

THE DISCIPLING PRINCIPLE – PART 2

Introduction – Concentrating on just a small group or a single individual as a mentor can expand into a four-generational discipling process. Modern Christianity has tended to focus on larger group gatherings like a worship service or Sunday school.

Jesus modeled a variety of relational levels in his ministry.

1. Jesus' most intimate relationship appears to be with John who was one of the twelve Apostles. He is referred to as the "beloved disciple" (John 13:23; 19:26; 21:7; 21:20). John was Jesus' closest friend.
2. John, Peter, and James represent the second level of spiritual intimacy in a discipling relationship. The gospel of Mark highlights this in Mark 5:37; 9:2; 14:32-33.
3. The third level of spiritual intimacy is the twelve Apostles.

Mark 3:13-15

4. The fourth level of spiritual intimacy is the 70 or 72 who Jesus sent out to preach the good news.

Luke 10:1

5. The fifth level of spiritual intimacy would be the larger group of disciples that numbered about 120 (Acts 1:15) or the 500.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6

6. The sixth level of spiritual intimacy would be the crowds or multitudes where He healed and taught the people.

Conclusion – During a period of three or four years Jesus engaged in a discipling ministry. He accomplished the four-generational process before leaving (Jesus, the twelve, the 72, and the 120). The results were a gradually expanding outreach to the world of the first century.

Acts 1:8