

The 3 areas of Biblical DISCIPLESHIP (summary from my book)

Vertical discipleship (pages 200-203)

More experienced and gifted people should train people who have similar gifts like an evangelist with an evangelists, a pastor with a pastor, etc.. It is usually for ministers working full time, but it can be with any “smaller” gifts like a musician with a musician, or someone working with youth, with drug addicts, etc....

- There is some degree of top-down authority even it includes a deep friendship. (Thus it is “vertical”)
- **Who:** It is only for a few trainers, because not all have the maturity to train. (The discipleship movements where young and immature leaders train people under them bring all kinds of abuse and control). It is only for a few trainees because not everyone can be trained. (In fact, only those who have a good reputation and good relationships at the horizontal level should be chosen)
- **Goal:** Improve particular gifts and skills, leadership, and at a deeper level, the characters
- **Examples:** Jesus and disciples, Paul and Timothy, 2 Tim.2:2

Horizontal discipleship (pages 199-200)

Believers should choose to build deep friendships that will bring mutual encouragement and character changes (“Iron sharpening iron”). This can be just with one friend, but preferably with a few others, especially if it happens within small groups or house churches.

- No one is above the other. (Thus it is “horizontal”)
- **Who:** For all who want (it is voluntary, not imposed). Humility to change and build life transforming relationships is the primary condition.
- **Goal:** Improve relationship skills, characters and all areas of life
- **Examples:** There are over 100 verses in the New Testament that deal with “one another” relationships. This is the basis for all the relationships in the Church.

Follow-up conversion discipleship (pages 203 + 212-216)

New converts should receive an individual basic training right after their conversion from the very people who converted them. It is only for a limited time (usually a few months), as the training is limited to some basic teaching (like for instance going through “The 12 principles of the Christian life” of this book) and until the convert starts to evangelize himself. Obviously the friendship can last long after the training is finished.

- It is a “top-down” relationship because you teach someone to obey basic principles from the Bible
- **Who:** For anyone who was converted. If believers come from outside and want to join your group, we recommend that you study and see if they agree with the goals and values of you congregation.
- **Goal:** Not to lose any converts and help them to evangelize, this way a multiplication can happen
- **Examples:** Many conversion in Acts, especially Acts 2; but especially Matt.28:18-20 which is the golden rule of discipleship. It clearly shows that disciples are made before and after baptism, and they are expected to do the very same with others.