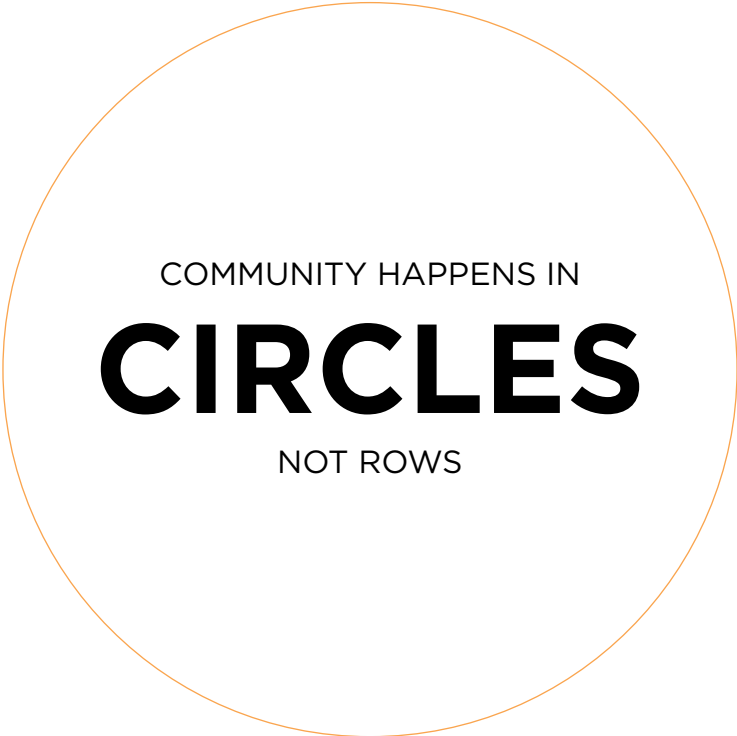




BIG 3

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR DISCIPLESHIP





COMMUNITY HAPPENS IN
CIRCLES
NOT ROWS

***WE LEARN IN ROWS.
WE GROW IN CIRCLES.***

IN A ROW

Whether we are sitting in a classroom, a hotel conference room, or in an auditorium, the truth is: we learn in rows. This is how most of us learned our ABC's, the periodic table, and the Gettysburg Address, right?

IN A CIRCLE

But where do we grow and connect best? Where do we develop spiritual growth and relational connection? Where do we unpack biblical truth, address the things that block us, and experience grace and life-change?

Those circles happen in living rooms, coffee shops, and pubs all in your communities and around your Flatirons campus. Like fertile soil, we grow when we take the time to build a safe relationship with others, where we can sit across from each other, face to face, and work through what God is teaching us. This growth is all built on a solid foundation of His Word, prayer, and healthy relationships.





PREFACE

Meet **DANIEL**, a successful accountant for a growing retail store. But his true passion lies in hunting and sports. There's nothing he loves more than loading up his two sons and a couple of buddies into his faded red pickup and heading to the woods. It's in those quiet moments in a deer stand, Bible in hand, or in conversations with admired coaches from his high school days, where Daniel has experienced profound spiritual moments. However, when his pastor challenged the church to become "disciple-makers," Daniel hesitated. He thought to himself, "If that means leading a Bible study at a coffee shop every week, I'm not sure if I can do that. It's just not who I am."

Now, let's meet **EMMA**. When she's not busy hiring consultants or attending her daughter's dance recitals, you'll find her savoring matcha lattes and diving into a good book. Emma is deeply devoted to the Lord, strives to be a Godly wife and mother, and has a strong desire to invest in the lives of other women. Although her family has been attending and serving at Flatirons for several years, Emma didn't grow up in a Christian home, and she sometimes feels inadequate in her faith when it comes to teaching and sharing with others. She yearns to make time in her busy schedule to meet with other women, but she's afraid that she won't have all the answers to their questions.

Lastly, let's introduce **KORY**. From the rigors of academics to the vibrant social atmosphere, Kory thrives in his college environment. He's eagerly involved in numerous activities on campus. Kory's teenage years were marked by rebellion, but when a friend invited him to church during his sophomore year of high school, everything changed. In his own words, "I heard the Gospel, and it transformed me. I gave my life to Christ right then and there." Two men from the church stepped in and became mentors to Kory, forever impacting his life. Now, as a college student, Kory has a deep desire to invest in the lives of young men. Yet, he can't help but feel a bit uncertain about what he has to offer, especially considering his limited time left in school.

Although these individuals—Daniel, Emma, and Kory—are vastly different, they all share one remarkable thing in common: each one of them, and you by the way, has the potential to make disciples and play a pivotal role in bringing the incredible life of Christ to a lost and broken world. Yes, you read that correctly! All they—and you—need is a guiding light, a practical tool or lens that can equip them to effectively make disciples. In other words, they need to realize that God has already bestowed upon them unique gifts, talents, abilities, and dreams, all of which He can use to impact those around them. God stands ready to unleash their potential—and yours—if they are willing to take that leap of faith.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."





THE MISSION

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He left His followers with a powerful mission known as “The Great Commission” (Matthew 28:19-20). As group leaders and disciple makers at Flatirons, we have a vital role in fulfilling this mission. But what does it mean to make disciples, and how do we apply it as group leaders in our community?

What is a Disciple? Being a disciple means more than just being a student. It’s about actively following, learning from, and modeling our lives after someone else. In our case, that someone is Jesus.

To make disciples then, is to engage in a journey of transformation and growth alongside others. It’s about helping people know Jesus, follow His teachings, and experience His life-changing power. As group leaders, we have the privilege of facilitating this process within smaller communities.

So, where do we start? We begin by fostering an environment where genuine relationships can flourish. In the busy hustle and bustle culture we find ourselves in, group leaders create a space where people can come together, be themselves, slow down, and share their joys and struggles. It’s a place of authenticity and acceptance, where we walk alongside one another.

So, let’s keep it real and authentic. Discipleship is not some abstract concept; it’s a journey we’re on together, right here in the midst of our current lives. In addition, God has called all his followers to walk alongside one another, getting to know God, loving others, and making an impact in our community and world. That’s what it means to be disciple makers and guess what it is something you can do!

THE END GOAL

Discipleship is also at its best when we begin with the end in mind. At Flatirons our desire is to **“Bring the awesome life of Christ to people in a lost and broken world.”** That is precisely what a disciple maker or group leader is—a devoted (yet not perfect) follower of Jesus who uses his life, story, and heart for others to bring and display the awesome life of Christ to others. To reach this end, we believe the Bible shows us 5 core values that must be present in the life of every disciple.





THE 5 CORE VALUES

1. BIBLICAL AUTHORITY—“A BETTER WAY TO DO LIFE”

The Bible is God’s Word and it is our authority for life. If we will adjust our lives (submit) to it, we will find a better way to live. (John 1:14)

2. RELATIONAL INTIMACY—“GRACE AND TRUTH”

No matter what you have done wrong, we believe that by grace through faith in Jesus alone, it is still possible to be reconnected back into an intimate relationship with God. (Romans 6:1-23 and 8:1-39)

3. SPIRITUAL FORMATION—“LIVING A ‘WITH-GOD’ KIND OF LIFE”

We believe that living life with God and with one another involves implementing an intentional strategy to know the One, True God, eliminate any obstacles or negative, untrue responses that stand against God’s truth, and engaging with God by serving God and our neighbor through our time, abilities and finances. (John 1:17)

4. EXCELLENT ENVIRONMENTS—“BUMP INTO JESUS”

Using our spiritual gifts, talents, abilities, resources, passions and creativity, we believe that it is our role and responsibility to create excellent environments and eliminate any and all obstacles so that people have the best opportunity to encounter (bump into) Jesus so that He can do what only He can do. (Colossians 3:17)

5. RELATIONAL EVANGELISM—“COME AND SEE”

Because of what Jesus has done for us we believe the most loving thing we can do for others is to go to them and invite them to come and see who Jesus is and what He has done for them. (Mark 2:1-28, Matthew 28:1-20).

THE JOURNEY—UNLEASHING TRANSFORMATION

God’s call to discipleship is accompanied by His divine equipping for the journey that lies ahead. In the following pages, we embark on an exploration of how we, as leaders, can guide and support the men and women in our lives and groups to wholeheartedly embrace the essence of discipleship.

When Jesus beckoned people to follow Him, He set in motion a profound transformation, catalyzed by three mighty forces that we affectionately call the BIG 3. We firmly believe that when we wholeheartedly embrace and embody the principles of the BIG 3, our lives become an irresistible testimony, drawing others closer to personally experiencing the overwhelming love of Christ. As group leaders, it is our sacred privilege to walk alongside others on this transformative journey. Get a glimpse of what this exhilarating adventure entails on the next page.





THE BIG 3 OF DISCIPLESHIP

1. KNOW GOD

We place a high priority on assisting our group members in coming to a true knowledge of God. This entails creating an atmosphere where strong bonds with God can develop. We delve deeply into His Word, sermons, or biblical teachings to discover its wisdom, direction, and truths. Inviting the Holy Spirit to reveal more about God’s nature and His purposes for our lives, we promote both private and communal reflection and prayer. We assist our group members in establishing a sincere and passionate connection with God through focused study, worship, prayer, and conversations.

2. LOVE PEOPLE

Next, we lead our group members in the practice of unconditional love. As group facilitators, we design environments where individuals may feel recognized, listened, and supported. We cultivate an environment where everyone is respected and inspired by a culture of inclusion and empathy. We encourage group members to seek out opportunities to lend a helping hand, exercise forgiveness, and show Christ-like love in their everyday encounters both within and outside of our groups.

3. IMPACT THE WORLD

Lastly, we empower our group members to Impact the World around them. Flatirons is more than just a place we call home; it’s filled with opportunities to make a difference. As group leaders, we push our team to go beyond their comfort zones and become involved with the needs of our neighborhood. We support gestures of generosity, advocacy, and service that demonstrate the love of Christ in concrete ways. We become agents of transformation through engaging with groups, giving back to our community, and actively taking part in projects that improve our world.

You want a group that looks more like Jesus? Then help cultivate a culture of the BIG 3 and watch what a world craving love does. It becomes irresistible and magnetic and a great way to show Jesus to others.

*KNOW
GOD*

*LOVE
PEOPLE*

*IMPACT
THE
WORLD*





KNOW GOD

Authentically Growing in a Relationship with God

JOHN 17:3

“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

SCRIPTURES THAT ADDRESS THE MATTER OF KNOWING GOD

Philippians 3:8, 1 John 5:20, 2 Peter 3:18, John 10:14-18, John 3:16

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

First and foremost, we prioritize helping our group members truly Know God. This means fostering an environment where deep connections with God are cultivated. We dive into His Word, sermon content, or bible teachings to explore its wisdom, guidance, and truths. We encourage personal prayer and reflection, inviting the Holy Spirit to reveal more of God’s character and His plans for our lives. Through intentional study, worship, and prayer, we help our group members develop a genuine, vibrant relationship with God.


As a leader, it’s crucial to understand the profound significance of helping your disciples truly know God. Developing a personal relationship with God through Jesus is not only transformative, but it also aligns us with the very purpose for which we were created. By intimately knowing God, we become the individuals He designed us to be, fulfilling the goals and purposes He intended for our lives.

Just as we invest time and effort in building relationships with others, nurturing a relationship with Christ requires intentionality and a willingness to dedicate ourselves to the process. There are no shortcuts or secret formulas; it demands a genuine desire to invite Him into every aspect of our existence. When we grasp this truth, we can help our group members understand that being in a relationship with Christ means surrendering every area of their lives to His lordship.

On the contrary, choosing to navigate life apart from God, disregarding His Word and design, often leads to brokenness, fear, doubt, and hopelessness. We have all experienced the consequences of attempting to figure out life independently from our Creator. That is why helping others know God and grow in their relationship with Jesus serves as the foundational cornerstone of discipleship. It is not merely an important choice; it is the most crucial decision anyone can ever make.

The significance of this choice cannot be overstated. It encompasses matters of life and death and carries eternal implications. As a leader, you play a pivotal role in guiding your disciples towards knowing God. This is best done not by having all the answers or seeming to have a perfect life, but by being open, vulnerable, and authentic about your own faith journey, doubts, mistakes, and personal





growth in knowing Christ. By creating space in your own life to cultivate intimacy with Him and by helping others embark on this journey, you are fulfilling your essential role. It is through knowing God and facilitating the knowledge of Him in others that lives are transformed, and eternal impact is made. The words in 2 Peter 1:5-8 serve as a foundation for this principle, urging us to strive for growth in knowing God:

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

HOW CAN I DO THIS?

The fight for faith is constant. Doubt, pride, and a growing number of temptations can erode our trust in God and His good plan for the world. And if we or our disciples shrink back in isolation, we risk succumbing to our own flesh and forfeiting our joy in Christ.

As a group leader, as you build a relationship with those you disciple be real, raw, open, and authentic while holding them and you accountable to what you discover on this journey. Doing so, helps serve as constant reminders to those we disciple, that victory in their spiritual life and the lives of those they love is always worth the fight.

This Knowing God catalyst and what Peter references as “make every effort” can be broken down into three Knowing God Principles that can help you see and measure life change in your disciple’s personal relationship with God.

- **Time with God:**

Do you and your disciple(s) read their Bible Daily?

Do you and your disciple(s) pray daily?

Do you and your disciple(s) supplement spiritual development with other resources (books, podcast, Devotionals, etc.)?

- **Worship**

Do you and your disciple(s) credit God for all they are and what they have?

Do you and your disciple(s) attend worship services weekly?

Do you and your disciple(s) look for opportunities to acknowledge God to others?

- **Faithfulness**

Do you and your disciple(s) understand their new identity in Christ and live as it is true?

Do you and your disciple(s) give your time, resources, and money to advance God’s Kingdom?

Do you and your disciple(s) have open and authentic conversations around sin and repentance?

In addition, we believe that God has given us two amazing gifts to help all people know him better. The first is the Bible and the other is prayer.





WORD OF GOD

Personal connections thrive when we invest time and effort in getting to know one another. Genuine relationships are built on mutual disclosure, where we share personal details and observe each other's way of life. This principle holds true in all relationships, including our relationship with God.

To cultivate a deeper connection with God, we rely on Him to reveal Himself to us. Fortunately, He has chosen to do so through His Word. Scripture plays a profound role in nurturing our relationship with Him by allowing us to hear directly from Him. It is through the pages of the Bible that God speaks to our hearts, reveals His character, and imparts His wisdom.

Approaching the study of Scripture with a clear objective is crucial. As we teach others the truths found in the Bible, it is essential to understand three fundamental realities that shape our experiences within it. These realities provide a framework for comprehending and applying the wisdom and guidance contained in Scripture.

First, recognize that Scripture is not a mere collection of human writings, but it is God's authoritative and inspired Word. It carries the weight of divine authority, serving as a guide for our lives. When we approach the Bible, we come face to face with the voice of God, speaking directly to us and revealing His purposes and plans (Rom. 1:16-17, Ex. 20:22, Heb. 1:1-2, Heb. 4:12).

Second, understand that Scripture is not a stagnant ancient text but a living and relevant source of truth. Despite being written in a different cultural context, its messages transcend time and speak to our present realities. The stories, teachings, and principles within Scripture address the universal human condition, offering wisdom and guidance that is applicable to our lives today (2 Tim. 3:16-17, Is. 55:11-13, Rom. 12:1-2).


Finally, embrace the transformative power of Scripture in our personal relationships with God. It is not meant to be a distant or detached encounter, but an intimate and dynamic conversation with our Creator. As we engage with the Word, listening attentively to what God is saying, it shapes our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. It deepens our understanding of who God is, strengthens our faith, and enables us to walk in alignment with His will (Neh. 8:12, Ps. 1, Ps. 119).

As group leaders, we have the privilege of guiding our disciples in their journey of encountering God through His Word. By emphasizing the significance of Scripture and encouraging regular engagement with it, we help our group members develop a personal relationship with God. Through hearing from Him in the pages of the Bible, they will experience spiritual growth, find guidance for life's challenges, and cultivate a deeper intimacy with their Creator.

Perhaps the greatest thing you can do for your disciple is to help them find a Bible reading plan and develop the habit of the daily reading and study of the Bible. If we train them in this, they can be fed on their own for the rest of their lives!

There are many different methods to studying the Bible, but one that is particularly helpful can be described by using the acrostic, "HEAR." As you read the Bible, you will capture these observations in your Bible and maybe a journal and share them with one another during your meeting times.





When looking at a verse, chapter, or even a whole book of scripture together, encourage your disciple to do these four things:

H - HIGHLIGHT

Highlight passages that stand out to you. Be sure to write the chapter and verse for reference.

E - EXPLAIN

Explain what the verse means. To whom was it written and why?

How does it fit with the verses before and after it? What is God telling us through this passage?

■ **Additional questions to ask:**

1. What does this passage tell me about God?
2. What does it tell me about sin?
3. What does it tell me about myself?

A - APPLY

Apply the truths of the text to your life. In light of these observations, how should this passage change the way I am currently living? In what ways does it apply to my situation? How should transformation take place? Is there a promise to believe? A command to follow? And area of sin that calls for repentance?

R - RESPOND

Respond with a next step. This can be through prayer, action, a conversation, or all of the above.

PRAYER

Prayer is not a mere ritual or an obligatory practice; it is the very heartbeat that drives everything you do as a group. It is the lifeline that connects you to God and unleashes His power in your midst. Recognizing the profound significance of prayer, it is essential to allocate dedicated moments each week to pray together as a group, inviting the Lord's intervention and guidance.

Consider creating a prayer-friendly environment, even if your usual meeting place is a restaurant or café. Find ways to set aside time after your meal or venture to a nearby park or quiet spot where you can pray together. The aim is to cultivate a natural and integral relationship with prayer, making it as instinctive as breathing—a fundamental part of your shared experience.

But prayer shouldn't be limited to designated group gatherings. Encourage your disciples to develop a habit of prayer that extends beyond scheduled times, permeating their entire lives. Lead by example, demonstrating the power of answered prayers and the transformative impact of seeking God's presence together. Show them how prayer can infuse every circumstance, question, and decision with divine wisdom and guidance.

When we engage in prayer, we invite God into every aspect of our lives. It should be an ongoing conversation that unfolds throughout the entirety of our day. By fostering a culture of prayer within your group, you create an environment where God's presence is acknowledged, sought after, and experienced in profound ways.

Here are **two simple ways** to help them learn how to pray.





BULLET PRAYERS

“Bullet” prayers are the spontaneous prayers we should be praying all the time about everything. Paul said, “In EVERYTHING” we are to pray, and this is the key to freedom from worry (Philippians 4:6-7). As you are meeting with your disciple(s) and they express a concern or need, stop right then and say, “Let’s pray about that right now” and simply lead them in a short, specific, simple prayer about that issue. Remind them that they can do this all day long, and should, about every issue.

If they call you in a 9-1-1 moment (we discuss this more in the next section), don’t leave the conversation with just giving them counsel or encouragement. Lead them to prayer right at that moment. Model for them how critical it is to take the issue directly to God through prayer.

PROGRESSION IN PRAYER.

Most people do not understand the progression of prayer. Plan some moments when you meet that are centered specifically around prayer. Take a prayer walk through the park or around their neighborhood. At some point, study Jesus’ model prayer in Matthew 6:5-15 with them.

Notice that Jesus taught His disciples how to approach God’s throne in prayer (verses 5-9). Our approach in prayer is as important as our content. When we come to God in prayer, we come:

- **Sincerely** (verse 5—we come not to impress others, but to talk to God)
- **Secretly** (verse 6—we come focusing on God, shutting the door and looking to Him and not worrying about the others around us)
- **Simply** (verse 7—we don’t need fancy words or some formula. It’s very important to help them pray “conversationally” i.e., just like they would have a normal conversation with anyone else)
- **Simple Faith** (verse 8—God knows what we need and has promised to answer our prayers if we will come)
- As **sons and daughters!** (verse 9—He is our Father and we are simply having a conversation with our Dad who loves us perfectly!)


Also, notice the progression Jesus taught in prayer. It is very important to teach them a simple pattern for prayer.

- **Adoration** (verse 9—look at the Father and adore Him for who He is and what He has done. This sets everything in the right perspective as we begin to pray)
- **Confession** (verse 12-13—As you look at the Father you will see your sin. Take some time to humbly acknowledge your sin and need and thank Him for His forgiveness.)
- **Petition** (verse 11—Pray for yourself and your “daily bread” needs)
- **Intercession** (verse 13—Pray for others: for spiritual protection and for God’s kingdom to advance in their lives, homes, church, workplace, community, world, etc.)

After you’ve taught this to them through this passage, take some time to pray this way with them. Say, “Let’s begin by just walking into God’s presence and thanking Him for who He is and what He’s done.” After you’ve done this for a few minutes say, “Let’s take a minute to confess any areas of sin”...and continue to lead him/her through the remaining components of petition and intercession.

Don’t belabor prayer until its awkward. A few moments of powerful prayer are better than an extended





time of uncomfortable silence. As you meet, walk through this pattern again and again until it is second nature to them.

INITIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DISCIPLE(S):

- Describe your relationship with God this week.
- How is your fight for holiness?
- What have you done with the truth we heard on Sunday and/or talked about during our last meeting time?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Where have you seen the Lord at work lately?
- What has the Lord been teaching you recently?
- Are you becoming better equipped to study God's Word by yourself on a daily basis?
- Does it seem like your disciple is cultivating healthy, personal prayer lives that's coming out of your times together?
- Have you shared the Gospel with anyone this week?
- Have you had any obvious answers to prayer recently?
- Have you been meditating on, and not just reading, Scripture?
- Have you been with a member of the opposite sex in a way that might be considered compromising or questionable?
- Have any of your financial dealings lacked integrity and are you giving to the things God tells us to?
- Have you exposed yourself to any sexually explicit material?
- Have you given priority time to your family (if applicable)?
- How well have you taken care of your body (i.e.- eating well, exercising, etc.)?

MEASURING PROGRESS

Remember, sustained life change is sometimes very hard to measure! Here are some questions to ask that might help along the way:

- Do my group members have a Bible reading plan and practice reading the word of God daily?
- Do my group members have a plan and practice prayer (talking and listening to God) at least daily?
- Is my disciple and/or people in my group specific when confessing sin or is it generic and vague?
- Do they fight for holiness more and more each week? For example, are they beginning to send texts/call in moments of temptation or weakness?
- Is there an increasing hunger for God's Word?
- Are they beginning to share the Gospel with others?
- Am I loving them enough to ask the tough questions? Am I finishing the last 10% of the needed

Disciples must constantly be reminded that life in Christ is always worth the fight, and accountability questions like these serve as a way to evaluate where our disciples are in that fight. Once we are able to help our disciples experience the truth, mercy, forgiveness, and love of God through a relationship with Jesus, it changes everything. Then the Holy Spirit can help them start to understand His promises and their identity and gives them what they need for the next two Big 3 catalyst.





LOVE PEOPLE

Authentically Involved in the Lives of Others

JOHN 13:34

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

PROVERBS 27:17

“Iron sharpens iron,
and one man sharpens another.”

SCRIPTURES THAT ADDRESS THE MATTER OF LOVE AND THE HEART

Deuteronomy 15:7-8, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 5:8, Matthew 5:16, John 15:12-13, Philippians 4:7

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Next, we guide our group members to Love People wholeheartedly. In a bustling state like ours, it's easy to get caught up in our individual lives and forget the importance of authentic relationships. As group leaders, we create spaces where people can be known, heard, and supported. We foster a culture of love, acceptance, and empathy, where everyone feels valued and encouraged. We inspire our group members to extend a helping hand, practice forgiveness, and demonstrate Christ-like love in their everyday interactions. By living out this value, we create a ripple effect of compassion and unity in our Flatirons community.

The next crucial catalyst in disciple-making is love. It is the defining factor that distinguishes a compassionate and wise disciple-maker from a mere “Know-It-All.” Nobody enjoys the company of someone who acts like they know everything. Such individuals are often more concerned about showcasing their own intelligence than genuinely caring for the people around them. Their focus tends to be on imparting information without showing any real concern for others or how that information impacts their lives. We can easily identify such individuals, as their lack of genuine care becomes apparent. They may provide a wealth of knowledge, but they fail to establish lasting and meaningful relationships.

As we have experienced firsthand, lasting and meaningful relationships are not formed in this way. John C. Maxwell captures this truth succinctly when he says, “People don't care about how much you know until they know how much you care.” It is essential to help your group members not only hear words of love but also witness acts of love directed towards them and others. This is where the transformative power of love comes to life within the context of the “BIG 3”.





HOW CAN I DO THIS?

Cultivating a culture of love for our disciples and fostering a love for others within our group can be achieved through three primary approaches. Let's explore the first one:

Quick Diagnostic

Drawing inspiration from medical practices, the first approach we will refer to as the "Quick Diagnostic." Just as doctors assess your weight, blood pressure, lungs, and heartbeat during a visit, regardless of whether you are unwell or in good health, this swift assessment helps them ensure that nothing significant is amiss in your body. Similarly, when you are with your disciple or group, take a moment to gauge their well-being.

One effective way to do this is by inquiring about their "highs and lows" of the week. Encourage them to share both a positive experience and a challenging moment they encountered. This provides valuable insight into their current spiritual journey. If they find themselves in a "spiritual rut," as it can happen from time to time, offer words of encouragement and begin asking accountability questions. Often, our periods of spiritual stagnation are closely tied to our relationship with God, and establishing accountability can help identify and address the underlying issues.

Shared Experiences

Building strong and lasting relationships while demonstrating love to others can be a powerful endeavor. One effective way to achieve this is by inviting them into your life, allowing for shared experiences that foster deep connections. Let's explore how you can do this as a group leader, particularly in the context of Flatirons.

Firstly, don't limit your interactions with your group to just the scheduled meeting times. Go beyond and cultivate friendships that extend into various aspects of life. Attend local ballgames, movies, dinners, or other enjoyable events together. These shared experiences provide opportunities for the group to bond and create lasting memories.

Additionally, when there is a need within your group, whether it's a project or a simple request for someone to watch their kids, be the first person they can turn to for support. By extending a helping hand, you not only strengthen the trust within your group but also demonstrate the importance of caring for others. Encouraging your disciples to be involved in acts of service and volunteering together as a group is another powerful way to cultivate a mindset of loving others. Look for opportunities to serve within your church or local community, where your group can join hands and make a positive impact.

By actively involving your group in your own life and being open to support one another, you create a foundation of shared experiences that deepen your connections. These shared moments not only foster lasting bonds but also serve as practical lessons in discipleship. They empower your disciples to extend care and support to others as they continue to grow in their own spiritual journeys.





9-1-1 Moments

Though they may occur less often, moments of emergency or crisis can be incredibly significant for discipleship. Your disciple may open up about struggling with sexual sin or share the overwhelming stress they are experiencing in their marriage or job. When these “9-1-1” situations arise, it’s important to approach them with care and consideration:

Take a moment to pause and truly listen to your disciple. Seek wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit, both for yourself and for your group, as you navigate these challenging circumstances.

Recognize that, as disciple-makers, we play a vital role in shepherding others through difficult times. In situations that are complex or significant, it is wise to involve other godly individuals such as pastors or a care team. Their wisdom and support can provide additional guidance and assistance.

Be ready to temporarily adjust your own schedule to be available and present for your disciple when they need you most. Your willingness to prioritize their well-being and walk alongside them during these times of crisis can have a profound impact on their discipleship journey.

While these seasons of crisis may be infrequent, they serve as crucial opportunities for growth and deepening of the discipleship relationship. They allow for greater vulnerability, trust, and reliance on God’s grace. However, it’s important to remember that the majority of your time spent caring for your disciple will be through the ordinary rhythms of life. These everyday moments provide a foundation for ongoing discipleship and serve as a steady source of support and guidance.


By balancing the urgency of 9-1-1 moments with the consistency of everyday discipleship, you can effectively nurture and guide your disciple through the highs and lows of their spiritual journey. Embrace these pivotal moments of crisis as opportunities for transformation, while also recognizing the value of the daily interactions that shape and strengthen their faith.

MEASURING PROGRESS

Sustained life change is sometimes very hard to measure! Here are some questions to ask that might help along the way:

- Does my disciple (s) know I genuinely love them and would do anything to help them?
- How do they know that I love them?
- Do I know the “story” of my disciple?
- Their childhood, family history, etc.
- How they came to know Christ (testimony).
- His current relational status with their friends and family?
- Current struggles and doubts
- Are they in my home often?
- Do I know their strengths and weaknesses?
- Do they know my story?
- Do we go have fun together often?
- Do we help each other on projects or when other various needs arise?
- Do they trust me enough to confess sin and weaknesses?
- Have I modeled honesty and transparency for them?
- Am I modeling the act of love in such a way that they will be able to disciple another in it one day?





IMPACT THE WORLD

Inspiring our disciples to use their lives to impact the world.

JOHN 15:15-17

“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

SCRIPTURES THAT ADDRESS THE MATTER OF KNOWING GOD

Hebrews 13:16, Galatians 6:10, Proverbs 3:27, John 3:17, Luke 6:38, Philippians 2:4, Matthew 25:44-45

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Lastly, we empower our group members to Impact the World around them. Flatirons is more than just a place we call home; it's filled with opportunities to make a difference. As group leaders, we challenge our crew to step outside their comfort zones and engage with the needs of our community. We encourage acts of service, generosity, and advocacy, showing the love of Christ in tangible ways. By coming alongside local organizations, serving our neighbors, and actively participating in initiatives that bring about positive change in our world, we become catalysts for transformation at Flatirons.

But our role as group leaders doesn't stop there. We have a crucial responsibility to cast vision for our group members, helping them see the greater purpose behind their actions. Vision casting fuels passion and ignites a fire within everyone, reminding them of the impact they can have on the world around them. It's about painting a vivid picture of what Flatirons could look like when every person in our groups wholeheartedly embraces the BIG 3 and lives it out with unwavering commitment.

By casting a compelling vision, we inspire our group members to dream big, to see themselves as agents of change within their families, workplaces, and communities. We remind them that their actions, no matter how small, can have a ripple effect that extends far beyond what they can imagine. Vision casting empowers them to see the world through the lens of God's love and prompts them to take bold steps towards making a lasting impact.

So, as group leaders at Flatirons, let's not only guide our members to Know God, Love People, and Impact the World, but let's also cast a vision that ignites their hearts and propels them forward. Together, we can create a movement of transformation, where the people of Flatirons are known for their unwavering faith, their relentless love, and their tireless efforts to make this city and world a better place.





HOW CAN I DO THIS?

Reaching others through vision casting can take on different forms, tailored to their unique circumstances and backgrounds. It's about helping them recognize their untapped potential and the difference they can make in this world. Whether it's nurturing stronger marriages, cultivating purity of thought, or empowering them to boldly share the Gospel, our role as leaders is to guide and inspire. We encounter individuals who may doubt their ability to have an impact due to past experiences or feel unworthy of being used by God. To effectively assist them on this journey, consider the following approaches:

Start by painting a “clear picture of the future” for them. Help them envision the possibilities that lie ahead when they embrace their calling and step out in faith. Encourage them to identify specific actions they can take, establishing tangible goals that align with their vision. It's not enough for someone to express a desire to help others; true transformation occurs when they take a definitive step forward. Encourage them to make a commitment and follow through with concrete actions that have a real impact, whether it's volunteering at a local food pantry, initiating conversations about faith, or engaging in acts of service that reflect Christ's love.

Moreover, vision casting is not just about inspiring action; it's about reminding individuals of their identity in Christ. As leaders, we have the privilege of nurturing their understanding of who they truly are and the limitless potential they possess as children of God. Regularly remind them of the truths found in Scripture, reinforcing their worth and significance in the eyes of their Heavenly Father. By instilling confidence and reinforcing their identity, we empower them to overcome doubts and fears, stepping into their God-given purpose with boldness.

As we engage in vision casting, we become catalysts for transformation in the lives of those we lead. By guiding them to embrace the BIG 3—Know God, Love Others, and Impact the World—we equip them to live in a way that catches the attention of others and demonstrates the love of Christ. Our role extends beyond teaching and mentoring; it encompasses shaping their perspective, inspiring them to dream big, and challenging them to take courageous steps of faith.

In this way, we not only help individuals discover their potential but also encourage them to embark on a journey that will leave a lasting impact on the world. By casting a compelling vision and continually reminding them of their identity in Christ, we empower them to rise above limitations and pursue a life of purpose and significance. Together, let's embrace the call to be leaders who envision, empower, and ignite transformation in the lives of those we serve.

MEASURING PROGRESS

Remember, sustained life change is sometimes very hard to measure! Here are some questions to ask that might help along the way:

- In moments of discouragement, do they leave inspired to walk in greater intimacy with Christ after having met or talked with you?
- Are they beginning to cast vision to you when you have moments of weakness?
- Are you beginning to see greater areas of obedience in their life in their time with God, worship, and faithfulness?
- Are they beginning to find their gifts and calling in ministry?





- Are they serving others on a regular basis?
- Are they displaying traits of generosity in their lives?
- Are they inviting others to church?
- Are they engaging in local and/or global mission trips?
- Are they seeking out others to disciple?



WHAT NOW?

KNOWING WHEN YOUR DISCIPLES ARE READY TO MAKE DISCIPLES.

ACTS 12:24

“But the word of God increased and multiplied.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:2

“...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

One of the critical roles of a group leader is to identify and raise up individuals within their group to become leaders themselves. This practice is vital for several reasons.

Firstly, it fosters a culture of multiplication and growth. By equipping and empowering others to lead their own groups, you are expanding the reach and impact of the church exponentially. Each new leader has the potential to gather a unique group of individuals, creating a network of discipleship that can touch the lives of many.

Secondly, raising up leaders cultivates a sense of ownership and investment within your group members. When individuals are given the opportunity to step into leadership roles, they feel a deeper sense of responsibility and commitment to the group's growth and success. As they take on leadership responsibilities, they develop their skills, grow in their faith, and become more engaged in the discipleship process. This not only benefits the leader but also contributes to the overall health and vibrancy of the entire group.

Furthermore, the process of raising up leaders allows for the transfer of knowledge, experience, and wisdom. As a leader, you have accumulated insights and understanding through your own journey. By investing in the development of new leaders, you can pass on this valuable knowledge, helping them avoid potential pitfalls and guiding them towards effective leadership strategies. This mentorship and discipleship aspect of raising up leaders fosters a strong sense of camaraderie and collaboration within the group, as everyone contributes their unique gifts and strengths to further the Kingdom's work.





As a leader, investing in the development of new leaders is an investment in the Kingdom, as it leads to greater transformation, deeper relationships, and the continued growth of discipleship. With this in mind, here are some questions to help you gauge whether or not someone maybe ready to be a personal disciple-maker:

- Is the fruit of the Spirit evident in their life? (See Galatians 5:22-23)
- Do they live out (not perfectly) and seek to grow in the Big 3 catalysts?
- Are they aggressive in their fight for personal holiness? Do they run to God's Word in moments of temptation?
- Have you seen them inspire someone to greater places of faithfulness? Do they understand how to read the Bible and desire to know it more? Would you describe their prayer life as consistent and healthy?

If the answer is yes to these, then it's time to commission them to go!

Have a conversation where you share the traits above and how you see them in their lives. Don't be afraid to be specific either. Then celebrate what God has done in and through you in their life as their leader and invite them to greater responsibility in the group.

This includes allowing them to shadow your preparation and leading of the group. Ask them to lead certain aspects of the groups or meeting all together. Then provide specific feedback on what is going well or needs improvement. Then challenge them to pray and ask God about their next steps. For example, ask them to pray to God and ask is now the time to step out and lead a group or find one or two people to disciple. Then help them take whatever step God show them.

Now, the only question you have to answer is, "Who's next?"





ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HELPFUL ACCOUNTABILITY AND VISION CASTING VERSES FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS

MORAL PURITY

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, Ephesians 5:1-3, Matthew 6:22-23, Matthew 5:8, Proverbs 4:23, 1 Corinthians 6:18, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Romans 6:11-14

IDOLATRY

1 John 5:21, Exodus 20:3-6, Jonah 2:8, Colossians 3:5

MARRIAGE

Ephesians 5:22-23, Hebrews 13:4-7, 1 Peter 3:7, Proverbs 5:18

FINANCES

Matthew 6:19-34, Philippians 4:19, 1 Timothy 6:10, Malachi 3:10, Acts 20:35, Matthew 25:14-30, Mark 12:41-44

INFERTILITY

Psalm 34:8, Romans 8:28-29

Katie Reno's article "Infertility: A Weakness on Display" available at www.missionalmotherhood.com

STRESS/ANXIETY

Philippians 4:6-7, Matthew 11:28-30, John 14:27, James 1:2-4, Psalm 118:5-6

PRAYER

Matthew 6:5-18, Luke 18:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6-7, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 6:18

FASTING

Matthew 6:16-18, Isaiah 58, Acts 13:1-4, Acts 14:21-23

BIBLE STUDY

Matthew 4:1-10, 2 Timothy 3:14-16, Romans 15:4, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Ephesians 6:17

EVANGELISM

Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:8, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, John 20:21

MINISTRY & GIFTING

1 Corinthians 10:31, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, Ephesians 5:15-17, Romans 12:1-8

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE WORKPLACE

1 Corinthians 10:31, Philippians 3:7-14, Ephesians 4:11-16, Col. 3:17, Matthew 5:16, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 2:11



