

KEYS TO DEVELOPING BELIEVERS INTO CHRIST-LIKE DISCIPLES

Jesus yearned for all Christians to become like Him. He commissioned us to join Him in His quest of making true disciples and teaching them everything He commanded (Matt. 28:19-20). What an amazing and challenging job! Even more amazing is the fact that He chose us to work with Him!

Here are some steps to help your people to become more Christ-like:

o **Pray.**

God has promised you that He would guide you in your work of disciple making. All you have to do is ask Him to bless this ministry and to give you wisdom in making decisions which will help develop believers to become more Christ-like.

o **Enlist a person to serve as Discipleship Director/Team Leader.**

This person should:

- Be a maturing Christian
- Have a vision to help people become transformed into the likeness of Christ
- Be someone who can build good relationships
- Have the ability to see potential that God sees in people
- Be capable of building a team of discipleship leaders

Team members may include the Pastor, Minister of Education, Minister of Youth, and discipleship leaders from each discipleship age-group.

o **Determine approaches for developing believers.**

- On-going group studies (e.g. *BAPTIST ADULTS*)
- Short term/special interest studies
- Individual studies
- Mentoring (one on one, one on two, one on three)
- Large group emphasis

o **Determine which discipleship topics/options you will offer.**

This may be determined by:

- Knowing needs of members
- Focus groups and interviews
- Conducting a spiritual growth survey of members

(Go to www.alsbom.org/discipleship for *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts and Spiritual Gifts Survey* Life-Way's resources and Life-Way's link to *Spiritual Gifts: A Practical Guide to How God Works Through You – item 001220730, six sessions*)

o **Enlist Leaders.**

These Leaders should be:

- Persons who are maturing spiritually.
- Persons who have a passion for the area in which you are enlisting them.

o **Train Leaders.**

Lead the leaders through *Discipleship-Stepping Stones to Disciple Making in your Church* (Go to www.alsbom.org/discipleship)

o **Determine your church's discipleship strategy.**

Your Association's Discipleship Director and the Office of Sunday School and Discipleship Staff can assist you. (Also see pages 10-12 of *Discipleship-Stepping Stones*)

o **Help believers "connect" to discipleship opportunities.**

Utilize the following ideas:

- A Discipleship Fair
- Testimonies
- Announcements from the pulpit
- Your church website
- Emails
- Facebook, etc.

(See *Growing Disciples: Fellowship with Believers – item 005085766, 6 sessions*)

You may never be asked to do a more important job than starting or improving a discipleship ministry in your church. Remember the major purpose of this ministry is to develop believers into Christ-like disciples. God bless you as you accomplish this purpose!