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Disciplemaking 1 Abiding in His Word

Appendix ... TEACHING OTHERS

"And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2

You should be better equipped to be a disciple if you have completed the ten *Disciplemaking 1* lessons. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, you should grow to become a disciplemaker. The two key words in the life of a disciplemaker are *apply* and *multiply*. Apply what you learn to your own life. Then multiply it to others ... helping them become disciples. Paul wrote about disciplmaking in the verse above. Paul had taught Timothy. Then he encouraged Timothy to teach the same things to faithful men ... faithful men who could teach those same things to others. The multiplication was from Paul ... to Timothy ... to faithful men ... to others. That is the goal of this *Disciplemaking 1* course.

The things that you have learned from me in this course, entrust these to faithful believers who will be able to teach others also. Become a disciplemaker by teaching *Disciplemaking 1*. Opportunities to teach may be all around you ... in a Bible study, in a Sunday school class, or one-on-one with a friend. One-on-one teaching can be the easiest place to start. You can teach new believers, young believers, or more mature believers who want to help others. Pray. Ask God for an opportunity. God will give you the right opportunities if you are equipped and willing.

This appendix is designed to help you make the transition from student to teacher ... from disciple to disciplemaker. If you have the right goal and follow a few simple guidelines, you can be a better teacher and you can enjoy the process of teaching. The goal of teaching is changed lives ... increased knowledge resulting in increased obedience. Simply stated, the product of good teaching is full lives, not full notebooks. Paul wrote this about his own teaching, *"And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ."* Colossians 1:28. This appendix gives some simple guidelines for teaching. These are in three areas ... preparing the teacher ... preparing the lesson plan ... and teaching the lesson. Understanding and following these guidelines will help you be a better teacher. Learn them before you teach. Apply them as you teach. Review them after you teach.

PREPARING THE TEACHER

Good teaching begins with the preparation of the teacher. To prepare yourself as a teacher you should pray ... study ... review ... and model.

Pray. Pray for yourself. Pray as Moses prayed, *"Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as the droplets on the fresh grass and as the showers on the herb."* Deuteronomy 32:2. Pray for your teaching partner if you have one. Pray as you prepare each lesson. Pray that you will understand and master each lesson's content. Pray for your preparation of the lesson plan. Pray for your teaching of the lesson ... for clarity, accuracy, enthusiasm, conviction, and most of all for the Spirit's work. Pray for your students. Pray for them by name. Pray that they will understand the lessons ... apply the lessons to themselves ... and multiply the lessons to others. Paul's prayer for the believers in Colossae is a great example. *"For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light."* Colossians 1:9-12.

Study. This obvious ingredient of good teaching covers two aspects of the lesson. First, you must know the material thoroughly. Learn the lesson for yourself. Examine each part of it ... think about it ... remember it. Study each section, chart, and map. Read and study the verses that are referenced. Know the lesson as a whole. Know the details. Master all of it. The second part of studying involves preparing the lesson plan. Knowing the lesson for yourself is different than knowing how to teach it to someone else. Guidelines for preparing the lesson plan are on the next pages of this appendix. Studying is hard work. It takes time. There are no shortcuts. *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth."* 2 Timothy 2:15.

Review. After you have prepared the lesson and the lesson plan, review them many times. Reviewing the lesson and the lesson plan is very important to good teaching. Reviewing several times (or maybe even a few dozen times) makes the lesson your own. Doing this gives you thorough knowledge. Thorough knowledge produces confidence and comfort in teaching. When you thoroughly know the lesson, you can concentrate on the student getting it right ... rather than on you getting it right. Review the lesson every time before teaching it. You may be teaching it for the 5th, 15th, or 50th time ... but your students may be hearing it for the first time. A final review just a few minutes before teaching can be a big help.

PREPARING THE TEACHER (continued)

Model. Be an example of what you teach. Be an illustration of the lesson. Apply the lesson to yourself before you multiply it to others. Live it before you give it. By doing this you will be a better teacher. You will show that the lesson can be learned and lived. Your student(s) will believe your teaching because of your good example. Paul wrote, "*Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*" 1 Corinthians 11:1, and "*in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.*" 1 Timothy 4:12. Be able to say to your students, *Come with me to higher ground ... I've been there.* Don't say, *Go there ... I've heard it's nice.* You cannot teach your students to be more spiritual than you are. Jesus said, "*A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.*" Luke 6:40.

PREPARING THE LESSON PLAN

The lesson plan is the answer to the question, *How am I going to teach this lesson to my students?* The *how* is not the same as the *what* of teaching. The lesson plan involves your instructions to yourself on how to teach the material ... write them on the lesson pages.

Set the goal. Decide what you want to achieve in teaching each lesson. Know what you want the students to learn, to remember, and to apply. Build your lesson plan to achieve the goal.

Overview ... detail ... and review. Good teaching includes all three of these steps. They should be built into your lesson plan. The first step is a brief overview of the whole lesson ... and of the section. This will give the student a framework for the detailed content of the lesson. The next step is the detail of the lesson. This is the printed content *and* your hand-written content notes. The final step is a review of each section ... or of the whole lesson. Tell them what you are going to tell them ... then tell them ... and then tell them what you have told them. Follow this pattern section by section through each lesson.

Add clarity. Good teaching is thoroughly understood by the student. Your teaching needs to be clear and easy to understand. Add definitions of words and concepts. Add illustrations. Illustrations are word pictures ... your own parables. Illustrations don't have to be cute or funny. Good illustrations add clarity to teaching ... explaining the unknown in terms of the known. Decide what questions you want to ask your students. The right questions will get them to think and understand.

PREPARING THE LESSON PLAN (continued)

Prepare your notes. The best place to put the notes of your lesson plan is on the pages of the lesson. Use red ink for these instructions to yourself. Use blue or black ink for comments on the content of the lessons. Underline or circle for emphasis. Draw connecting arrows for progression or cause and effect. Highlighting in yellow can help. Put assignments for your students in red at the end of each lesson. Make your notes brief, simple, clear, thorough, and very legible ... remember you will be referring to them as you teach.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Good teaching is a product of the proper preparation of the teacher and the proper preparation of a good lesson plan. Consistently good teaching doesn't happen without both of these. A few more guidelines will help you during the actual teaching time.

Take time to focus. In the few minutes just before teaching ... take some time to focus your mind and heart on the lesson. Pray for yourself, your students, and your teaching. Think about the goal of the lesson. Briefly review the lesson ... especially the beginning of it.

State the purpose. Briefly tell your students the goal of the lesson. Tell them the purpose of your teaching. Their knowing what to expect makes your teaching and their learning easier.

Encourage learning and application. Paul encouraged his students. *"You know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."* 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12. Encourage your students. Your mastery of the lesson material shows that it can be learned. Personal examples from your own life can be a great encouragement.

Be clear ... be simple ... be brief. Complexity is usually the enemy of understanding. Many words, and especially many big words, add complexity and confusion to the teaching process. One of the most famous speeches given in the United States was President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in 1863. His eloquent and moving speech was an illustration of simplicity adding to the impact of communication. Lincoln spoke for about two minutes. His speech contained only 262 words ... and 202 were one-syllable words. Keep these ten lessons simple. Don't add much to the material provided. Adding a lot of extra detail takes away from the students' understanding of the whole lesson ... and it makes the lesson less transferable to others.

TEACHING THE LESSON (continued)

Overview ... detail ... and review. Remember to follow your lesson plan by doing these three things for each section of the lesson.

Get them thinking. Good teaching gets the students mentally involved in the lesson. Put them in the role of discoverers. The ten lessons have been written so that students do not have to take many notes. However, encourage them to underline, highlight, and take some notes. Get them thinking ... give them time to think ... keep them thinking.

Put your students first. Their spiritual growth should be your highest priority in teaching. Their increased knowledge and increased obedience is the goal. Tell your students when you don't know, or are unsure of, an answer ... then get the answer for the next class.

Teach only with attention. If people stop listening ... stop talking. You cannot teach without attention. Plan ahead to eliminate as many distractions as possible. Put students' backs to distracting light, noise, motion, and entry doors. Minimize the number of pets, children, and phones in the room. Plan on distractions happening ... don't be surprised or irritated. Stop teaching. Wait for the distraction to be over. Start again when you have regained attention. A few distracting students can destroy the whole class. It is your responsibility to prevent that from happening. A gentle correction usually is enough ... but if not, become more firm and direct. Talk to them alone afterwards to explain why you corrected them. Make a list of off-the-subject questions, and answer them outside of class time. Use question and answer times, class discussion, and breaks to keep attention ... or to regain attention.

Evaluate your teaching. Review this appendix and evaluate your teaching after you have taught each lesson. If you have a teaching partner, help each other. Evaluate, correct, and encourage one another. *"Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."* Proverbs 27:17. Don't be defensive when you are corrected. *"Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you, reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man, and he will increase his learning."* Proverbs 9:8-9. Make the necessary adjustments for the next class.

A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear Student or Teacher,

I wrote this course to provide comprehensive, basic teaching for those who desire to become disciples and those who wish to make disciples. I have taught this course many times in the USA ... and in Poland and Russia. It was well received in all locations. I rewrote it into its present form ... in what might be called *International English* to be understandable for those who know English as their first, second, or third language.

Many people have studied this course and have benefited greatly. Students who have become teachers have gained an extra blessing from learning it more thoroughly. I encourage you to teach this course for your own benefit ... and for the benefit of your student or students. Many Christians do not have enough knowledge to make the transition from believer to disciple. They lead frustrated Christian lives ... being less than God desires. You can help by teaching this course to them.

"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers." James 1:22. Apply what you have learned. Multiply it to faithful men and women who will be able to teach others also. Live it and give it. Pray that God will give you an opportunity to teach it. The easiest place to start may be with one or two friends. Jesus' words can be paraphrased as, *Teach others to be disciples of Me ... baptize them ... teach them to obey My commandments ... and I am with you always*, Matthew 28:18-20. Teaching this course can be part of your obedience to the Great Commission. He will be with you as you teach it.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Yours in His service,

John D. Morris