

THE TURNING POINT

SELECTION



BIG IDEA: THE TURNING POINT OF DISCIPLE MAKING OCCURS WHEN A LEADER CAREFULLY SELECTS INDIVIDUALS UPON WHOM TO FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS.

This study seeks to explore the process by which Jesus selected the twelve apostles. From it a number of principles for disciple making can be derived. It illustrates the importance of prayer, adequate preparation and choosing the appropriate people. The focus of this study is on the principle and process of selection. In-depth training on the qualities of who to select is found in other Campus Crusade for Christ material (see the N.L.T.C. Advanced Training.)



DESIRED LIFE CHANGE: As a result of this study, the members of your group should identify and take the next step toward selecting key disciples upon which to focus their disciple-making efforts.



AUDIENCE: This study is designed for students who are being disciplined and who have begun to be involved in an evangelism and disciple-making ministry.



LEADER'S PREPARATION: This study was written to provide a Bible study which complements the principles taught in the first chapter of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Read thoroughly the first chapter of *The Master Plan of Evangelism* entitled "Selection." Highlight key quotes and principles found there. Then read through the entire lesson, answering the questions in the way you anticipate the group might. Take extra time to focus on the passages used in the study.



ASSIGNMENT: If doing this study as a series with *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, each student should read the first chapter before the Bible study.



AT A GLANCE

As your group interacts in this study, they will think . . .

This is my **WORLD:** Selection occurs frequently in many activities and student organizations.

This is my **NEED:** The impact of my disciple making will be significantly limited if I do not learn to apply the principle of selection.

This is my **ANSWER:** Jesus' own model of selection provides me with the principles of prayer, preparation and people.

This is the **DIFFERENCE** it will make: The principle of selection helps set direction for my disciple-making ministry.

This is what I'll **DO:** I will evaluate my own ministry and the individuals to whom I minister to determine what my next step toward selection will be.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – WHY IS THIS STUDY IMPORTANT?



Being a disciple involves faithfully following Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Master. It is the calling of every true believer. Making disciples involves helping individuals become true and faithful followers of Christ. It is an all-encompassing ministry which begins with evangelism and continues through maturity of the believer. Every believer can contribute in some way to disciple making though it may be in one of many different styles and forms of ministry.

Multiplication is the specific strategy of disciple making in which disciples make disciples who in turn will make other disciples. It is not the only legitimate approach to ministry. Nor will it involve everyone. We should always seek to honor and respect the ministry that God entrusts

to others, but multiplication is so strategic and important that it demands our attention and efforts in Campus Crusade for Christ. It provides the context in which laborers and leaders can be raised up for the harvest.

Selection marks the turning point (not the beginning) of disciple making. It is the point at which we begin to concentrate our disciple-making efforts on individuals who will in turn multiply those efforts in others' lives. This sets the stage for multiplication. Successful selection requires a great deal of prayer and preparation as well as care in selecting the right people. While more of an art than a science, the principles of selection can be learned by studying the methods of Jesus.

1 ASK: Today we are going to examine a crucial aspect of disciple making by examining the ministry of Jesus. But before we get into His ministry, I want you to think: What are examples of students being “selected” or chosen, and what is the basis or criteria used for the selection? (examples: Greek houses, athletic teams, student government, jobs, scholarships and aid, etc.)

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS: All selection involves “distinguishing” between individuals. Why is this necessary? When is it illegitimate?


2 ASK: Should selection ever occur among believers? Why or why not? Follow-up questions could include specifics like, “Should selection occur in the church for pastors or other leaders?” “. . . for missionaries?”

3 STATE: All selection is defined by the purpose of the activity or organization. Within our disciple making, selection occurs when an individual or small group is chosen (and often challenged) with the purpose of preparing them to reproduce the ministry. This is the turning point in disciple making.

STATE: To see the significance of selection, think of the consequences of failing to select.

4 ASK: (Organizations would lose their distinctiveness; athletic teams would become mediocre, etc.)

5 ASK: (After the Ascension, the young believers would have suffered due to a lack of leadership; the whole Christian movement probably would have died in the first generation; no one would have been in the role as the authoritative teachers of Christ’s commands)



DISCIPLE-MAKING SERIES VERSION 1.3

THE TURNING POINT

BRAINSTORM

What are examples of students being selected in the collegiate world?

EXPLORE

Should selection occur among believers? Why or why not?

TURNING POINT

A point at which a significant change occurs

ON YOUR OWN

There are many examples throughout the scriptures of believers being selected for a variety of specific tasks or roles. Check out:

Passage	People	Purpose
Acts 6:1-6		
Acts 13:1-3		
Acts 16:1-5		

WHAT IF . . .

What if the organizations on campus never selected?

WHAT IF . . .

What if Jesus had never selected the apostles?

WHAT IF . . .

What if in your personal ministry you never selected?

In light of all that is at stake, it is important that we learn the principles of selection from the Master . . .

TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD

6 ASK: (You would never have as great of an impact as you could; your impact would be shallow; at times you would focus your efforts on the wrong people)

7 STATE

1 **STATE:** The turning point in Jesus' disciple-making ministry occurred when He selected the 12 disciples. We want to explore that incident together and see what principles we can learn for our own ministries.

2 **READ**

3 **STATE:** There are three principles we want to discuss and apply from this passage. The first is Prayer.

4 **ASK** How long did Jesus spend in prayer? What is the longest that you have ever spent in prayer? What do you think it would be like for you to spend an entire night in prayer? (exhausting; I'd have nothing to say after the first hour) What does this teach you about Jesus? (cf. Luke 5:16)

STATE: Applying the principle of prayer doesn't mean that we have to spend the entire night in prayer. But it does mean that prayer is important to the process of selecting disciples.

5 **ASK:** Why do you think Jesus was praying? What do you think Jesus was praying about? [While it doesn't say, it seems likely that He was praying for both guidance regarding who to choose (cf., John 5:30) and for the Father's work in the lives of those He would choose (as he did in John 17:9-11 and 15).]

CONTEXT

"Having given us a sketch of the general character of the ministry of Jesus (4:14-5:11) and depicted the relationship of Jesus to His opponents (5:12-6:11), Luke now describes the relationship of Jesus to His disciples."* It is not a coincidence that after the official religious leadership rejected Him (6:1-11), Jesus selected the twelve and began to focus His ministry on His future leadership.

*I. H. Marshall, *The New Bible Commentary*, Revised, p. 898

LUKE 6:12-16

12 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

13 When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

14 Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew,

15 Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot,

16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

INSIGHT

"Among those who came to hear Jesus was a group who regularly followed him and were committed to his teaching. At least 72 men were included, since this many disciples were sent out on an evangelistic campaign (10:1,17). . . . From such disciples Jesus at this time chose 12 to be his apostles, meaning: ones sent with a special commission."

—Note, *New International Version Study Bible*, p. 1549.

The day the Master selected . . .

What principles can we learn from Jesus' model?

➤ Prayer

DISCUSS

Why was Jesus praying?

CROSS-REFERENCE

Compare John 15:16 with John 17:6. What insight do these passages provide on what occurred that night?

KEY PRINCIPLE

6 **ASK:** (Jesus was not simply taking volunteers. He was selecting men who the Father had determined to give to Him, for Him to teach and train that they should reproduce fruit.)

ASK: According to John 17:6, why did Jesus select these men?

7 **STATE:** The key principle is: Selection begins with prayer, seeking God's guidance for the disciples He would give to us to teach and train, and praying for His work in their lives.

1 STATE: The second principle is Preparation. It is important to realize how long Jesus was involved with the disciples before selecting them to be apostles. By reading a “harmony of the gospels” (a reference which weaves the four gospels together in chronological order), you discover that there were two major blocks of time in Jesus’ ministry before this (John 1:35-5:47 and Mark 1:14-3:12).

► Preparation



Selection begins by public willingness to publicly associate.
—Carl Wilson

INSIGHT
It takes time to prepare for selection. It is estimated that Jesus spent 1 3/4 years with the disciples before he chose the apostles (Winter, A.D. 27-Fall, A.D. 28) and 1 1/2 years after (Fall, A.D. 28-Spring, A.D. 30)

2 SEARCH: Divide the group in half. Half the members should search the John text looking at the incidents in the box. The others should look through Mark. Have them individually skim through looking for examples of the different kinds of situations in which Jesus was involved with the disciple. Have them label each with either an “F” for the situations which were formal (that is, those in which Jesus was directly ministering to the disciples or others) or an “I” for the informal (those in which they were with Jesus in non-ministry settings).

JOHN 1:35-5:47	MARK 1:14-3:12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spends a day together with two disciples (1:38, 39) Travels from the Jordan River to Galilee with disciples (1:43) Attends a wedding together (2:1ff) Spends a few days with Jesus’ family in Capernaum (2:12) Goes to Jerusalem for the Passover with disciples (2:13-22) Does some baptizing ministry in the countryside (3:22 & 4:1, 2) Travels back to Galilee through Samaria (4:4ff) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calls the men to follow Him (1:16-20) Teaches in the synagogue (1:21-28) Stays at Simon & Andrew’s home with James & John (1:29) Goes preaching throughout Galilee together (1:38, 39) Dinner party with Levi (2:15-17) etc., etc.

EXPLORE
Why are formal times such as being involved in evangelism valuable preparation for selection?

6 STATE: The final principle is that of “people.” Who we select.

EXPLORE
Why are informal times such as spending time together at each other’s homes valuable preparation for selection?

3 ASK

4 ASK

► People

... at first they do not impress us as being key men In short, these men selected by the Lord to be His assistants represented an average cross section of the lot of society in their day. Not the kind of group one would expect to win the world for Christ. Yet Jesus saw in these simple men the potential of leadership for the Kingdom.
—Robert Coleman

EXPLORE
Look up these encounters between the disciples and Jesus. What do they reveal about the kind of men they were?
John 1:35-42
John 1:43-45
Mark 1:16-20
Mark 2:13-17

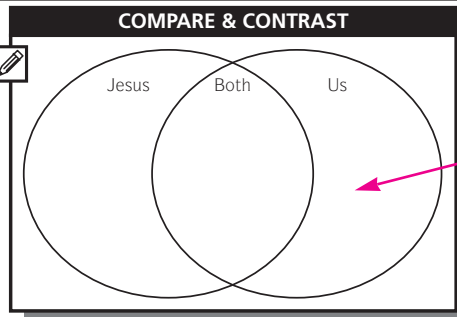
(examples: John—**informal**: spent day together, went to wedding, stayed with Jesus’ family; **formal**: teaching Nicodemus, baptizing; Mark—**informal**: visited Simon and Andrew’s home, had dinner at Levi’s house; **formal**: taught in the synagogue, went preaching in villages)

5 STATE: Preparation for selection involves both formal and informal times together, both to prepare the disciple and to provide insight for who to select.

7 ASK: What do you know about the disciples? Who were they and what were they like?

8 READ ASK: Have a different member look up each passage and answer, “What was it that Jesus saw in these men that qualified them for the role of apostle?” (teachable; left all to follow; etc.)
STATE: In disciple making it is important that we consider the character and commitment of those we select.

Putting the principles into practice . . .



CASE STUDY

Melvin had led his Bible study for a semester. He had had 5-7 men come to it, off and on. Three had been real consistent, though one of them he hardly knew. His best friend and roommate came a couple of times. It seemed that everyone had a busy schedule, so they hadn't done anything special as a group. In fact, they rarely saw each other on campus. Now Melvin's discipler was challenging him to begin discipling some of the key men.

In light of the principles in this study, what advice would you give to Melvin? Where should he go from here?

EVALUATE

What stage is my disciple-making ministry at? Am I ready for selection?

EVALUATE

Who am I involved with who demonstrates the readiness to become involved in a more concentrated opportunity of Christian growth, training and ministry?

PLAN

What are the next steps that I should take in my disciple-making ministry?

EXPLORE

Selection implies that there will be people who will not be selected. How should Melvin continue to relate to those not selected?

ON YOUR OWN

Lazarus was a friend of Jesus but was never selected to be an apostle. Read about their relationship and Jesus' involvement with him in John 11:1-44.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: Read "Selection," Chapter 1 in *Master Plan for Evangelism*, by Robert Coleman (Spire Books).

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Published by Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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1 STATE: As we consider how to put these principles into practice, it's important to compare and contrast Jesus and His ministry with us and our ministry.

2 ASK: What are the differences? (have them jot down their answers in the Venn Diagram) What is true about Jesus but not about us or vice versa? (Jesus was the perfect Son of God, who was in a full-time traveling ministry, able to live with his disciples, etc.; we are students, not that mature or experienced in ministry.) What is true for both of us? (we have the opportunity to be involved in evangelism and discipleship; we have the same Spirit empowering us, the same principles guiding us, etc.)

3 READ & DISCUSS: (Melvin needs to take some time outside of the group to spend with the faithful men; he should involve them in other opportunities for growth which will allow him to see their hearts, such as taking them sharing; he should spend time praying about and for his potential disciples, etc.)

4 ASK: What should Melvin do with those who he will not select? What are possible ways Melvin could stay involved with and encourage the growth of those not selected? What are other opportunities in the movement he could help them get involved in?

5 APPLY: Take a couple of minutes to think through your life and ministry. Answer the two evaluation questions and the planning question.

SHARE & PRAY: Share with each other what stage or level each individual's disciple-making ministry is at and what the next steps should be. Pray for one another.



FOR FURTHER STUDY

Ch. 1: "Selection," *The Master Plan of Evangelism* – Robert Coleman (*Spire Books*)

Ch. 9: "Choosing a Disciple," *The Making of a Disciple* – Dr. Keith Phillips (*Spire Books*)

Jesus Christ Disciple-Maker – Bill Hull (*NavPress*)

CHALLENGING STUDENTS TO A DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

A structured challenge is often used within Campus Crusade for Christ to ensure consistency of content as it is transferred throughout the movement, even by third and fourth generation discipleship group members. In using this or any other structured challenge, keep in mind the following guidelines:

1. Personalize it by sharing your personal concern and burden for the world in general, and for your campus in particular.
2. Look up and discuss the Scripture passages regarding the Great Commission, evangelism and multiplication.
3. Write in your personal goals for the ministry. Enthusiastically paint a verbal picture of what the ministry will look like when these goals are reached.
4. Share the qualifications needed to be involved in a positive and personal manner. There are four commitments which are generally assumed as the qualifications for a discipleship training opportunity, but each commitment can be spelled out with different specific applications or different levels of maturity depending on the nature of the opportunity. A person should be:
 - Committed to Christ
 - Committed to initiative evangelism
 - Committed to multiplication
 - Committed to your campus ministry
6. Discuss the time commitments necessary for involvement.
7. Give the person time (two or three days) to think and pray about involvement.

—Adapted from *How to Make Your Mark*, Campus Crusade for Christ

DISCIPLER'S CHECKLIST:

- PRAYER:** I have prayed diligently.
 - For wisdom regarding who I should challenge.
 - For the growth and development of those I will challenge.
- PREPARATION:** I have prepared carefully.
 - By spending time with him helping him grow and become involved (small groups, fellowship meetings, doing ministry, etc.).
 - By spending time with him in informal settings, getting to know him as a person and seeing his heart for God.
- PEOPLE:** I have a confidence in him.
 - He desires to know God intimately.
 - He is faithful.
 - He is available.
 - He is teachable.
 - He demonstrates a genuine concern for people and ability to form relationships.
 - He desires to share his faith and help others grow.
 - He is able to effectively communicate his faith.

F.A.T. is a popular acronym for the qualities of a disciple: Faithful, Available, and Teachable. Here's a closer look at each of these words.

Faithful—can be used to communicate one who is reliable, responsible, and trustworthy with what has been entrusted to him (2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Corinthians 4:2), or one who displays trust and reliance upon God (Gal. 3:9; John 20:27).

Available—means capable of being reached; at hand and ready to serve (*American Heritage Desk Dictionary*). It does not mean they never have anything else to do or cannot say no when they need to. It means that they make ministry a high priority with a genuine desire to be involved.

Teachable—conveys the attitude of openness to learn what another seeks to teach. It is not mere complacency nor the failure to ask the tough penetrating questions. It's marked by the desire to learn and to grow.

Are you F.A.T.? Are those who you are considering challenging F.A.T.?

O V E R V I E W O F M E E T I N G T I M E



Planning your group session

Allocating your time

	INTERACTION AS A GROUP	INTERACTION WITH THE STUDY & WORD	INTERACTION WITH GOD	UPCOMING INFORMATION	OTHER IDEAS
	Ice breaker? Refreshments?	Provided. Add personal story?	Worship / Praise / Prayer time?	Next meeting? Special event?	Music / Video?
	_____ min.	_____ min.	_____ min.	_____ min.	_____ min.

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