

LAMPLIGHTERS INTERNATIONAL – DISCIPLE-MAKER TIP #2

TITLE: "HOW TO START A DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE STUDY"

The most common question I am asked (besides endless hockey questions) is, “How do you start a discipleship Bible Study?” Many Christians seem intrigued that we are able to start so many Bible Studies with people whose weekly schedules seem already full.

First of all, the goal is not to start endless Bible Studies. I learned the hard way to not disciple non-disciples. It is a waste of time. If you are a pastor who wants to lead by example in personal disciple-making, look for God to use your preaching of God’s Word to change believers who begin to manifest the characteristics of a convicted disciple. Like Jesus, invite them into a closer personal spiritual relationship with you or another spiritual leader.

Here are the steps I have found used to start discipleship Bible Studies.

1. Know the four characteristics of a convicted disciple (John 8:31; Luke 14:26-33) and be able to recognize them in the lives of believers. For a more thorough explanation of the four characteristics of a convicted disciple, see *The Disciple-Maker Vol. IV, Issue 1*.
2. When you observe one of more of these four spiritual characteristics in the life of a believer, offer to get together with him for breakfast or lunch (men with men, women with women). At that meeting, inquire about his spiritual life and ask if he would like to grow more in Christ.
4. If he indicates that he would like to grow, offer to meet with him again to explore the possibility of meeting on a weekly basis. If not, or his weekly schedule doesn’t allow him to meet, move on.
5. At the second meeting, talk specifics.
 - a. Will he make a firm commitment to getting together each week?
 - b. What are some biblical topics he is interested in studying?
 - c. How many weeks are you planning to meet? It is best to have an ending date for this first study.
 - d. Ask him if he knows of others who might be interested in joining you each week or if he minds if they do.
6. Begin meeting, watch lives change before your eyes, see the group get excited, and expect the group to grow in God’s time.