

MENTOR GUIDE

MODULE 6: DISCIPLE-MAKING

INTRODUCTION

In this module, **Jay Pathak** talks about disciple-making - how you can grow in your own discipleship and disciple others.



These videos will help you answer two central questions:

1. What does it mean to be a disciple?
2. How can I progress as a disciple and a disciple-maker?

SESSION 1: WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

Video Notes

- 1. Discipleship, or apprenticeship, to Jesus is not just belief.** Mark 1:16-18. Dallas Willard says, “Discipleship is learning from Jesus how to live your life as he would live it if he were you.” Discipleship is not just about believing in things like forgiveness, prayer, and generosity, but about learning to practice them.
- 2. Apprenticeship requires living in real life with Jesus every day.** This process takes time. Just as you don’t learn to be a skilled carpenter by trying really hard for one day, you have to train to become a different kind of person, to become more like Jesus in your life.
- 3. Transformation has to happen in the context of community.** To grow as a disciple or an apprentice of Jesus, you have to be attached to others.
- 4. The natural result of all healthy discipleship is connection with others.** As you get help, you help others in the same way.

SESSION 1: WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

Participant Reflection Questions

After watching the video, participants will answer or journal the following questions for reflection. Feel free to utilize these questions for discussion at your next Coaching Session.

- 1.** Jay describes the difference between belief and discipleship. For example, someone can believe in prayer, but a disciple is someone who is learning how to pray. You can believe in forgiveness, but it's another thing to be learning to forgive others.

How have you seen the difference between belief and being a disciple show up in your life? Can you think of a time when you moved from believing in something to more intentionally practicing it?

- 2.** Apprenticeship requires living in real life with Jesus every day. This process takes time. You have to train to become a different kind of person.

Does it feel natural to think about discipleship as training? Are you someone who easily incorporates new daily practices into your life? Why or why not?

- 3.** True transformation requires community and leads to connection to others. Who is part of the community that is helping you as a disciple? Who are you inviting into this journey?

SESSION 2: REPRODUCING DISCIPLES

Video Notes

- 1. A church is only as healthy as its leaders.** Or, a church is only as *mature* as its leaders.
- 2. Maturity is not the same as passion.** Intensity is not an indicator of spiritual depth. Neither is activity. Someone can be very active, but not experience transformation.

A key indicator of real maturity is the way the gospel produces humility, as shown in how someone carries themselves.

- 3. Mature leaders are producing the fruit of the Spirit in their lives and reproducing that in others** (2 Tim. 2:1-2). Any good thing that God has entrusted to us, we are training, coaching, and reproducing in others.

SESSION 2: REPRODUCING DISCIPLES

Reflection Questions

1. Disciples of Jesus are passionate and active, but passion and activity are not necessarily indicators of maturity.

Where might you be mistaking intensity or activity for spiritual maturity—and what evidence (humility, obedience, teachability, repentance) shows what God is actually producing in you right now?

2. A key indicator of real maturity is the way the gospel produces humility, as show in how someone carries themselves.

In the past month, what situations have revealed what fruit you are producing (especially in conflict, criticism, disappointment, or unmet expectations)? How did you respond? How might God be inviting you to surrender or continue to grow in that area?

3. Who is currently being shaped by what God is producing in you—and how intentionally are you helping them grow?

What is one concrete next step you can take this week to entrust something you are learning to a specific person (so they can pass it on to others)?

ACTIVATION ASSIGNMENT

Put This Into Practice

This module was all about discipleship and reproducing disciples. Both sessions reminded us that God produces maturity in us as we grow as apprentices to Him.

As you begin this time of reflection, take a few minutes to pray. Ask God to draw your attention to how he's transformed you as you have sought to follow His will and obey His commands.

Then, read Mark 1: 1-20.

In this passage, we see John the Baptist's faith and ministry, the initiation of Jesus' ministry, and Jesus' first disciples.

What stands out to you from these verses? Where do you see the points of this module's teaching reflected here? Take a few minutes to write out your response.

What about you? What was it like when you began to move from believing in Jesus to living life with Jesus every day? What transformation did you start to see? Who was your community at that time? Take a few minutes to write out your response.

What about today? What areas of your life do you feel God has been showing you He'd like you to grow? How would you like to respond? Who can support you in this? Who can you bring along? Write out your responses to each question before moving on.

Now, go have a discipleship conversation with someone in your community.

Often, we resist these types of conversations because we don't know what to say. Here are 4 Essential Questions that you can use when talking with others about your life in following Jesus, and about theirs.

1. What has God been showing you about Himself and about you and your life recently?
2. What would obedience in that look like this week?
3. Who can support you in this?
4. Who can you bring along as you go?

If you are meeting with someone whom you are inviting into apprenticeship with Jesus, you can begin the conversation by sharing a version of this regarding your own life.

Then, ask them the questions. At the end, pray for one another.

Be ready to share about this conversation when you meet with your mentor this month.

MENTOR SESSION GUIDE

While the content we've provided will be impactful for participants, as a VLE mentor, the time you spend helping participants process will be transformative. Please use this time to make thoughtful observations and be prepared to speak into their lives. This time together will provide many opportunities to have an "ICNU (I See In You) Conversation", which will be catalytic in their growth and development! Here is a sample agenda you might consider using for your time together:

Connection (5-10 minutes). This is a great opportunity for small talk, to warm up the conversation. You can ask how their week has been, or if they have anything exciting coming up.

Celebration (5-10 minutes). Ask them if they have seen God do something in their lives or ministry in the past two weeks that they'd like to share. This is an opportunity for you to affirm and reinforce the good growth that is happening.

Coaching Conversation (40 minutes). See Coaching Conversation Section on the next page. This portion will be specific to each module.

Care & Prayer (10-20 minutes). As you wrap up your time together, make space for the work of the Holy Spirit. This could look different every time, especially if you are meeting with an individual versus a group. If you are with an individual, you could ask if the Holy Spirit has brought anything to the surface for them, and then pray into that. If you are with a group, this might be an opportunity for a hot seat, or for participants to break off into pairs and pray for each other.

Closing Communication (5 minutes). This is the time to highlight the next module, important church events, or announcements, etc.

MODULE 6: COACHING CONVERSATION

Module 6: Disciple Making is focused on our calling to be disciples of Jesus and inviting others to become disciples of Jesus. This is one calling, not two. Yet, often our conversations with other leaders focus more on whom we are discipling and how we are discipling rather than how we are growing as disciples and who is discipling us.

- 1. First, begin with your own reflection.** Model the assignment, emotionally and practically, by briefly responding to the four essential questions.
- 2. Next, if your group has more than 4 people, break into smaller groups (ideally triads) and have participants respond to the following questions (presented in two rounds):**

Round 1 - "Then":

- What was it like when you moved from believing in Jesus to living life with Jesus?
- What transformation did you begin to see?
- Who was your community then?

Round 2 - "Now"

- What growth areas is God highlighting right now?
- What would obedience in that look like this week?
- Who can support you in this?
- Who can you bring along?

3. Bring the group back together and ask for two or three volunteers to share about their discipleship conversations:

- Who did you meet with, and what was the setting?
- Which of the 4 questions felt easiest? Which felt hardest?
- What surprised you?
- Where did you sense God's presence or prompting?
- What might you do differently next time?

4. Wrapping up: give each person a slip of paper and a pencil or pen. Ask them to write down one thing they want to commit to doing in the coming month as a result of this conversation.