

DISCIPLESHIP TIPS

A pastor or youth leader moving into a new ministry in a church will find the following guidelines helpful.

1. **Take time** to get to know the people you'll be working with.
2. Make **prayer a central part** of the selection process of choosing people for discipling.
3. **Begin meeting with** some of the **leaders** and ease in on sharing the discipleship vision with them. You don't want to overwhelm them by coming on too strong.
4. Begin discipling in **groups of 2 or 3** people (those who have been interested in the discipleship vision).
5. Your selection will follow the basic rule of **men with men and women with women**. If a man must disciple women then it should go without saying that he will meet with three or more women and visa versa. Couples meeting with couples presents another option but the degree of openness will be different.
6. In the best of all possible cases in a given church there will be small home groups. It is in this context that discipleship lends itself as a **powerful multiplication factor for leaders** and thus for more groups.
7. **Be patient and hang in there**. Discipleship takes time but yields incredible results. I once waited two years after having spent two years with one disciple, but he then became part of a four generation chain of disciplers in our church. This would be the extreme example. Usually nine months to a year will produce good results in multiplying leaders.
8. **Give people assignments** such as leading a Bible study, praying out loud in a group, sharing their own experience of knowing Jesus, presenting a devotional message, inviting a friend to a specific activity, etc. Monitor their activities and growth.
9. **Explore new networks** for outreach with your disciples. If you or your disciples do not take seriously the need to tell others about the Saviour both of you will be missing the fundamental reason for growth

through discipleship and will become stagnant like
the Dead Sea.