Small Group
Facilitator's Guide

Structure: There are six sessions in this study. Prior to each session, participants should read the following chapters of the book:

Follow to Lead Overview

Session One	Go Make Disciples The Mission and the Method *Read the preface and chapters 1–2 before the meeting.*
Session Two	As You Go, Make Disciples Living Intentionally *Read chapters 3–4 before the meeting.*
Session Three	Follow to Lead The Game Changer *Read chapters 5–6 before the meeting.*
Session Four	The Great Commission Church Department or Church Culture *Read chapters 7–8 before the meeting.*
Session Five	Disciple Makers as Tour Guides *Read chapters 9–10 before the meeting.*
Session Six	No More Excuses Make a Disciple, Secure the Future *Read chapters 11–13 before the meeting.*

A Word from the Author:

In the fall of 2012 I was praying and asking the Lord to speak to my heart about the vision He wanted for our local church in the coming year. I felt as though He clearly spoke into my spirit the words, "Go make disciples." I was temporarily stunned and felt a little taken aback. My flesh wanted to respond with, "Okay . . . I've been trying to make disciples my entire adult life. What else do You have for me?" I thought I knew all there was to know about making disciples. I had been reasonably successful at seeing unbelievers become committed saints of God during my years of ministry. I had never called it "making disciples" nor did I think of the Bible studies I taught as making disciples, but at that moment I felt a great expectation about what God was trying to say to me. I quickly dispelled my sarcasm and continued to pray over those words. The Lord seemed to let me know that I had much to learn about how He wanted me to fulfill His Great Commission.

A few days later I attended a small Christian leadership conference in Kansas City. The facilitator of the conference asked those in attendance to state their names and share their spheres of ministry. One man stood and said that his vision was to come alongside churches and help them make disciples. I thought, *Hmmm, this may be a cue card*. I took him aside during the break and, after a brief but intriguing discussion, invited him to lunch. To shorten the story, over the next eighteen months he partnered with us to help train and develop a disciple-making culture in our local church. After three years we found we still had a long way to go, but by the grace of God we have been making great progress in embedding a disciple-making culture in our local church.

In this small group series we proclaim the mandate of making disciples. We will discover what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in the first century and see how the twenty-first century is doing by comparison. We will revisit the forty-two months of Jesus' earthly ministry and discover how He was able to build the foundation of a church in such a short period of time that has now lasted nearly two thousand years. We will attempt to deconstruct a few of the excuses that well-meaning but uninformed Christians have presented to exempt them from answering Christ's command to make disciples. We will also take a close look at our own lives in an attempt to determine if we think a prospective disciple would find us worth following. We will examine the question that was asked of Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" and discover that the answer to this question has significant implications for local, national, and worldwide social harmony. Finally, we will explore some practical applications of disciple making in an effort to provoke thought and discussion within your local church.

Before the Study

- Pray that you and the members of the group will be ready to receive what God wants to reveal to each of you through this study.
- As the facilitator, you should read the entire book and watch all six sessions on the DVD to become familiar with the complete scope of the study. Each week, read the discussion questions and think through the answers you anticipate will be given. Prepare to lead the conversation and make notes on the direction you will take.
- Make sure your group size is small enough to encourage interaction by all participants; if it is too large, consider breaking up into several study groups.

During the Study

- Focus. It is easy for small group discussions to veer away from the goal of the study. Gently encourage group members back to the question at hand if this happens.
- Include. Ask specific questions of those who are more hesitant to participate to encourage them to join the discussion.

Session One

Go Make Disciples
The Mission and the Method

Read the preface and chapters 1–2 before the meeting.

Opening

Do you find it relatively easy to make new friends, or is it somewhat difficult to become friends with someone? Why?

Scripture reading

- Matthew 28:19
- Luke 5:1–11

Watch the video for session 1

Discuss the following questions:

1. Describe how unasked questions can become the "sticking points" (the places we get stuck) in our lives.

2. Many people have never found God's high calling in their lives. They've either not sought after or understood God's plan for them. Why do you think that is the case?

3. "Stuck people," according to the author in the opening chapter, "have a vision problem." What we focus on either brings movement or stagnation. Discuss a time in your life where something you dwelt on either caused you to move forward or not to move at all.

4. The author encourages us to ask questions of ourselves including: "What is my purpose for

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being here?" and "What is my place and where do I belong?" Why do you think asking such questions is important?

Closing

This week ask God to open doors to new friendships. Be proactive in looking for any opportunities God sets before you.

Reading assignment

Read chapters 3–4 before the next meeting.

Session Two

As You Go, Make Disciples
Living Intentionally

Read chapters 3–4 before the meeting.

Opening

In recent memory has a neighbor knocked on your door? Have you knocked on a neighbor's door?

Scripture reading

- Acts 5:42
- I Corinthians 11:1

Watch the video for session 2

Discuss the following questions:

1. How well do you know your neighbors?

2. Are there differences between how the first-century church lived their personal lives and how we live ours regarding reaching the unchurched?

3. What are the expectations for membership in the church you attend?

4. What are some different ways that can be used to measure spiritual maturity?

5. How would you describe your current level of spiritual maturity? Do you see any potential areas for growth?

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Closing

This week prayerfully consider your current level of spiritual maturity and any areas for potential growth.

Reading assignment

Read chapters 5–6 before the next meeting.

Session Three

Follow to Lead
The Game Changer

Read chapters 5–6 before the meeting.

Opening

In terms of role models throughout your life, who has had the greatest influence? Why?

Scripture reading

- John 14:12
- Luke 10:3–6

Watch the video for session 3

Discuss the following questions:

1. In your opinion, who do you think you currently influence the most?

2. Are there people you have in mind that you want to reach with the gospel of Jesus Christ?

3. Is there anything stopping you from being an effective disciple maker?

4. How can you get those obstacles out of the way?

Closing

This week prayerfully consider anything that may be stopping you from making a disciple and pray God will help you.

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Reading assignment

Read chapters 7–8 before the next meeting.

Session Four

The Great Commission
Church Department or Church Culture

Read chapters 7–8 before the meeting.

Opening

How did you come to be part of this small group?

Scripture reading

- II Corinthians 2:13
- Luke 10:25–29

Watch the video for session 4

Discuss the following questions:

1. Who is primarily responsible to notice when people are absent at church on Sunday?

2. In the intersection of vision and culture, which one is stronger?

3. Give an example of something amazing God has done in your life.

4. Have you shared your testimony with anyone recently?

5. As you consider your own personal testimony, what components do you think are the most compelling? Would others agree with your assessment, or are there aspects that might be more appealing to somebody else?

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Closing

Think about something amazing God has done in your life, and share your testimony with someone this week.

Reading assignment

Read chapters 9–10 before the next meeting.

Session Five

Disciple Makers as Tour Guides

Read chapters 9–10 before the meeting.

Opening

Have you ever experienced a new place with a tour guide? Have you gone to a new place without one? What was each experience like and which do you prefer?

Scripture reading

- I Peter 2:9
- Acts 11:25–26

Watch the video for session 5

Discuss the following questions:

1. Who do you know who possesses a "there you are" spirit?

2. What does the phrase "walk slowly through the crowd" communicate to you?

3. How mature do you believe disciples must be before they can begin to make disciples?

4. What experience(s) have you had in helping someone mature in Christ and what impact did it have on you?

5. What are the positive aspects of someone asking you questions about what you believe?

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Closing

Consider what opportunities you might have in the coming week to serve people.

Reading assignment

Read chapters 11–13 before the next meeting.

Session Six

No More Excuses
Make a Disciple, Secure the Future

Read chapters 11–13 before the meeting.

Opening

Who was your first friend? How did you become friends with that person?

Scripture reading

- Ruth 1:8–14
- Acts 6:3–8

Watch the video for session 6

Discuss the following questions:

1. Have you ever had someone believe in you more than you believe in yourself? Who was that person?

2. What would you tell someone who feels unqualified or uncalled to make a disciple?

3. Which Bible character had inadequacies that encourage you when you think about being a disciple maker?

4. What do you see as your greatest strengths in disciple making? What are the things that challenge you?

5. What are your next steps to make a disciple?

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Closing

Set a goal for disciple making over the next twelve months.