

**HOW TO START AND RUN A DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM**

Bro. Mark Butler

**Ephesians 4:11-12*,*** [***11***](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/4-11.htm)*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*[***12***](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/4-12.htm)*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

In a time where so many of God’s children are falling by the wayside because of their lack of Bible knowledge, it should be the desire of every church to have a discipleship class to equip every believer with Biblical doctrine.

Here are some things that must be considered before staring a discipleship class. Have a clear vision on the purpose of a discipleship program and convey the importance of it to the church.

**Things that will need to be done:**

* You will need to pray for God’s guidance
* You will need to choose someone to lead the program
* You will need trainers to work in the program
* You will need to keep good records
* You will need materials to teach from
* You will need meeting spaces
* You will need to announce the program
* You will need to recruit people to go through the program
* You will need to consider giving out certificates of completion

1. **Pray for Gods wisdom.**

James 1:5, *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

1. **How to choose a leader for the program.**

Pastor Wells is big on his staff being over programs of the church and choosing men to work under their leadership.

1. Choose someone who is:

-Spiritual

-Faithful to all services

-Faithful to soul winning

-Has Biblical standards

-Loyal to his church and pastor

1. **Choosing trainers.**

Most of our trainers are those who have completed the discipleship program.

* Choose someone who is:
* Spiritual
* Faithful to all services
* Faithful to soul winning
* Has Biblical standards
* Loyal to his church and pastor

1. **Keeping good records.**

* Keeping good records is very important.
* You will want to record the person’s name, phone #, and address that you are disciplining.
* You want to keep record of each booklet that they complete.
* There are three stages that the student must complete.
  + Basic: Lessons 1-10
    - These lessons are taught in a one-on-one setting. These lessons are basic lessons and can be taught by someone with basic Bible knowledge.
  + Advance: Lessons 11-26
    - These lessons are taught in a classroom setting. The teacher must be someone who has Bible knowledge on the subjects.
  + Premier: Lessons 27-43
    - These lessons are taught in a classroom setting. The teacher must be someone who has Bible knowledge on the subjects.
* After completing each lesson, the student has a review sheet that they will need to fill out and bring back with them at their next class.

1. **Choose a meeting time.**

You must have a time and day each week that the discipleship class will be held. For example, let me share with you our schedule here at Parkside.

* **Sunday**: 5:00pm Adult Discipleship in Room #
* \*I meet with all our workers at 4:50 to teach them something helpful and to discuss any problems.
* 5:00-5:10 Prayer time. We take prayer request and I have one of our leaders to pray over the request.
* 5:15-5:45 Class time
* 5:45 Dismiss for church

1. **Choosing the right discipleship material.**

* When choosing discipleship material, you will need to make sure of the content and author.
* \*We use the One Steps; Pastor Wells and Pastor Mike Ray wrote them a few years ago.
* These booklets go from basic Bible subjects, and will progress more in depth the further you move along.
* The trainer is encouraged to discuss subjects with the student, especially the subjects the student might seem to struggle with. While we encourage dialogue, we also must be careful not to allow the student to take over the session.

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