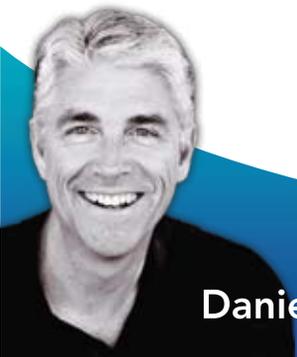


Highly
**Effective
Discipleship**

*How to Pour
Your Life into Others*



Study Guide



Daniel A. Brown, Ph.D.

#1 REMEMBERING GOD'S HEART (EXODUS 3:1-20)

1. Moses hears God's heart after he turns aside from his normal routine (vs. 3-4).

2. Catching the plans of God's heart starts with simply presenting ourselves before Him (v. 4).

3. In the face of God's calling, truly spiritual leaders are daunted by their own unworthiness and inabilities (v. 6).

4. God sees people's *affliction*: depression, misery, weakness (v. 7).

5. God hears their cries of suffering: pain, anguish.

6. God's heart not only wants to deliver people from their taskmasters, but also to bring them into their inheritance (v. 8).

7. God is moved by people's *oppression: distress, stick-points* (v. 9).

8. God is concerned about people and what has happened to them--especially their afflictions (vs. 16-17).

9. When we tell people about God's concern for them and for their pain, they are more likely to listen to what we have to say (v. 18).

#2 FIGHTING FOR OTHERS

(JOSHUA 1:1-18)

1. Joshua's role as a spiritual leader comes in the midst of a larger process. There have been and will be *other leaders* and *other places* in the people's lives (vs. 1-5).

2. Leading others into their inheritance requires us to *step up* and acknowledge the place the Lord has given us in their lives (v. 2).

3. Joshua's assignment from the Lord, like ours in the *Great Commission*, is an active going, not a passive standing (v. 3).

4. We will need *strength* and *courage* to help people into everything God has in mind for them (vs. 6-7).

#3 BUILDING WITH COURAGE

(NEHEMIAH 2:1-20)

1. Nehemiah's heart is deeply touched by the fact of Jerusalem's *desolation*. He identifies with others' condition and the causes of that condition. He is motivated by *compassion*, not *criticism* (v. 3).

2. Sometimes to reach the people we want to disciple, we have to go through lots of *provinces* (v. 9).

3. The people we disciple are living under various *jurisdictions* and *officials*. When we seek the welfare of God's people, those officials get stirred up (v. 10).

4. God will put into our mind plans for *restoring* the trampled places in people's souls (v. 12).

#4 BINDING THE BROKEN

(ISAIAH 61:1-4)

1. Like Jesus, we are anointed to bring *Good News* to the *afflicted*, liberty to the *bound*, and *binding* for the *broken* (v. 1).

2. Equipping ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12) should be viewed more as healing people's brokenness than teaching their intellects.

3. Excellent focal points for the discipleship process are:
 - A. Places where people have been hurt.

 - B. Repetitive, tormenting thought-patterns.

 - C. Emotional or behavioral habits.

4. According to Scripture, the *Favorable Year* of the Lord is when God (v. 2):
 - A. Answers our cry and helps us when we can not help ourselves.
 - B. Restores to us the land that we have lost.
 - C. Causes us to inherit the desolate places.

5. Jubilee is when:
 - A. Prisoners and indentured servants are freed.
 - B. Debts are canceled.
 - C. Fields are rested.

6. Being compassionate toward people's pain--just being sensitive and sorry for what they have gone through--communicates tremendous spiritual *truths* to people (v. 2).

7. Most discipleship involves helping people with *the great exchange*: ashes to garlands; mourning to gladness; heaviness to praise--and God receives all the glory. (v. 3)

8. Well-discipled people turn around and carry out the same ministry of restoration to others. That is success.

#5 TENDING THE SCATTERED

(EZEKIEL 34:1-6)

1. Much of what has been called *preparation* and *study* (to show oneself approved) is little more than isolated feeding that does no one else any good (v. 2).

2. Discipleship is a way of strengthening people: establishing, recovering, mending, fortifying and curing them (v. 4).

3. Many things in life end up scattering people. A discipler should be keenly interested in what has caused a person to be *banished, misled, expelled, stricken or pushed off course* (v. 4).

4. People also end up spending themselves on what does not profit; they become lost and broken and need to be *sought for* and *sought after* (v. 4).

5. Although it is sometimes necessary to deal strongly with points of corruption in the people we disciple, for the most part we should not use *dominating force* or *severity* (v. 4).

6. Western Christianity tends to ennoble the *lone saint*. While a mature believer should be able to stand *alone* in the face of trials, we must remember that God has called us to *care for* and *care about* others. Left to themselves, many saints get scattered and become food for wild beasts (vs. 5-6).

#6 DECLARING GOD'S PURPOSES (ACTS 20:17-35)

1. For our lives to be credible witnesses, we must spend significant amounts of time with the people we disciple (v. 18).
2. Plots of the enemy will create hardship and sorrow in our personal lives. We should not try to hide that side of ministry from those we disciple (v. 19).
3. It is tempting to *shrink* from bold, honest, spiritual counsel (vs. 20 and 27).
4. The focus of Paul's discipleship is *repentance, faith* and *grace* (vs. 21 and 24).

9. Discipleship is a constant series of *admonishments*, to help people live in God's purposes for their lives (v. 31).

#7 BEING AN EXAMPLE

(I TIMOTHY 4:10-16)

1. Paul does lots of *laboring* and *striving* as a result of fixing his hope on God (v. 10; see also Colossians 1:29).

2. To be effective disciplers, we have to get beyond feelings of personal *youthfulness* and *disqualification* (v. 12).

3. An *example* is much more than a person living by religious restrictions:
 - A. Speech

 - B. Conduct

 - C. Love

 - D. Faith

 - E. Purity

*But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart
and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

1 Tim. 1:5

#1 THE GOAL OF INSTRUCTION IS LOVE, NOT INFORMATION.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

And he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Luke 10:27

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

John 14:15

He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep."

John 21:16

1. If our goal is to mature people in the Lord, we ought to utilize the measurement that He said was the most telling.
2. The two greatest commandments center around love--for God and for others.
3. Love is the great motivation in people's lives. The more love they have--for God and for others--the more they will do what He wants them to do.

Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.
1 Cor. 8:1

And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
1 Cor. 13:2

But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Ephes. 4:15-16

And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
Col. 3:14

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.
1 Peter 4:8

4. While knowledge is useful and important, it can not work well without love. Since knowledge is the easier of the two to learn, our discipleship and instruction should concentrate on teaching love.

5. The truth spoken in love causes individuals to mature, and it promotes growth in whole congregations.

6. Conflicts between people almost always reveal some sort of distortion in their lives that needs mending. Since love reduces conflicts between people, it must be accomplishing the very mending that discipleship tries to do.

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment...

Philip. 1:9

7. Real knowledge and discernment are supposed to help people's love increase more and more. Without the filter of love through which to see things, what we know or discern can be destructive to others, not helpful to them.

Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

1 John 3:18

8. Love, as a proactive mentality and behavioral orientation, can be taught by example and practical direction (like coaching actors).

...and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Ephes. 3:17-19

9. Love is the rooting and foundation that enables people to grasp the enormity of all that God has done for them, and all that He has in mind for them.

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
Ephes. 2:10*

#2 EACH PERSON IS UNIQUE AND PRICELESS.

*For Thou didst form my inward parts;
Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. I
will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made; wonderful are Thy works,
and my soul knows it very well.*

*My frame was not hidden from Thee,
when I was made in secret, and skillfully
wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes
have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy
book they were all written, the days that were
ordained for me, when as yet there was not
one of them.*

Psalm 139:13-16

*How precious also are Thy thoughts to
me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I
should count them, they would outnumber the
sand. When I awake, I am still with Thee.*

Psalm 139:17-18

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew
you, and before you were born I consecrated
you; I have appointed you a prophet to the
nations."*

Jeremiah 1:5

1. Each person has been hand-crafted by the Lord Himself. Only after people grasp their eternal and spiritual origins can they begin to embrace the plans God has for them.
2. God has lots of thoughts about and for people. Much of discipleship is simply pointing people to His thoughts. Personal intimacy between people and the Lord is one of the highest goals of discipleship.
3. Each person has a unique ministry calling and spiritual gifting. God's purpose for each person is part of His creative dynamic. Discipleship must help people see their individuality.

And I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls. If I love you the more, am I to be loved the less?

2 Cor. 12:15

You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men...

2 Cor. 3:2

...being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.

2 Cor. 3:3

7. We cannot escape the reality that ministry to people is extremely costly to us personally. *For the sake of others* is a price tag. Knowing that it will cost us, *and* being willing to pay that cost are two vital components of effective discipleship.

8. In the Kingdom of God, letters of recommendation are not sent by post. They are not written on paper to be read by anyone else. They are, instead, internalized memos that foreshadow the words, *Well done good and faithful servant*.

9. Disciplers are archivists, curators, and editors. Disciplers are not lawmakers, artists or authors.

*But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens
and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
2 Peter 3:13*

#3 RIGHTEOUSNESS IS MUCH MORE THAN JUST MORALITY.

But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction...

Romans 3:21-22

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

Romans 1:17

For what does the Scripture say? "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Romans 4:3

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 5:6

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

1. The righteousness of God supersedes laws and rules for behavior. Moral codes are only for *earthly* life; they do not relate to *heavenly* life.
2. Righteousness is an issue of faith--what and Whom we believe. The life we want people to live is not one based on mandated behaviors or imposed restrictions. Rather, discipleship teaches people to believe the words of God as they relate to how we should live.
3. If the Kingdom (rulership) of God is the way God intends things to be--His choice about how they are to be--then discipling people to seek His righteousness is teaching them to want their life to be as He wants it.

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Hebrews 12:11

...having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Philip. 1:11

For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

Romans 10:3

But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

Tim. 6:11

...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17

4. Righteousness is a fruit that must be grown from the inside out. It is more than a list of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors.

5. Since God's ways are not our ways, we should not imagine that the moral code of any human society could match up with His righteousness. We should be wary of discipleship that is primarily moralistic, rather than spiritual in its orientation.

6. Righteousness is a quality in a person's life that develops as they embrace more and more of God's way of life.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...

2 Tim. 3:16

7. The Bible is the training manual for righteousness, and since the Bible speaks much more about the ways of God than it does about morality, discipling people in righteousness should be more than telling them what they should and should not do.

...in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left...

2 Cor. 6:7

8. Moral codes, like the Law, do have a measure of righteousness to them, but they can not provide the people of God with strong spiritual weaponry.

Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

Ephes. 6:14

9. Though morality does warn us away from dangerous situations, it does not really have the ability to defend us from attack.

For even if I should boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I shall not be put to shame,
2 Cor. 10:8

#4 THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORITY IS TO BUILD UP PEOPLE.

For this reason I am writing these things while absent, in order that when present I may not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me, for building up and not for tearing down.

2 Cor. 13:10

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ...

Ephes. 4:11-12

For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed-- God is witness--nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

1 Thes. 2:5-6

...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

1 Peter 5:2-3

1. Ultimately, spiritual leadership must be evaluated on the degree to which it has been able to fulfill its assignment: building people up. This is especially true in discipleship. Too often, spiritual leaders focus on their *positional authority*, and not on what that authority is supposed to accomplish.
2. Authority *can* righteously be asserted at times; we *can* “throw our weight around,” but in most cases such heaviness is motivated by selfish greed or out of a desire for recognition.
3. Disciples who are eager to help, willing to invest the time, and servant-hearted will be incredible examples to those they disciple.

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

2 Tim. 4:2-4

This testimony is true. For this cause reprove them severely that they may be sound in the faith...

Titus 1:13

This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men. But shun foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law; for they are unprofitable and worthless. Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

Titus 3:8-11

For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

2 Tim. 2:10

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Ephes. 5:1-2

4. The fact that we should not be *heavy* in our dealings with those we disciple does not mean that we sit by passively when they make mistakes. One of the main tools of discipleship is *reproof: detail their fault, convince them of it and explain to them how to correct it.*

5. When we tell people things that are *good and profitable* for them to learn, we can speak with great confidence: earnest, thorough affirmation of what is right (and what is wrong).

6. The example we follow--of both Jesus and Paul--is that of a selfless servant who does what he does so that others can be given an advantage.

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10

7. The reason we have been specially equipped and gifted is so that we can serve others in unique ways. God's multi-faceted grace has designed people for every need.

And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

2 Tim. 2:2

8. Discipleship is always thinking about the second generation--the people who will only hear the ones who hear us.

So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Romans 14:19

9. With so many Christians thinking mostly about their own spiritual needs, it is a good reminder that we are supposed to pursue after love, spiritual gifts that edify others, and "the things that make for the building up of one another."

...nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority...[instead] we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children...
1 Thes. 2: 6, 11

#5 INVITATIONS WORK BETTER THAN COMMANDS.

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

And as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man, called Matthew, sitting in the tax office; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he rose, and followed Him.

Matthew 9:9

...who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity...

2 Tim. 1:9

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble...

1 Cor. 1:26

...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Romans 11:29

1. Our life in the Lord begins with an invitation that is never rescinded. Implicit in the invitation is the promise for our future development.
2. The invitation we receive from the Lord is not based on our prior performance or manifest potential. The Lord assumes the burden of making us into something we could not become on our own.
3. The invitation and equipping from the Lord are not retractable; we may decline them at any point, but He does not take them away.

Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God...
Romans 1:1

4. Each person we disciple has been called by God and *set apart* for unique ministry. God makes no distinction of value between people with *different* callings.

To this end also we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power...

2 Thes. 1:11

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...

Ephes. 4:1

5. Though the invitation is freely offered and without preconditions, there are fitting and appropriate ways in which to keep responding to it. A refusal to fit in with the object of the invitation is a way of refusing the invitation.

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philip. 3:14

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Matthew 16:24

6. Since the invitation is to a *transformational process*--a walk with Jesus--we must expect that it will cost us something to keep up with it all.

"When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. And a stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."

John 10:4-5

7. Jesus' relationship with us is intimate, not proprietary, and it is the closeness we enjoy with Him that makes us want to accept His invitation to follow Him.

Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Galatians 6:1

#6 PEOPLE NEED MENDING MORE THAN MINDING.

*And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, **mending** their nets; and He called them.* *Matthew 4:21*

*"A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully **trained**, will be like his teacher."* *Luke 6:40*

*Now the God of peace, **equip** you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.* *Hebrews 13:20-21*

1. Though **mending** can be variously defined (preparing, equipping, furnishing, etc.), it implies working with what you have, and adjusting, repairing or refurbishing it.
2. *Becoming like* a mentor has interesting implications. Rather than getting people to mind what we tell them, we can put our emphasis on mending them so that they become like us--and approach things like we would.
3. *Equipping* ought to make it easier to do God's will by developing in us those attitudes, qualities and perspectives that are like His.

*Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, **restore** such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.*

Galatians 6:1

4. Much discipleship is done after-the-fact. A mark of true spirituality is the ability to restore failed saints in a spirit of gentleness (not frustration and disappointment), all the while realizing our own vulnerability.

*...follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you...
[but] with labor and hardship we kept working night and day...in order to
offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example.*

2 Thes. 3:7-9

#7 DISCIPLESHIP IS A PROCESS, NOT A PERFORMANCE.

1. John 21:18-22
2. Romans 12:1-6
3. II Corinthians 11:28-29
4. Galatians 6:6-14
5. Colossians 3:12-17
6. I Thessalonians 2:8-9