

## How do I start to become an Expert on Christian Discipleship?—Teacher Notes

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### Introduction

(Note to Teacher: Material in boxes is not included in the notesheet for students)

Our goal: I want to become an expert on Christian Discipleship.

1. Don't go around bragging that you are an expert of Christian Discipleship – Jesus – I am humble and lowly.
2. Jesus the master at making disciples. We need to follow his example. How did he make disciples? What was his process? What was His strategy?
3. You can't become an expert at Christian Discipleship by studying books or attending this training.  
Do you want someone to be your pilot who has read 10 books on how to fly a plane?  
Do you want someone to operate on your brain who has read 10 books on brain surgery?

### What makes someone an expert?

There are a variety of answers that could be given here. You could ask them for their ideas to this. My suggestion is that you leave the PPT answers for A-D blank and simply take their answers, or select from the list below the answers that you want to use here. Either way, **keep this brief.**

#### Suggested Answers

- A. Not a college degree, or a PhD or a DMin degree
- B. Not because I say I'm an expert
- C. Not because I am from out of town, or from another country
- D. What is God's opinion of an expert?
- E. They know the issue
- F. They have practical experience in applying what they know
- G. Their experience has been under the supervision of someone experienced in this area.
- H. They have the right tools in their toolbox and they know when to take out and use each tool.
- I. Many experts go beyond the skills of their mentors – but not in 1 week.
- J. We have the added benefit of the Holy Spirit who will guide us into all truth.

### Characteristics of an expert on discipleship

We need to use the Great Commission to provide the priority for us to become an expert on Christian Discipleship.--Matthew 28:19-20

Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34

We need to be experts at demonstrating God's personal involvement in the discipleship process. This is not about me becoming an expert on my own.

Jesus said—follow **me**

Jesus provides the **power** to change and the **motivation** to change

We need to stress the major role of a changed mind—a renewed mind in the process of becoming a disciple of Jesus. This will be covered in another session.

#### 1. An expert lover

Not a great kisser

Not a romantic lover

But an "agape" lover

2 greatest commands in the Bible call us to be lovers

A 1 Corinthians 13 kind of lover

The first 3 verses talk about the world's view of experts

We could go through each of the 15 characteristics of love and ask how expert are you at doing each of these.

1. Love is patient—what do students see when you are frustrated or under pressure?

John 13:35 – All men will know you are my disciples if you love one another. (NIV)

We need to be passionately in love with Jesus

We need to have a deep love for other believers

We need to have a deep love for those who are not believers

We need to have a deep love for those who have problems

-Jesus—when talking to the Rich Young Ruler—when he saw that his man had a problem, Jesus looked at him and loved him **Mark 10:21**

--Jesus and his prayer over Jerusalem **Matthew 23:37**

2. You have a comprehensive understanding of the principles of discipleship.

You are skilled in the trade, not simply gifted

Having a spiritual gift or being “called by God” does not exempt you from the need to learn how to develop the skills of being effective in your area of ministry.

2 Timothy 2:15 – **Study** to show yourself approved to **God**.

When you become an expert at Christian discipleship, you understand the process of discipleship

A. What is discipleship

B. How it works

Not simply laying hands on a person & praying

C. Why it works

Come back to this point in closing this training session.

3. A discipler is a facilitator

They know how to provide an atmosphere for healing & growth.

You are an expert at helping others learn how to apply God’s truths in their lives.

Difference between an expert doer and an expert at teaching others to do it.

A basketball coach does not have to be a better player than those on the team to be a coach. But he knows how to help bring out the best in each of his players and help them be a success.

4. A discipler is an expert encourager

You can see undeveloped potential.

You see diamonds in the rough.

For example, Jesus and the demon possessed man in Gadara  
Everyone else saw a naked, screaming madman. Jesus saw the potential to be a follower of God and an evangelist **Mark 5:1-20**

Excellent at planting seeds of hope.

Jesus to Peter—you are a rock!

Do you understand what is appropriate at this level of maturity?

**1 Peter 2:1-3**

**Hebrews 5:11-14**

**1 Corinthians 3:1-3**

In the New Testament, Barnabas had the reputation of being an encourager.  
We need to be a “Barnabas” to others

What are you doing to encourage others today?

Howard Hendricks in his book, *Teaching to Change Lives*, how he responded to his students:

“That’s the best question I have heard in 3 weeks!”

Be genuine in your comments.

Even if your students do not respect what you are doing—bless those who curse you.

5. An expert at discipleship works for balanced growth

This issue will be covered in greater detail in the course: **Basic Elements of Discipleship Training**

A good coach recognizes the need for a good offense and a good defense

To be Christ-like is to be balanced.

Satan wants us out of balance.

Then we will lose our effectiveness

In the Olympics one event in gymnastics is the balance beam—4 inches wide.

The beauty of a great routine in this event is – balance!

Even the greatest athletes (experts) in the world in this event can be out of balance today even though they have practiced this event many times.

You can be an expert in your ministry and also be out of balance from God’s point of view.

It doesn’t matter if you think you are in balance—what matters is what God thinks.

**Three components of balanced growth:**

**A. Learning the Christ-like lifestyle**

**B. Practical ministry**

Give examples of practical ministry that is on target for new Christians in TC  
--street evangelism, etc

Caution of being involved in activities that are simply performing. They need to learn what true ministry is all about.

**C. Deal with their life-controlling problems**

Balanced growth in all 3 of these areas does not happen by chance, fate, or “Shoot from the hip at whatever moves” style of leadership.

Balanced growth happens because it is planned, focused.

6. An expert of discipleship sets a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ **example** \_\_\_\_\_ of what it means to be an \_\_\_\_\_ **committed** \_\_\_\_\_ Christian.

Matthew 5:16 – **Let your light shine.**

A. **So men can see your good deeds.**

B. **And praise/glorify your Father in heaven**

Developing Godly character is more important than acts of ministry.

Paul—Follow me as I follow Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1

7. An expert discipler really \_\_\_\_\_ **cares** \_\_\_\_\_ about their \_\_\_\_\_ **relationship** \_\_\_\_\_ with the person being disciplined.

Paul—like a mother caring for her children

Jesus wept over Jerusalem Luke 13:34

Jesus—you were my servants, now you are my friends

We need to be careful that we demonstrate genuine concern, not professional aloofness.

Larry Crabb writing about Christian counseling said caring relationships change people, not expert professional insights.

## Conclusion

Make it clear that this session has not made them an expert at Christian discipleship.

Bring them back to some of the key points made in this session:

If you are an expert at Christian discipleship:

You understand the \_\_\_\_\_ **process** \_\_\_\_\_ of discipleship

A. \_\_\_\_\_ **What** \_\_\_\_\_ is discipleship

B. \_\_\_\_\_ **How** \_\_\_\_\_ it works

C. \_\_\_\_\_ **Why** \_\_\_\_\_ it works

What are the areas where you need to focus on learning the discipline of being a discipler?