



Liberty **Church** Network

**Micro Churches, Missional Communities, and
Disciple-Making Ministries for Established Churches**

(In Partnership with The Timothy Initiative)

Disciples Making Disciples - Level 1

On behalf of the LCN/TTI Team, thank you for your commitment and desire to begin/continue making disciple-makers a priority in your life and ministry. We believe that God is going to use you and His church for the expansion of His Kingdom to bring glory to Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ.

We believe the outcome of this training will result in multiple generations of disciples. When we say disciple we mean a person who lives like Christ and leads others to do the same. Success in this regard is measured by reproduction of healthy, growing disciples. At the same time, we believe your ministry is likely to expand, both inside and outside your church walls.

It should be said from the very beginning that the LCN/TTI model and approach is not the only way to make disciple-makers. We are constantly updating, growing, and adapting our approach based on what we learn from our own mistakes and the experiences of others around the world. At the same time, there are many who are stuck, uncertain, or not clear as to what they should or can do in regard to making disciple-makers. If you find yourself in this category we believe we can help.

LCN/TTI exists for you! This mission of making disciples who make disciples is bigger than any one organization and is the call of all who follow Christ. We are here to assist you as needed and to cheer you forward to greater kingdom impact. With that being said, the following outlines how to use the Disciples Making Disciples- Level 1 process in the context of a local church (what we call a disciple-making training center).

Before You Begin

Over the next few months, your church is going to become an intentional disciple-making training center, mobilizing those inside to go outside the walls, reaching the lost and discipling them into fully devoted followers of Christ. Training disciples to make disciples is the heart of Jesus' Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the core of Paul's emphasis throughout the epistles (Ephesians 4:11-16, 2 Timothy 2:2).

It should also be made clear from the beginning that training exists and happens "in ministry" as opposed to existing or happening "for ministry." As a result, learning and doing go together. This can be messy, and will require a serious investment of time, energy, and patience as you disciple your disciple-makers. Disciple-making is not something learned in the classroom but happens in real life. As a result, the training needs to be experiential rather than conceptual or intellectual. Simply studying and showing up to teach is Not Sufficient for this model of training.

How much time will a Training Center and Training Disciple-makers actually take?

In short, A LOT! Jesus built his ministry by investing his life in "uneducated, common men" (Acts 4:13), and developed them to the point where the establishment and expansion of his kingdom hinged on their faithfulness to His direction (Matthew 16:18). Sometimes He would have the disciples watch (John 9), other times they would help (Matthew 14:13-21), and sometimes they would lead (Luke 10:1-23). Regardless of the situation, He always provided encouragement (John 13:1-17), critique (Matthew 17:19-20), and supervision (Mark 6:30). He began with "come and see," but ended with "come and die" (Luke 14:25-34). Counting the cost of following Christ is a choice every disciple-maker must prayerfully consider and commit to.

Most training centers gather at least 1.5-2 hours per week "in classroom" but the investment outside the "class" is much more involved. Life-on-life training, mentoring, and coaching is no small undertaking and will require a serious commitment by both the trainer and trainee (think Jesus & his disciples or Paul & Timothy). At the end of the day, you are leading people towards a life of serving Jesus and others in his name. Are you ready?

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Getting Started

Begin with 14 days of Prayer and Fasting

- Specifically spend time in self-reflection, examining your own heart and life to ensure alignment with the calling and investment it will take for a life of making disciple-makers.
 - Are you willing and committed to practicing what you preach?
 - Authenticity is the best way to establish and maintaining trust with those you lead. This will create avenues for trust to be built and reinforce commitment for the long-haul.
- During this time, prayerfully consider and ask God to reveal whom to invite on this discipleship journey. As the Spirit leads, begin approaching those individuals and ask if they are willing to commit to an intentional discipleship relationship.
 - Note those you originally think would be interested in this training are often the one's least interested in doing this. Do not be discouraged.
- One additional recommendation is to accompany this time of prayer and fasting with a two-week sermon series on the Great Commission and disciple making.

Enter into a Coaching/Mentoring Relationship

- Before the end of your 14 days' prayer and fasting, contact a LCN Local Center Leader so they can connect you to a coach who will commit to investing and assisting you throughout this journey. We are here to coach you through the process.
- Commit to being held accountable and to making yourself available as you begin the Disciples Making Disciples-Level 1 process.

Vision Casting- Explain the "Why"

- Call all potential trainees to a collective vision casting session where you explain why every believer is called to be a disciple-maker. Spend time in prayer, and commit before each other and God to simple, direct, childlike faith and obedience to the commands and teachings of Christ (The ideal setting for this meeting is in a home over a meal).

Set Things in Motion- Explain the "What"

- Follow up directly with each individual/couple who attended your vision casting meeting and let them tell you if they are in or out.
 - **Remember:** Leaders tend to over focus on direction (vision) and alignment (strategy) while neglecting to gain and maintain ongoing commitment.

- For those who are in, meet with them as a group, small group, or individually explaining exactly what it is that will be expected of them.
 - Emphasize that every believer is a disciple and every disciple is called to be a disciple-maker. It needs to be clear they are being trained and will be held accountable to make disciples where they live, study, work, play, and shop.
 - They will likely be afraid and/or feel unqualified/inadequate to do this.
 - There is amazing power in Vulnerability: People generally avoid entering into a learning mode where they sense a strong likelihood doing so will result in them looking bad or feeling vulnerable in front of others.
 - Reassure them that you are committed to them throughout this process, reinforce trust and share with them your personal mistakes and failures.
 - Ask for a minimum commitment to finish the Disciples Making Disciples- Level 1 training.
 - Decide on dates, locations, and timing of the training.
 - Give each person a copy of Disciples Making Disciples- Level 1 (Table of Contents at the end of this document. DMD – Level 1 is available through LCN/TTI)

Launch The Training- Implement the “How”

- Once the “why” and “what” are clear, you are ready to begin.
- Try to average at least 1 chapter every 1-2 weeks for roughly 1.5-2 hours per gathering.
 - Remember: Training is Christ centered, people and purpose driven, application oriented, and philosophy guided. The goal is not just to teach all the pages in the book, but to make disciple-makers. If it takes you more time that is ok.

- When you meet, follow the Disciples Making Disciples- Level 1 manual but be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Wherever you go and whatever you discuss during your training sessions, stay focused on developing, encouraging, mentoring, and skill-modeling so that your disciples know what it takes to be successful.
 - Remember: The expectation is multiple generations of disciples. Disciples are those who live like Christ and lead others to do the same. Success is measured by reproduction of healthy, growing disciples.
- Each week enlist one of the trainees to co-lead the lesson with you in an effort to show them they can do it. This empowerment will affirm your belief in them.

Next Steps- Explain the “What Next”

- After you have completed the Disciples Making Disciples- Level 1 materials, there will be many new believers ready to be discipled into disciple-makers. It is at this point that each of your “Timothy’s” will need to decide what to do with this group of new believers.
- There are a few potential ways to go forward in the disciple making relationship:
 - Timothy can begin gathering with his or her new believers on a regular basis as a smaller spiritual family under the banner and leadership of the existing church. While these groups are aligned with a common vision, mission, and leadership, the group of new believers meet in homes, offices, clubhouses, coffee shops, barber shops, etc. When they gather they often share a meal, fellowship, study the Scriptures, pray, and serve both inside and outside their group in the effort to make disciples who make disciples.
 - When this option is chosen, we recommend you take those wanting to continue through Disciples Making Disciples- Level 2, which outlines the process in detail and provides further training. (DMD – Level 2 will be available through LCN/TTI)
 - Alternatively, Timothy’s may choose to continue to disciple their new believers while encouraging them to be connected to their existing church.

Suggested Timeline of Training

- **Preliminary Work: (4 Weeks)**
 - Week 1 & 2- Prayer & Fasting
 - Week 3- Vision Casting- Explain the "Why"
 - Week 4- Set Things in Motion- Explain the "What"
- **Training & Mentoring: (9-18 Weeks)**
 - Week 5-14 or 5-22 (Depending upon your speed)- Launch The Training- Implement the "How"
- **Follow up Work: (1 Week)**
 - Completion of Level 1- Next Steps- Explain the "What Next"

*** When desired, Disciples Making Disciples- Level 2 naturally follows Disciples Making Disciples- Level 1**

Some Guidance & Best Practices Throughout the Training

Assess, Challenge, and Support your Disciples

- **Assess:** encourage assignments that are clearly defined and easily measurable.
- **Challenge:** appropriately challenging to the individual.
- **Support:** balanced by reasonable levels of support.

Create a culture of commitment to Spirit-filled living, accountability, honesty, and growth

- Every gathering should involve intentional accountability and reporting by each individual on the previous week's commitments or action steps.
 - This is a difficult task as a leader to hold others accountable but a necessary part of being a disciple (John 14:15). The key is that each individual commits before God and the group what they will do; as the leader, it is your job to support and hold them accountable.
 - This will require you to "get your hands dirty." It involves visiting trainees in the "field," showing them what to do, what not to do, and how to do it better.
- This style of training is a life-on-life approach. Each trainee should be viewed as your disciple.
 - Just as Paul developed Timothy and held him accountable (2 Timothy 2:2), you must do the same. Internationally, we call trainers "Pauls" and each trainee is a "Timothy," as we feel this is the best way to view the relationships that are forming, which will likely last a lifetime.

- o Support from a trusted leader is vital when people are struggling or attempting to adapt to new and/or threatening circumstances. Your job is to meet them where they are and take them somewhere new. The result is Kingdom Expansion!

5 Essentials to Effective Training

- Every time you gather together it is important to consider these five essentials. They will keep you focused and intentional in all that you do as you develop your disciples into disciple-makers.
 1. Encourage your People- Look back on what God has done and is doing. Hold everyone accountable and report on progress.
 2. Reflect on God's Greater Purposes- Look up and be reminded why we do what we do. God's plan and purpose for our life and ministry comes as a result of this.
 3. Reinforce Essential DNA- Look inside at your core values and philosophy of ministry. Review, review, review.
 4. Course Corrections- Look around to figure out what is working and what is not working. State best practices, examples to follow, avoid, do more, do less or not do at all.
 5. Vision Casting- Look forward and address the next steps that need to be taken, what must be done and how to get there.