

CRAIG CASTER

TRAINING
OTHER LEADERS

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Leaders Discipling/Mentoring Other Leaders

Small Group Multiplication

Leaders we have given you the tools necessary to lead a small group in both the *Parenting is a Ministry* and *Marriage is a Ministry* video series. The leaders guide helps you to facilitate the group in such a way that discipleship can take place and people's lives become transformed. That is the goal of each series, teaching God's people how to tend to their family according to His Word. This is an important part of fulfillment of Matthew 28:19-20.

Matthew 28:19–20 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”*

In this Scripture is the imperative verb to “*make disciples*.” This means that *making disciples* is a *continual* process of one person growing in biblical knowledge and principles, obeying the truth, and then passing it on to others (discipleship). This was Christ's expectation and vision.

- **First**, a leader is to have this type of mindset when leading the small group, encouraging the participants to share with someone else. God has not called us to be cul-de-sacs but thoroughfares, passing what we know on to others.
- **Secondly**, a leader should have the same vision for cultivating other leaders to lead other small groups; this is also part of discipleship. This biblical standard in leadership comes from Paul's exhortation to Timothy.

2 Timothy 2:2 *“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

Please notice the progression, Paul taught Timothy and Timothy was to “*commit*” or teach what was given to him by Paul to faithful men, and then the faithful men were to teach others. As a leader we have a responsibility to train other leaders in how to lead a small group of their own. The only way this can happen is if you have a *plan* to carry out the vision.

Suggestions for Leaders Mentoring Other Leaders

It would be ideal for you and your wife to first go through the material so that you have had a chance to apply it in your own lives, and to become familiar with the handouts and how they are to be implemented in the small group setting. Then lead a small group. Since you are going to disciple another leader/s from that small group you could even have another couple co-lead the small group with you. Then both of you as leaders could start another group after you have finished the first one.

Fundamental Issues:

1. **Pray:** This may seem obvious but many times this component gets left out. Ask God to bring someone that you can disciple/mentor and train to lead a small group on their own.
2. **Look for Faithful Men:** You are looking for those who are faithful in there family, at church, in their commitments and serving others. It is important to be thinking about this before you start your small group. Since you are dealing with either parenting or marriage you are looking for a couple that have a strong relationship with God and each other. The man would be leading the group and the wife could be a supporting role. Remember you are **not** looking for perfection but couples who are heading in the right direction, desiring to learn and pressing in to workout these principles. They also need to see the value and importance of teaching these truths and are motivated and excited about the class.
3. **Prepare:** In the same way you prepare to lead the small group, you also need to prepare to teach and disciple a leader. This may be unfamiliar territory for you since most leaders have not been disciplined themselves. The best way to do this is; 1) After you have prepared to lead the group, sit down with the other leader/s and discuss what you are going to cover in the next lesson. Explain how you are going to lead the group through the material that has been provided in the leaders guide. 2) Encourage them to write down any questions they may think of during the group lesson. 3) Meet with them after each session to discuss the class and answer any questions they may have. You might also come up with a list of questions that the Lord has laid on your heart to ask them after the teaching session.
4. **Time:** Discipleship takes time, you and the one you are training must set time aside to meet before and even after teaching the session to answer questions, discuss the class and to pray. You can also use this time to encourage each other in implementing the biblical principles in your own family. Accountability is key to success.
5. **Example:** The best way to disciple someone to lead a small group is for them to watch you lead the group.
 - a. Timothy had first hand experience with watching Paul in how he taught, handed people, answered questions, took time with people, discussed Scripture and how Paul was and example to other believers.
 - b. Even though each group will have its own dynamic with personalities, maturity, intellectual capabilities, personal problems that may surface, you as a leader will be able to train the other leader in how to handle these issues by your example, and your discipleship times that you have set aside.

- c. I **do not** suggest you just hand the material over to a couple and say, follow the leaders guide and if you have any problems just ask me. If you are perfectly assured they are mature enough to do it, even then your oversight, involvement, experience and knowledge should be passed down to the other leader.
- 6. **Ongoing Discipleship:** I would suggest that you would be available and have planed meetings with the leader you have discipled after he has started a small group of his own. It is not a bad idea to sit in on the first couple lessons to be a support to him. But remember he is the one directing the class. Maybe take notes if you see something he could do better so you can suggest what he can do to help the class. For instance if you see that one parent dominates the class you can suggest how to deal with that issues in a gentle way. You will notice as you read the book of Acts that Paul went back to the churches he had established to disciple them a second time, he was showing his support, encouraging them, and helping strengthen them in the areas that may have been weak.

Praise the Lord that He has laid it on your heart to disciple families. As you pursue to duplicate yourself into other leaders; may the Lord richly bless you as you carry out the discipleship making process. God has promised to give you wisdom if you lack it; all you have to do is ask Him (James 1:5-8). If you have any question please contact us at info@parentingministry.org. Plus please visit our website for many free resources to strengthen the family; www.parentingministry.org.