

Lesson Plan
Discipling a New Believer
Darren Peachey

Lesson Purpose: To equip disciplers to journey with new believers

Overview: The goal of discipleship is larger than measuring success by behavior changes. New believers have a higher calling than to fit in with “all the good church people.” This lesson offers three principles for staying focused on the real purposes of discipling and clarify your role and God’s role in the discipling others.

Opening: Write a response to one of the following prompts on an index card:

- Who is someone who has disciplined you? What did you appreciate about the discipling process?
- Who is someone you have disciplined? What have you appreciated about the discipling process?
- What has been a frustration for you in discipleship relationships?
- What do you wish you better understood about discipleship relationships?

Scripture Reading: People’s last words are often recorded and often show what they felt was significant. The story is told about a man who established many restaurants around the United States. On his deathbed he whispered his last words to his family: *Slice the ham thin!* Jesus’ last words before he left earth to go to heaven, show his passion. It is for us to make disciples. Read Matthew 28:16-20.

Mini-Lecture: *Discipling a New Believer*—distribute the notetaking sheet and show the mini lecture.

Exercises:

Exercise 1: Fitting in with the “good church people”

- Every church culture has its own ways of “being good.” Sometimes these good habits put pressure on new believers.
- For two minutes, list any such ways of “being good” that come to your mind.
- Share and discuss with the group.

Exercise 2: Theological Messes

- Darren Peachey lists the possible messes that Barnabas likely encountered in his trip to the new believers in Antioch:
 - Tensions between traditionalists and newcomers
 - Bad habits
 - Bad thinking
 - Unsanctified sin
- Which item on this list has been one of the biggest stresses for you as you disciple new believers?
- Discuss the reason why with your group.

Exercise 3: What God Will Do

- Review Ezekiel's list of things God will do:
 - I will sprinkle clean water on you.
 - I will cleanse you from your impurities.
 - I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.
 - I will remove your heart of stone.
 - I will put my Spirit in you.
 - I will save you.
 - I will bring incense.
- Choose an item on this list to pray for a new believer.
- Pray together as a group.

Exercise 4: Your Tendency

- Darren Peachey mentions two temptations in discipleship:
 - To try to rescue people from their struggles;
 - To jump ship, cut ties, and view people as failures.
- Of these two temptations, which is your natural tendency?
- Share with the group and then pray for each other.