



Course Name: SALT Discipleship Lesson 7 - A Discipleship Maturity Model

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Course description:

This course describes a disciple maturity model that can help us diagnose where we are on our journey as a Christian becoming an effective disciple-maker.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class students will have:

- A. Examined scripture as it relates to sowing and reaping.
- B. Identified and studied the five components of the faith journey.
- C. Clarified where they are as a disciple on the journey to being a disciple-maker.

Outline of the class: Divide the class into groups of three or four. Ask each group to spend about 10-15 minutes examining the five components of the faith journey and write out or list their answers to the discussion questions located at the end of the lesson. Then, ask each group to share their responses with the entire class.

A. We are called to sow

John 4:34-36 “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.’”

This statement by Jesus would have been mind blowing for those of the first century. They were very familiar with agriculture – more than we are today. With farming, there is great joy when reaping or harvesting but not much joy just sowing or planting. Jesus says we are to sow or plant the word and we can rejoice with those that are reaping – we just need to sow and let the Lord give the increase.

B. Here is a way we can self assess where we are on our faith journey. See the chart on the last page of the lesson. Are we prepared to share the gospel with everyone?

Just to be clear, as we grow in our faith journey, one thing can never change - we must always view Scripture as the Holy and inspired Word of God that never changes and nothing can be added to it or taken away from it. We must have such a high view of scripture as to take the plain and simple reading of the commands of the Bible as our aim for complete obedience.

1. **Compliance** - Go to church, donate to missions... Is this enough? If not, get curious about what's going on in the lives of others.
2. **Curiosity** - Wondering what is going on in the life of others can then lead to caring about them.
3. **Caring** - Genuinely caring what is happening in the lives of others – compels thinking about others as souls. Once some congregations set goals about growth, they go from looking at people around them as neighbors and then starting to see them as souls. This leads to a conditional love.
4. **Conditional Love** - Feeling love for those we like and identify with. Then we start to realize that every soul is saved or lost – people aren't just in some limbo – they are saved or lost. If we realize this – then we start to have unconditional love for all those around us.
5. **Unconditional Love** - Loving everyone unconditionally so we share the gospel with everyone.

D. Where are you on your faith journey? Where do you want to be?

Discussion Question 1: Do you see people around you as souls? Does this knowledge compel you to do anything differently in sharing the gospel to those around you?

Discussion Question 2: Do you believe every soul is either in a saved or lost condition? Does this knowledge compel you to do anything differently in sharing the gospel to those around you?

Discussion Question 3: What can you do as an individual and as a congregation that would help you share the gospel with someone who has not come to know Jesus?

Conclusion:

- A. We can develop unconditional love for everyone as a precursor to making disciples.
- B. Over the next week, spend time each day praying about someone you know, either on the job, in your neighborhood, or a family member who is not a Christian. Ask God to open a door for you to talk with them about Jesus.

Possible Faith Journey

Compliance

Go to church
Donate to missions,
...

Caring

Genuinely caring
what is happening in
the lives of others –
looking at others as
souls

Unconditional Love

Do you believe everyone is
either saved or lost?
Loving everyone
unconditionally



Curiosity

Wondering what is
going on in the life of
others

Conditional Love

Feeling love for those we
like and identify with