

## Shepherd as an Equipper

Discipling is a chain of caring and sharing.

Matthew 28:18–20 (NASB95)

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

### A. Discipleship

teaching them to observe all that I commanded you

- know them: relationship gives you the opportunity to teach
  - most people want to know you care about them
- show them: modeling combines the explaining and showing
  - most people grow by watching others
- important to have proper mixture of spiritual maturity in your Small Church

### B. Working with New Believers

- don't expect them to effectively get involved in ministry until they are matured
- assign someone in the Small Church to a new believer to help establish their walk with Christ
  - use resources such as "The Arrival Kit Paperback" by Ralph W. Neighbour

### C. Working with Problem Persons

- usually requires the nurturing of the entire Small Church and specially cared by the shepherd
- short term help during life event such as death, divorce, illness, etc until recovered
- long term help for chronically problemed person
  - tolerated until Small Church multiplies
  - limited by personality defects such as anti-social, say tactless things, etc
  - need supernatural ability for patience and longsuffering

### E. Working with Seeking Unbelievers (quickly reached)

- seekers search for peace with God
- usually open to come to Small Church

## **F. Working with Non-Seeking Unbelievers (requires much patience and prayer)**

- non-seekers ignore spiritual life because so preoccupied with life, challenges, and problems
- outreach achieved through once a year 10 week temporary shared interest group
  - shared interest can be cooking, sports, etc
  - meet separately from the Small Church
  - meet from house to house
  - mainly discuss non-religious topics
  - this special group requires committed people willing to devote to this lifestyle
- cultivated through exposure to the life of the Small Church

## **G. Discipleship Lifestyle Under the Lordship of Christ**

- remember there is no part-time slaves but only full time slaves of Christ
- Christ as Lord owns you, your time, your resources, etc
- no compartmentalized approach; work life, home life, recreational life, church life, etc
- being a shepherd doesn't rob you of your ministry to your own family because they are a vital part of it
- if you try to juggle a compartmentalized life, you will get frustrated and burnout is a matter of time
- completely yield to Christ all your time and trust Him to grant you rest, peace, etc
- compartmentalized life feels like a lot of commitments because you are juggling
- slavery to Christ is just one commitment to your Lord
- work of a shepherd is not a Friday thing but a lifestyle lived unto God before people