

Date

PREPARATION: The Great Commission of Christ to you is to make disciples and not just get converts. Your objective is to help the new Christian progress to the point where he or she is faithful, fruitful, mature, and a dedicated disciple.

Notes:

PURPOSES: After a foreign exchange student, living with a cell member, accepted the Lord. A few people in the cell met once a week to answer this young woman's many questions. Is there a new believer in your cell who may have more questions to ask? So our purpose during this lesson is to learn *practical discipleship*.

CREATIVITY FOR MEETINGS

Pray for Your City

Set aside an evening to pray for your city. Invite other cell members to join you if they can, remembering what God promises when "two or three are gathered together ..." You could make it a monthly event.

Prayer Prelude

Planning a time of prayer before a special event like "The March For Jesus" or church-wide rally in your city would be a powerful prelude. It also would be a great way to build vision in cell members' hearts and encourage participation.

Block Party

Hold a "picnic and games" night in a cell member's housing development or block. Include children and adults and simply reach out to them, making friends while providing free food and fun games for all ages. Hot dogs work great!

Prayer Cruisin'

Take prayer drives through your community. Pray over needs that you see as you drive through different areas. Pray for other churches, school children, government officials and places of business as you pass by the buildings. Listen for the Holy Spirit to show you what to pray for. You may want to pull over or even get out of the vehicles and spend more time at certain spots.

Not Just for Christmas!

Easter baskets are a great way to share the message of resurrection with the community. Get together as a cell group and decorate some colorful eggs. Collect nonperishable food items or toiletries each night at several cell meetings. Bless a needy person or ministry.

OPENING PRAYER/WORSHIP (15 minutes)

"Dear Lord Jesus! We read in the Bible that You had disciples – people that followed You everywhere. We want to do the same – we want to follow You , Lord. But, what's more, we want to see other people join us in this walk! Help us to make disciples, but not our disciples, but Your disciples! (Special prayer requests and/or thanksgivings may be added here.) _____ *In Jesus' name. Amen."*

ANNOUNCEMENTS/SPECIAL OFFERINGS (5 minutes)

We would like to recommend you to continue making special prayers during this time. Let people write down their prayer requests on a piece of paper before the group starts, give them to you, so that you could lead the whole group in this special prayer. It would be great if you could continue singing and worshiping the Lord after this prayer, so that people in the group could feel that this special prayer is a part of your group worship.

THE LESSON ITSELF (35 minutes) – make it in the form of a discussion

What does a convert need?

1. *The convert needs assurance.* They need to know that they truly have been born again. But as many as receive Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. John 1:12 KJV

You cannot disciple a person who is spiritually dead. People can "make decisions" but still be dead in their trespasses and sin. We need to make sure that they truly have made Jesus Lord of their life. II Corinthians 5:17)

2. *The convert needs acceptance.* They need two things communicated to them: love and acceptance. Paul set a pattern for us in I Thessalonians 2:8. These Thessalonians had a powerful testimony (I Thessalonians 1:78i. Paul loved them and had deep concern for them. They knew that they were loved and accepted (I Thessalonians 2:10,11). When Paul was absent from them, they were in his thoughts and prayers (I Thessalonians 2:17-20).

3. *The convert needs protection.* Paul continued to undergo the pains of childbirth for his converts till Christ was formed in them. *“My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you”*. Galatians 4:19.

New babies need protection. They need protection from false cults and a variety of attacks from the enemy. They need protection from false religion. They need protection from old friends who will try to win them back into their old ways. They must be protected and immunized with the Word of God.

4. *The convert needs fellowship.* They have been born into a family and need the fellowship of their brothers and sisters in Christ. They need to be invited into homes for fellowship during the week. They need to see their lives being blended into the life of the Church and His Body.

5. *The convert needs food.* Natural babies need to feed regularly Spiritual babies need the same regularity in their feeding. Their spiritual food is the Word of God (I Peter 2:2,3). You give the new believer food by: a) Teaching them the Word and b) Teaching them to feed on the Word.

Feeding on the Word is very important. This is when the new believer is taught how to feed himself. This can be accomplished through some basic question and answer Bible studies and memorization of Scripture. We must be diligent to get them off of the spiritual milk bottle. Unless we teach them this vital habit they will be dependent on others for the rest of their lives.

6. *The convert needs training.* Again, Paul left us an example in I Thessalonians 2:11. He gives us an example of a father. A father does not teach his child everything, but the father is responsible for the overall development of his children.

In the training of the new believer, you should focus on the "how to" of things. The answer to "why"? will come later. Paul said to the Thessalonians.

“Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God...”.

I Thessalonians 4:1.

Being an example is the best way to teach another person. Paul stated,

“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice.

And the God of peace will be with you” (Phil. 4:9). It is very hard to teach someone something that you don't know yourself. You need to be committed to this development within yourself as well. When these needs have been met, the convert needs to examine himself and decide if he is ready for a deep and total commitment to Christ. Is he ready to be a disciple?

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS/ANSWERS (5 minutes)

Please, while discussing the personal needs of the people, have group members discuss discipleship situation they have been in. What has worked and what hasn't worked in these situations?

GROUP PRAYER (15 minutes)

Spend some concentrated time in intercession that the hearts of the people of your church family would be stirred for making disciples. Pray for people to be set free from fear of telling others about Christ and making disciples.