

IMPACT MINISTRIES

BECOMING A
Plan "A"
CHRISTIAN



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Becoming a Plan "A" Christian

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I HAVE NO OTHER PLAN

During my first year of seminary, I heard a professor tell a story that has remained etched in my mind for years and has changed the way I look at life.

I remember my professor telling this well-worn preacher's story that went something like this. When Jesus returned to heaven after His resurrection, the angel Gabriel greeted Him. As soon as Gabriel saw the Lord, he welcomed Him back to heaven and asked Him how things had gone during His time on earth. Jesus told Gabriel that His time on earth went very well. He told him that while on earth the Father had allowed Him to do many miraculous things and to teach some very incredible truths. Jesus went on to say the enemy crucified Him, but the Father gave Him the final victory through the power of the resurrection. Gabriel said, "Wow Jesus, it sounds like you had an awesome experience. So now that you are back here, what happens? Is it all over?"



Jesus said, "Oh no, Gabe. While I was on earth, the Father gave me twelve men to disciple. Over the past several years, I have entrusted to them the very things the Father has given Me. They will pass on to the next generation all the things I have given to them."

Gabriel had a curious look on his face and asked Jesus another question. "Lord that sounds great. However, what if those twelve men do not pass on what you have given them. Lord, what is plan "B"?"

Jesus looked at Gabriel with a sense of expectation and said, "Gabriel, I have no other plan. There is no plan "B." If these men don't pass it on, no one will!"

PLAN "A" CHRISTIANS

The old preacher's story my professor told that day in class has given me great clarity in discovering my life's purpose. That story illustrates what I have come to understand to be the Plan "A" Christian Life.

The Plan "A" Christian is the disciple who passes on to others the life he has as a disciple of Jesus Christ in such a way that they in turn also pass it on to others. In a nutshell, the Plan "A" Christian is a multiplying disciple of Jesus Christ. A multiplying disciple of Jesus Christ is one who is becoming a fully trained Christ follower and building others to be fully trained disciples of Christ.

I believe with all my heart that Jesus wants every believer to be a Plan "A" Christian. I believe Christ's plan to make disciples of all nations was a movement of multiplying disciples. I believe Christ wants you to be a Plan "A" Christian. Christ wants you to multiply disciples who will in turn multiply more disciples

When Jesus stood on the mountainside with His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 and said, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to*



obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age," He had no plan "B" in mind. Jesus only had one plan for reaching the entire world with His message of redemption. Jesus expected His disciples to make more disciples. He expects us to multiply. If we do not make more disciples of Jesus Christ, no one else will. There is no Plan "B"! We are Christ's plan. If you and I do not obey Christ's commission to make disciples of all nations, we will not reach our God given potential. We may add disciples, but we will not multiply.

ADDING OR MULTIPLYING?

If I were making a financial investment, I would prefer interest that multiplies rather than adds. I bet you would too. Which would you rather have; a lump sum of \$100,000 or a penny a day doubled every day for thirty-one days? Take the penny a day! If you turn down the multiplying penny, you would turn down over \$10,000,000.

That is not a very smart choice.

Adding disciples is not a very smart choice either. That is exactly why Jesus told his disciples to make disciples. If Jesus gave the challenge to reach all nations, would He not give us a plan by which we could accomplish it? Adding disciples is not that plan! Adding disciples is the Plan "B" Christian life. Multiplying disciples is the Plan "A" life.

Think about it. Would the enemy of Christianity be more pleased with Plan "B" Christians or Plan "A" Christians? Don't you think the enemy would want us to settle for lives that add disciples rather than multiply them? It is often said that "good is the enemy of the best." Let's not settle for good growth by addition when God wants us to have the best growth by multiplication.

I can tell you after 40 years of being a Christ follower, I know only a small number of people who have chosen to live a lifestyle of multiplying disciples who multiply more disciples. I wonder how Christ feels when only a small percentage of His followers are actually



doing what He did. I wonder how Christ feels having lived a Plan “A” life, when so many of His followers live the Plan “B” life.

In John 14:12 Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”* If we were living Plan “A” lives, we would be doing what Jesus did and have even more time to multiply disciples than He had.

Don’t you want to do what Jesus did? Don’t you want to live a Plan “A” Christian life? Wouldn’t you love to look back at the end of your days and see multiple generations of disciples who are following Christ because of the intentional commitment you made to making disciples?

Let’s look at how to make disciples who make disciples.

SELECTING THE RIGHT INDIVIDUALS

When you examine the disciple-making process Jesus used, you will notice that He wanted His disciples to “be” disciples before they “built” disciples. Jesus wanted to equip individuals before He commissioned them to make disciples. Jesus did not give a person the responsibility of making disciples until they had first been a disciple.

As you read this booklet, you are at one of two places. You are ready to be a disciple maker or you are ready to be a disciple. That will mean either you need to select a person to disciple you, or you will need to find the individuals God wants you to disciple. I would encourage you to ask a spiritual leader you trust to help you discern where you are in your spiritual journey. In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul told Timothy, *“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”* If you are qualified to be a disciple maker, you



need to select the right individuals to equip as disciples.

When I look for individuals to disciple, I look for people who are hungry for more, and who are already looking to grow in Christ. I believe Jesus did the same thing. When Jesus called the twelve, they were already a part of His crowd of followers. The men Jesus chose to be Plan "A" disciples had proven themselves hungry for more.

Whom do you see in your Christ crowd that is hungry for more of God? If you are a man, can you name two or three men in your life you believe are ready to grow? If you are a woman, do you know two or three women in whom you believe God is calling you to make an eternal investment?

Jesus spent a night in prayer before He called the twelve to be His disciples. 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 He also designated apostles."*

Let me encourage you to become

a Plan “A” Christian by asking God to send you a disciple maker or to send you disciples into whom you can pour the life of Christ. Just like Jesus, the first step we take in the disciple-making process is to select the right individuals. I pray God will connect you to the right person for disciple making.

THE “BE WITH” PRINCIPLE

Once you have selected a few individuals to disciple, you will want to follow the exact same plan Jesus used for making additional Plan “A” Christians. In Mark 3:14 the Bible says, *“He appointed twelve - designating them apostles - that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach.”* Jesus spent time with His disciples before He sent them out to make more disciples.

In the three years that Jesus invested in His disciples, He had a very intentional strategy for preparing them for His departure. He specifically



planned the time He spent with His disciples to prepare them to carry on His mission after He was gone. As a parent prepares a child, Jesus prepared His disciples for life on their own.

I believe the “With Him” strategy that Jesus used for making Plan “A” Christians included the following components: Jesus used teaching times, fellowship times, and ministry times to equip His disciples to make more disciples.

The teaching times that Jesus used were done in a variety of formats. Jesus wanted His disciples to learn God’s truth when He was teaching the multitudes, but He also orchestrated private times when He downloaded the principles they would need to accomplish His mission. He did not teach His disciples everything there was to know; He just taught them what they needed to know. The goal of discipleship is learning how to learn.

As Jesus shared life with His disciples, fellowship happened. Jesus traveled with His disciples. He ate with His disciples. He laughed with His disciples. He grieved with

His disciples. In a nutshell, Jesus spent time with His disciples; He built relationships with them. Jesus saw discipleship as a relationship, not as a program!

The ministry times that Jesus used with His disciples were opportunities to apply the truths He had taught them. Jesus strategically crafted prayer trips, healing encounters, witnessing opportunities, and many other ministry activities to expose His disciples to the ministry experiences they would have once He was gone.

In essence, Jesus prepared His disciples to accomplish Plan "A." Our task today is no different. To make that task easier, I recommend that you identify some disciple-making tools to help you transfer the life of Christ into those you disciple. Having spent years attempting to make disciples of all nations, I have tried to develop disciple-making tools for Plan "A" Christians to use. Through Impact Discipleship Ministries, you can obtain disciple-making resources which are Christ-centered, easily transferable, and user friendly.



The type of resource you use to make disciples is not what matters. What matters is that you make disciples! I knew a man named Clete who was committed to making disciples of college students while he served as a campus minister. Clete used four years of college to provide teaching, fellowship, and ministry opportunities as a way of being with students so he could send them out to make more disciples.

COMMISSIONING TIME

Jesus did not intend to stay with His disciples forever. Yes, the fellowship was sweet, the teaching was great, and the comfort zone of the Master was very comfortable. However, Jesus did not call His disciples to be comfortable. He did not equip them to be Bible scholars who just kept getting deeper and deeper in truth. Jesus did not plan for His disciples to live in a holy huddle with sweet fellowship while the world went to hell. Jesus had a mission! Today we call it the Great Commission.

Jesus has commissioned *all* of His disciples to make more disciples.

In John 20:21 Jesus said, *“Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.”* Was Jesus sending His disciples out to start programs? Was He sending them out to build church buildings? Was He sending them out to conduct mission’s conferences and seminars on how to “add” disciples to the church roll? I don’t think so. Jesus was sending His disciples out to do the exact same thing He had done. He was sending them out to invest in a handful of disciples who would in turn invest in another handful of disciples and continue to do so until He came back to get us.

My question for you is simple. How many reproducing disciples have you made? Have you done what Jesus sent you out to do? Do you have multiple generations of disciples as a result of the way you have lived your life? Can you identify a spiritual “family tree” of disciples that God has used to reproduce? Are you leaving a legacy that will impact eternity? Is there anybody out there



who has gone on to disciple someone else because you discipled them? How can some people live their whole lives as Christians and never do the very thing Jesus Christ came to do? Don't you think it is time to live a Plan "A" life?

In Matthew chapter 25, Jesus tells a story about three men, each given a certain amount of money. Of the three, only one did not multiply his money while the master was gone. He was called a "*wicked, lazy servant.*" This man's money was taken from him and he was thrown out into the darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. I think this story makes it very clear that Christ expects us to multiply the most valuable thing we have been given. He expects us to multiply our lives!

JOINING HIS MISSION

The reason I wrote this booklet is simple ... to challenge you to become a Plan "A" Christian. I wrote it, not to give you something else to read, but to call you to do something and compel you to take action. I wrote it hoping you would join several other people in becoming a modern day movement of multiplying disciples: the very thing Jesus hoped we would become two thousand years ago.

Joining Christ's mission requires an attitude of submission. Submission means to "come under the mission." Would you be willing to come under Christ's disciple-making mission? Would you be willing to join a team of people who are living their lives under Christ's mission of making disciples of all nations?

Would you join an automobile dealership comptroller named Tim who has multiplied hundreds of disciples in the small town where he works? Would you join an engineer named Tom who has reproduced multiple



generations of disciples as a lay leader in his local church? Would you join a lady named Patty who has faithfully made disciples of young women in the context of her local church? Would you join a restaurant manager named Alan who has multiplied dozens of disciples? Would you join a pastor named Randy who has devoted himself to leaving a legacy of multiplying disciples? Would you join an administrative assistant named Sandy who has faithfully invested in groups of women for years? Would you join a teacher name Val who has committed herself to being a Plan "A" Christian? Would you join a businessman named Paul who is never going to settle for living a Plan "B" life?

In John 17:4 Jesus prays, *"I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do."* The work Jesus came to do was to redeem mankind and to put a process in place that would make His act of redemption available to all people. Completing His work is the very thing that brought the Father glory.

God has not given us the work of

redemption. Jesus is the only one who could do that job; however, He has given us the work of passing on the process by which others can partake of that redeeming work. Jesus has given us the job of going, baptizing, and teaching disciples until He comes back to take us home. When we complete this work, we give God great glory!

So, how about you? Are you giving God glory by completing the work He gave you to do? Have you committed yourself to living a Plan "A" Christian life? Don't forget; there is no other plan! If this generation of disciples does not pass on the work of Jesus Christ, nobody else will.

I dare you to become a disciple maker. I challenge you to make a commitment to be a Plan "A" Christian. As a tangible act of dedication, I would ask you to fill out the decision card on the next page and mail it to Impact Ministries. We will connect with you and assist you in living the Plan "A" Christian Life.



MY PLAN "A" DECISION

I want to bring God glory by completing the work He has given me to do. I want to become a Plan "A" Christian and live a life of multiplying disciples of Christ who multiply more disciples of Christ.

I want to select a handful of individuals I can be with so that they can be sent out to make more disciples of Jesus Christ.

I want to publicly profess my desire to be mobilized with others in becoming a modern day movement of multiplying disciples. I want to willingly "come under" Christ's mission to make disciples of all nations.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, I am committed to living the Plan "A" Christian Life.

- Yes, count me in as a Plan "A" Christian.
- Yes, contact me with more information about how to live the Plan "A" life.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____



Impact Discipleship Ministries
2564 Highway 154
Newnan, GA 30265

IMPACT RESOURCES

MINISTRY TRAINING TRACK:



Discovering Your Life's Mission

A twelve-week disciple-making curriculum to help you discover your mission in life. With Christ as the model, discover how your mission is to be the same as Christ's. This is the first step in a four-part journey of spiritual development and ministry training.



Becoming An Authentic Disciple

A twelve-week disciple-making curriculum to help you learn how to walk as Jesus walked. This course equips believers to become mature and multiplying disciples. This is the second step in a four-part journey of spiritual development and ministry training.



Living Life Intentionally

This is a twelve-week disciple-making curriculum designed to help you carry out the strategy of Christ. This is the third step in a four-part journey of spiritual development and ministry training.



Finding Your Place in a Multiplying Movement

This is the fourth step in a four-part journey of spiritual development and ministry training. This twelve-week study is designed to help trained and equipped disciples find their place in a church that multiplies disciples.

IMPACT BASIC SERIES:



Know That You Know

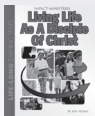
In this twelve-week course you will discover some of the foundational beliefs of the Christian faith. The goal of this course is to give you certainty in the basic beliefs of a Christ follower. You will learn what the Bible teaches about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, eternity, and much, much more!



Walk the Walk

This twelve-week discipleship basics course will ground believers in the essentials of walking as Jesus did. You will discover the foundation and principles for spiritual growth.

LIFE-LONG LEARNING SERIES:



Living Life As A Disciple of Christ

In this twelve-week course, you will learn how to live in right relationships. As you study the life of Christ, you will discover how to have a right relationship with God, with yourself, and with others. With Christ as your model, you will learn how to walk as Jesus walked (1 John 2:6).



Giving Like Jesus Gave

Giving like Jesus gave should be the goal of every believer, and growing in the area of giving is a major part of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. The goal of this course is to help you learn how to be a disciple through the way you manage your resources to build more disciples. During this 4-week course, you will gain a basic understanding of how to manage your money, how you can grow in your ability to give, and how powerful a giving church can be.

CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP SERIES:



Impact Partners Discipleship

A great Father/Son discipleship tool. Impact Partners is designed for fathers and sons to meet with other fathers and sons for a life-changing encounter. Impact Partners is designed for 3rd - 6th grade boys.



Character for Kids

This ten-week course is an excellent tool for parents, teachers, disciplers, and churches to help children develop godly character and values in a society that sends mixed messages. While looking into God's Word for insight and practical application, children will grow confident in doing the right thing and developing qualities that honor God. This study is designed to be used by a child or children with adult guidance.

NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE:

Check out our quarterly newsletter called the "Impact Letter." Each issue has teaching and inspiration for disciple-making. You can also learn more about *Impact Ministries* by checking us out on the web at: www.impactdiscipleship.com

How can you impact eternity?

What is the greatest investment in life?

Will your influence outlive your life?

Becoming a Plan “A” Christian will allow you to multiply disciples of Jesus Christ for generations. You can join many others in a movement of making disciples. Here is what others are saying . . .

“The best use of my, or anyone else’s time: impacting someone else for Jesus.” —Patty

*“I believe in discipleship. I know it can change people’s lives and I’m in the game for life.”
—Jennifer*

“My heart is for an impact church - disciples making disciples.” —Keith

“Impact Discipleship is revolutionizing our church! In less than three years, the number of small groups has tripled.” —Rod

Would you be willing to join a movement of multiplying disciples? Be a Plan “A” Christian today!

