

Essentials of Discipleship

Chapter 7 – The Primacy of Evangelism

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Resource: Essentials of Discipleship by Francis Cosgrove published by Roper Press in 1988.

This short 12 chapter book outlines eleven essentials of what a disciple of Jesus Christ is and how each disciple should become a disciple-making disciple. These study guides offer an outline of the book with some questions to be used in reviewing and discussing the content. Each student will need to obtain and read the book as well. After the initial chapters titled: What is a Disciple? & The Disciple is a Learner; the author reviews the Lordship of Jesus Christ which is the umbrella for the remaining nine essentials or characteristics of a disciple.

- I. Introduction – EOD #6: A disciple has a heart for witnessing, gives his testimony clearly, and presents the gospel regularly with increasing skill.
 - A. Summary (from Chapter 1): Disciples must be committed to the importance of witnessing and evangelism. A disciple must know how to give his or her testimony which is simply telling what our life was like before we met Jesus Christ and what it is like now. Besides our testimony of our story or experience, a disciple must know how to present the gospel intelligently. Of the many opportunities for training in evangelism, one of the best is Evangelism Explosion. Sharing your faith with others comes from a sincere concern for the salvation of your friends and relatives. Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators, was a prime example of a man committed to evangelism for the sake of advancing the Gospel.
 - B. Scriptures:
 1. Matthew 28:18-20 _____
 2. Acts 1:8 _____
 3. Acts 5:42 _____
 4. Acts 14:21-23 _____
 5. Acts 22:14-15 _____
 6. Romans 1:16 _____
 7. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 _____
 8. 1 Thessalonians 2:4 _____
 - C. Introductory Comments: A disciple is always at the task of evangelism. There is no option to being prepared to “give an answer to anyone who asks about your faith / about your hope”. See 1 Peter 3:15
- II. Evangelism as a Lifestyle

Cosgrove suggests that the evangelism of Christian men & women in the early Church was characterized by:

 - A. Being openly identified with _____. They were not ashamed to be identified with the Savior. Read Acts 5:42.
 - B. They demonstrated the _____ Spirit. People knew they had been with Jesus. What is it that people must see in us that will attract them also to the Savior? See Acts 4:13.
 - C. They were actively seeking to _____ toward Jesus Christ. In essence, this is evangelism and is something every believer / disciple must learn to do without much effort. Yet we all fear rejection (and sometimes persecution) so that is what makes evangelism a challenge.
 1. The author says that evangelism is the key to disciple making and must be the cutting edge of any lasting ministry and that the biblical pattern is involvement in both _____ and _____ at the same time. He also says that evangelism brings new life into a ministry and that evangelism must be the lifestyle of the disciple.
- III. The Importance of a Testimony

Successful evangelism begins with a well-prepared testimony. Simply share what Jesus has done in your life. What are the three main questions you are taught to use in the Evangelism Explosion (EE) program?

 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

A. The Testimony as an Evangelistic Tool

All believers (disciples) have a testimony – a story. It requires that you indeed do have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Sharing the good news about the redemption / salvation we have as Christians should be easy. It should also be fun to talk about Christ as both your Savior and your Lord - especially if you know of His love for you regardless of your love for Him.

1. The author suggests there are three basic points. Write briefly your story here:
 - a. (Before knowing Christ) _____
 - b. (Learning about eternal life) _____
 - c. (After knowing Christ) _____
2. A disciple must be able to speak intelligently about their personal encounter with Jesus Christ. This is what is meant by having a primacy of evangelism.

B. Testimonies in Scripture

1. What is the main point of Paul’s testimony in Acts 26:4-11? _____
2. How did Paul come to know the Savior? (Acts 26:12-18) _____
3. What did the Lord mean to Paul after conversion (Acts 26:19-23) _____
4. Consider the testimonies of Peter and John in Acts 4. Our goal is to never ever be ashamed to talk about Jesus as the Christ. We also need to pray for boldness in sharing our testimony. Simply do not underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit when we proceed to be obedient to this command.
5. Have you written down a testimony? This is an assignment for our next session if you cannot do it for this session. Be prepared to either read or communicate it verbally by memory.

IV. The Importance of Having a Plan (a clear Gospel presentation)

A. The Advantages of a Plan

1. What are the four advantages offered by Cosgrove?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

B. Two Plans to Follow

1. What are the six main points of the Gospel? (Six D’s) _____; _____; _____; _____; _____ & _____
2. Plan to memorize one of the 5 verses offered for assurance of salvation. Which verse did you choose?

3. Review the 8 steps in the presentation of the Bridge Illustration?

C. The Final Step

This is bringing a person to the place of a decision. This is called “reaping”. It is how to lead people to decide to realize Christ as their Savior. What are the four basic things mentioned?

- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
1. What is the final question? _____
 2. What is the prayer you use if the person wants to receive Christ as their Savior?

V. Cosgrove says that a true disciple of Jesus Christ must be involved in evangelism. If not, he or she is an immature convert who is not yet effectively communicating the Gospel to others.