

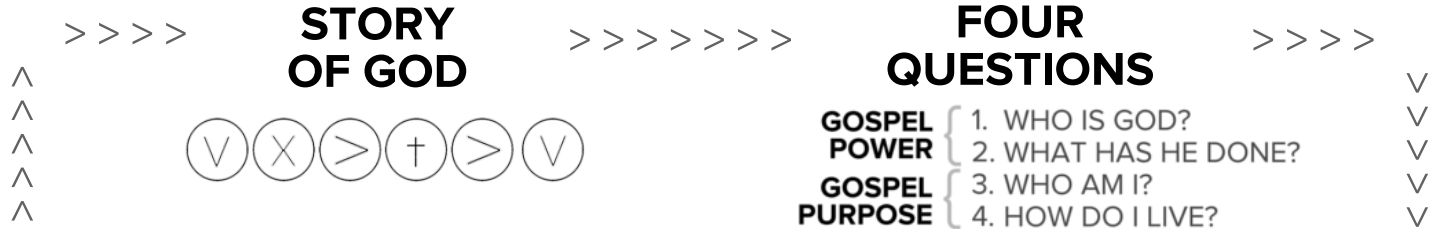
MC TRAINING MAP

BY TODD MORR

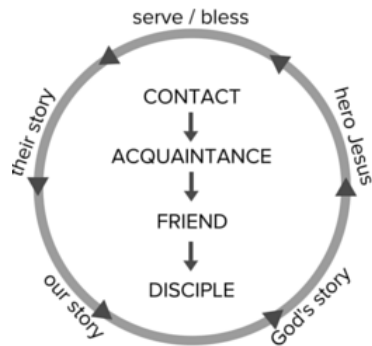


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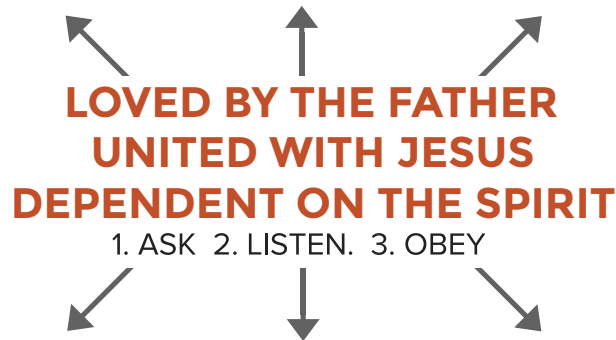
THE DISCIPLEMAKING LIFE



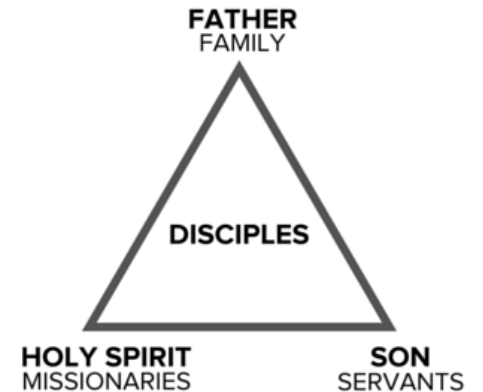
HOW WE PROCLAIM JESUS



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WHO WE ARE



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HOW WE LIVE

WORK
EAT
REST/PLAY
CELEBRATE

STORY
LISTEN
BLESS

<<<<<<<<

DISCIPLESHIP ENVIRONMENT

LIFE ON LIFE
LIFE IN COMMUNITY
LIFE ON MISSION

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DISCIPLESHIP STRUCTURE

DNA
MISSIONAL COMMUNITY
CITY GROUP
GATHERING

THE DISCIPLEMAKING LIFE EXPLAINED

The visual on the previous page is meant to help be a constant reference point to help us assess and plan the training needed to make fully-formed disciples who can make other disciples. It's not exhaustive, but it gives a big picture plan to guide you and helps describe much of the why, the what, and the how needed to make mature disciples.

CENTER: TRINITARIAN RELATIONSHIP

The center of the training map highlights our relationships with God the Father, Son, and Spirit. Our relationship with the Trinity is the purpose and goal of discipleship. It's also the key to our health, growth, and influence as a Christian. The importance of this can't be overstated.....everything we have, everything we are, everything we do.....is provided by and supported by the Trinity. In those relationships we have everything. Apart from those relationships we have nothing. Therefore, our constant goal is increasing intimacy and dependence upon the Godhead. That's why it's at the center!

STORY OF GOD

The Story of God is an understanding of the Bible as one interwoven story of God's relationship with mankind. There are many major themes that flow from the beginning to the end of the Bible that paint a beautiful picture of what is true of God, his work, and our relationship with him. The importance of this is significant in helping people become mature disciples, so that they don't understand the Bible as disconnected relationships, details, and events. The Bible needs to be understood and applied as one consistent story describing God's relationship with his creation. No matter where we land in the Biblical story, what God does and how he relates with humans is consistent. This depth of understanding will help people develop in their relationship with him and others in important ways.

FOUR GOSPEL QUESTIONS

These 4 questions summarize and categorize the Biblical story and help us consistently filter all of life through a Gospel lens. The 4 questions are: Who is God? What has He done? Who am I? How do I live? The truths behind each of these questions help inform every area of our lives. These Gospel truths also help us diagnose the unbelief that exists in different areas of our lives and help us identify the roots that are the underlying influences of our thoughts and behaviors. This is some of the most critical work of discipleship! The more we can help people use these questions as the foundation for their lives, the more we will see them live Gospel informed lives. This will affect their thoughts, speech, choices, relationships, and prayer. What's true about God and about us will need to be reinforced again and again, as we disciple our people.



WHO WE ARE: OUR IDENTITY

Our primary identity as Disciples of Jesus works itself out through 3 other identities - Family, Servants, and Missionaries - which we've been given through our relationship with the Trinity. Our Heavenly Father has adopted us as his sons and daughters, his children, and has made us part of his eternal family. He is our Father, and we are his family. Jesus, our Lord and Savior, has served us in the ultimate way by giving his life as payment for sins. He also lived the life of a servant and commanded us to follow his example, as his servants to the world. He is our king, and we are his servants. The Holy Spirit, who is a missionary Spirit, is the person who motivates, leads, and helps God's people live out God's mission. We see him do this in the life of Jesus, in the life of the early church throughout Acts, in Paul's ministry, and it continues today. We are missionaries, and we live out that identity with the help of the Holy Spirit who is in us.

DISCIPLESHIP STRUCTURE

There are 3 essential discipleship structures that work together to make fully-formed disciples. Each of these structures accomplishes unique things that the others cannot because of their size and relational dynamics. Each is important and is complementary to the others. (See the **3 Essential Discipleship Structures** document in the toolbox.) The 4th structure that is supplemental is called a City Group and is simply a group of Missional Communities that work together at certain times and in certain ways to bring more capacity and influence to love the people God has called them to. (See an example of this in the toolbox called *Our South End City Group*.)

DISCIPLESHIP ENVIRONMENT

There is an expanded version of this in the Toolbox called Healthy Discipleship Environment that will give you much more detail. For this shorter definition here, I'm highlighting 3 foundational priorities at the center of that. They are experiential, relational, and missional in nature.

- **Life on Life.** This describes a quality of life between Christians that is consistent, intentional, and vulnerable. The normal, everyday stuff of life is where this is experienced. We're involved in the details of each other's lives, and we experience many of the ups and downs, good and bad moments, and happy and hard times together.
- **Life in Community.** This means that just like it "takes a village to raise a child" it "takes a community to make a mature disciple." The deep, intentional life described above is being experienced as much as possible among a group of people with diverse stories, gifts, personalities, economic and ethnic backgrounds, and stages of life. There are certain ways we all need to be regularly influenced and shaped by those that are different than us.
- **Life on Mission.** Much of our growth and learning can only come as we are experiencing life with lost and broken people that are far from God. When we experience relationships that require us to be patient, gracious, compassionate, generous, and loving, our hearts and minds are increasingly transformed. We



become more like Jesus, and we more often bring healing to hurting people around us.

HOW WE LIVE

The first 4 areas at the top of the list are meant to describe activities or things we do that take up much of our time – work, eat, rest/play, celebrate. With each of these areas we want to ask how we can steward them with Discipleship, Mission, and Kingdom purposes in mind. If everything we have is a gift from God, then everything we do should be stewarded for His Glory.

- **Working** involves vocation, as well as work that needs to be done around our homes, and work that we might help others with. This means caring for vehicles, furniture, appliances, computers, and other things we own. It means providing food for our families, and taking care of daily needs like shopping, cleaning, and cooking for our spouses and kids. It also means helping others with some of those same tasks. Helping fix cars, work on houses, clean, paint, or move things. Helping plant or weed someone’s garden. Mowing their grass. There are all kinds of ways we can serve people that can help and bless them.
- **Eating** involves the time we spend preparing food, eating food, and cleaning up afterwards – whether it’s for enjoyment or to meet the nutritional needs of our bodies. Many times we eat at home and other times we eat in a variety of places. That includes sometimes eating with a few people and sometimes eating with many.
- **Resting/Playing** are those things we do to refresh and recharge our bodies and minds, from giving our minds a break from activity and work, to exercising and doing our favorite sports and hobbies. These things often fill our time after work, on days off, on weekends, and vacations.
- **Celebrating** includes all of the ways we honor and bless those that are having birthdays, anniversaries, babies, job promotions, graduations, etc. Celebrating also involves holidays and all of the big cultural moments connected with music, sports, and entertainment, where people gather together for the experience.
- In the midst of these consistent life rhythms, the question becomes how we can approach all of these with intentionality. An intentionality to love others well that are engaged in these same activities and experiences with us.
- **Story.** The starting point in loving well is to have a posture and expectation to pursue people’s stories, while we are going about our normal lives. There are opportunities throughout the day to love people well by taking a genuine interest in them and asking them good questions about their lives.
- **Listen.** As we pursue people’s stories, we also need to become good listeners to what they are actually saying. Not only listening for details, but also listening for some of the deeper meanings and motivations behind what they’re saying. If we



are able to do this, we will know how to move deeper into their stories through further questions and conversation, as well as knowing how to tangibly bless them.

- **Bless.** Here we are looking for practical ways to BE Good News to people, responding to what we have heard in their story. This could happen in a variety of ways, like helping with our time, skills, resources or friendship.

HOW WE PROCLAIM JESUS

This is a continuation of the last section, where we're growing in working, eating, resting, playing, and celebrating with intentionality. We're trying to do these things increasingly, as those that pursue people's stories, listen well, and bless, as their stories reveal how we can BE Good News to them. When we're experiencing these kinds of rhythms with people, we will naturally get to know their stories in deeper ways and be able to do the same with our stories. This will create growing trust and vulnerability in these friendships. As this happens, we'll be able to increasingly connect their stories with God's story in specific ways, leading to opportunities to clearly proclaim Jesus as the ultimate Hero and Purpose of the story.

This process can then continue on indefinitely, until the person has submitted their lives to Jesus and become his disciple or until we've communicated everything we know to share. At this point, we keep praying, tangibly blessing the person every chance we get, and pursuing their story for the long haul. Engaging in relationships like this over time will help relationships progress from contact to acquaintance to trusted friend and hopefully one day to disciple of Jesus.

*(There is an expanded explanation of this process in the toolbox called **Having Intentional Gospel Conversations**. Please look for that.)*

