

Learning Objectives:

Can communicate CCO's definition of discipleship

Can explain the purpose of discipleship

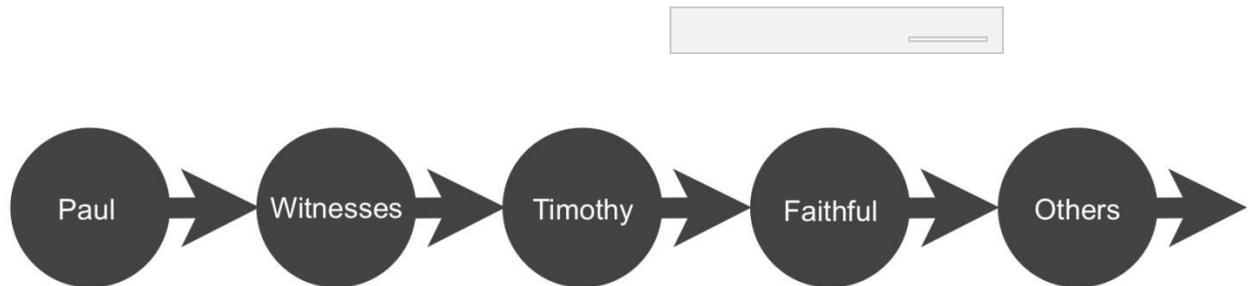
Philosophy of Discipleship: Discipleship

In recent years, we have come to see that discipleship is really a *lens* through which we are called to minister to **every person we meet on campus**. Our call is to help every person "come to completion in Christ" which means growing, by whatever access is given to us, an individual in the areas of holiness and mission.

CCO's mission and responsibility is clear: evangelization and leadership... "to raise leaders for the renewal of the world." Our method is the same one that Jesus entrusted to his disciples and that St. Paul explains so clearly:

And what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.

2 Timothy 2:2



The act of entrusting both the message and the mission to faithful people is what discipleship is all about. In order to effectively entrust both the message and the mission to faithful people we need to understand where they are and where they need to be.

Sometimes, we think of discipleship simply as a one-on-one meeting; however, if discipleship is a lens through which we see *everyone* we encounter, than discipleship is much more than a scheduled meeting. Let's take a look at three major characteristics of discipleship:

Discipleship is Relationship

Discipleship is first and foremost a *relationship*, a relationship of influence through which we help others come to fullness in Christ. This sort of relationship will look different, of course, based on how close you are to the people around

you. You will not immediately have influence in the lives of students you meet at the table during mission week. However, our hope and our goal during these first encounters (and any other time we meet with students) is to gain enough influence in their lives to bring them to fullness in Christ.

Trust is key to having any type of influence in anyone's life and we build this trust through genuine love for our brothers and sisters. St. Paul often describes his discipleship relationships with tender words:

"We were gentle among you, like a nurse taking care of her children. 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 dear to us".

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

Discipleship is so much more than a meeting. It is the intentional laying down of one's life for the sake of the other. We must strive to lay down our lives to demonstrate that we have their best interest in mind. Then, people will be open to what we have to say.

"But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you".

Philippians 2 :17

Libation literally means "a pouring out of wine in honour of a deity". True discipleship is a relationship built on love. First, our own love for Christ, for it is his love that impels us. And Second, our genuine love for the people around us because of their great need for Salvation.

Discipleship as a Lens

Explaining how discipleship is a lens is better explained by telling you what discipleship is not. Discipleship is not a one-on-one meeting, it is not a faith study, and it is not an event. As we have just seen in the previous section, discipleship is primarily a *relationship* and therefore, these are all simply tools to help us disciple.

Discipleship is our disposition toward everyone we meet. Regardless of the length of time we have with a student our desire is always the same: To help them grow in greater intimacy with the Lord (holiness) AND To activate and motivate them as multiplying missionaries (mission). Discipleship is about wanting for others more than they even know they want for themselves. Saint Paul says it best "from now on we regard no one according to the flesh". We see every person as a soul in need of forgiveness, love, and freedom.

Discipleship is a Lens through which we see *everyone* we encounter. We disciple everyone we meet: the person we meet at the table, the person in our faith study,

and the person we meet one-on-one every week. This is *extremely* important to understand. We do not need to meet people 1-on-1 every week to disciple them.

Discipleship is a Strategy

Discipleship is a Strategy to reach as many people as possible with the Gospel. Because discipleship is a relationship and the lens through which we see each individual, discipleship is at its core “One Person at A Time”. It is the basis for spiritual multiplication. Through investing in people and building them up in Christ, we will reach the most people with the Gospel. This is what St. Paul taught Timothy: “And what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”

Therefore, Discipleship is the art of passing on the message (holiness) and the mission. The Apostles understood this. In the Great Commission, Jesus said “Make disciples of all nations”. There is urgency in his words. At the time of this command, the disciples did not know they would have over 2000 years (so far) to accomplish this. They would have taken him literally. YOU Peter, YOU Nathaniel, YOU Philip, YOU make disciples of ALL the nations. It was obvious to them that they would need to enlist other young men and women to help them achieve what Christ wanted from them.