others</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build the Family 2. Join the cell group 3. Love the others 	<p>School of Leaders</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holistic Living 2, The Bible School 3. Cultivating your gifts 4. Supernatural Ministry 5. Leadership Training <p>School of Ministry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Serve in the cell group 2. Start an open cell group 3. Church Ministries 	<p>SEND</p> <p>Cell Multiplicity Business Ministries Fivefold Ministries Church Planters Missionaries</p>

MATERIALS	CLASS 100 Born to Live Free	CLASS 200 Growing to Spiritual Maturity	CLASS 300 Learning and Doing My Ministry	CLASS 400 Living My Life Mission
LEVEL	Children Committed to New Creation	Young People Committed to Maturity	Fathers Committed to Ministry	Workers Committed to Mission

School of Disciples

THE ELEMENTS

PEOPLE Pray for 30 days
Select people

SALVATION Redemption: Jesus Christ + the cross
1 Corinthians 2:2; 15:3-4; I Peter 2:24;
Colossians 2:14

darkness Recovery: Rescued from the power of
Romans 6:6, 17; Colossians 1:13

oppressed Deliverance: Delivered those who are
Luke 4:18; Galatians 5:24; Romans 6:4

CENTER ON The Love of God: worship God, enjoy the love
of the Father

THE TRINITY The Grace of Lord Jesus Christ: In
Christ, union with Christ
The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit

SPIRITUAL Soak in the Word of God: Psalm 1:2; Joshua
1:8

DISCIPLINE Pray without ceasing: 1 Thessalonians 5:17;
Philippians 4:6
Worship God all the time: John 4:21, 24

LIFE Love God with all your heart, soul and mind:
Matthew 22:37

DISCIPLINE Love your neighbor as yourself: Matthew 22:39
Be a disciple + make disciples: Luke 9:23;
Matthew 28: 9-20

LIVING Spiritual warfare: body (Romans 8:5-7);
DISCIPLINE devil (1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:12);
world (1 John 2: 15-16)

Holiness: fruit of the Holy Spirit: Galatians 5:

22-23

Servanthood: 1 Corinthians 3:9

2 Corinthians
13:14

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.**

- **The Father: the Love of God**
- **The Son: the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ**
- **The Holy Spirit: the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

THE LESSONS

For Stage 1 and 2, we have a total of 40 lessons:

1. The Important Decision
2. Jesus Christ and His Crucifixion – The Power of the Cross
3. Victories over the Satan
4. Curses and Bandages
5. Spiritual Warfare Part I
6. Spiritual Warfare Part II
7. Spiritual Warfare Part III
8. Inner Healing – Forgiving
9. Prayer Part I
10. Prayer Part II
11. Word of God Part I
12. Word of God Part II
13. Worship I
14. Worship II
15. Bearing Fruits
16. Presence of the Holy Spirit
17. Filled with the Spirit
18. Fellowship with Holy Spirit Part I
19. Fellowship with Holy Spirit Part II
20. Union with Christ
21. In Christ -- Christ is the Lord
22. In Christ -- Trust and Obey
23. Being a disciple of the Lord
24. Unconditional Love – Rooted and Founded on His Love
25. Love God, Love Others
26. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit -- Love
27. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit -- Joy
28. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit – Peace
29. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit -- Patience
30. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit -- Kindness
31. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit -- Goodness
32. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit -- Faithfulness
33. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit -- Gentleness

34. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit -- Self-Control
35. Renewing of the Mind -- Repentance and Forgiveness
36. Renewing of the Mind -- Positive Thinking and Hope
37. Holistic Life -- Walk with God
38. Holistic Life -- Live by the Spirit
39. Holistic Life -- Image of the Lord
40. One Thing Only

THE METHODS

Use various training techniques:

1. Apprentice leaders --- students learn as they attend the group.
2. Class lessons --- multiple classroom sessions.
3. One-on-one teaching ---personalized training in which the leader meets with the student individually.
4. Partners --- encourage accountability by setting up prayer partners.
5. Pilot training--- to train an initial leadership group. Each member will eventually start his or her own group.
6. Retreats --- intensive seminars, usually in a non-church setting for one to three days.
7. Self-study tutorials --- students learn at their own pace.
8. Special events --- seminar and conferences.
9. Testimony sharing – multiple sessions.

Use retreats with your training, to:

- provide a powerful spiritual atmosphere that is conducive to shaping new leaders and converts.
- speed up the process.
- make it easier for trainees to commit themselves to learning in a concentrated period of time.
- make it easier for trainers to teach without making a longer time commitment.

Use the cell groups to:

- provide a place for evangelism, connection, fellowship, and spiritual growth to develop.
- provide a perfect training ground for future church leaders. People learn to labor. They become equipped for ministry; encouraged to exercise their gifts; learn to lead, exhort, administer; and above all, pastor a small group of people.

THE PILOT

We organized a pilot program for Stages 1 and 2. The class met once a week. Since there are 40 lessons, it takes 40 weeks to finish. We had 12 people at the beginning, and 11 people finished the class with perfect attendance. At the end, we could clearly see that lives were transformed. Spouses of some of the students were also amazed at their transformation.

All the glory belongs to God. We started a third group while the first group worked on its third developing stage. Our goal is to make disciples and leaders within a two-year period. Every one of them will have intensively studied the following seven areas of discipleship:

1. Being a new creation: righteousness, recovery, deliverance
2. Soaking in the Spirit: word, prayer and worship
3. Abiding in Christ as branch and vine: in Christ/union with Christ
4. Being filled and having fellowship with the Holy Spirit
5. Worshiping God and enjoying God's love
6. Holistic life
7. Supernatural ministry

Church Growth

Remember, churches grow when they build on their:

Strength – through discipleship

Strategy – through planning

Skills – through coaching

How will you choose to do this at your congregation? May God bless you in your ministry with adults and immigrants