

STUDY GUIDE FOR DISCIPLE SHIP

WEEK 1

KICK OFF | KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD.

Lunyoro, Uganda | Kihaya & Kijita, Tanzania | Swahili, Kenya

1. Reflect on the African proverb above. What does it mean? How does it speak to the mega mandate of making disciples? Is there an action you must take in accordance with this wisdom?
2. Share with the group who you are, where you're from, where your feet touch the ground right now, what you do.
3. What are you thankful for this week? What has stressed you—and what do you need for things to be better?
4. Diving in a little deeper, share with each other your life story guided by the following, your:
 - Interests (enjoyment)
 - Influences (people/events)
 - Hopes (dreams/goals)
 - Challenges (difficulties/problems)
 - Purpose (impact/significance)
 - Destiny (future/outcome)
5. How would you rate your current knowledge about each of the following over a maximum score of 10, with 10 being 'terrific' and 1 being 'terrible'?
 - a. Great Commission
 - b. Mission
 - c. Missions
 - d. Disciple
 - e. Discipleship
6. Why have you decided to join this **Disciple Ship** movement? What are you hoping to gain from this 10-week study?

7. Review the following group guidelines (borrowed from Emotionally Healthy Discipleship). What do they mean to you and will you commit to these?

- a. Come Prepared
- b. Speak for Yourself
- c. Respect Others
- d. No Fixing, Saving, No Setting Other People Straight
- e. Turn to Wonder (when tempted to judge others)
- f. Trust and Learn from Silence
- g. Observe Confidentiality
- h. Be Punctual (start on time and end of time).

8. How may we pray for each other as we get inducted into the *Disciple Ship* movement and begin this *Disciple Ship* journey?

WEEK 2

ENDORSEMENTS, FOREWORD, PREFACE, INTRODUCTION

A HOUSE IS BEAUTIFUL IF IT HAS PEOPLE.

Bena, Tanzania

1. Reflect on the African proverb above. What does it mean? How does it speak to the mega mandate of making disciples? Is there an action you must take in accordance with this wisdom?
2. What do you make of the book's title (Disciple Ship); and subtitle (Maneuvering the Master's Mega Mandate to Make Disciples of All Nations). What do you like about it? What don't you like? Was your first impression when you heard/saw the title different from what you began to discover from actually reading it?
3. Very significant global mission leaders have made various comments about *Disciple Ship*. Have any of these resonated with you? If so, which one(s) and in what way?
4. From the DEDICATION, one can tell that the authors have been both beneficiaries and benefactors of discipleship. Is that your own story too. Tell us. Also, they put across the fact that their own family "*provides us with unending opportunities daily to be disciplined and to make disciples.*" What do you make of that?
5. The reverend writer of the FOREWORD shared an observation from Cape Coast that make a profound impression on him. What was it and how does that make you feel?
6. "Disciple making is not about getting Christians to become "active" in church, although that is what is preached in many churches. Disciple making means reproduction. Reproduction, not just production." Discuss.
7. How do you find the analogy of the church and/or family as a Disciple Ship (DS)? They ask a question in the PREFACE which is worth pondering over and providing a response now: "If every family's name were preceded by 'DS,' would that be true of them and us?" How would you respond to that?

8. What new thing have you learnt about mandates in general and Jesus' mandate in Matthew 28:18-20 in particular?

9. Tell us what you know about the following:

a. Discipulus: _____

b. Mathētēs (μαθητής): _____

c. Mathētai (μαθηταί): _____

d. Mathēteusate (μαθητεύσατε): _____

10. **“The Master’s mega mandate is to make mathetai, of ourselves and of others.”**

What do you say? Does anything about the outline of the book—its two parts (understanding & undertaking), its seven chapters—its alliterative literary style, African sayings and symbols or any of that tickle your fancy?

WEEK 3
CONDITION OF THE MANDATE (Chapter 1)

IF YOU WANT TO DIG AN EVIL PIT, DIG ACCORDING TO YOUR HEIGHT.
Kamabari, Nigeria

1. Reflect on the African proverb above. What does it mean? How does it speak to the mega mandate of making disciples? Is there an action you must take in accordance with this wisdom?

2. Do you agree with the diagnoses of the authors that the lack of discipleship (disciple being and disciple making) is the missing key in the church today? Why or why not?

3. What struck you most about the condition of discipleship in the church and in the world? Are there other examples you may have? Kindly share. Do you agree with the authors' diagnoses of the root causes? Why/why not? What might you add?

4. The unfinished work of discipleship in the church and in the world was described in this chapter in terms of depth, breadth, and height. Explain each one and share what one action you can take to close the gap:
 - a. Unfinished mandate in breadth: _____
 - b. Unfinished mandate in depth: _____
 - c. Unfinished mandate in height: _____

5. Have you developed any fresh convictions to counter the conditions of lack of discipleship in the church and in society? What are they? Will you be able to share these on your social media wall or page?

6. We looked at three cures for the condition in this chapter:
 - i. Jesus' Life Transforms People,
 - ii. Jesus' Life must be Nurtured, and
 - iii. Jesus' Life must be Expressed. How will any or all of these change the way you live, going forward?

WEEK 4

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MANDATE (Chapter 2)

IF YOU FOLLOW THE PATH OF THE ELEPHANT THROUGH THE TALL GRASS, YOU
DO NOT GET SOAKED WITH DEW.

Ga-Adangme, Ghana

1. Reflect on the African proverb above. What does it mean? How does it speak to the mega mandate of making disciples? Is there an action you must take in accordance with this wisdom?

2. The authors argue that it takes people who are transformed to change society. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

3. Read Matthew 28:16-20. What, in the passage, suggests that the Great Commission was not just for the original disciples but for every follower of Christ? Are you convinced that the Great Commission is Jesus' commission to you?

4. If the Great Commission is the main business of the church and, for that matter, every believer, how must it affect the following:
 - i. The programs of your church?
 - ii. The finances of your church?
 - iii. Your personal finances?
 - iv. How you spend your time?
 - v. How you spend your energy?

5. What practical steps would you need to take to effectively live a life influenced by the Great Commission?

6. The authors define/describe a disciple as *"one who is following Jesus, and is being transformed by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be committed to the mission of God the Father in this world" or "a transforming person (or entity) who through the Holy Spirit is continually pursuing intimacy with the Father, imitating Jesus Christ, and influencing others to do likewise, all in loving response to the loving call of God."*
 - a. Do you agree with the above definitions? What do you find deficient about this definition? What would you take out or add to the above definition?
 - b. What is your practical definition of a disciple of Christ?

7. Under the types of disciples, they identify three types of disciples: i. Curious, ii. Convinced and iii. Committed.

a. Explain each of the types of disciples and give examples of each.

b. Which type of disciple are you? Why would you say you are such a disciple?

c. What steps would you need to take to become a committed or a more committed disciple of Christ?

8. Read Matthew 28:18-20. From the command/instruction captured in verses 19 and 20 of Matthew 28, what did Jesus mean by each of the following statements in the Great Commission?

a. "go and make disciples of all nations"

b. "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy"

c. "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you"

9. Re-Read Matthew 28:18-20.

a. What promise does Jesus make in verse 20?

b. Why is this promise crucial for fulfilling the Great Commission? (See also Genesis 39:2, 1 Samuel 18:14, Acts 11:21).

c. What encouragement does this promise give you regarding the Great Commission?

10. Re-read Mark 3:13-14. From the illustration of who a complete disciple is, are you a complete disciple? Which of the three areas (friend, follower, and fisher) is most challenging personally? Are you forming complete disciples? What has been tricky?

WEEK 5

CHANNELS OF THE MANDATE (Chapter 3)

TO STAY A LONG TIME IN THE WATER DOES NOT MAKE YOU CLEAN.

Sukuma, Tanzania

1. Reflect on the African proverb above. What does it mean? How does it speak to the mega mandate of making disciples? Is there an action you must take in accordance with this wisdom?
2. “Jesus did not only give us the mandate. He also gave us the method for fulfilling the mandate.” What do you make of this assertion by the authors?
3. Recall the three channels or methods of making disciples (3Ms)
 - a. M _____
 - b. M _____
 - c. M _____

Explain three or four things about each. What specific action do you sense God is asking you to take about each of these three channels of making disciples?

4. Have you always read or understood “teaching them to obey” the way the authors throw light on it? How come?
5. Discipleship is defined in a very elaborate way in this chapter (see below). What do you like and/or not like about it? Is there anything you would want to add or take out. Why?

Discipleship is the Father-initiated, Son-inspired, and Spirit-empowered lifelong transformational process and lifestyle of proclaiming and immersing [marking], teaching and training, rebuking and correcting [maturing], exhorting and equipping [mentoring] one and all, far and near, in continually pursuing intimacy with the Father, imitating Jesus Christ and influencing others in the power of the Holy Spirit to do likewise, all in loving response to the loving call of God.

6. How would you explain to a 10-year old the relationship between discipleship and mentorship?

7. Especially if you are a marketplace Christian, what do you make of the Matthean discipleship model demonstrated in this chapter, moving from the general principles of Jesus to landing on the specific person of Jesus?

WEEK 6

COUNTERINTUITIVE CONDUCT OF THE MANDATE (Chapter 4)

IT IS THE WHITE MAN WHO SELLS SCISSORS, YET HIS
HEAD IS OVERGROWN WITH HAIR.

Asante, Ghana

1. Reflect on the African proverb above. What does it mean? How does it speak to the mega mandate of making disciples? Is there an action you must take in accordance with this wisdom?
2. We are curious about your response to an earlier question in this chapter: *“If you were the God of all the earth and came down in human form to earth, with a mandate of breaking the power of sin, the grave, and hell and liberating your people to become like you once again, what would you do? How would you go about it?”* How does your response square with Jesus’ approach discussed throughout this chapter?
3. In what ways do the authors assert that Jesus’ conduct of the Mega Mandate— and how He expects us to go about it also—is counterintuitive? Do you agree? How is your local church going about disciple making—this counterintuitive way or otherwise? Why?
4. Rather than tackling the problems in the world head on, Jesus’ approach is to first create the God-kind-of people who will. What do you make of this? Consider your own life and leadership. Is that your approach to impact?
5. What is your discovery about WHY Jesus would choose the counterintuitive method of “a few at a time” for such a massive assignment as making disciples of the whole world? Is most of your people time spent with the many or with the few? Why?
6. As many as fifteen reasons were given to support the counterintuitive idea of discipling a few at a time. Which of these did “seal the deal” for you? Which one(s) do you not buy, or consider too much of a stretch?
7. The family is a natural or organic small group for effectual disciple making. How do you find this idea? How are you implementing it in your context?
8. According to the authors, *the many small containers make a mighty ship. Many, healthy small groups [containers] make a mighty, flourishing church just as numerous healthy cells*

form a healthy body. How will you assess your local church as a Disciple SHIP on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being terrible and 10 being terrific)? _____
What might the Lord want you to do about this?

9. From Chapter 1, we saw an urgent need for making disciples (in depth, breadth, and height). Yet Jesus' counterintuitive way here in Chapter 4 is slow and steady, people-focused and a few at a time. How then do we "make haste slowly" in fulfilling this largely unfinished Mega Mandate?

WEEK 7

CARDINAL COMPONENTS OF DISCIPLEMAKING COMMUNITIES FOR THE MANDATE (Chapter 5)

IF TWO BROTHERS HAVE ONLY THE HEAD OF A FLY,
THEY WILL DIVIDE IT EQUALLY BETWEEN THEM.

Setswana, Botswana

1. Reflect on the African proverb above. What does it mean? How does it speak to the mega mandate of making disciples? Is there an action you must take in accordance with this wisdom?
2. What have you settled on as a good amount of time for focused, intense discipleship of a person? How did you come by that conclusion?
3. Compare how Jesus spent His time—inversely proportional to the largeness of the size of the groups of people in His life—to how you invest yours. What does that tell you? Are there any changes that must be made? What, when and how?
4. Share which of the dozen “a few at a time” must-be dynamics— from Jesus’ 12 x 12 frame—you know best and do most. Which one needs urgent and intentional incorporation in your disciple making?
5. Which of the 10 ways of scripture engagement needs the most urgent attention from you? Think up a plan and get an accountability partner to keep you on your toes.
6. Of the Bible Study methods expounded in this chapter (Q & A, Discovery Bible Study, Sword Method, Inductive Bible Study) which is your favorite and why? Which one would you want to give a try this week? Who can you get to come along on this adventure?
7. What is a missional community? Ensure the seven key characteristics in this chapter feature in your definition. Share if your small group is inward-oriented (taking care of members’ needs) or outward-oriented (looking out for the bigger community’s needs). Why is this the case? List the seven characteristics of a missional community vertically on a piece of paper. How do they compare with your current small group? Will you call it a missional community? Do you even want it to be one?

8. State the three elements of Nouwen's triad as well as Walls'. How have you lived these triads out or seen them play out in other people's lives? What timely adjustments must you make in your life to maximize these triple movements?

WEEK 8

CONTRAPTIONS FOR EXECUTING THE MANDATE (Chapter 6)

THE THING THAT OVERCOMES YOU, TELL YOUR COLLEAGUES TO HELP YOU.

Bena, Tanzania

1. Reflect on the African proverb above. What does it mean? How does it speak to the mega mandate of making disciples? Is there an action you must take in accordance with this wisdom?
2. Do you have a clear structure and process for disciples making? Do you mind sharing with others? How did you come about that? How can you make your disciple making more life-on-life?
3. Draw three concentric circles and fill-in the names of the disciples you have in each category (apart from your family):
 - a. Innermost circle | 1-on-1 regularly (daily, weekly, biweekly or monthly)
 - b. Middle circle | 1-on-3ish regularly (daily, weekly, biweekly or monthly)
 - c. Outermost circle | 1-on-12 regularly (daily, weekly, biweekly or monthly)
4. Go back to the names you filled out above. Use the FATR filter to reevaluate each person on a scale of 1 to 5 for how FATR they are. Are these really the people you should be investing most of your time in?

NAME	F	A	T	R
1.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
2.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
3.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
4.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
5.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

5. Which of the many tools shared in this chapter are you most excited about and eager to practice? Why? How will it radically transform your disciple being and disciple making?

6. Are there any of the tools you feel uncertain about or uncomfortable with? Why might this be so? Any ideas what you should do about it?

7. Until this chapter, had you really connected disciple making with church planting? How has that connection been made or strengthened?

8. Do you have a Disciple Making Coach or are you part of a Disciple Makers Community (DMC)? What are the benefits of DMCs? Share your plans concerning this going forward.

9. What's your plan to follow through on the assignment to do further research on the Rule of Life and put it into practice?

WEEK 9

CONCLUSION OF THE MANDATE (Chapter 7)

THE HEART THAT DOES NOT DECIDE IS AN ENEMY OF ITS MASTER.

Oromo, Ethiopia

1. Reflect on the African proverb above. What does it mean? How does it speak to the mega mandate of making disciples? Is there an action you must take in accordance with this wisdom?

2. *“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead MANY to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever”* (Daniel 12:3, emphasis ours). Read over the above scripture thrice. Personally reflect on this quietly for a minute.

a. Have you ever considered this verse as a disciple making scripture? Why/Why not?

b. If forever stardom is awarded in eternity to those who disciple MANY, are we not then contradicting this and shooting ourselves in the foot by “fulfilling the mandate a few at a time?”

3. How inspiring is it to focus on God’s vision and mission as the ultimate source of our own vision, mission, commission and commitments? Does that picture of the end in mind make all the slugging away through this book (and soon through practically applying it in your context) any easier?

4. What is the three-fold vision of God and what is at its core? What is the three-fold mission of God and what is at its core? What is the three-fold commission of God (‘the Great Commission’) and what is at its core? Is this attempt at simplifying and integrating mission and discipleship useful? Why?

5. *“Until every disciple looks like Jesus Christ and all of earth looks like heaven, we still have a long voyage ahead on our Disciple Ship,”* the authors assert. Discuss.

6. In the end, Jesus’ counterintuitive approach to the mandate made disciples, producing friends, followers and fishers of Jesus Christ. Considering how few they were and how long it took in the midst of daunting challenges, how encouraged are you that 2,000 years later there are over 2.3 billion that call ourselves “Christian?”

7. *“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come”* (Matthew 24:14, NKJV). In the final analysis, according to the above scripture, the unfinished mandate will be completed.

- a. Whose words are these? Can they be trusted? Why?
- b. Will you be playing a significant part in fulfilling this prophecy? In what way(s)?
- c. How does your resolve, zeal and commitment compare with Paul's in Romans 15:17-24a?

8. "The business and busyness of the church is to make disciples. Period. Nothing more, nothing less. Make mathetai, develop disciples." Whatever you do, make disciples—of yourself and others.

- a. How practical and feasible is this?
- b. What is your plan to radically change your life(style) according to this counsel?
- c. How will you bring others in your community (family, church and workplace) along?

WEEK 10
NEXT STEPS | NOW WHAT?

THERE IS NO BEAUTY BUT THE BEAUTY OF ACTION.
Morocco, North Africa

1. Reflect on the African proverb above. What does it mean? How does it speak to the mega mandate of making disciples? Is there an action you must take in accordance with this wisdom?

2. What is coming to you as you ponder over the shipping Psalm (107:23-32) from *The Message* version of the Bible? What emotions does it evoke in you?

3. Did you know about African *Adinkra* symbols before? Which of them do you find most fascinating? Why? Would you pause to pray that Almighty God, the King of kings, will make you as faithful, alert, and dutiful as Agyin the servant of the Asante king, in maneuvering His mega mandate for every nation in your generation?

4. Describe this 10-week ***Disciple Ship*** journey in one word. Why?

5. Is there anything about your life story you shared 10 weeks ago that you missed out on or has been altered that you would like to share regarding your:
 - Interests (enjoyment)
 - Influences (people/events)
 - Hopes (dreams/goals)
 - Challenges (difficulties/problems)
 - Purpose (impact/significance)
 - Destiny (future/outcome)

6. Have you familiarized yourself with the information and resources in the appendices of 'Disciple Ship'? Is there a particular ministry, agency or organization you need to connect with? Why?

7. What is going to change in your life as a result of this 10-week journey? Who are you going to share this with?

8 What are your next action steps? Why? What is the time frame? How would you feel when they are accomplished? Who do you need as an ally to make these happen?

9. Who among the 'Unreached' or 'Undisciplined' do you sense a call towards? Contemplate the following and fill out the table below:

ACTIONS:	ACTIVITY:
1) Identify the "target groups" the Lord is laying on your heart.	1) List your local "target groups" (affinity groups).
2) Identify each group's need and "access point."	2) List each group's need and "access point."
3) Pray for God to open doors into these "target groups" (to reveal 'Persons of Peace'/seekers).	3) Identify a potential "Person of Peace" in each target group.

10. Have you already read *Africa to the Rest*? If you have, how do you sense it relates with *Disciple Ship*? Is there a connection? If you haven't, will you make plans to get that, read it and undertake a similar 10-week study safari? (Safari is "journey" in Swahili)