

# Transform the Team to the Mission — Disciplemaking

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*Jesus Christ called you to a new life (Galatians 2:20), clothed you with Himself (Galatians 3:26-27), commissioned you with a purpose (Matthew 28:19), and empowered you to fulfill that purpose (Acts 1:8) — to follow Him as His disciple and to live for Him as a disciplemaker (leading others to Him).*



## The Disciplemaking Mission

The terms "discipleship" and "disciplemaking" often get confused.

- **DISCIPLESHIP** typically refers to the normal process for Christians to grow in their faith such as through Bible studies, prayer, worship services, and small groups. It usually focuses on individual spiritual growth.
- **DISCIPLEMAKING** goes a step further than typical discipleship. Disciplemaking does include seeing people trust in Christ and grow in their faith. Disciplemaking also includes training Christians to reach new people for Christ and help new believers grow in their faith so those can then reach their own peers for Christ. Disciplemaking makes disciples who then make more disciples. It is others-focused.

The disciplemaking pathway or process consists primarily of these "steps":

- **ENGAGE** (Win the lost; reach those who need to know Jesus)
- **ESTABLISH** (Build up the believer in the truths of the faith so they become mature disciples)
- **EQUIP** disciples to win the lost (ENGAGE) and build up believers (ESTABLISH)
- **EXPAND** your ministry through releasing those equipped to do disciplemaking

## The Disciplemaking Team

*Clarify "Women's Ministry"*

Many church ministries involve women in teaching children's classes, local missions, and worship team, but those are not considered "women's ministry." Women's ministry is whatever is offered **to** women and **for** women to help each one know and live out her commissioned 2-fold purpose: 1) to follow Jesus as His disciple and 2) to live for Jesus as a disciplemaker.

## *Move Beyond Event-Driven Leadership*

Has your ministry team been event-driven with one person overseeing Bible studies, another the retreat, & another the Christmas brunch? Does your current women's ministry need to have more structure and purpose to what you organize and fund? Do you recognize Jesus' leading for you to have a greater focus on discipling for the women of your church?

By transforming your leadership team to the discipling mission, you can help the women of your church move away from dependence on traditional event-driven ministries and toward a lifestyle of making disciples who make more disciples. The local church is the best venue for discipling to begin.

## *Match the Team to the Mission*

Transforming your women's ministry to the discipling mission involves these:

- **MATCH** the leadership team members to one of three aspects of discipling (Engage, Establish, Equip) as a way of staying balanced. Ask Jesus to draw each team member to one of those three aspects of discipling. Use the *Discipling Ministry Guide* ([nsresources.com](http://nsresources.com)) as a resource.
- **DETERMINE** how you will respond when others come to you with a ministry idea. Ask the questions below while praying for guidance:
  - 1) What would be the main purpose of this ministry related to Engage, Establish, or Equip?
  - 2) Will this ministry activity produce new disciples? Support and fund what produces new disciples and disciplers.
- **RECRUIT** a *Discipling Coach* to support women in one-to-one discipling relationships and assist your leadership team stay focused on its discipling purpose. Ask Jesus to bring someone's name to mind you could ask.

*An effective discipling ministry is not necessarily a big or busy ministry but one that is regularly reaching new people for Christ, building them up in the faith, and training them to reach their peers for Christ. The local church is the best venue for discipling to take place. (Adapted from Sonlife Ministries, Growing Healthy Women in Ministry: The Strategy of Jesus, page 17)*

## ENGAGE LEADERS

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### Role:

- To assess ways to use existing ministries or new ministries to attract nonbelievers from your community.
- To make sure women are prepared to engage those nonbelievers when they attend.
- To encourage women to intentionally build relationships with unchurched women and share their faith in casual conversation as opportunity arises while trusting in Jesus to give them boldness.

### Resources:

- Scan information from the “Engage” section of the *Disciplemaking Ministry Guide*; also the “Transition” section pages 5-8, 22-23.
- Add your own observations and ideas. Be creative and stay focused on this, which is generally the weakest area of our church ministries and personal ministries.

### Idea to consider:

- **LOOK** at existing ministries and think about where you can incorporate engaging more effectively.
- **CONSIDER** outreach events that aim to reach women in the neighborhoods surrounding the church.
- **ENCOURAGE** women to engage their neighbors, co-workers and friends by putting ideas in your newsletter or having women share stories of what they are doing in this area. Keep it visible.
- **CAST** the vision to “Pray and Love” from *Prepare to Share Workshop* page 1.
- **PROVIDE** opportunity for women to prepare and practice their short faith stories from *Prepare to Share Workshop* page 2.
- **REMIND** women to learn a way to share the gospel.
- **PREPARE** trained engagers for events.
- **WORK** with greeting team to get names of women visitors. Recruit someone to pray for her and connect with her.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*“In our Bible believing churches, we do a pretty good job of discipling Christians once they become believers and start attending our churches. We are weakest at encouraging women in our churches to intentionally build relationships with unchurched women. We also neglect preparing Christian women to share their faith in casual conversation as opportunity arises. How will you respond to this challenge?”*

## ESTABLISH LEADERS

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### Role:

- Evaluate what is available for women to grow in their faith and walk with the Lord—Bible studies, life groups, mentoring—and see what is missing, what is needed.
- Encourage those new to Christ or new to Bible study with assistance and Bible teaching to meet their level of need.
- Consider how to draw in the disconnected women who are not getting established through what you currently offer.
- Encourage the mature women with lots of Bible knowledge to focus on helping someone else who needs that information.

### Resources:

- Scan information from the “Establish” section of the *Disciplemaking Ministry Guide*; also “Transition” section pages 5-8, 22-23.
- Add your own observations and ideas. Be creative and stay focused on this, especially encouraging mature women that they can come alongside new believers in Jesus’ power.

### Ideas to consider:

- **MAKE SURE** new believers are getting established. Provide readily accessible materials anyone can use.
- **HELP** existing ministries effectively establish new and undisciplined Christians.
- **LOOK** for something that will draw in the women on the fringes—the one not in Bible study, small group or a women’s class. Be creative with time, location and time commitment of study. Help her get to something that will help her to grow, even if it is one-on-one time with a mature believer who is flexible in her time schedule—somebody she already knows.
- **PLAN** for every leader to have a co-leader who is an apprentice to learn from her.
- **KEEP** encouraging the mature women to be like Priscilla (Acts 18) to newer Christians within their groups and/or sphere of influence, trusting in Jesus to be able to do so.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*“Envision women’s ministry as a wheel, the hub of the wheel is the study of God’s Word. It is the one component that is designed with all the women of the church in mind. The truths of Scripture nourish all women, for all their lives. All other spokes give women opportunities to use what they have learned in God’s Word. And they are the place we narrow the focus and minister to women with specific needs.”*

*(Sue Edwards/Kelley Matthews, New Doors in Ministry to Women)*

# EQUIP LEADERS

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## Role:

- Train women for disciplemaking ministry within the church—small group leaders, mentoring—through leadership training that encourages discipling.
- Train women for disciplemaking ministry outside the church through *Prepare to Share* training or similar.
- Assess any existing ministry’s need for training to make it more effective for an aspect of disciplemaking.

## Resources:

- Scan information from the “Equip” section of the *Disciplemaking Ministry Guide*; also the “Transition” section pages 5-8, 22-23.
- Add your own observations and ideas. Be creative and focused on this.

## Ideas to Consider:

- **OFFER** training (annually or more often as needed) for women to effectively lead a small group of any kind—in the church and in the community—for disciplemaking. Since small groups are fishing pools for young Christians, this is a great place to incorporate disciplemaking and encourage it among the mature women who attend (participants as well as leaders).
- **RECRUIT** and train a variety of women for your ministry teams—younger, mature, single, married, with children, without children.
- **HELP** women learn how and where to use their spiritual gifts and unique design. Point to online assessments they can use.
- **ENCOURAGE** leaders to develop co-leaders who will be assistants in training for future leadership.
- **OFFER** *Prepare to Share* training or similar at least once a year in every ministry and every small group.
- **PREPARE** women to learn how to answer the tough questions.
- **COACH** new ministry leaders and co-leaders.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*“Just as we need to intentionally equip Jesus followers to engage their non-Christian peers and lead them to Christ, we need to also equip believers inside the church body to effectively minister to Christian peers. Equipping women includes training and resources in the how-to’s of ministry to other believers, encouraging the use of one’s spiritual gifts and unique design to enrich ministry, and keeping focus on what is effective for disciplemaking.”*

*(Lifestyle Disciplemaking Training, page 17)*

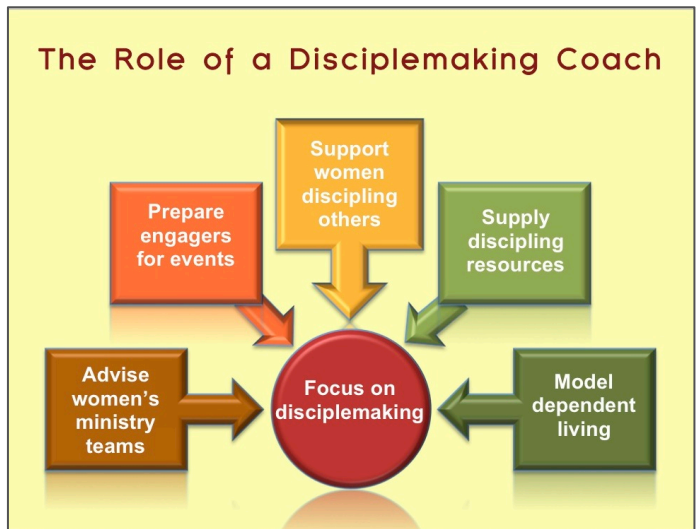
# DISCIPLEMAKING COACH

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If you have a small church or do not have Engage, Establish and Equip leaders, recruiting a discipling coach might be the best way to get your women's ministry started in the right direction. A larger women's ministry will also benefit from having a women's discipling coach.

## Role:

- To support women in one-to-one discipling relationships with encouragement and resources.
- To assist the leadership team in staying focused on its discipling purpose.
- Help the women of your church move beyond dependence on traditional event-driven ministries toward a lifestyle of making disciples who make more disciples.



## Resources:

- Scan information from the "Equip" section of the *Discipling Ministry Guide*, especially the "Engage," "Establish," and "Equip" sections; also the "Transition" section pages 5-8, 22-23.
- Add your own observations and ideas. Be creative and focused on this.

## Ideas to Consider:

- **ADVISE** women's ministry teams to stay focused on discipling as activities and events are planned.
- **PREPARE** trained engagers for all women's activities where visitors and newcomers might be present.
- **SUPPORT** women who are discipling others to make disciples who will make more disciples.
- **SUPPLY** transferable discipling resources to make them readily available to women doing one-on-one discipling.
- **MODEL** dependence on the indwelling Holy Spirit who makes Lifestyle Discipling possible for everyone at any age or stage of life!