



# ESSENTIALS FOR A **DISCIPLE:**

Becoming a Person of F.A.I.T.H.

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## Becoming a Person of F.A.I.T.H.

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The principle of selection is key for any leader who seeks to make disciples. Years ago, while reading *The Fuel and The Flame* by Steve Shadrach, I learned the importance of selecting people of "F.A.I.T.H." to pour into and train as leaders. I lead a growing ministry, so it's important I select students and staff to disciple who have the maximum potential for spiritual multiplication. You can use this simple tool to challenge someone you disciple or to train your key leaders on what to look for in their disciples. Any humble follower of Christ would benefit from examining and discussing how they can grow in these essential areas. This tool allows these scripture verses to speak for themselves. Simply read the verses and answer the discussion questions. I believe God will use your time together to call each person forward as a person of "F.A.I.T.H."

There are five essentials that every disciple who wants to grow to lead others must develop. Developing these will take intentionality and help from a spiritual mentor. Disciples must constantly grow in "F.A.I.T.H."

Faithful

Available

Initiative

Teachable

Heart for God and People

**Faithful: Someone who follows through on their commitments and convictions.**

“Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?” — Proverbs 20:6

Why do you think it is so rare to find someone who consistently follows through on his or her commitments? What opportunities would open up to you if you developed into a truly faithful person?

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.” — Luke 16:10

Why is it so important to make the most of even the “small” opportunities to serve the Lord that come our way?

What are some things you might be tempted to see as “small” that you need to be more faithful in right now?

“A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.” — Proverbs 28:20

Why do you think faithfulness and impatience are contrasted in this verse?

“Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.”

— Proverbs 3:3-4

What does the author mean by “bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart”?

What area of your life do you need to grow in faithfulness?

Circle them: School Work Time Management Money Quiet Time Scripture Memory  
Prayer Evangelism Those I Disciple Friendships Opportunities To Grow  
Ministry Responsibilities Other Responsibilities

What is one practical step you will take this week to grow in faithfulness in one of these areas?

**Available: This person makes it a top priority to serve, learn and grow as a disciple of Jesus.**

“Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”

— Proverbs 4:7

What will it cost you if you truly get serious about growing in wisdom?

What is the difference between someone who is hungry to grow and serve and those who just have nothing better to do?

“But the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.” — Mark 4:19

What are some ways that this verse shows itself in the average college student’s life?

Which of these distractions appeal to you the most? How can you combat these distractions?

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” — Ephesians 5:15-16

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.”

— Colossians 4:5

In what ways does this verse apply to being available?

What are some practical steps you can take in order to “make the most of every opportunity” to learn, serve and disciple others?

**Initiative: Learning how to see a need, hear from God and act in a way that is helpful and wise.**

Read the story of Jonathan and his armor bearer in Samuel 14.

“Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, “Come, let’s go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few.” — 1 Samuel 14:6

What can we learn about how God responds to faith filled initiative from this story?

“Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.” — Acts 16:6-9

What can we learn about taking initiative from this passage?

“Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, “Come back later; I’ll give it tomorrow”-- when you now have it with you.”

— Proverbs 3:27-28

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” — Galatians 6:9-10

“Brethren, do something; do something, do something! While societies and unions make constitutions, let us win souls. I pray you, be men of action all of you. Get to work and quit yourselves like men. Old Suvarov’s idea of war is mine: `Forward and strike! No theory! Attack! Form a column! Charge bayonets! Plunge into the center of the enemy! Our one aim is to win souls; and this we are not to talk about, but do in the power of God!” — Charles Spurgeon

What stood out to you from these verses and Spurgeon quote? How does this apply to taking initiative in evangelism and ministry opportunities?

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” — Hebrews 13:17

“It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.” — Proverbs 19:2

How do these passages apply to taking initiative?

In what situations would it be wise to consult with your leaders before taking initiative on a ministry opportunity?

What would be an example that you could think of having zeal without knowledge and ending up doing more harm than good?

**Teachable: A humble person who accepts correction and aggressively seeks out wisdom from others.**

“Teachability is the only shortcut to success in life.” — Harold Bullock

“How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.”

— Proverbs 16:16

Why is it so valuable to seek wisdom?

What does Harold mean by teachability being the only shortcut to success?

“Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

— Proverbs 26:12

“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.” — Proverbs 12:1

“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.” — Proverbs 9:9

“Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored.”

— Proverbs 13:18

What stood out to you about being teachable from these passages?

According to these passages what are the benefits of being teachable to correction?

When do you find it most difficult to accept correction?

Who do you know who loves you enough to give you correction?

How can you become a person that accepts correction well?

“Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” — 1 Peter 5:5

What does it mean to “be subject” to the elders? Why is humility so essential for a follower of Christ?



“After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.” — Luke 2:46

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” — Luke 2:52

Why is it so significant that Jesus was intentional about seeking wisdom?

What are some ways that you can be intentionally seeking wisdom?

**Heart for God and People: A zealous love for Jesus, the lost and fellow believers that drives you to practical daily action and sacrifice.**

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

— Matthew 22:37-40

“The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” — 1 Timothy 1:5

Why is it so important that all we do is motivated by love?

What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul and mind?

What are some practical ways to grow in your love for God?

What are some practical ways that you can grow your love for others?

“I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit— I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race” — Romans 9:1-3

It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation. Rather, as it is written:

“Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.”  
— Romans 15:20-21

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” — John 10:11

What can we learn from these passages about loving those without Christ?

How can we grow in our love for those without Christ?

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” — 1 John 3:16-18

What can we learn about what it means to love people from this passage?

What is one person that you could show love to in a practical way this week?

Which of these five essentials for a disciple do you need to work on the most?  
What is one practical step you will take to grow in this area?