

THE ROLE OF EVANGELISM IN DISCIPLESHIP

Purpose Statement: The purpose of this session is to demonstrate the relationship between evangelism and discipleship, and to enable you to motivate disciples to be actively involved with you in evangelism.

Learning Objectives: This session will help you to:

1. Understand the crucial role of evangelism in the discipleship process.
2. Give biblical examples for using evangelism as a part of discipleship.
3. Motivate the disciple to use evangelism as part of his ministry of discipleship.

Key Verse: Mark 3:14

Note to instructor: Share how evangelism - as a part of discipleship - enhanced your discipleship experience. This could be when you were discipling others, or when you were being disciplined.

Perhaps you may share an example where evangelism was missing in the discipleship process, and what happened as a result.

I. Evangelism and Discipleship Are Not Separate Tasks.

A. All disciples must be involved in evangelism. Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus' command to "...teach them all I have commanded you..." involves evangelism.

1. Without evangelism, discipleship is not occurring. At best, you have a Bible study.
2. An integral part of growing to maturity is learning to share the good news.
3. Truth is more often caught than taught.

1 Peter 3:15 says that we should be ready to talk about the foundation of our faith. To grow in our faith, we need to express it often. To do so means that we have:

- a. A relationship with God that is worth telling about.
- b. The knowledge of what to say and skill in how to say it.
- c. The right attitude: a desire to tell others about Jesus.

4. Evangelism accelerates the growth of disciples.

Questions about the Christian life are answered as disciples observe the discipler witness and answer questions about the gospel. Sometimes as the disciple starts witnessing, he/she is confronted with questions or issues they can not yet answer. This will motivate them to inquire what the Scriptures say about it.

B. Jesus and His disciples are our primary examples.

1. He called ordinary people, like fisherman. Matthew 4:18-22
2. He sent them out to preach as part of their training (Matthew 10:1ff).

II. Biblical Examples of Evangelism as Part of Disciple-Making.

Note to instructor: Have the students get into groups of 3 or 4 to discuss what they wrote in all of section II. Give about 8 minutes, and then have some share what they discussed in the small groups (about 5 minutes).

A. Read Mark 3:14 and Mark 1:17. Write down what you observe Jesus calling His disciples to be or do:

(If not mentioned, you could say that Jesus called His disciples to be with Him, He sent them out to preach, and He called them to follow Him and He will make them fishers of men.)

B. Jesus example. Write down your observations from each of the Scripture passages.

1. His disciples saw Him model evangelism as He spent time with them.
John 4
Luke 7:37-50
Luke 19:1-10
2. He sent His disciples to follow His example.
Mark 16:15
Acts 1:8
3. They obeyed Him.
Acts 2:42-47
Acts 4:32-35
Acts 11:19-21
Acts 17:16-34

III. Use Evangelism in Your Disciple-Making.

A. Motivate your disciples.

People in general are apprehensive about doing evangelism. They need to be motivated.

1. Teach them the biblical basis for evangelism.
2. Demonstrate a heart for evangelism by your life Matthew 9:35-38.

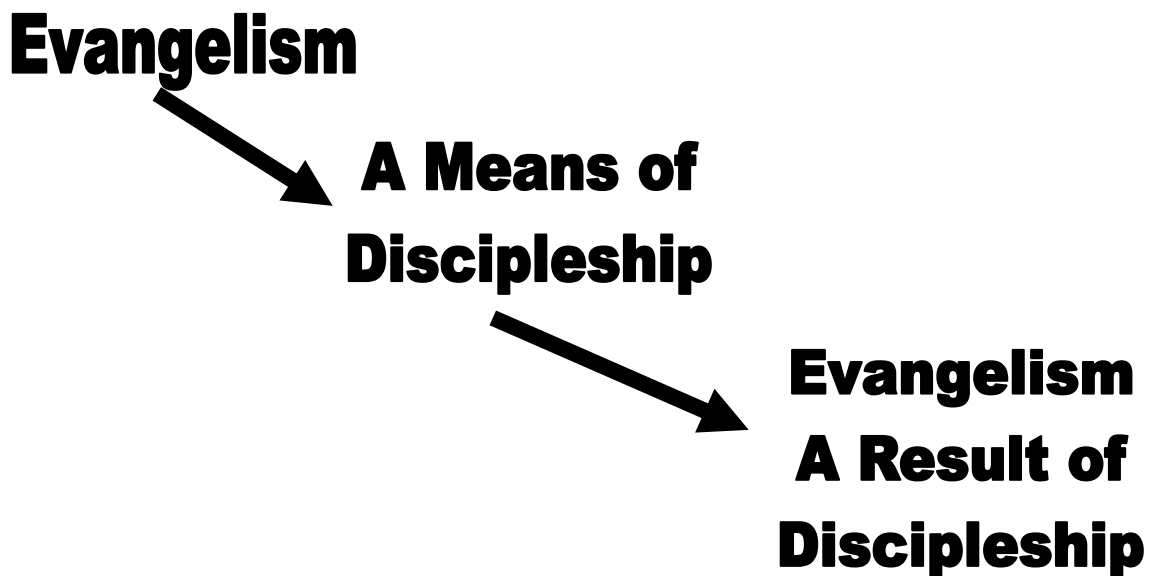
In Matthew 9:35-38, we find an example of the Lord Jesus Christ. He disciplined while He evangelized. He didn't see discipleship and witnessing as separate activities, but trained His men and communicated the burden of His heart within the context of evangelism. As with Jesus, evangelism begins with a heart of compassion. The spirit of initiative evangelism is caught not taught.

It is important that as a discipler, one develops the mental habit of always looking for opportunities to share his faith whether he is alone or with others. As one trusts God to develop the habit of evangelism in one's life, those whom they are discipling will pick it up. As disciples observe the sharing of one's faith both in and out of a ministry context, the importance of evangelism will be communicated and taught far more effectively than it would in the classroom.

The disciples should both observe and participate in evangelism.

In order both to reinforce and strengthen the importance of evangelism in the disciples, they need to be involved in it. **At first it is best that they only observe or, if they would not be too threatened, one can also ask them to share briefly how they invited Christ into their life.** During later witnessing times, encourage them to take a more active part by asking them to share the Four Spiritual Laws.

- B. Develop a relational thinking perspective.
1. Evangelism is not an end in itself. It is a means of discipleship.
 2. Discipling in groups is a result of evangelism, and results in more evangelism.



As you evangelize with your disciple(s), people will place their faith in Christ, or you may meet Christians who want to grow in Christ. You can then show your disciple(s) how to help them grow in the basics of the Christian life.

After your disciple(s) has observed this a couple of times, challenge them to initiate evangelism and to lead in following up new believers with you observing. Take time immediately afterwards to evaluate, praising what was well done, and offering suggestions on what could be improved.

As they demonstrate readiness and proficiency in these ministry skills, help them form their discipleship groups. Delegate increasing responsibility to them in the discipleship process.

Discipleship is happening when your “spiritual children” have “spiritual children.”

Note to instructor: Have the students discuss “Application” and “Discussion Questions” in their small groups. Leave about 10 minutes at the end to have some share what they wrote in their “Application” section.

IV. Application

- A. Have you been including evangelism with your disciples? If “yes,” how? Have you “planned” evangelism with them as well as making use of “unplanned” way-of-life witnessing? Are you giving them increased responsibility in the evangelism and discipleship process? Are you working toward having them be responsible to lead their own discipleship groups? Write your disciples’ names below, and write down how you can challenge them to greater steps of faith toward leading their own groups. Be ready to discuss this in class and with your mentor.

Name of disciples

How to Challenge them toward leading their own groups

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

- B. If you answered “no” to IV.A above, what will be your next steps needed in order to include evangelism as a part of the discipleship process? Write down your disciples’ names below, and write down how you can challenge them to greater steps of faith in evangelism as a part of the discipleship process. Be ready to discuss this in class and with your mentor.

Name of disciples

How to Challenge them to evangelize in discipleship

- 1.
- 2.

3.

4.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is evangelism important in the discipleship process?
2. Give biblical examples of using evangelism as a part of discipleship.
3. How would you motivate your disciples to evangelize as a part of the discipleship process?