DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLES

For High Impact Discipleship

1. **Every lesson leads to application.**

There should be a balance between information and application. It is not just what we know, but how we encounter God and are changed into his likeness. This is application. Jesus’ messages were a balance between doctrine and practice, knowing and doing.

1. **Discipleship happens in relationships.**

God uses relationships in the body of Christ to build discipleship. Impacting one’s character is more significant that the content of the lesson. Think of who influenced you in your growth. Let everyone in the group build up and encourage one another.

1. **Tickle the need.**

The more the student is aware of his need, the more he will be receptive to what God is providing to meet that need.

1. **Keep Jesus in the center of every lesson.**

Every Bible event points to Jesus, because he is the central message of the Bible and the only hope for our transformation. We always refer to him in the large group at some time.

1. **Know how to use law and gospel.**

The law convicts us of our sin and need for Jesus. It drives us to the gospel. Our motivation and power to obey God flows from the power of the gospel, not the law. It comes from forgiveness and freedom in Christ. Jesus is now present in our lives to help us obey. The law shows us what that looks like.

1. **Teach Bible discovery.**

Inductive Bible study teaches kids to ask questions that help them encounter God’s truth for themselves. They need not only to have someone tell them what is in the Bible, but also they need to learn the joy of discovering it for themselves.

1. **Involve kids in doing activities that reinforce God’s truth.**

“Tell me and I’ll forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I’ll understand.”

1. **Give kids an opportunity to respond*.***

Kids need opportunity to commit their lives to Christ…even repeatedly. Kids need to learn to pray out loud for each other and for all their needs. The small group prayer time gives kids the opportunity to watch God work in people’s lives.