



SSMC Mentoring

Revisited

Dr Tan Soo Inn
29 July 2023

A. Some definitions:

1. Disciple:

“A disciple is a learner, someone who follows Christ to learn from Him how to be truly human. Following Jesus, Christian disciples are transformed by Jesus to become like Him.”

(The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. Luke 6:40 NIV)

2. Disciple making:

“Discipleship mentoring is an intentional, relational process for spiritual formation by which one person takes responsibility to be a spiritual guide for one or several others.”

B. Christlikeness in relationships (Luke 10:25 – 28)

1. Relating to Abba Father: trust and obey

1.1 Knowing and obeying His Word (Matthew 7:24 – 27)

1.2 Cultivating intimacy through prayer (Matthew 6:9 – 13)

Key identity: child of God

Romans 8:14 -17

2. Relating to Abba's Family: Connect and share

2.1 Committed to be in authentic communities where we give and receive agape love. (1 Corinthians 12:1 – 13:13)

2.2 Serving in and through authentic communities where everyone contributes their unique gifts. (1 Peter 4:8 – 11)

Key identity: Brothers/ Sisters/ Friend

1 John 4:19 / John 15:9-17

B. Christlikeness in relationships (Luke 10:25 – 28)

3. Relating to Abba's Mission: Show and tell

(We participate in God's mission)

3.1 Demonstrating the reality and character of the coming Kingdom through our lives. (Matthew 5:13 -16)

3.2 Calling people to submit to the saving kingship of Abba Father. (Matthew 28:16 - 20)

i.e. Demonstration and proclamation

Key identity: Neighbour

Luke 10:25 - 37

B. Christlikeness in relationships (Luke 10:25 – 28)

In other words, a disciple grows in love:

Love for God (Communion)

Love for neighbour (Community)

Love for a lost world (Co labour)

A basic examen:

1. How is your walk with God?
2. How is your walk with others?
3. How are you walking in mission?

C. Resources for growing as disciples

1. The resources of a disciple

God has given us three key resources for us to grow in Christlikeness.

1.1. **God's Spirit** (2 Corinthians 3:12 - 18) God Himself indwells us to empower us to be Christlike.

The OT lets us know that it is not enough to know what we should do. We need the moral dynamic to do it. We need God Himself.
(Ezekiel 36:24 – 27; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:1 – 36; Ephesians 5:15 – 20)

A key spiritual discipline: prayer (Drawing close to God in prayer)

C. Resources for growing as disciples

1.2. **God's Word** (2 Timothy 3:16 – 17) God speaks to us to teach us what it means to be Christlike.

A key way the Lord shapes us is through His Word. When we read the Word we encounter God Himself. He addresses us through His Word. (Luke 24:36-49; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:16 – 21; James 1: 22 – 25).

Therefore we need to approach the Word with reverence.
(Exodus 3:1 – 10)

A key spiritual discipline: bible study (Encountering God through the word)

C. Resources for growing as disciples

1.3. **God's people** (2 Timothy 3:10 -17) God guides us on the journey to maturity through His people.

We need an edifying community. (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Jude 20-21)
We need disciplers/ mentors. (2 Timothy 2:2)

**A key spiritual discipline: being disciplined/ mentored
(Guided by God through His people)**

Disciplines are not an end in themselves. They are means by which we connect with God and His resources.

D. A personal disciple/ mentor addresses four key needs of a disciple

1. **Models** (1 Thessalonians 1:5b – 9; 1 Corinthians 11:1) --- they need models to show and to inspire.
2. **Life processing** (Luke 10:1 - 24) --- they need a safe space to work out how to follow Christ in the complexities of real life. People learn best by reflecting on their life experiences.
3. **Accountability** (Hebrews 10: 23 – 25) ---- they need disciplers/ mentors to lovingly hold them to accountable to live out their faith.
4. **Encouragement** (1 Thessalonians 5:11) --- they need encouragement.

This can only happen in authentic relationships where we get to know each other through exchanging our life stories over time.

E. Some Nuts and Bolts of Discipleship Mentoring: Definition revisited

“Discipleship mentoring is an intentional, relational process for spiritual formation by which one person takes responsibility to be a spiritual guide for one or several others.”

1. **Intentional** --- All involved are clear that we are entering into a journey of growing in Christlikeness
2. **Relational** --- this is key. Discipling is not primarily a programme through a programme may provide some structure to the exercise. Discipling is a personal relationship between discipler and disciple.

E. Some Nuts and Bolts of Discipleship Mentoring: Definition revisited

3. **Process** --- to be disciplined is to be in a journey of growth. We only fully arrive when we see Jesus face to face but we are in a process where we become more like Him.
4. **Spiritual Formation** --- the goal of disciple making is to help people grow in Christlikeness. Hence the “spiritual” in spiritual mentoring is not to differentiate the process from “material” mentoring. It is a statement that we are helping grow in their life in Christ and this involves all areas of life.
5. **One person** --- the heart of the mentoring process is not a book or a technique. It is the person of the mentor. He/she takes responsibility to guide the growth of the mentoree. The whole exercise must be based on God's Word but it is actualised through the interaction between the mentor and the mentoree.

E. Some Nuts and Bolts of Discipleship Mentoring: Definition revisited

6. **Spiritual guide** --- The mentor is primarily a guide. He doesn't take over the disciple's life and micromanages it. We understand it is the Holy Spirit that transforms lives. The mentor guides the mentoree in how he/she responds to the Spirit's work in is/her life.
7. **One or several others** --- in the past the focus has been more on one to one mentoring. This has been very effective in shaping lives. But there is also value in discipleship groups where a mentor may guide the spiritual formation of two or three mentorees. This means that a mentoree has the benefit of a mentor and a mentoring community.

F. Some main discipling/ mentoring practices

1. Listening

(James 1:19; Isaiah 50: 4-6)

2. Asking questions

(Matthew 16:13-20)

3. Sharing

(2 Corinthians 1:8-11; 2 Timothy 4: 9-18)

F. Some main discipling/ mentoring practices

4. Discerning

(1 Thessalonians 5:21)

5. Praying

(James 5:16)

6. Teaching

(Colossians 3:16)