

Overall: The theme of deliberate discipling is a must to raise up Young Adults in their faith.

The need is to be deliberate throughout all stages. The command from Jesus, "teach to obey" is an absolute must. Maturity in Christ doesn't just happen. This study will focus on specific areas to teach and train someone in the **Young Adult** phase.

These characteristics are not exhaustive nor are they meant to label. Instead, it's simply to gauge where someone might be in their maturity and to assist them to greater maturity in Christ.

Characteristics:

- Zealous
- Connected to fellowship (comes to church consistently; active in bible talk; etc)
- Motivated to serve God and others (not just because someone has given them a task)
- Learning to think more deliberately (Instead of "burning out")
- Priorities are changing to serve God (Rearranging work; school; plans; etc. to serve)
- *Almost* ready to handle ministry on their own (Matthew 17 when disciples attempt to cast out demon)

The Young Adult is like:

- The college graduate ready to take on the world...then realizes he needs to call home for financial assistance.
- The athlete who goes pro in their prime...then realizes everyone else is on same level in the pros.

Areas to teach and train for someone in this stage:

TEACH TO HAVE VISION

1Tim2.1-3. God wants ALL men to be saved. Since the beginning, God had vision. Likewise, to imitate God, we need to teach to have vision. Young Adults have a lot of energy. Teaching them to have vision channels their energy. Without specific vision, they will run in many different directions.

Nehemiah: a great example of vision.

- Prayer (Neh 1.4; 2.4)
- Gathers intel, sees the need, and makes decision (1.11-15)
- Communicates the vision (2.17)
- Faithful to the vision (Neh 4)

As a Young Adult, it is important to have specific vision. Of course, there is no formula for vision, however, Nehemiah sets a godly pattern for developing vision.

If you are training a Young Adult, perhaps you can inspire them with a vision. In addition, you can teach them how to have vision of their own.

Practical Discipling:

There is a need for bible talk leaders; I believe you can a great bible talk leader.

TEACH TO SET THE EXAMPLE.

1 Timothy 4:12

- You set the example!
- Just because someone is older doesn't mean they are more Godly, no matter what your age/situation, you set the example.
- Cannot and must not wait for someone else to be Godly.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

- You must learn to train yourself and not wait for someone to point out every way you need to be righteous.

Practical Discipling:

- Help them develop a plan on how they will be an example to the rest of their ministry/ BT
 - Evangelism, service, prayer etc.
 - Teach them to bring people along while they do these things
- Disciple them on CONSISTENCY! Examples are only set by consistency.
- Help them have the attitude: I WANT to be the example!

TEACH TO FOCUS

Without focus, our wheels will spin but we'll gain no traction.

Paul gave Timothy a very specific focus and very specific tasks.

1Tim1.3; 1Tim4.7-8; 2 Tim2.2; 2Tim22-23

- Command men not teach false doctrines
- Stay away from certain behavior
- Find reliable men to entrust with the gospel
- Find those who are seeking righteousness and be partners with them

It's important for Young Adults to have focus. They have a lot of zeal and energy but need direction.

Practical Discipling:

One area to specifically teach focus relates to 2Tim2.2. It's important to teach Young Adults how to focus on those who are truly seeking God and his truth. Otherwise, all their energy and zeal can be spread thin. This passing on of the gospel covers 4 generations:

- Paul
- Timothy
- Timothy to reliable men
- Reliable men to others

Often, Young Adults are afraid a drawing a line with a seeker. It takes more faith to spend less time with a few true seekers than spending a lot of time with many seekers. Of course, this focus must come through much prayer and advice since God "wants all men to be saved".

In addition, it's important to have focus in your discipling times. Whatever our physical life stage (teen, campus, single, married), we all have plenty to work on in our spiritual lives. However, our discipling times shouldn't **only** cover these issues. We need to help them focus on the mission and others as well.

Practical Discipling:

- Personal bible study and prayer life
- Time management
- Outreach; who they are studying the bible with
- Etc.

TEACH TO FOLLOW THROUGH

Paul wanted Titus to take care of unfinished business; he wanted him to follow through.

Titus 1.5

It takes character to start and finish something. The skill of following through is essential for the Young Adult. We all have started strong in some area only to fall short after time passes. We all have had grand ideas but get discouraged when there is failure.

Therefore, it's important to learn how to follow through until we finish what we started.

David is a great example. ***1 Samuel 17.34-37.***

This isn't flirting with danger, this is full on dangerous. David didn't pump fake; he didn't begin to chase the lion and retreat; he followed through.

- I went after it
- Struck it
- Rescued the sheep
- Seized the lion by the hair
- Struck it again
- Killed it

Pretty good example of following through. This incident allowed him to follow through later with Goliath as well. ***1 Samuel 17.48-51***

Practical Discipling:

- Make and finish plans
- Get a planner; use a planner (or some system of planning)
- Plan and finish a project (whether in or out of church. Ex: get a contact list of everyone in our Bible Talk)
- Initiate with the lost; follow through by calling them; setting up a time to study the bible with them
- Disciple others by holding them accountable; following through until there is change.

TEACH TO HAVE CONVICTION.

2 Timothy 1:7

- The Spirit makes us powerful not timid. We are meant to be characterized by God's loving strength not fear. We must have obvious contagious conviction.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

- Preach the word! Don't back down on convictions. Have faith that God's standards are meant to be held high.

1 Timothy 4:6-7; John 2:17

- Be characterized by being consumed with zeal.

Practical Discipling:

- Help them find scriptural backing for convictions so they are 100% clear on God's standard.
- Challenge them to say things in bible studies, bible talks, evangelizing, d-times that are uncompromising and scriptural.
- Learn to say things with an edge, that makes people say, "What?! You're telling me...." and not to back down afterwards.

TEACH TO IMITATE

2 Timothy 1:13

- Imitate sound teaching because it is sound.
- Learn what is effective teaching of scripture and learn to teach it in that way.

2 Timothy 3:10

- Learn not just what to say, but how to THINK!
- Learn how to live.
- Imitate godliness wherever you find it.

Practical Discipling:

- Ask them who they are imitating and in what areas of life. Encourage them to look for many examples of godliness in different areas of life.
- Teach them to take notes for themselves in every bible study in order to learn how to more effectively convert people's hearts.
- Teach them you don't need to "put your own spin on things," odds are, even when you are imitating someone and trying not to put your own spin on it, you still are.
- Teach them to have the attitude: I want to imitate Jesus, and I will imitate Jesus wherever I can find him in other people's lives.