

Introduction to Basic Discipleship

There are two kinds of believers. Some believers are capable of discipling, while others are in need of discipleship. Likely, this group is a mix of either of those two groups.

Raise your hand if you're in one of those two categories (check the one that applies to you).

- I believe I need discipleship
- I believe I could disciple someone

The solution to both kinds of believers is for us to define what basic discipleship is. Once we understand what we're aiming for, we'll find the _____ and confidence required to see this through.

I say *basic* discipleship because being a learner is something you'll continue to do your entire Christian life. You'll never reach the bottom of the well of God's wisdom, but if someone has basic discipleship, they will be equipped to function as a _____ member of the church.

Time for a sea story:

How might being discipled make a Christian more reliable?

They gave sailors who had not yet received their dolphins a nickname. They called us NUBS: That was an acronym that stood for _____. That was harsh, but it was also motivating. I wasn't allowed to enjoy the benefits of being a qualified submariner until that was done. It became my soul purpose in life to get qualified because I wanted to be a useful part of my crew.

If you're a believer, your church is your crew. When alarms go off, you want to know how to function as a useful member of a crew that glorifies God in rough seas.

The reality was that for me to accomplish the things I wanted to learn, I needed a crew to teach me. When I qualified, I was not only a useful member of the crew, but I was a useful _____ to the new NUBS who came on board after me.

Because I knew what I had to learn, I could now show them what they needed to learn.

Structure

Most of these classes will have the same structure.

I will introduce a _____. I will explain the purpose of having it, and I will explain what the disciple ought to be able to demonstrate if they have learned it.

- We will spend 2 nights on the first milestone
- We will spend each night on one of the subsequent milestones.
- At the end of our 5th night together, I have a special assignment for everyone. I'm going to hand out a packet that applies to both groups. After you complete the packet that applies to you, bring it with you for our last night together.

What is Basic Discipleship

If someone has basic discipleship, it means that they have learned **4 milestones**:

1. _____ :

This milestone answers this question: What do I need to _____ as a Christian?

- This milestone is obviously more cerebral. As a result of having this milestone, the disciple should be capable of both _____ and _____. Scripture. The former will be demonstrated when the disciple knows where each book is, they can recite significant events in the Bible, and they can explain the metanarrative of the Bible. The latter will be demonstrated when the disciple can properly _____ Scripture.

2. _____ :

This milestone answers this question: What do I need to _____ as a Christian?

- This milestone affects behavior. As a result of having this milestone, the believer should be able to demonstrate increased _____. This change comes as a result of discerning their actions after reflecting on the Word of God and the Holy Spirit's ministry to their conscience.

3. _____ :

This milestone answers this question: What does it mean to _____ a Christian?

- This milestone affects conviction. As a result of having this milestone, the believer should be able to demonstrate _____ in everyday life as a Christian. More than being able to resist evil and do good, this milestone helps the disciple to navigate hard decisions with biblical values.

4. _____ :

This milestone answers this question: What do I need to be _____ as a Christian?

- This milestone is essential for keeping the disciple on _____. Even if a believer has mastered the first three milestones, the fourth milestone is the capstone of what it means to be a Christian.

In a Nutshell

Basic discipleship equips the believer with what to know, what to do, how to be, and what to be about.