

DISCIPLESHIP MEETING STRUCTURE

What do I do in our time together?

RELATIONAL & SPIRITUAL CHECK IN

During the beginning portion of your time together, strive to make it as relationally strong and full of laughter as possible. As Paul says, "So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us" (1 Thes 2:8). Live this verse out in discipleship! Bring your student(s) Chick Fil A and ask intentional questions about their week to love and get to know them on a more intentional level. Tell them about something fun that happened in your week so they get to know you. At first this time may be more surface level, but the more you have this time together the quicker your relationship and trust will deepen with the student(s).

After first showing you care about your student's day to day life, spend the next portion of your time checking in on their relationship with God. Great questions to start with are:

- *What was one thing God taught you from His Word?*
- *What did you praying about and how have you seen God answer your prayers?*

The goal of these questions is to help you get to the heart of their relationship with God rather than a discussion on whether or not they checked off their Bible reading and prayer duties for the week. Their response to these particular questions will hopefully provide moments for you to deepen their understanding of God's personability with us in these foundational methods of communion with Him. Encouraging them in how frequently they are reading scripture and praying is helpful, but above all else we want to engrain in their hearts the genuine fruit that comes from an abiding relationship with the Creator. It will either have a negative effect by unintentionally reinforcing a performance-based faith or a positive effect by instilling grace-based joy-filled benefits of an active relationship with God. Your language can and will shape the hearts of the student(s) and their understanding of who God is in their life.

Lastly, God values His people writing His Word on their hearts, so we should too (Ps 119:11)! However you go about having your student memorize Scripture, check in on their memory verses in this opening portion of your time.

DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

The Word of God must be present in every discipleship meeting as it is the source from which we disciple and help others grow in their Christlikeness. Our words pale in comparison to the “living and active” Word of God which alone is able to cause lasting change in the hearts of students (Heb 4:12). Each week you will be provided a discipleship guide that will help you unpack and apply portions of Scripture in your time together.

Keep in mind, some days you may not get to the discipleship guide at hand. Real-life situations will come up during the front end of your time together that may lend itself to a moment of shepherding with your student(s) to speak into the particular situation with the truth of God’s Word. The most ideal situation is to look for ways to tie their real-life situation into the discipleship guide at hand. “Jimmy, I think one thing that may help you in this situation is to bring it before God in prayer, something we are actually going to talk about today. Let’s dive into our guide and circle back around to see how what we learn might apply to what’s going on in your life today”. Always be prepared for moments like these as they may be some of the most beneficial discipleship moments together.

LIFESTYLE BUILDING BLOCK & HOMEWORK

Make sure your student(s) clearly understand the goals of the lifestyle building block and or homework (if applicable) following your discipleship guides. Remember, student’s attention span is like that of a of a golden retriever. Having your student(s) set a reminder on their phone will prove helpful. Check in on their progress throughout the week with a simple text to follow up.

ACCOUNTABILITY & PRAYER

Part of your role in the student(s) life is to provide consistent accountability and encouragement. This portion of your time involves discussing intentional questions with your student(s) and prayer. The following questions will be a helpful start to this time. As you get to know your student(s) individual struggles over time, seek to develop additional questions to meet them where they are at.

- *Where do you see a need for change in your life?*
- *How have you seen growth in your individual sin struggles?*
- *How can I encourage and pray for you this week?*

Prayer with your student is one of the most important times together. End this portion of your time together by opening in prayer yourself and then having your student(s) close. Remember, the student isn't the only one who needs this prayer time. You are also in process. Make sure to share with the student any ways they can pray for you during this time as well. Use this time to ask God to change you in light of His Word to help the student(s) realize that you are in need Jesus just as much as your they are. Focus on the following during your prayer time:

- *Worshipping God by praising Him for who He is in your lives.*
- *Asking God to help you both change in light of what you learned in His Word today.*
- *Bringing your student's prayer requests to the above questions before God.*

Remember to keep your student(s) in constant prayer on your own throughout the week (2 Tim 1:3). Interceding for your student is one of the most effective ways to disciple them as you go to God on their behalf who alone can change their heart.

Q&A TIME

Throughout the gospels we see some of Jesus' most vital teaching moments stem from one of his disciples many random questions to him. So much so that it seems as if Jesus entertained the disciples Q&A sessions with him intentionally to meet them where they were at. In this portion of your time together, allow space for your student(s) to ask any question they want. It could be about you, the Bible, life in general, or just plain silly. Entertain any and all questions as this tends to lend itself to meaningful discipleship & relational moments with your student(s).

You may not get to this section of your meeting every time due to the guide potentially going longer than anticipated. Make sure to keep a log of any questions your student(s) bring up to answer in a future Q&A time together. Always seek to take your student's questions to scripture to discover what God has to say about the matter. Doing this regularly will help reinforce in the student's mind(s) that scripture holds answers to all our biggest life questions to this day (2 Tim 3:16-17).