

# d+life



## Living the D-Life

**Disciple-Making. Anytime. Anywhere.**

**Dr. Bill Wilks**

D-Life Boot Camp  
Leader Notebook



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He is the author of *D-Life Online*, four *D-Life Journals*, and *The Greater Work: Disciple-Making. Anytime. Anywhere.* His books and materials are used in hundreds of churches across the U.S and in several other countries to equip others to make disciples who make disciples.

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**For more information on D-Life, go to: [www.livethedlife.com](http://www.livethedlife.com).**

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# Living the D-Life

## Lesson 1

**What is your purpose in life?** Do you know? Everyone lives for something. What do you live for? What is your life's passion? What gets you out of bed in the morning?

Many people struggle to know what their purpose is. They may be known by their profession or position in life, but they struggle to find any real meaning in it.

As a follower of Jesus Christ, there is only one person who can tell you what your purpose is. He is your Lord, and He speaks with great authority on this matter.



**According to Jesus, it's one main thing. It's two words:** \_\_\_\_\_ .

Every follower of Christ lives under the crystal-clear mandate of His Great Commission. There are no exceptions. No matter our age, gender, or nationality, Jesus has called us to be disciple makers.

### Main Thought...

**Disciple-making is \_\_\_\_\_ a program; it's a lifestyle.**

In Mark 3:13-15, Jesus began to model for us a lifestyle of disciple-making. Here, He officially began His personal journey of making disciples who make disciples.

**Mark 3:13-15** - *He went up on the mountain and called to Him those whom He desired, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve (whom He also named apostles) so that they might be with Him and He might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.*

At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus called together a rather ordinary group of men to be His first disciples. They were not highly educated or greatly gifted. He chose common people to be His disciples to show us that anyone can be equipped for a life of disciple-making.

We learn from Jesus three great truths about disciple-making.

1. Disciple-making is our \_\_\_\_\_ purpose in life (v. 13).

**For Jesus, disciple-making was His first priority.** At the start of His ministry, *“He went up on the mountain and called to Him those whom He desired, and they came to Him”* (v. 13). To call together a discipleship group was the first thing Jesus did in beginning His public ministry.

Like Jesus, personal disciple-making must be a priority in our lives. We should be very prayerful and intentional about making disciples.

Jesus not only modeled disciple-making for His followers, but He also commanded it. There are two bookends to our Great Commission.

- **It was Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ command to His followers (Matthew 4:19).**

Jesus’ first command to His followers is in Matthew 4:19. He said, *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* After commanding them to “follow Him,” He promised to make them into something new. He would make them “fishers of men.” **Clearly, this was no call to join a discipleship program but an invitation to a lifestyle of disciple-making.**

- **It was Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ command to His followers (Matthew 28:18-20).**

Jesus’ final command to His followers is in Matthew 28:19-20. He said, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”* His words were unmistakably clear. In the original Greek, there is only one verb in the Great Commission. Jesus commanded them to “make disciples.” They were to make disciples by “going” to them, “baptizing” them, and “teaching” them to do everything He had commanded them to do, which was to “make disciples.”

**The Great Commission is not a great suggestion!** It’s a command. It’s the one main thing Jesus has called us to do. It’s our supreme purpose in life. But how do we learn how to do it?

2. Disciple-making has a \_\_\_\_\_ process to follow (v. 14a).

**For Jesus, disciple-making was a simple process.** He simply called twelve men *“so that they might be with Him”* and learn from Him how to make disciples. This disciple-making process was so simple that even these common men could learn to do it. **If they could do it, we can do it.**

From Jesus, we learn that disciple-making works best through the caring relational environment of a small discipleship group or “D-Group.”

**For us, a D-Group could be as small as three to five people who meet anytime and anywhere for the purpose of intentional discipleship.**

By reading the Gospels, we learn there are six practices of disciple-making that Jesus modeled for us with His D-Group.



**The Six Practices of Disciple-Making are:**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ – He called His disciples to have intimate fellowship with Him.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ – He taught His disciples using stories and group discussions.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ – He prayed with His disciples and taught them to pray.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ – He led His disciples out to do ministry and evangelism.
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ – He trained His disciples to make other disciples.
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ – He held His disciples accountable to the process.

In John 13:15, Jesus said, *“For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”* We cannot invent a better disciple-making process than that of Jesus. It would be wise for us to go back and make disciples just as He did it.

**3. Disciple-making has the \_\_\_\_\_ power to transform lives (v. 14b-15).**

**For Jesus, disciple-making was transformational.** He invested His life in His disciples and sent them out *“to preach and have authority to cast out demons.”*

Jesus made disciples who made disciples; He didn’t make any other kind. He equipped these common men to be disciple makers and sent them out to do the work He trained them to do.

In John 14:12, Jesus said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”*

What works was He talking about? How is it possible to do *“greater works”* than Jesus? Apart from His death and resurrection, the main work of Jesus was the work of disciple-making. He literally poured His life into His disciples and trained them how to make disciples.

He said that *“whoever believes”* in Him would not only do the same work, but even *“greater works”* than these because He was going to the Father. What a great promise to claim!

**Disciple-making is our “greater work.”** It is our supreme purpose in life, has a simple process to follow, and has the spiritual power to transform lives. But how can common, ordinary people learn to live a lifestyle of disciple-making?

**A Father, a son, and a Zebco 33**

Going fishing with dad is a wonderful experience for children. Over the years, many loving fathers have taken their sons and daughters to a lake to teach them how to fish. With much patience, fathers teach their children a very simple process for fishing that includes casting the bait, setting the hook, and reeling in the fish.

As a part of this process, Father's will also show their children how to use a basic fishing tool like a Zebco 33. A Zebco 33 is one of the most simple and reliable fishing reels ever made. It's easy. You push the button, hold it down, and let go of the button as you flip your wrist. Even a young child can learn to cast out the bait and catch a fish by using a Zebco 33.

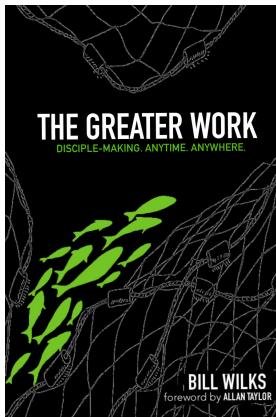
How hard would it be for a child to catch a fish without the loving instruction of a father and a simple tool like a Zebco 33? It would be virtually impossible. The lake may be full of fish and there may be an eagerness to catch them, but without being taught how to fish, a child would not know where to begin. He or she might dive in the lake, swim around looking for a fish, and try to catch one with their bare hands. It is never going to happen. After many failed attempts, any child would eventually give up.

**No loving father would ever do this.** Yet, this is exactly what we do in many churches. We talk about fishing for men and making disciples. We preach about reaching the lost for Christ. However, we often fail to teach our people how and fail to provide basic tools for making disciples. We leave them to learn for themselves. After many failed attempts, they eventually give up and conclude that disciple-making is just not their thing. **This is why D-Life is so important.**

**The purpose of D-Life is to equip and empower God's people for a global grassroots disciple-making movement.**

**I pray you will join the movement!**

**D-Life provides excellent tools to equip and empower you for disciple-making.**



### **D-Life Disciple-Making Tools**

- **D-Life Online** (Four full years of D-Life Weekly Study Guides)
- **D-Life Journals** (New Testament 1 & 2 / Old Testament 1 & 2)
- **D-Life Training** (Excellent resources for training your people)
- **The Greater Work** (A great book for training your people)
- **The Revive Bible NT** (A practical tool for sharing the Gospel)
- **Shirts & Accessories** (A good way to share D-Life with others)

**Visit the D-Life Store: [www.livethedlife.com/store](http://www.livethedlife.com/store)**

### **Takeaways from Lesson 1...**

- Disciple-making is \_\_\_\_\_ a program; it's a lifestyle.
- Disciple-making is our \_\_\_\_\_ purpose in life.
- Disciple-making has a \_\_\_\_\_ process to follow.
- Disciple-making has the \_\_\_\_\_ power to transform lives.
- Disciple-making is the \_\_\_\_\_ work that Jesus has called us to do.

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## D-Life Bible Study

**Weekly Bible Reading:** Matthew 1-5  
**Weekly Bible Study:** Matthew 4:18-25

### Matthew 1

Personal Study Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Circle One: S P A C E ]

### Matthew 2

Personal Study Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Circle One: S P A C E ]

### Matthew 3

Personal Study Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Circle One: S P A C E ]

### Matthew 4

Personal Study Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Circle One: S P A C E ]

### Matthew 5

Personal Study Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Circle One: S P A C E ]

Read carefully one chapter of the Bible five days a week. In each chapter look for a . . .  
Sin to Confess / Promise to Claim / Attitude to Change / Command to Obey / Example to Follow.

## Fishing for People (Matthew 4:18-25)

### Weekly Assignments:

- *Lead Prayer Time:* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Tell the Story (Paraphrase):* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Read the Text:* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Facilitate Bible Study:* \_\_\_\_\_

### Discussion Questions:

- If someone wanted to go fishing today, what different tools or equipment would he or she need to take in order to catch some fish? How hard would it be to catch fish without these tools?
- In our story, Jesus goes fishing for some men to be His first disciples. Who were these men and what fishing tools did they leave behind to follow Jesus? What kind of tools would Jesus begin to teach them to use to fish for people?
- Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (v. 19). What do you think Jesus meant by this command? As a *command for us to obey*, in what ways should we be fishing for people today to become new followers of Jesus? What kind of tools can help us with this?
- Read Matt. 28:18-20. How does Jesus' first command to His followers found here in Matt. 4:19 compare to His final command in the Great Commission? In these two commands, what is Jesus saying about our purpose in life?
- As Jesus and His first disciples went throughout Galilee, what things did they observe Him doing (v. 23-24)? By proclaiming the gospel and caring for the afflicted, how was Jesus training His new followers to be "fishers of men?"
- What is the "gospel of the kingdom" (v. 23) that Jesus preached? Can someone share about the time when you opened your heart to the gospel?
- As Jesus taught and cared for the people, "His fame spread" in Syria (v. 24). In what ways are you helping make Jesus famous in the world today?
- As we join together in our D-Group, how will this help you become a stronger follower of Christ? How can D-Life be a tool that helps you fish for others?

**Prayer:** Let's pray today that each of us will grow stronger in our faith and better at fishing for new followers of Christ as we join together in D-Life.

### Prayer Requests:

### Bi-Monthly Mission Project Notes:



## D-Life Bible Study

**Weekly Bible Reading:** Titus 1 – Hebrews 1  
**Weekly Bible Study:** Titus 2:1-8

### Titus 1

Personal Study Notes: \_\_\_\_\_ [Circle One: S P A C E ]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Titus 2

Personal Study Notes: \_\_\_\_\_ [Circle One: S P A C E ]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Titus 3

Personal Study Notes: \_\_\_\_\_ [Circle One: S P A C E ]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Philemon 1

Personal Study Notes: \_\_\_\_\_ [Circle One: S P A C E ]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Hebrews 1

Personal Study Notes: \_\_\_\_\_ [Circle One: S P A C E ]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read carefully one chapter of the New Testament five days a week. In each chapter look for a . . .  
Sin to Confess / Promise to Claim / Attitude to Change / Command to Obey / Example to Follow.

## Discipling the Next Generation (Titus 2:1-8)

### Weekly Assignments:

- *Lead Prayer Time:* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Tell the Story (Paraphrase):* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Read the Text:* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Facilitate Bible Study:* \_\_\_\_\_

### Discussion Questions:

- Who is someone that invested in your life when you were younger? What kind of things did you learn from him or her? How do you feel about this person today?
- In our text, Paul specifically instructed mature believers to train younger believers. Why is this still an important *command to obey*?
- What kind of things can a younger believer learn from an older believer? What kind of things can an older believer learn from investing in a younger believer?
- What specific qualities does Paul say are proper for men who are mature in the faith (v. 2)? What qualities does he say are proper for spiritually mature women (v. 3)? What does it mean to be sound in faith? What does it mean to be reverent in behavior?
- What did Paul say that younger women should be taught (v. 4-5)? What did Paul say that younger men should be taught (v. 6-8)?
- Is the church today doing a good job of discipling the next generation? How might the world be a different place if we were more committed to this?
- Paul instructed us in all respects to be “a model of good works” (v. 7). In what ways is your life a model of good works? In what specific areas of your life do you need to continue to grow in this?
- Knowing that God has sent people who have made great investments in your life, why should you feel responsible to invest in others?
- Realizing the importance of multi-generational discipleship, in what ways are you investing in the next generation? How is D-Life helping you with this?

**Prayer:** Let’s pray today that each of us will be a model of good works and that we will continue to live an intentional lifestyle of discipleship.

### Prayer Requests:

### Bi-Monthly Mission Project Notes:

# The Fellowship of D-Life

## Lesson 2

From the example of Jesus, we learn that disciple-making is not a program; it's a lifestyle. We also learn that disciple-making works best through the caring relational environment of a small discipleship group or "D-Group."

**For us, a D-Group could be as small as three to five people who meet anytime and anywhere for the purpose of intentional discipleship.**



There are six practices of disciple-making that Jesus modeled for us with His D-Group: 1) fellowship, 2) teaching, 3) prayer, 4) ministry, 5) multiplication, and 6) accountability. To make disciples just as Jesus did it, we must follow these same six practices

**Let's begin by focusing on the fellowship of D-Life.** It's hard to overstate the importance of relationships in one's life. The Christian life is centered around relationships. To make disciples like Jesus, you must take the first step of calling together a discipleship group.

### Main Thought...

**Intimate \_\_\_\_\_ with others is an essential part of disciple-making.**

In Mark 3:16-19, Jesus called a very diverse group of men to be His first disciples.

**Mark 3:16-19** - *He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter); James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.*

### 1. Choosing a D-Group must be \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus has called you to be a "fisher of men." This involves more than merely announcing that you are starting a D-Group.

You must "go fishing" for some men or women to join with you in your group and you must keep on fishing until you catch some. Be patient and persistent in this.

- **Understand the importance of \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus went up on a mountain before He called His disciples. In Luke 6:12-13, we learn why He went to the mountain. Luke says, *"In these days He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples and chose from them twelve, whom He named apostles."* Jesus made disciple-making a matter of fervent prayer. He spent an entire night on a mountain fervently praying for God to show Him who He was to invite to be His disciples.

You don't need to ask God "if" He wants you to make disciples. Jesus has already commanded you to make disciples. The prayer you must pray is: "Lord, who? Who do you want me to ask to join with me in a D-Group?"

- **Understand the impact of \_\_\_\_\_.**

In the New Testament, the Greek word for "hospitality" is *philozenia*. It comes from two Greek words—*philos*, meaning "affection" or "brotherly love" and *zenos*, meaning "stranger." Hospitality in the Bible literally means, "to show love to a stranger." The writer of Hebrews said, *"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers"* (Hebrews 3:2a).

For anyone committed to a lifestyle of disciple-making, practicing hospitality is crucial. Since unbelievers today are less willing to come to our turf, we must learn to play on theirs. A key to this is practicing biblical hospitality. Christian hospitality involves welcoming unbelievers into our space, in hopes of bringing Jesus into theirs.

As people called and committed to a life of disciple-making, practicing Christian hospitality will open closed doors. We are always on the lookout for new people to disciple. Our life's passion is built around a never-ending process of discipling a small group, multiplying some out, and finding some more to disciple. This requires thinking ahead. By showing hospitality to a stranger today, it may open the door to invite him or her to join our D-Group tomorrow. Christian hospitality can become the open door for neighbors, classmates, work acquaintances, people we meet at the ballpark, and other public places to be those whom we have the joy of discipling and leading into a deeper relationship with Christ.

- **Understand the initiative of \_\_\_\_\_.**

After praying and showing genuine expressions of hospitality, you must take the initiative to act on God's leadership. Meet face to face with those whom God wants you to disciple and ask them to join in your D-Group.

Explain to them that D-Groups fellowship together weekly, read and discuss the Bible together, and do ministry together. Don't be afraid to ask them to make a commitment.

Pray for God to guide you. Then take the initiative to choose a small group of people to disciple. A group of three to five is a great start.

You may add a disciple or two along the way. You should never turn anyone away. However, when your group grows to eight or more, you must multiply a new group as soon as possible. You will not be able to effectively disciple more than eight at a time.

## 2. Connecting with a D-Group will be \_\_\_\_\_.

After choosing a small group of disciples, we must connect with them weekly. Mark told us that Jesus “*appointed twelve so that they might be with Him.*” He simply called them to “*be with Him.*”

Connecting with others in intimate fellowship is an essential part of disciple-making. We cannot disciple others apart from intimate fellowship with them.

Your D-Group should meet weekly to connect in fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. You can meet anytime and anywhere. You can meet any day of the week at morning, noon, or night. You can meet at a home, school, restaurant, coffee shop, park, gym, or workplace. The important thing is that you meet regularly.

Job constraints may prohibit some from attending weekly. In such cases, encourage attendance as much as possible. Touch base with these individuals often to share weekly application points and to hold them accountable in their daily Bible reading.

During the summer months, DO NOT completely shut down your group. If one or two are available, meet with them that week. Even when you cannot meet, keep in touch with your group during the summer months to share weekly application points and to keep accountability. The same can be said for the holiday seasons. Consistency is very important.

## 3. Characteristics of a D-Group will be \_\_\_\_\_.

One thing you notice about the group of disciples whom Jesus called is their diversity. When we begin to pray about people to invite to join us in a D-Group, there are some important group characteristics to keep in mind.

- **You want a \_\_\_\_\_ group.**

**You want to have mature believers in your group.** You want to have one or two others who can help lead the group and who can be prepared to lead a new group when it’s time to multiply. Since our goal is to multiply new D-Groups, we always need to have someone we are equipping to lead. This person can also help you to remain doctrinally sound.

**You want to have new believers in your group.** New Christians are hungry for God’s Word. They are eager to learn from mature Christians. They add value and a great sense of purpose to your group. When a new believer immediately connects with a D-Group, it is one of the most effective ways for him or her to experience great spiritual growth.

**You want to have unbelievers in your group.** Think outside the walls of your church. There are many lost and unchurched individuals who are seeking answers in life. They might

be more than willing to join a small group meeting in a home or coffee shop where they can discuss the Bible and find fellowship. It's very likely that a lost person will be led to faith in Christ and will eventually connect with the church through the fellowship of a D-Group.

**You want to have multigenerational believers in your group.** In Titus 2:3-5, Paul instructed Titus that godly older men and women should intentionally disciple those who are younger. Just as the early church practiced multi-generational discipleship, we must as well.

- **You want a \_\_\_\_\_ group.**

The disciples whom Jesus called had issues. They had all kinds of issues. Likewise, we want to disciple people who have issues.

It's not hard to find people who have issues. People today struggle with issues like addiction, anger, pornography, depression, greed, and sexual identity issues. They need someone to come alongside them with prayer and loving spiritual accountability.

In many ways we are all defective. We all have issues. We all need discipleship. We are all in the process of becoming more like Jesus. Radical spiritual transformation can and will occur through the loving accountability of biblical discipleship.

- **You want a \_\_\_\_\_ group.**

When we look for people to disciple, we want people who will be dedicated. Everyone in a D-Group needs to be faithful to daily Bible reading and the weekly group meetings. Encourage those in your group to let you know in advance when they will not be able to meet.

When someone is unexpectedly absent, contact him or her promptly. Make regular use of texts, emails, and phone calls to encourage dedication and commitment to the group.

The first disciples left their fishing nets, their boats, and even their fathers to follow Jesus (Mark 1:16-20). They were dedicated. Likewise, we must be dedicated disciple makers.

### **Takeaways from Lesson 2...**

- Intimate \_\_\_\_\_ with others is an essential part of disciple-making.
- You must \_\_\_\_\_ about who the Lord wants you to ask to join with you in a D-Group.
- For anyone committed to a life of disciple-making, practicing \_\_\_\_\_ is critical.
- You must take the \_\_\_\_\_ to call some people into the fellowship of a D-Group.
- You want to have as much spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ in your group as possible.
- You must be a \_\_\_\_\_ disciple maker.



**Group Assignment:** Since Jesus has called you to be fisher of men, it's important to know where your "fishing holes" are. As you "fish" for men or women for your D-Group, your fishing holes might be places such as your church, neighborhood, workplace, school, ballpark, civic club, and etc.

In the space below, take a moment to write down where your current "fishing holes" are.

Where are some places that you might be able to create some new fishing holes?

Let's take a couple of minutes to hear one another's thoughts on this.

# The Teaching of D-Life

## Lesson 3

The word “**disciple**” means a learner or a follower. As we disciple others, we want to teach them about Jesus and lead them to follow Him.

A key word related to the teaching of D-Life is the word “**simple**.” Jesus modeled a simple approach of teaching with His disciples. Following His example, we too must utilize a simple approach of teaching with our D-Groups.



**The D-Group Weekly Study Guide** (pages 6-7) is a simple tool that provides a daily Bible reading plan and a weekly study guide for your D-Group. There is a different study guide for each week of the year. This tool will empower you with a simple and effective plan for disciple-making.

### Main Thought...

**Daily Bible reading, storytelling, and group discussions are highly effective \_\_\_\_\_ techniques in disciple-making.**

In Mark 4, Jesus taught His disciples through storytelling and group discussions.

**Mark 4:1-2a** - *He began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. And He was teaching them many things in **parables**.*

**Mark 4:10** - *And when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the **parables**.*

Every follower of Jesus can be a disciple maker. It's reasonable to think that Jesus modeled a simple process of disciple-making so that the common men who followed Him could learn to disciple others. If it's simple, it's reproducible.

The twelve disciples were not highly educated or sophisticated men. They were ordinary men who made genuine commitments to follow Jesus. Jesus did not make discipleship too difficult for them to grasp. He set them up for success and we must do the same.

## 1. Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

According to Mark, “*Jesus began to teach beside the sea and a very large crowd gathered about Him*” (v. 1). The great teachings of Jesus are recorded in the Bible. To learn more about Jesus and to follow Him we must read the Bible. There is no substitute for daily Bible reading.

Daily Bible reading is the single most life-changing thing that a believer can do. Unfortunately, many believers don’t read the Bible daily. In D-Life, we have a very simple Bible reading plan. Our goal is to read one chapter from the Bible, five days a week. This goal is so simple there is no excuse for anyone not to achieve it.

This Bible reading goal is not only achievable but it’s fruitful. By reading one chapter a day, five days a week, we can read through the entire New Testament or story through the Old Testament in one year. Also, by reading only one chapter a day, we can meditate on each chapter and find personal applications for our daily lives.

## 2. Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

A major goal of daily Bible reading is personal application. Through D-Life, you will learn how to find personal application points from every chapter you read. When you find an application point, you will want to write it down. The discipline of personal note keeping is very fruitful.

To accomplish this, you will use a simple acrostic to help you find personal applications from God’s Word. This acrostic will help you make **SPACE** in your heart for God’s Word. D-Group leaders should teach the **SPACE** acrostic to each person in their group. As you read your daily chapter of the Bible, you will ask five questions. Is there a . . .

- **S**in to confess?
- **P**romise to claim?
- **A**ttitude to change?
- **C**ommand to obey?
- **E**xample to follow?

Using these five questions, every D-Group member is encouraged to write down one personal application point from his or her daily Bible reading.

With D-Life Online, notes can be kept electronically by clicking the “Notes” icon.

D-Group members can also keep handwritten notes on the printed version of the study guides or in the D-Life Journal. Let’s practice this...

**Group Assignment:** Take five minutes to read Matthew 5:1-16 and in the space below write one personal application point using the five questions from the S-P-A-C-E acrostic. After the time is up, we will take a couple of minutes to share some of the application points that you found.

**Matthew 5**

[Circle One: S P A C E ]

**Personal Study Notes:**

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Read carefully one chapter of the Bible five days a week. In each chapter look for a...  
Sin to Confess / Promise to Claim / Attitude to Change / Command to Obey / Example to Follow.

Personal accountability is essential to help your group develop the spiritual disciplines of daily Bible reading and note keeping.

**In your D-Group meetings, always ask each person the two weekly accountability questions:**

- Did everyone do your \_\_\_\_\_ Bible reading assignments?
- What are some of the \_\_\_\_\_ points that you found?

After asking the two accountability questions, give those in your group an opportunity to share some of the application points they found and recorded in their notes during the week.

**3. Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ through the Bible.**

According to Mark, Jesus taught His disciples “*many things in parables*” (v. 2). Parables are earthly stories that have spiritual meanings. Storytelling was Jesus’ main form of teaching with His disciples.

Following the example of Jesus, we must use the simple method of storytelling. Any committed believer can “teach” like Jesus by using stories.

In our D-Groups, our plan is to story through the Bible. Every week someone in the group will be assigned to “tell the story” or “paraphrase the passage” to be studied.

#### 4. Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

The Bible says that when Jesus was alone with His disciples, *“the twelve asked Him about the parables”* (v. 10). In these intimate moments, Jesus and His disciples would discuss His parables and unwrap the meanings of His teachings.

Likewise, involve your D-Group in a guided group discussion of the Bible story or key passage to be covered for the week. Facilitate the discussion by asking important questions about the story, which will help your group understand what the Bible is teaching and how it can be applied to their lives. **Always remember that a facilitator does not lecture, but simply leads a guided discussion using the questions provided in the “D-Life Weekly Study Guide.”**

It will be essential for you to be a good role model as a facilitator. Your goal is to make disciples who make disciples, and it is important to always train those in your group how to lead. Begin assigning others to facilitate the discussion after a few weeks. Be sure to coach and encourage them as you prepare them for leadership.

#### **Facilitate the Bible study using the weekly study guide questions...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **the study guide questions with intention.** The questions transition from informational to personal in nature. Begin with the end in mind. Know where you want the discussion to go and lead them there. Ask your own **follow-up questions** to take a discussion deeper. The group leader or anyone in the group can add **follow-up questions** to enhance a discussion.
- **Lead the discussion \_\_\_\_\_.** It’s not necessary to ask every question in the study guide. More questions are provided than you might need. When time constraints are an issue, carefully choose a smaller number of the questions that you want to discuss.
- **Push the \_\_\_\_\_ button.** The beginning questions may be answered quickly, but the later questions should provoke more thoughtful discussion and personal testimony. Lead the group to take more time on these questions, and be sure NOT to skip them.
- **Get \_\_\_\_\_ in the group involved.** Some in the group will be eager to jump in the discussion. For those more timid, the facilitator may say: *“I would like to hear what (insert name) thinks about this question.”*
- \_\_\_\_\_ **someone from dominating the discussion.** It is possible that someone in the group is overeager to join in the discussion and impress the group with his or her Bible knowledge. In that case, the facilitator might say: *“I would like to hear what someone besides (insert name) thinks about this question.”* You can say this lightheartedly and tactfully so as not to be offensive. You may also need to meet privately and kindly with the individual to share the importance of giving everyone time to share in the discussion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **the discussion on point.** In group discussions it is not uncommon to get sidetracked. Bring the focus of the group back on the question being discussed.

- **Be \_\_\_\_\_, positive, and transparent.** There will be times when someone in the group may share ideas contrary to sound Bible doctrine. Stay positive. Avoid argumentation. Affirm the individual's openness to share his or her view. Above all, be truthful and clear about your own biblical interpretation and convictions. Be transparent and share openly in questions that are personal in nature. You need to model openness and honesty.
- **Be \_\_\_\_\_ to the Holy Spirit.** As a D-Group grows closer together, some in the group will become more open to sharing personal struggles and challenges. Be sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in dealing with these situations. At times, it will be appropriate to stop and pray immediately for a group member and to take extra time to minister to his or her need. Always be **CONFIDENTIAL** with personal issues that are shared in your group.

**5. Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ to multiply.**

Always remember that your ultimate goal as a D-Group leader is to make disciples who make disciples. To multiply out a new D-Group leader must be a big priority. Prepare your group to multiply by equipping others in your group to lead. You can accomplish this by assigning specific leadership roles to different members of your group every week.

**Your D-Group Weekly Assignments should be as follows...**

- **#1: \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Time** – After a time of fellowship, a D-Group member will lead the group in prayer. Be sure to pray for specific prayer requests and for revival in our land. After prayer time, the leader of the group should ask the two weekly accountability questions and give everyone time to share some of their application points.
- **#2: \_\_\_\_\_ the Story/Paraphrase** – After sharing your weekly application points, another D-Group member will tell the Bible story or paraphrase the passage to be studied. The Bible story is not to be memorized but briefly told in one's own words. Paraphrasing a passage is a bit more challenging but simply involves sharing the truths of the passage in one's own words.
- **#3: \_\_\_\_\_ the Text** – After telling the story, another D-Group member will read the story from the Bible to see if anything was left out. Always read the Bible text no matter how well the story was told. There is power in reading the written Word of God.
- **#4: \_\_\_\_\_ Bible Study** – After reading the text, another D-Group member will lead the group in a meaningful time of interactive Bible study. The facilitator's job is to get everyone in the group to join in discussing the Bible passage. All members of the D-Group will learn from one another by discussing the questions from the weekly study guide.

**The four weekly assignments are a very important part of D-Life.** By rotating these assignments, you not only get everyone in the group involved, but every week you are equipping them for multiplication and for leading a new D-Group. When you have less than four in your group, simply double up on an assignment.

### Your D-Group Weekly Agenda should be as follows...

- **Fellowship Time**
- **Prayer Time** (Assignment #1: Someone will lead prayer time)
- **Accountability Time** (Leader: Ask the 2 accountability questions & share application points)
- **Story Time** (Assignment #2: Someone will tell the story or paraphrase the passage)
- **Bible Reading** (Assignment #3: Someone will read the text)
- **Bible Study** (Assignment #4: Someone will facilitate Bible study)
- **Ministry Planning**
- **Weekly Assignments**
- **Closing Prayer**

Let me encourage you that you can do this! Remember to let the Bible do the teaching for you. You don't have to be a great teacher to lead a D-Group; the Bible is the great teacher. If you will lead your group to systematically read and discuss the Bible, you will see spiritual growth. This is truly a process that cannot fail.

### Takeaways from Lesson 3...

- A key word related to the teaching of D-Life is the word \_\_\_\_\_.
- Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.
- Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible
- Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ through the Bible.
- Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.
- Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ to multiply.

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### **Break Time**

**During the snack or dinner break, take time to model one or two D-Group meetings.**

**Group Assignment 1:** Let four or five men model a mock D-Group meeting using the Sample 1 Study Guide on page 6.

**Group Assignment 2:** Let four or five ladies model a mock D-Group meeting using the Sample 2 Study Guide on page 7.

# The Prayer of D-Life

## Lesson 4

Few things in life are more needed but more neglected than the power of fervent prayer. If there has ever been a time in the history of the world when every believer in Christ should pray passionately and fervently, that time is now.

Right now we need a great movement of God to bring revival and spiritual awakening to our country and our world. Prayer is essential to this. Fervent prayer has always preceded great movements of God.



### Main Thought...

**Disciple-making involves praying with others and practicing the \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer in our daily lives.**

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus taught His disciples to pray and gave them a model prayer. Like Jesus, we must teach those in our D-Groups how to pray.

**Matthew 6:9-13** - *Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Prayer is a very important part of disciple-making. Great things happen when God's people join together in prayer.

### 1. Teach your group the \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer.

Prayer was a priority for Jesus and He modeled a life of prayer for His disciples. In Luke 11:1, the Bible says, "Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'"

Like Jesus, in your D-Group prayer should be a priority. Your group should join together for a time of fervent prayer every time you meet regardless of your location.



## 2. Model for your group the \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer.

The disciples had asked Jesus to teach them to pray. According to Matthew, Jesus said, “*Pray then like this*” and He gave them an example of a model prayer.

Like Jesus and His disciples, we can best learn to pray by following the example of others. As we pray together in our D-Groups, we learn the practice of prayer from one another.

The Lord’s Prayer was not given for us to memorize and repeat. It was given as an example of how we should pray. In this prayer, there is praise, adoration, confession, and supplication. In our D-Groups, we should follow this model when we pray.

Using the **ACTS** acrostic is a good way to teach the practice of prayer. Fervent praying involves:

- **A**doration – Praising God for who He is.
- **C**onfession – Confessing our sins to God.
- **T**hanksgiving – Thanking God for things He has done.
- **S**upplication – Interceding for others and praying for personal requests.

In every D-Group meeting, you should take prayer requests. Then the one who is assigned to pray should follow the **ACTS** model and pray over these requests and pray for one another.

Everyone in the group should keep notes on your weekly prayer requests and continue to pray for them throughout the week. Notes can be kept electronically or written in your weekly study guide or D-Life Journal.

## 3. Nurture in your group \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer.

Jesus said to His disciples, “*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you*” (Matthew 7:7). The power of prayer cannot be more simply stated.

The needs of our world are great. There are millions who are lost and far from God. Joining together in fervent prayer is one of the greatest things we can do to make a difference.

**One thing all D-Groups MUST do every time they meet** is to pray for revival and the spiritual healing of our land. The invitation of God in 2 Chronicles 7:14 is a great promise to claim.

**2 Chronicles 7:14** - *If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

If we will humble ourselves to seek God’s face and turn away from our sins, then He will hear our prayers, forgive our sins, and heal our land.

This is a great promise! In your D-Group, always remember to pray for our national leaders and for God to heal our land. **DON’T FORGET THIS.**

#### **Takeaways from Lesson 4...**

- D-Groups must commit to the \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual discipline of personal prayer.
- D-Groups must pray together weekly and keep \_\_\_\_\_ on prayer requests.
- D-Groups must pray every week for \_\_\_\_\_ and for the spiritual healing of our land.

# The Ministry of D-Life

## Lesson 5

We deceive ourselves if we think we can disciple others solely from a classroom. Disciple-making requires a lab, and the world is our lab. Making disciples must involve on-the-job training in ministry and evangelism.



**The three-fold purpose of a D-Group is:**

- To \_\_\_\_\_ in spiritual maturity.
- To \_\_\_\_\_ in missional ministry.
- To \_\_\_\_\_ disciple makers.

There are many ministries of the church that focus on fellowship, teaching, and prayer. However, there are fewer ministries that focus on ministry, multiplication, and accountability. True discipleship does not occur apart from these three remaining practices of D-Life.

**Main Thought...**

**Disciple-making involves doing the work of ministry and evangelism \_\_\_\_\_ the walls of the church.**

In Mark 6, Jesus sent out His disciples to do the work of ministry and evangelism.

**Mark 6:7** - *And He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.*

**Mark 6:12-13** - *So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.*

Like Jesus, we must personally train our disciples to do the work of ministry and evangelism “outside the walls” of the church. This is a vital part of disciple-making.

**1. Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ meaningful ministry projects.**

Mark tells us that Jesus called the twelve disciples and “*began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits* (Mark 6:7).

Here Jesus called His disciples to do what that they had observed Him doing. They had watched Jesus minister to the least of these, wash other's feet, and go everywhere proclaiming the Gospel. Jesus had given His disciples on the job training in ministry and evangelism and now He was sending them out to do what He had trained them to do.

The bulk of Jesus' ministry took place outside the walls of synagogues and places of worship. Likewise, you must train those in your D-Groups to do ministry and evangelism outside the walls of the church.

Planning for ministry projects should be a regular part of your weekly group meetings. We should keep notes about ministry ideas and upcoming projects.

Ministry Projects may include things such as feeding the homeless, going to someone's yard for lawncare, doing a work project at a local school, building a wheelchair ramp, adopting a family for Christmas, prayer walk evangelism, or other creative ideas. The opportunities are endless. D-Groups can even make plans to go on a mission trip together.

## 2. Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ out and \_\_\_\_\_ meaningful ministry projects.

In obedience to Jesus' command, Mark simply says, "*So they went out*" (Mark 6:12). Not one of the disciples objected. They were all committed to share in the Lord's work.

Likewise, every D-Group must be committed to do the work of ministry and evangelism. We cannot disciple others through fellowship and Bible study alone. We **MUST** be willing to go outside the walls of the church and share in the work of ministry and evangelism together.

**THE MINIMUM GOAL OF EVERY D-GROUP** is to work together on **one** community ministry and evangelism project every **two** months. This means that every D-Group will participate in a minimum of **six** ministry projects each year. This is a reasonable expectation and an absolute essential for making genuine disciples.

## 3. Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ "lift up your eyes" evangelism.

The purpose for all D-Group ministry projects is servant evangelism. We want to advance God's Kingdom on earth.

In John 4:35b, Jesus said, "*Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest.*" Likewise, we must practice "lift-up-your-eyes" evangelism. As we "lift up our eyes" and see those around us, we must show them genuine love and share the Gospel with them.

***The Revive Bible NT*** published by ***Life Bible Study*** ([www.lifebiblestudy.com](http://www.lifebiblestudy.com)) is an excellent tool to use for sharing the Gospel. You can also use "***The Gospel***" presentation on your mobile device though D-Life Online. Whatever Gospel tract or tool you use, look for every opportunity to share the good news of Christ.

Before each ministry project, review your plan for sharing the Gospel with your D-Group and take time to practice it. By continually reviewing and practicing the evangelism plan, you will prepare your group for your next ministry project and equip them for a lifestyle of evangelism.

**When you lead others to Christ, try to immediately connect them with a D-Group.** Also, be sure to get their contact information to give to your church or to another church for immediate follow-up.

In our D-Groups we should celebrate the positive results of our ministry projects. These times of celebration and reflection after each ministry project are valuable opportunities for personal discipleship.

It is also important to celebrate with your church family over the great things that God is doing through the ministry projects of your D-Group. Keep your church staff informed.

### **Takeaways from Lesson 5...**

- The three-fold purpose of a D-Group is to \_\_\_\_\_ in spiritual maturity, \_\_\_\_\_ in missional ministry, and \_\_\_\_\_ disciple makers.
- Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ meaningful ministry projects.
- Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ out and \_\_\_\_\_ meaningful ministry projects.
- Lead your group to \_\_\_\_\_ “lift up your eyes” evangelism.
- The minimum goal of every D-Group is to work together on \_\_\_\_\_ community ministry and evangelism project every \_\_\_\_\_ months.

# The Multiplication of D-Life

## Lesson 6

The Kingdom principle of multiplying disciples is the most necessary and neglected practice of disciple-making. Churches often fail to grasp the importance of multiplication in their discipleship ministries.

When Jesus invited twelve men into His D-Group, He knew that He would not be with them forever. His goal was not to remain with them but to send them out.

His disciples knew that they would each go out and do what He had trained them to do. They would multiply and make other disciples. Likewise, all D-Groups must be committed to the practice of multiplication.



### Main Thought...

**Disciple-making requires the \_\_\_\_\_ of disciples;  
apart from multiplication there is no real discipleship.**

In 2 Timothy 2:1-2, Paul explained to his young disciple, Timothy, the Kingdom principle of multiplying disciples.

**2 Timothy 2:1-2** - *You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

If you are not committed to multiplication, then you are not a discipleship group. Apart from multiplying, you are not truly making disciples.

### 1. Multiplication is \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul exhorted his young disciple, Timothy, saying, “*You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus*” (2 Tim. 2:1). The word “strengthened” is from the Greek word, *endunamoó*, from which we have the word “dynamite.”

Dynamite is very powerful. We can be filled with dynamite-like power for the purpose of multiplying disciples.

## 2. Multiplication is \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul said to Timothy, "What you have heard from me...entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). Here we see four generations of discipleship: 1) Paul, 2) Timothy, 3) faithful men, and 4) others also. This is multiplication.

**Multiplication is God's plan for how His kingdom is to grow.** His plan for disciple-making does not focus on addition, but multiplication. Simply put, when you lead a D-Group of three to eight people, your goal is not to grow a bigger group, but to multiply a new group.

The members of the early church were faithful to the principle of multiplying disciples. In Acts 12:24, the Bible says, "But the Word of God increased and *multiplied*." The early church did not grow by addition; it expanded greatly through multiplication.



**The Multiplication of D-Groups will result in exponential Kingdom growth.**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Plan...

- Every D-Group multiplies yearly.
- Every D-Group has at least three disciples.

The \_\_\_\_\_ Results...

Y1 = 1 D-Group / 3 Others

Y2 = 2 D-Groups / 6 Others

Y3 = 4 D-Groups / 12 Others

Y4 = 8 D-Groups / 24 Others

**Y5 = 16 D-Groups / 48 Others**

Y6 = 32 D-Groups / 96 Others

Y7 = 64 D-Groups / 192 Others

Y8 = 128 D-Groups / 384 Others

Y9 = 256 D-Groups / 768 Others

**Y10 = 512 D-Groups / 1,536 Others**

Y11 = 1,024 D-Groups / 3,072 Others

Y12 = 2,048 D-Groups / 6,144 Others

Y13 = 4,096 D-Groups / 12,288 Others

Y14 = 8,192 D-Groups / 24,576 Others

**Y15 = 16,384 D-Groups / 49,152 Others**

Y16 = 32,768 D-Groups / 98,304 Others

Y17 = 65,536 D-Groups / 196,608 Others

Y18 = 131,072 D-Groups / 393,216 Others

Y19 = 262,144 D-Groups / 786,432 Others

**Y20 = 524,288 D-Groups / 1,572,864 Others**

Y21 = 1,048,576 D-Groups / 3,145,728 Others

Y22 = 2,097,152 D-Groups / 6,291,456 Others

Y23 = 4,194,304 D-Groups / 12,582,912 Others

Y24 = 8,388,608 D-Groups / 25,165,824 Others

**Y25 = 16,777,216 D-Groups / 50,331,648 Others**

Y26 = 33,554,432 D-Groups / 100,663,296 Others

Y27 = 67,108,864 D-Groups / 201,326,592 Others

Y28 = 134,217,728 D-Groups / 402,653,184 Others

Y29 = 268,435,356 D-Groups / 805,306,368 Others

**Y30 = 536,870,912 D-Groups / Over 1.5 Billion Others**

**Wow! What if only half of this happened?** Exponential kingdom growth is the ultimate result of multiplying disciples.

### 3. Multiplication is \_\_\_\_\_.

- **We must have the \_\_\_\_\_ of a soldier.**

Paul continued to exhort Timothy by saying, *“Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus”* (2 Tim. 2:3). Making disciples requires commitment. Whatever the cost, all genuine believers are called to be disciple-makers.

Paul says, *“No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him”* (2 Tim. 2:4). Multiplying disciples may require giving up *“civilian pursuits.”* This applies to anything that hinders us from living out God’s supreme purpose for our lives.

- **We must have the \_\_\_\_\_ of an athlete.**

Paul goes on to say, *“An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules”* (2 Tim. 2:5). Being an athlete requires discipline and training.

Leading a D-Group and multiplying disciples also requires discipline and training. You must have the discipline to read your Bible daily, to pray daily for those in your group, and to lead your group outside the walls of the church for ministry and evangelism.

It is important to be on time to all D-Group meetings and, most importantly, you must be disciplined in leading your group to multiply. Great leadership requires discipline.

- **We must have the \_\_\_\_\_ of a farmer.**

Finally, Paul says, *“It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops”* (2 Tim. 2:6). Disciple-making is hard work. It requires the patience and diligence of a farmer. It takes time and effort to see spiritual fruit grow but the rewards are great.

**The greatest reward of disciple-making is multiplication.** There is great joy in seeing one of your disciples become a disciple-maker and a leader of a new D-Group.

As a wise farmer knows when the crop is ready for harvest, a wise D-Group leader knows when a disciple is ready to multiply out to lead a new group. You also know when one is not ready. God will give you discernment in this.

Some will be ready to lead a new group after the first or second year of D-Life, but others may need more time to grow. Never send out a new leader until you know he or she is ready to lead, but continue to disciple them.

Eventually you want to equip everyone in your D-Group to be a disciple-maker. But remember, it takes time and effort to see spiritual fruit grow. Be diligent and patient.

Through D-Life, you have four years of weekly study guides and Bible reading plans. You have two years to study the New Testament and two years to study the Old Testament.



This gives you time to diligently equip those who are ready to lead and to patiently invest in those who need more growth.

Each year you must choose the Bible study plan that you feel is best for your current D-Group. After four years of equipping and investing in each life that God gives you, it will be time to start the process over again.

**The on-going training of new D-Group leaders is essential.** If multiplication is your ultimate goal, you must offer *D-Life Boot Camp Training* on a regular basis. All D-Group leaders should enlist potential new leaders for the training each time it is offered.

As the time for D-Life training approaches, speak individually with those that you feel are ready to lead and encourage them to step up to lead a new group. Enlist them for *D-Life Boot Camp Training* and offer to attend it with them. Continue to lead them by example and to assist them as they begin leading their new D-Groups.

#### 4. Multiplication is \_\_\_\_\_.

Few things are more exciting and fulfilling for a true follower of Christ than to lead a D-Group that is continually multiplying. It also adds great significance to your life.

Paul made disciples who make other disciples. There is no way to measure the eternal impact of his life. We can be certain that his rewards in heaven were great.

Likewise, if you commit to a lifestyle of disciple-making there will be no way to measure the impact of your life either. Your rewards will be great.

**A lifetime lifestyle of making and multiplying disciples is the ultimate D-Life commitment.**

#### Takeaways from Lesson 6...

- Multiplying disciples is what God has \_\_\_\_\_ you to do.
- Multiplying disciples is what God will \_\_\_\_\_ you to do.
- Multiplying disciples is what God will \_\_\_\_\_ you to do.
- Multiplying disciples will result in the exponential \_\_\_\_\_ of God's kingdom.

# The Accountability of D-Life

## Lesson 7

We have learned that disciple-making is our supreme purpose in life. It's our "Great Commission" and the "greater work" that our Lord has called us to do.

Unfortunately, it's not uncommon for people to feel they are not up to the task. This is why many never do it.

With his many shortcomings, Simon Peter must have felt unworthy for the task of making disciples. Peter had issues. He wanted to do right, but he just couldn't seem to get it together.



Tragically, he denied knowing Jesus on three separate occasions just before He died on the cross. Peter was a broken man. However, the loving accountability that Jesus provided to Peter is a beautiful example to follow.

### Main Thought...

**Disciple-making involves loving spiritual \_\_\_\_\_  
in the context of a caring relational environment.**

In Matthew 26:34-35, Jesus warned Peter that he would deny Him, but would later hold Peter accountable to his calling as a disciple-maker regardless of his faults and failures.

**Matthew 26:34-35** – *Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows you will deny me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!"*

In the disciple-making process, it is important for us to hold one another accountable to our commitments. Therefore, we must submit ourselves to mutual and loving accountability. In many ways, accountability is the glue that holds the disciple-making process together.

### 1. Lives are \_\_\_\_\_ through spiritual accountability.

In our D-Groups, we hold one another accountable in three important areas of spiritual development.

- **There is accountability to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

In D-Life, we hold each other accountable to the reading of God's Word. Holding one another accountable to daily Bible reading has a great impact on our lives.

In addition, every week in our D-Groups, we assign someone to lead the prayer time, tell the story, read the text, and facilitate the Bible study. Everyone gets involved and we hold each other accountable to these assignments.

D-Group leaders should email and text those in their group on a regular basis to remind and encourage them of their commitments. Emails and text messages are quick and easy tools to use for encouragement and accountability.

- **There is accountability to our \_\_\_\_\_ with God.**

We also hold each other accountable to our walk with God. In our weekly study guides, there are accountability questions that relate to every Bible story. It is important to spend time each week in honest discussion of these questions.

When someone in your group is struggling in a certain area of his or her spiritual life, it is important to provide loving accountability. Spiritual strongholds related to alcohol, drugs, pornography, sexual identity issues, and others can be overcome through the loving spiritual accountability of a D-Group.

- **There is accountability to our \_\_\_\_\_ and witness for God.**

We also hold each other accountable to the work of ministry and evangelism. Every D-Group will work together on at least one ministry and evangelism project every two months. We will work together and hold each other accountable as faithful servants of Christ.

## **2. Leaders are \_\_\_\_\_ through spiritual accountability.**

We know that Peter became a great leader. However, after denying Jesus three times, Peter felt like a great failure. He was ready to quit and throw in the towel as a disciple of Christ.

Peter's plan was to return to his former trade as a fisherman, but Jesus had another plan. Jesus went to Peter to hold him accountable to his commitment as a disciple.

While Peter was fishing with his friends, the risen Jesus stood on the shore. Unrecognized at first, He asked the men if they had caught any fish. When they answered, "No," He instructed them to cast the net on the right side of the boat. When they did, the net was filled with fish.

This was déjà vu. This happened earlier in Peter's walk as a disciple and he confessed his sin to Jesus as his Lord (Luke 5:8). This time Peter jumped out of the boat to swim to Jesus.

Jesus' example of loving accountability with Peter is an example to follow. Three times Peter had denied Jesus, and three times Jesus confronted him with his commitment as a disciple. Three times Jesus said to Peter, "Feed My sheep" (John 21:15-17).

Jesus was patient and loving, but He held Peter accountable to his commitment. Regardless of his issues and failures, Jesus reminded him that he was called to be a disciple-maker. The same is true for every one of us. We have **no good excuse** to not live the D-Life.

**3. Let us \_\_\_\_\_ to a lifestyle of disciple-making.**

- **To be a disciple maker is a \_\_\_\_\_ commitment.**

When Peter was restored to Jesus, he became one of the greatest disciple makers the world has ever known. To be a disciple maker was his supreme purpose, as it should be for us.

- **To be a disciple maker is a \_\_\_\_\_ commitment.**

When it comes to disciple-making, it doesn't matter what others do. Jesus has called **YOU** to the greater work. It is **YOUR** supreme purpose in life. The Holy Spirit will empower **YOU** to make disciples. Only one question remains. What will **YOU** do?

**I pray that you will make a lifetime commitment to living the D-Life.**

**Takeaways from Lesson 7...**

- Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ you to be a disciple maker.
- He has \_\_\_\_\_ you to be a disciple maker.
- Will you \_\_\_\_\_ to be a disciple maker?

**Group Assignment:** After a moment of prayer, I would like for you to do the following...

- Fill out your **D-Life Commitment Card** and indicate your commit to one of three options:
  - 1) I would like to lead a D-Group,
  - 2) I would like to help lead a D-Group, or
  - 3) I would like to be in a D-Group.
- Bring your card forward and lay it in the fishing net.
- Join together in a large circle for a final word of encouragement.
- Let's pray together for a mighty movement of God.