

Evangelism or Discipleship?



Instructor Guide

Church Renewal Resource
Evangelism Ministries USA/Canada Region
Church of the Nazarene

Acknowledgments

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Evangelism Ministries

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Preparation Checklist

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- Check to ensure the following materials are available:
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
 - Pens and/or pencils
 - Other material you want to use
- Check the classroom for:
 - Projector
 - Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
- Arrange the room so each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

Notes:

Evangelism or Discipleship?

Module-at-a-Glance

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page.

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
I. Introduction	5 mins.	P. 5	Introduce module, purpose, and objectives.
II. Lecture	20 mins.	P. 6	Presenter defines evangelism and discipleship in ways that clarify how congregations best do both.
III. Small Group discussion	15 mins.	P. 12	Participants discuss four questions in order to integrate and apply the information presented in the lecture.
IV. Action Planning/ Reporting	15 mins.	P. 12	Participants prepare to modify or to add ministries to better evangelize and disciple through the local congregation.
V. Module Wrap-Up	5 mins.	P. 12	Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
Total Module Time: 60 mins.			

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Evangelism or Discipleship?

For more information go to :

www.usacanadaregion.org/training-modules

I. Module Introduction

(5 minutes)

Notes

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes.

- Purpose
- Objectives
- “Fill-in-the-blanks” for the lecture
- Application exercises

(The UNDERLINED text represents the blanks in the participant booklet.)

The purpose of this module is to:

define and develop ministries aimed toward inviting, initiating, and instructing disciples.

The objectives for this module are:

- Distinguish between evangelizing and discipling;
- Focus ministries on both processes—evangelizing and discipling;
- Increase a congregation’s effectiveness in reaching and teaching ministries.

Slide 2

Notes:

II. Lecture

(20 Minutes)

Notes

Introduction:

- Evangelism and discipleship are terms sometimes used interchangeably.
- Some congregations and individuals favor discipleship, but hesitate about evangelism.
- Confusion about what is evangelism and what is discipleship may create a paralysis in making ministry decisions.

How do we distinguish one term from the other?

- I. Evangelism may be defined in terms of programs.
 - A. Evangelism is then described by the actions of believers who **DESIRE** to see the world saved.
 1. “Here’s how we do evangelism.”
 2. Evangelism cannot, however, be adequately **DEFINED** by how a local congregation engages unsaved persons.
 3. Sometimes evangelism is besmirched as “confrontational.”
 - a. No one likes, however, to be confronted or to confront.
 - b. Evangelism is understandably abandoned—the casualty of fear.
 - B. At other times, evangelism is **INCORRECTLY** defined.
 1. For example, when Christians say to unsaved people, “you ought” or “you should,” they are not being evangelistic.
 2. They are probably **ACTING** as a prophet announcing the will of God.
 3. Evangelism, on the other hand, is identified by telling good news.
 4. Evangelism **INTENTIONALLY** loves non-Christians with the purpose of inviting them into Christian discipleship in response to God’s initiative to forgive and to transform.

Slide 3

Slide 4

II. Lecture (cont.)

- II. Discipling is a term that **ATTRACTS** a variety of usages and definitions.
- A. Some employ discipling as a catchall or a blanket term.
 - 1. All the ministries of a local church **CONSTITUTE** discipling.
One minister said, “Everything we do from the cradle to funerals is discipling.”
 - 2. Discipling, in this sense, is equivalent to the word ministry.
 - B. Discipling also **SUBSTITUTES** for the word evangelism—a Christian who invites an unsaved person to accept Christ as savior is said to be discipling.
 - C. Church people describe discipling as **INTERACTING** with pre-Christians before they make a decision to follow Jesus.
 - D. Others would insist discipling is the **DECISION** of the unbeliever to serve God--when an unbeliever becomes a believer, a Christian has effectively disciplined that person.
 - E. But in the minds of some Christians the follow-up process is called discipling.
 - 1. Differences of opinion **SURFACE** as to length of time.
 - 2. Follow-up can last for a few weeks (usually until certain Bible lessons are completed), months, a year, or 3 years (because Jesus took that length of time with His disciples).
 - F. Others maintain discipling (the follow-up process) is **ACCOMPLISHED** when certain milestones are reached.
 - 1. Discipling is **COMPLETED** when a person joins the church.
 - 2. When the new believer leads someone else to Christ, this signals “mission accomplished” for the discipler.
 - G. Still others argue, “Discipling lasts a lifetime. Christians must never stop growing.”
 - 1. In this case, discipling is synonymous with **MATURING** or sanctification.
 - 2. These popular questions reflect this definition: “Who are you discipling and who’s discipling you?”

Notes

Slide 5

Slide 6

Slide 7

Slide 8

Slide 9

II. Lecture (cont.)

Notes

H. Training people in personal evangelism is thought to be discipling, too.

1. Matthew 28:19-20 gives support to this concept.
2. Teaching Christians how to **EFFECTIVELY** evangelize unbelievers constituted much of Jesus' ministry to His disciples.

I. Developing people to be leaders in the church is also called discipling.

1. Pastors develop programs to **ENHANCE** the ability of the laity to administer and to coordinate various ministries of the local church.
2. Teaching leadership principles illustrate discipling as leadership development.

III. The ways the church uses the terms evangelizing and discipling hold the potential for confusion.

- We are left **UNSURE** of what to do or how to proceed.
- We long for people who need God to respond to Him.
- And we want to become His **ALLIES** in the process.
- How do we **RESOLVE** these tensions?

A. Since the Gospel of Matthew quotes Jesus, "Make disciples" (Matthew 28:20), perhaps we can **CONSULT** its contents as to how we might do that.

1. The immediate scriptural context **PROVIDES** insight into disciple-making.
2. The church is to take the initiative by going.
3. Clearly discipling does not just happen; followers of Jesus are to go into the world to make disciples.
4. The church is also to **TEACH** so people who are not followers may know how to become followers.
5. Jesus told the church to **BAPTIZE** these new followers—to immerse them into the fellowship of believers.

Slide 9

Slide 10

Slide 11

Slide 12

II. Lecture (cont.)

6. So an accurate analysis of discipling includes taking the **INITIATIVE** (going), teaching and baptizing.
- B. The larger context of the book of Mathew gives additional insights into discipling—the way Jesus disciplined the Twelve.
 1. Jesus' relationship with His disciples **PRODUCED** character.
 - a. Christ's method and message always **CENTERED** on people.
 - b. He helped the Twelve understand themselves and what they were to do.
 - c. He **AFFIRMED** positive character qualities in His followers.
 - d. He called for them to change the way they thought and acted.
 2. Jesus taught kingdom-content to His disciples.
 - a. His teaching and preaching **REFERRED** often to the Kingdom of God.
 - b. He told stories **ILLUSTRATING** the role and rule of God.
 - c. The Kingdom was to become a priority, "Seek first the kingdom."
 - d. Explanation and **APPLICATION** took a majority of time in Jesus' teaching.
 - e. If His disciples were not asking questions, He was making **INQUIRIES** of them.
 3. Jesus taught His disciples through relational experiences.
 - a. He made sure the Twelve were party to His encounters with unbelievers.
 - b. Jesus **EXPOSED** the disciples both to the world and to ineffective religiosity.
 - c. Jesus did not **PROTECT** His disciples from the cancerous church leaders of His day.

Notes

Slide 12

Slide 13

Slide 14

Slide 15

II. Lecture (cont.)

- d. In a worship event, a time of intimacy, Jesus informed His followers of His impending death.
 - e. He **PREPARED** them for ensuing fall out.
 - f. They reaffirmed their loyalty to Him.
4. Jesus transferred leadership to His followers.
- a. Early in His ministry to the disciples He told them harvesters were few.
 - b. With the first assignment Jesus gave, He **PROVIDED** power to achieve it.
 - c. After their heady success, Jesus tempered their thinking—calling them from pride to humility.
 - d. Jesus continued to **DELEGATE** responsibilities to these fledgling leaders.
 - e. Jesus' last words reminded them of the **PURPOSE** they were to accomplish—make disciples.
- C. Before the discipleship process began we see Jesus evangelizing.
- 1. Jesus called disciples.
 - a. When Jesus **INVITED** men to follow Him, He spoke an accompanying promise. “Come, follow me and I will send you out to fish for people” (Matt. 4:19).
He **OFFERED** another invitation with a promise, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28).
 - 2. Jesus taught, healed and evangelized (Matt. 4:23).
 - a. Evangelism **ACCOMPANIED** other actions.
 - b. Letting people in on God's Good News was incomplete without a foundation in learning and the meeting of needs in healing.

Notes

Slide 15

Slide 16

Slide 17

Slide 18

II. Lecture (cont.)

3. Jesus **LOVED** the people who followed Him.
 - a. He saw the crowds as harassed and helpless without a shepherd (Matthew 9:35-47).
 - b. To these confused and leaderless people, He **SPOKE** Good News into their lives.
 4. Jesus made a specific effort to **MINISTER** to the poor.
 - a. When **RESPONDING** to John the Baptist's question about Jesus' identity, Jesus cited His actions of healing and of raising people to new life.
 - b. He then said, ". . . the good news is proclaimed to the poor" (Matt. 11:5).
 5. Jesus stood up for people.
 - a. After Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, religious leaders, guests in Matthew's home, **QUESTIONED** why Jesus ate with tax collectors.
 - b. Jesus stood up for Matthew, saying, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matt. 9:12-13).
- D. Out of these activities, i.e. teaching, healing, ministry to the poor, showing mercy and standing for justice, Jesus announced good news.
- E. Evangelism affected unbelievers because holiness and love were first evident.

Notes

Slide 18

Slide 19

Slide 20

III. Small Group Exercise

(15 Minutes)

Discuss the following questions in your small group.

1. How does your congregation define evangelism?
2. How does your congregation define discipleship? (Hint: The programs of the local congregation will probably be based on an accepted definition of discipleship and of evangelism.)
3. What would improve your congregation's ministry of evangelism and discipleship?

IV. Action Planning/Reporting

(15 Minutes)

1. Meet with congregational leaders to re-teach this material.
2. Settle on definitions of evangelism and discipleship and agree to implement them.
3. Shape evangelism and discipleship ministries that will capture the imagination of your congregation and will effectively develop disciples.
4. Place these new or modified ministries on the calendar with the names of those leading those ministries.

V. Module Wrap-Up

(5 Minutes)

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

End the module by praying together. Based on your group, you may want the entire group to pray together with different people leading, or you may want to instruct the participants to pray in their teams.