

For Larry Poston's

**THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED
FOR EVERY GOOD WORK:
A PLAN FOR BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP**

APPROACH SIX STUDY GUIDE

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A Discipleship Ministry Resource

WHAT STARTS IN HERE WILL

REACH THE WORLD!!!



STUDENT NAME (print)

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A Plan For Biblical Discipleship

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Approach 6.1 Passing the Baton

1. What consequence must result from implementing the lessons taught through the Bible highlighted in Poston's manual concerning discipleship? (pg 101)
2. Poston speaks of a great danger concerning one's striving to be discipled in Christ. What is it? (pg 101) John also speaks of this concerning the Church of Ephesus (Rev 2). What did John say was Jesus' accusation of wrong towards that church? Does it fit Poston's warning? Provide a brief explanation of how you may have or could possibly fail here.
3. What is the final goal of all disciples of Jesus? (pg 101) What saying do we often repeat here in DISCOVER LIFE that reminds us of this calling and command? Does this calling intimidate you? Explain how you see yourself accomplishing this task.
4. Contrast the natures of discipleship as introverted and extraverted and explain their simultaneous existence. (pg 102)
5. What does Poston describe as one of the most significant aspects of biblical discipleship? (Pg 102) Explain how this concept shift could have such an effect?
6. What is the second aspect of making disciples? (pg 102) Differentiate between the complicated and simple methods of discipleship. In the end, what is actually needed to fulfill this aspect?
7. List and explain the three aspects of the Great Commission.

8. Does the call to “go” demand that all disciples mobilize? (pg 102) What else could it mean? What are three interests of disciples who are actively obeying the call to “go” (even if only in their hearts)? What new horizons should disciples of Jesus be experiencing?
9. What task had Jesus undertaken that He commanded us to continue? (pg 103)
10. What four tasks were the followers of Jesus expected to perform as they modeled His lifestyle to others around them? (pg 103) Has the Great Commission been revoked? What does that mean for followers of Jesus today?
11. What are some negative characteristics common among the members of the Western Church that cause us to struggle in accomplishing the task of Biblical discipleship? (pg 103) Evaluate your own life (your social, professional, political and personal life) and describe some possible conflicts that may arise in obedience to this call.
12. Read the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Does Jesus actually expect us to reach the world entirely? (pg 103) If so, how is this possible? If not, what then did He mean?
13. What does Poston describe as the “natural state of the Christian”? (pg 103)
14. Define the words “quench” and “grieve”. What is the result of doing either concerning our connection to the Holy Spirit? (pg 103) What are four ways we can quench or grieve Him? What then will be the result concerning being led and empowered by the Holy Spirit if we do quench or grieve Him? (pg 104)

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Approach 6.2 Walk This Way

1. What sets apart believers from unbelievers concerning their dynamic and influential personalities? (pg 104)
2. What three aims and purposes should be obvious in believers? (pg 104)
3. If a Christians truly understand Biblical discipleship, what advantages are available to them? (pg 104)
4. Explain the mathematical principle “exponential growth”. Contrast it to the modern method of evangelism. Is there anything wrong with conducting “tent meetings” types of evangelistic campaigns? What is a major downfall with considering the visible commitments made at these campaigns? (pg 104)
5. Aside from just the sheer number of years it would take to successfully evangelize the world, there is another factor to consider. Poston provides six questions that must be answered in view of this. Write them and attempt to answer them without using any form of Biblical discipleship. (pg 105)
6. Though hypothetically the world could be evangelized within only a few decades, what two reasons are provided for why that hasn’t and most likely won’t happen? (pg 105)
7. Name three reasons why the discipleship method of exponential growth is superior to crusade and evangelistic campaign style methods. (pg 105)
8. How many generations are represented in Paul’s teaching to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2? (pg 105) As we apply this teaching and consider what affect a single person can actually make, what concept becomes clear? What should result from commitment to this type of strategy? How do you view this impacting your life?
9. It can be very difficult to begin putting these principles into practice. Who does Poston suggest we begin investing in? (pg 106) What reasons does he provide for this strategy? What are your thoughts about the pros and cons of this choice?

10. What major benefit results from letting discipleship relationships just develop instead of purposely trying to create them? (pg 106)
11. Should we establish our own agenda? Justify your answer. Create examples of what the relationship would look like. (pg 106)
12. Poston makes it clear that this doesn't mean that we should stop making plans. Are plans important? Does God expect us to make plans? What would your life look like without making plans? What should be our strategy when beginning to act on our plans as we work throughout the day in light of following God's will? (pg 106)
13. What are the two basic approaches concerning the models (type or style) of relationships that exist between the discipler and the disciple? What are the pros and cons of both? Which model is supported Biblically? Provide scriptural support for your answer. Does the Bible ever give us the right to enforce our authority over another believer?
14. What characteristics does Paul use that represent motherhood and fatherhood separately? (pg 106)
15. What role should we assume in viewing our relationship with those we disciple? (pg 106)
How do we balance the assuming of this role without forcing an awkward relationship? Is it possible to accept the responsibilities of a role without expecting any of the rewards of it? Should a discipler expect to be regarded as a parent? Would you find that strange if the person discipling you pressed you to view him or her in that role? How then do we balance this?
16. What do healthy discipleship relationships require? (pg 107)
17. What two significant benefits result from healthy discipleship relationships? What specific results should we see in our lives as we become more aware of our Christian life as we become willing to disciple others? (pg 107)

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Approach 6.3 Go and Do Likewise

1. What is the ultimate purpose of this book? (pg 107)
2. What five disciplines should be habitual once a person is established in discipleship? (pg 107)
3. What are the resulting discoveries for a person who has successfully been disciplined? (pg 107)
4. How do you fare? Evaluate yourself and state where you stand. Justify your reasons.
5. What are the 12 needs people being disciplined will face that must be considered and successfully accomplished under the leadership of the person disciplining them? (pg 107-108)
As you write them, consider and state how you will attempt to help those you disciple to navigate successfully through them.
6. What last vital action must be taken that no book or instruction manual can provide? (pg 108)
7. According to Scripture, what two sources must we rely on to accomplish our mission? List them in order of priority. (pg 108)

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Approach 6.4 Building the Church

1. What is baptism? What is its purpose? (pg 109)
2. Compare and contrast the different definitions for the word “church”. (pg 109) How do we know which definition to use?
3. What is the clear message of Jesus’ desire for His Church? (pg 109)
4. Concerning the basis of the “standard” definition of a true church structure, what unfortunate trend has persisted among groups of Christians? (pg 109)
5. What are two functions of baptism? (pg 109)
6. What must we do if we are going to establish the biblical connection between discipleship and the local church? (pg 109)
7. What do you think a healthy church looks like? Be specific.
8. Read Acts 2:42-47 paying attention to the verbs. What were the functions of the foundational church?
9. Name three circumstances that brought early structural change to the church and describe the change. (pg 110)
10. Describe the nature of the structure of the early church? (pg 110)
11. Write the definition of the biblical church based upon the passage in Acts 2. (pg 110) How does it contrast against much of what we see in the mainstream western church? Compare it to your answer to question 7. How is it similar/different?
12. Have you ever witnessed or been a part of a church conflict? Explain.
13. What is the probable cause for nearly all of the problems within the modern church? (pg 110)

14. What is the usual cause for problems between church leaders and church members? (pg 110)
15. What three things did early converts dedicate themselves to? (pg 110)
16. What were five common characteristics in the lives of the members of the early church? (pg 110)
17. Is it reasonable for to desire all converts be to become disciples? (pg 110) Why or why not?
18. Should there be a difference between a Christian and a disciple? (pg 111) State your reasoning.
19. What would be the expected result for the difference made if the majority of the church were disciples instead of immature, self seeking Christians? (pg 111)

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Approach 6.5 Leading the Church

1. What two basic mindsets are assumed for the organization of the original church? (pg 111)
How do these two viewpoints compare to each other?
2. What is the actual Biblical picture of the original church? (pg 111)
3. What was Paul extremely concerned about in regard to the churches he had planted? (pg 111) Why do you feel that this would be of importance? Explain.
4. Briefly explain the six examples listed for regulations of the early Biblical church using the Scripture references. Describe for each a possible outcome for failing to hold to the regulation.
5. What were the two leadership roles designated in the Bible? (pg 112) Read the Scripture portions that accompany each designation. Compare and contrast the roles. Are they interchangeable? Why or why not?
6. Read the passages of scripture regarding obedience to Biblical leadership. (pg 112) What are some commonly shared exhortations? Are Biblical leaders above correction? (pg 112) Why or why not? Supposing God prohibited disciples from correcting their leaders, what common government organizations would best describe what the church would look like?
7. Read Matthew 25:32-34. What are the two categories of people that Jesus will use to separate all of humanity for final judgment? Where should Biblical leaders be? If a Biblical leader demands to be categorized separately from sheep, what is that person's destination? How does this apply to whether or not church leadership is above correction? Does the account in Gal 2:11-21 support this? Explain.
8. What are four characteristics of the modern church that serve as evidence for the fact that we have allowed traditions of pagan cultures to infiltrate and destroy the simplicity of the early church leadership? For each example, state a strategy to counter and begin repair. Be specific. (pg 112)
9. What will be the result of returning to the simplicity of the original church? Why? (pg 112)

10. Assess Poston's warning concerning "discipleship chains." What is the most practical way for disciples of Christ to keep clear of this danger? (pg 112)
11. Name and briefly describe the original purposes for which the disciples assembled together. Discuss briefly ways you can contribute to the growth of the church and the discipleship of her members. (pg 113)
12. How important is order concerning the functioning of the church? (pg 113)
13. How does the fellowship and assembly of believers align with the characteristics of discipleship? (pg 113)
14. According to Poston, what is the mandatory Biblical requirement for a group of believers to be considered a part of the church? (pg 114) Do you agree or disagree? Justify your position.