

Matthew 28:18-20 says,

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

This command resonates with all disciples of Jesus. Our resurrected Savior has granted us His Spirit to birth within us desires to share His gospel with one another and the world, and we should want to grow in our passion for this.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 says,

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Paul reveals that if he is not purposeful in his pursuit of Jesus then he cannot be purposeful in the mission of making disciples. So, he purposes to not merely stride across the finish line, but to get first place. Paul calls us to this endeavor as well. But in order to do this, we also need to evaluate our "running" so that we obtain the prize. In other words, we need a plan.

This disciple-making plan is given to you to help you to run with endurance. But please keep in mind that this is not meant to be a legalistic, rule-keeping list. In all of this, remember that the ability to run and persevere comes through Jesus.

As the writer of Hebrews says, "looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." Through Him, we "run with endurance the race set before us!" (see Heb. 12:1-2).

As you read through the questions, pray for wisdom. As you seek to give answers, try to be specific and reasonable. If you become discouraged, remember Titus 2:11-14:

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

Rejoice! All by His grace we are taught, trained and empowered to love God and love others with zeal.

1. How Will I Fill My Mind with Truth

How will I read God's Word?

You might start with a plan to read a chapter a day, or you could consider using an intentional Bible reading plan that covers all Scripture over a certain period of time.

How will I memorize God's Word?

What plan will you make for yourself in order to have passages in your mind to meditate on and fight sin?

How will I learn God's Word from others?

Reading, studying, and understanding the Bible is not just an individual effort; it's a community project. Identify simple and intentional ways you will learn God's Word from others, whether that's in a worship gathering, a Mid-Week Fellowship, or particular books and resources.

2. How Will I Fuel My Affections for God

How will I worship?

Consider intentional ways that you might focus on worship in every facet of your life. Then consider what priority you will place on weekly worship together with the church, with family and friends.

How will I pray?

What will be your place and when will be your time simply to be with the Father? Concentrated prayer at a specific time will help to fuel continual prayer.

How will I fast?

How will you remind your body that you need God more than food, and that you long for Jesus more than physical pleasures? Plan specific times to fast and pray.

How will I give?

One of the most effective ways to fuel affection for God is to give your resources in obedience to God. This starts with giving to the church, though it may extend above and beyond this, as well. Giving intentionally, generously, sacrificially, and cheerfully fuels selfless love for God that overcomes selfish desires for the things of this world.

3. How Will I Share God's Love as a Witness?

Who?

Take some time to write down the names of three, five, or maybe ten unbelievers God has placed in your life. Then begin praying specifically for God, through the power of his Spirit, to draw them to his salvation and to use you to share the gospel with them.

How?

Think through how, in the context of where you live, work, and play, and with the people God has put in your sphere of influence, you can begin to speak intentionally about God's character, man's sin, Christ's provision, and our need to respond to that provision. Identify how you might most effectively share the gospel with the people you identified above.

When?

It's wise to consider when you will actively share Christ's love by creating opportunities to tell people about Jesus. As you think about the people you identified, consider when you might intentionally share the gospel with them.

4. How Will I Show God's Love as a Church Member?

Where?

As a member of the church, remember that you are not a spectator on the sidelines, but a participant in the mission. Identify the places in the church you can best plug into a disciple-making community.

What?

As you look across the church as a whole, consider what things you can do to build up the body of Christ and what you will do to make sure that you have people who are watching out for your life in Christ. Identify specific ways that you will clearly express the love of Christ in and through the church.

5. How Will I Spread God's Glory among All Peoples?

How will I pray for the nations?

Pray passionately for God's Kingdom to come and will to be done across the earth. Plan to deliberately focus your praying generally on the nations and specifically on the unreached people groups of the world.

How will I give to the nations?

Plan to sacrifice and spend for the sake of the nations. Sacrifice the wants in your budget to give to the needs of the world—most particularly the need for every people group to hear the gospel. This may simply involve giving to the church as the church gives to the nations, or it may involve giving to and through other avenues above and beyond your regular giving to the church.

How will I go to the nations?

Consider all the avenues in which you might spend your life, lead your family, or leverage your work to penetrate the people groups of the world with the gospel, for this is what you were created for.

6. How Will I Make Disciples among a Few People?

How will I bring them in?

Consider two, three, or four people God has put in your sphere of influence whom you can lead to make disciples. Then invite those few people to spend intentional time with you in the days ahead for the express purpose of growing in Christ together.

How will I teach them to obey?

Think through how you can pray for and teach these individuals with the goal of seeing obedience to everything Christ has commanded. You might start by using these questions to lead them to develop their own disciple-making plans.

How will I model obedience?

Making disciple-makers involves saying to others, "Follow me." Identify intentional ways in which you will serve them and model before them what it means to follow Christ. Also include specific ways that you will intentionally guard and cultivate purity and Christlikeness in your life.

Disciple-Making Plan

How will I send them out?

The goal is not just for these few people you are focused on to follow Jesus; the goal is for them to lead other people to follow Jesus. Think through how you will commission those few to begin making disciples, and how you will serve them as you send them out.

How will I be held accountable?

Remember that we are created for community within the body of Christ, and realize both the practical necessity and personal benefit of good, gospel saturated, grace-driven accountability in your life. As a final step, write down who you are going to share your personal disciple-making plan with and allow them to sharpen and encourage you in these areas.