

He also designated apostles.”

● **Step Two: Time!** Give God time to answer your prayer and reveal to you the individuals you should approach for discipleship.

● **Step Three: Observation!** Examine the potential disciples to see if they demonstrate the qualities and characteristics mentioned above.

● **Step Four: Testing!** Test the waters before you dive in head first. Spend some time with the potential disciple and see firsthand if this is the person God wants you to invest in.

● **Step Five: Challenge!** Lay out a challenge for a discipling relationship. If the person is eager to accept the challenge – go for it!



“Steps for Selecting a Disciple”

WHEN AND WHERE DO I LOOK FOR A DISCIPLE?

My first response to this question wants to be anywhere and all the time. When I think about it, however, that’s not all there is to it. Obviously, a potential disciple can surface in your life at any time, but it might be a matter of months before you actually invite them to join a group. Always keep your eyes open for potential disciples, but don’t invite the person

into a discipling relationship until you are ready to begin a group and you have carried out the five steps mentioned above. Take note, however, that the five steps done correctly will take months, not days.

Where do you find potential disciples? There are some very good places to find potential disciples. Please note, however, that the focus is on disciple makers finding them and not the other way around. The best way to find a disciple is not through a church-wide announcement. It comes from a personal “ask.” Don’t wait on the Pastor of Discipleship to recruit your group. Go find disciples on your own and look in the following places.

◆ **New converts!** The best disciples are the ones you lead to faith in Christ. Find your disciples in the world like Jesus did.

◆ **Spiritual seekers!** Look for new people or undisciplined people in your church, small group, or Sunday school class. Potential disciples are all around you.

◆ **Counseling!** Take note of people who ask you questions about spiritual issues or seem to be interested in your spiritual growth.

◆ **Work, Neighbors, School!** You may disciple a person outside your own local church.

◆ **Interest Events!** Special recruitment events can lead you to relationships for discipleship.

For more
information
contact:

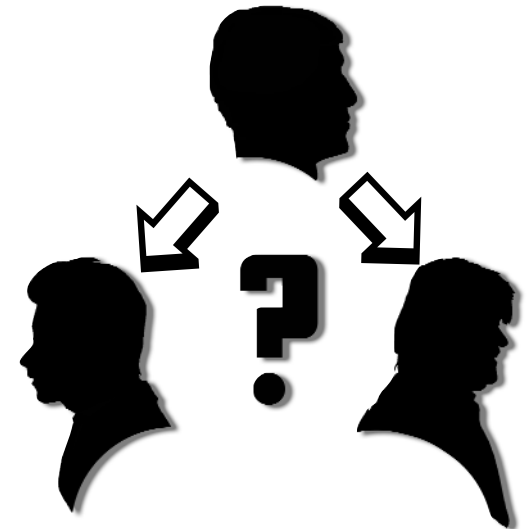


2564 Highway 154
Newnan GA 30265
(770) 254-0291

© 2000, Ken Adams



SELECTING THE RIGHT DISCIPLES



by Ken Adams

I am part of a local church that is very committed to a process of multiplying disciples. In fact, we are so committed to this process that we regularly recruit people into discipleship groups. We use a number of different methods to recruit. Sometimes we make announcements about starting new discipleship groups and recruit new people with these “all calls.” At times, we have discipleship rallies that draw interested individuals. Then at other times, we simply ask people one-on-one if they would be interested in being part of a discipleship

process. Having used all these different types of methods for recruiting, a few important lessons have surfaced. This article will help you apply some of these lessons. Let's take a quick look at the following...

- ✓ Why is selection so important?
- ✓ Whom should I select to disciple?
- ✓ How do I select a disciple?
- ✓ When and where do I look?



WHY IS SELECTION SO IMPORTANT?

Dawson Trotman once said, "It's not how many men, but what kind of men." Obviously, the selection of the right person is a fundamental key to the success of a discipling relationship. I learned the importance of selection first hand when I recruited about eight men for an introductory discipleship group and only two of them stayed with me the full twelve weeks. I knew at the end of the group I had made some major mistakes in the selection process. Selecting the right person to join a discipleship group is key for several reasons.

1 – Spiritual growth is produced by the Spirit. Spiritual growth does not happen apart from the Spirit of God, so selecting a potential disciple needs to be a spiritual process. Hurrying the process can lead to disastrous results.

2 – Selecting the wrong person could sabotage the group. If careful and prayerful selection is not the goal, it can be easy to mismatch the group relationships. Chemistry is a key element in successful discipleship dynamics.

3 – Frustration on the part of the discipler. Nothing will frustrate disciple makers more than having the wrong people in their groups. If disciplers don't take the time to select wisely, they will feel like they are wasting their time.

4 – Unfulfilled disciples. Sometimes a poor selection process ends up leaving the new disciple frustrated and feeling like a failure if the group or leader relationship did not click.

In a nutshell, selecting individuals for a group discipleship effort is key because it involves relationships. Relationships with God, with self, and with others.

WHO SHOULD I SELECT TO DISCIPLE?

Have you ever wondered what Jesus was looking for in His disciples? What was Jesus thinking in John 1:43 when He said to Philip, "Follow me." In Mark 3:13-14, the Scripture says, "Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to Him those He wanted, and they came to Him. He appointed twelve – designating them apostles that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach."

Sometimes we read these passages on selection and envision Jesus walking up to these guys "cold turkey" and calling them to be disciples. It is more likely that these original disciples had already indicated a desire or interest in Jesus' ministry. If this was the case, and I think it was, Jesus probably looked for several signs in whom to select. Obviously we don't know exactly what signs Jesus looked for, but I would suggest the following signs in the selection of a disciple for a discipleship group.

① Expression of faith! There are exceptions to the rule, but more often than not a potential disciple should express personal faith in Jesus.

② Like gender! Discipling relationships work best when men disciple men and women disciple women. The depth of sharing makes gender-

based groups extremely important.

③ Appropriate growth levels! The best discipleship groups happen when the group members are at the same stage of spiritual growth. Try to select a disciple that matches the level of the group and the other group members.

④ A teachable spirit! The best disciple is one who wants to learn. Select someone who has demonstrated a desire to grow.

⑤ Faithfulness! Look for disciples who have already demonstrated some level of faithfulness. If they don't show faithfulness in the small things, they won't show it in the big things.

⑥ A heart for God! Don't judge a potential disciple purely on personality. Appearances can be deceiving. Check to see if the person has a desire for the things of God.

⑦ Hungry! Go after potential disciples who are hungry for God, His church, and spiritual growth. You will know when a person is hungry and when he is not.

⑧ Available! Select a person who is willing and able to fulfill the expectations of the group. Don't set everyone up for failure if each person cannot be committed to the group.

HOW DO I SELECT A DISCIPLE?

Selecting the right person to disciple is not complicated or an exact science, but there are a few important steps to consider.

● Step One: Prayer! Make certain the selection of a disciple is preceded by prayer. In Luke 6:12-13 the Bible says, "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom