

*MasterLife*  
LEADER GUIDE

IV

*The Disciple's*

M I S S I O N

AVERY T. WILLIS JR.

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**WELCOME!** Thank you for leading this study.

*MasterLife 4: The Disciple's Mission* is a discussion-based Bible study from Avery T. Willis. This classic Bible study has recently been updated with an integrated discussion guide in the Bible study book to make leading a *MasterLife* group more accessible than ever before.

This document is a more robust discussion guide that contains elements from the original *MasterLife* leader guide, including additional discussion questions, concentrated opportunities to work on the MasterBuilder presentation, instructions for the Spiritual Gifts Workshop, and more. We pray this leader guide further equips you to facilitate your group sessions in a way that fosters community, conversation, and transformational learning for you and those you're leading.

Feel free to use this guide in whatever way works best for you and your group. If you want to follow this leader guide to the letter, do that! If you need to adapt parts of it, you may do so. Our goal is to give you all the tools you might need as you lead your specific group in your specific setting.

We're grateful for you and praying for you as you lead this study.

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# INTRODUCTION

*MasterLife* is a sequential, developmental, small-group discipling process to help Christians master life by developing personal, lifelong, obedient relationships with Jesus Christ. This leader guide provides step-by-step guidance for facilitating group studies of the four books in the *MasterLife* process. By studying this introduction, you will learn how to disciple believers using *MasterLife*.

## THE MASTERLIFE PROCESS

*MasterLife* was written to help believers make the following definition of discipleship a way of life:

Christian discipleship is developing a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Jesus Christ in which He transforms your character into Christlikeness, changes your values into kingdom values, and involves you in His mission in the home, the church, and the world.

Participants in *MasterLife* learn how to deepen their relationships with Christ through a 24-week discipleship process that consists of four six-week studies: *MasterLife 1: The Disciple's Cross*, *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality*, *MasterLife 3: The Disciple's Victory*, *MasterLife 4: The Disciple's Mission*.

Each course builds on the other and is a prerequisite for the one that follows. Members will benefit most and gain valuable information and experiences to be disciples of Christ if they complete all four books in this process. It is recommended that you begin with book 1 and continue sequentially through book 4. (If you start with a book other than book 1, familiarize yourself with previous books and with presentations such as the Disciple's Cross and the Disciple's Personality, to which subsequent books refer.)

Each Bible study book employs an interactive learning process. Each day, for five days a week, members are expected to study a segment of the material and complete related activities. Each day's work should require twenty to thirty minutes of study time. The *MasterLife* process involves six essential elements:

1. The daily activities in the Bible study books lead members into a closer walk with Christ. Doing these exercises daily is important.
2. The weekly assignments in the Walk with the Master checklist are real-life experiences that will change members' lives.
3. The leader is a major element. Discipleship is a relationship. It is not something members do by themselves. Members need human models, instruction, and accountability to become what Christ intends for them to be. That is why Jesus commanded His disciples to make disciples (see Matt. 28:19-20). We all need someone who has followed Christ long enough to challenge us. To become better disciples, members need a leader to whom they can relate personally and regularly. Members will not accomplish the goals for *MasterLife* without you to teach them, model the behavior, and hold them accountable.

4. The weekly group sessions help members reflect on the concepts and experiences in *MasterLife* and help members apply the ideas to their lives. The group sessions allow members to experience in their inmost beings the profound changes Christ is making in their lives. Each group session also provides training for the next stage of spiritual growth.
5. Christ is the Discipler, and members become His disciples. As they fully depend on Him, He works through each of the previous elements and uses them to support members. If any element is omitted, the discipling process will not be effective.
6. The body of Christ—the church—is vital for complete discipling to take place. Members depend on Christian friends for fellowship, strength, and ministry opportunities. Without the church, members lack the support they need to grow in Christ.

## DISCIPLESHIP IS A RELATIONSHIP

Discipleship is a relationship and a process. As a group leader, don't forget: *Disciples are not instantly made.* Regardless of new technologies and advanced teaching methods, developing disciples is much like physical development. It cannot be rushed. Discipleship takes time. Be patient with your group as you disciple them through this study.

Discipleship is not a course. Often, discipleship is defined as content. Some people think they make disciples when they teach certain material. Content is important, with the Bible as the first source of revelation. However, many people believe that if they communicate certain facts, a person is disciplined. Even doctrine—a vital part of discipleship—is not sufficient. Studying every discipleship course available does not in itself make someone a disciple. In the Great Commission Jesus said, "... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:20). Jesus went beyond knowing the commands to doing them. Discipleship involves practicing His commands.

In John 17, Jesus revealed His heart in the last prayer with His disciples before He went to the cross. Jesus stressed that as the Father had related to Him, He had related to the disciples. In this relationship, Jesus taught them God's Word but also urged them to obey the Word. He taught and prayed for the disciples. We disciple people in relationships with Jesus Christ, not in a body of knowledge.

Discipleship is not a program or a method. No one way of discipling people works with everyone. Although we can use a sequence or a process of growth that is logical or developmental, we cannot prescribe a step-by-step procedure that will be effective for everyone. So how can we use *MasterLife* to disciple others? Picture *MasterLife* as a tool that relates people to Christ, who disciplines them. Use it to help disciples relate to Christ in a personal way and to become obedient to Christ. *MasterLife* teaches obedience in many ways, including the completion of weekly assignments. If members do not honor their covenant with the *MasterLife* group or prioritize their time to do the assignments, remind them that obedience is an attitude of the heart, not just a response to direct commands of Scripture.

Because discipleship is based on relationships, our relationship with participants is a key factor in making disciples. We need to remain flexible and make time to develop a personal relationship with each group member. How? Take members with you as you minister or work. Be ready to disciple during ministry times, recreational outings, and family situations.

God seeks personal, obedient, and lifelong relationships. Help members focus on developing relationships with Christ that continue to grow long after the study ends.

## DEVELOPING COMMITMENT IN DISCIPLES

Common questions surface about participation in *MasterLife*: How do you get people to be committed to Christ and to develop as disciples? How do you develop a commitment that motivates a person to continue a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Christ? Our goal is to make disciples who will continue to apply the principles and live the Christlike lifestyle long after they complete course requirements. Here are ways to help disciples be committed.

- *Involve disciples in what you are doing.* Let disciples see how you respond in your own lifelong, obedient relationship with Christ. Let them see and participate in the ways your commitment to God expresses itself through serving in your church, visiting sick or homebound people, witnessing to the lost, participating in your church's prayer ministry, etc. Ideally, disciples will see a commitment to Christ that is not dislodged by other priorities.
- *Invite disciples to be on mission with God.* Make sure they understand they are not merely involving themselves in another church activity or event. Make them aware that they are joining God in His mission on this earth—to bring all people to Himself.
- *Reveal the Father.* Just as Jesus set the example for you by revealing the Father to His disciples, you can reveal the Father to those you disciple. Demonstrate in your life such Christlike characteristics as steadfastness and dependability. As you show that you can be relied on, they will see Christ in you. Ideally, they will understand that commitment is not just a rule but the very essence of who you are and who the Father is. God is committed to us; we need to make the same commitment to Him.
- *Give assignments.* Closely watch how disciples follow through. Praise them for sticking to a task or, if they fall short of the mark, try to determine what deterred them (e.g., circumstances beyond their control, a matter of attitude) and encourage them to make changes.
- *Explain the requirements of a continuing relationship.* Living as a committed disciple does not protect us from suffering or temptation. In fact, it makes Satan want to tempt you even more. Commitment to Christ in a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship leaves us constantly on call. But the greatest peace is found in living at the center of God's will and following Him every second of every day.

## LEADING DISCIPLES TO EXPERIENCE TRUTH

How do you lead a person to master a truth? As you just read, modeling plays a key role. You cannot teach what you are not practicing. The heart of discipleship is living Christ's commands and then teaching them. The disciple respects you and is therefore willing to try an idea because he or she has seen you live it. However, a new disciple needs time to assimilate the scores of ideas he or she confronts. A disciple makes a truth a part of his or her life by practice. Here are five steps a disciple experiences in mastering a truth.

1. *Imitation.* The disciple does what the model does. The disciple may not understand the actions but still does what he or she sees the model doing.
2. *Experimentation.* The disciple tries out the truth in real life. The disciple believes it enough to experiment but is still not convinced. He or she begins trying it in nonthreatening situations.
3. *Application.* The disciple applies the truth in more complex situations. The disciple says he or she believes the truth, but he or she may still have occasional reservations about it.

4. *Demonstration.* The disciple shows proficiency in living the truth under various conditions and situations. It has become a conviction and is part of his or her value system.
5. *Representation.* The disciple models the truth as a characteristic of the life of a disciple.

## HOW TO LEAD A SMALL GROUP

### Understand Your Role as a Leader

As you prepare to lead, ask yourself these questions.

- How can I get the group to accomplish its goals?
- How do I help the group grow and learn?
- How do I involve group members in meaningful activities?

Leading a group is not just relating information to a gathered audience. Create a learning environment that encourages people to participate and share. Note: Your role as a leader is not to bring glory to yourself. The best group learning usually takes place when the leader blends into the group and is not set apart. Read the following guidelines and consider what effect they would have on you and your small group.

- *Atmosphere.* Create an atmosphere that encourages each member to share ideas and invest talents. Convey acceptance to group members. This frees them to participate openly. Arrange chairs in a circle or semicircle so that members can see one another and experience the support of community.
- *Goals.* Help move the group toward its established goals. Keep the group united and focused on its task.
- *Awareness.* Be aware of what is happening within the group and encourage growth.
- *Acceptance.* Express your acceptance of group members. Listen to them, set aside your own biases while they speak, and convey the fact that you consider them a significant part of the group. This will signal that you expect them to contribute to the group and give their best. Be patient, and allow them to share when they are ready. Put their needs ahead of your own.<sup>2</sup>

Your role as a leader is not to be a traditional teacher that is expected to have all the answers. Rather, your role as leader is that of a helper or a guide. Help the group discover problems and questions, find answers and solutions, and organize facts and information.

### Continually Pray for Your Group Members

Regularly intercede on behalf of your group. Ask God to use these group sessions and this study to build each group member up in their understanding of His Word. Pray that they would develop a great love for God and that out of that love would come sincere devotion to their spiritual disciplines. Pray that the discipleship journey each group member embarks on through *MasterLife* will continue in a lifelong, obedient relationship with the Master. The practice of praying for your group will help you remember that God is the One who can change hearts through your group study. You can trust Him to work as you faithfully lead your group.

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*Week 1*

RIGHTING  
Wrong  
RELATIONSHIPS



# Session 1

## RIGHTING WRONG RELATIONSHIPS

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Stating goals for their study of MasterLife 4: The Disciple's Mission.
- Describing why broken relationships should be restored.
- Completing the assignments for week 1.

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.
2. Give the group members a chance to get to know each other. Have each person **share their name, something about their family, and why they chose to join this MasterLife group.**

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to recite Matthew 5:23-24 aloud together as a group.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. Ask each member to give a one-sentence statement of his or her goals for this study. Encourage the group to **pray in sentence prayers throughout the week, asking God to help them achieve their goals.**
2. **Why is it important to restore broken relationship between Christians? What happens to a relationship that continues to have unresolved conflict?**
3. **Which of the following actions is more difficult for you to carry out: asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation when you have been offended, or acting as a peacemaker? Explain your answer.**
4. **How should you prepare yourself to ask for forgiveness? What should you do if the other person refuses to forgive you?**
5. Have a volunteer read 1 John 3:21-22. **Is forgiveness a feeling or an act of obedience?**
6. **What do you think are some of the biggest barriers to making restitution? Share a time when you made restitution after you asked someone for forgiveness.**

7. What are the qualifications of a peacemaker? Ask the group to identify situations in which a peacemaker could be helpful. Contrast the role of peacemaker with that of busybody.
8. Have you ever sought reconciliation in a broken relationship with a fellow Christian? What was that experience like?
9. What did you learn through filling out the Relationship Quotient form this week?

## MASTERBUILDER

1. Have the group look at the MasterBuilder presentation on pages 169-175. What stuck out to you as you read over this presentation this week?
2. What did you notice as you filled out the Personal Assessment Worksheet on page 31?
3. Remind the group that they will learn the different stages of MasterBuilder throughout this study. Point out that the first stage is called “spiritually dead.” What does it mean to be “spiritually dead”? Why is this the first stage of the MasterBuilder presentation?

## THE GROUP COVENANT

1. Ask the group to turn to and read the covenant on page 9 in their Bible study books. Tell them that with this covenant, you and all the group members are committing to help one another keep these commitments. **Although they may find some of the demands difficult now, this is a commitment to try, with God’s help and the help of the group and the leader. All they need is a willing heart.**
2. Invite questions. Then, **ask members to sign the covenant.** When everyone has agreed to sign the covenant, go around the circle and have everyone repeat their names, with group members writing their names in the blanks on the covenant, so everyone has a full list of the people in the group. Explain that praying for group members is an important part of MasterLife. Encourage members to refer to the list of members while they are learning names in order to pray for them.

## WALK WITH THE MASTER REFLECTION

1. Bring the group back together to wrap up with a quick discussion on their Walk with the Master assignments. **Did you complete the activities on your Walk with the Master checklist?**
2. What part was easiest for you to complete? What was most difficult?

## CLOSING

1. Ask members to **complete their personal study and Walk with the Master checklist for week 2, “Witnessing and Discipling Through Relationships,” before the next group meeting.**
2. Close with prayer. Ask for **prayer requests**, pray over those requests together, and close with asking God to help each group member claim the mind of Christ in the week ahead.

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*Week 2*

WITNESSING  
*and*  
DISCIPLING  
*Through*  
RELATIONSHIPS

## Session 2

# WITNESSING AND DISCIPLING THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Sharing how they're working to improve their relationship with someone and how the Relationship Quotient form has been helpful.
- Completing the assignments for week 2.
- Explaining the "spiritually dead" stage in MasterBuilder.
- Continuing to pray for group members' neighbors and their prayer requests.

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to recite **Romans 6:23** aloud together as a group.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. In what ways did you work to improve your relationship with someone this week? How has the Relationship Quotient form been helpful in this process?
2. Remind the group that Jesus's purpose was to glorify the Father. What are ways you can glorify the Father as you follow Jesus's model?
3. What does it mean to be a disciple? What about to disciple others?
4. Do you believe God has sent people to you who you should witness to and disciple? Why do you believe this?
5. How can you help show God to people you disciple?
6. When have you been inspired to emulate someone else who lived differently from the world's standards? Describe this person and the changes you made as you followed their model.
7. What evidence do you see in the world around you that the fields are ripe for harvest? Where do you have an opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus?

8. How do you feel when you realize that God's purpose for you is to bear fruit that will last? How are you progressing in this area?
9. Have a volunteer explain the "spiritually dead" stage of MasterBuilder. How does understanding this stage help you in your efforts to share the gospel?

## WITNESSING / THE GOSPEL IN HAND

1. Go over the highlights of "An Approach to Witnessing" on pages 47-49 in the Bible study book.

**SAY:** The "Gospel in Hand" presentation will help you initiate witnessing conversations.

2. Have you used the FIRE acrostic to open a witnessing conversation? What insights have you gained?
3. Ask a volunteer to play the role of a non-Christian so you can present the "Gospel in Hand" presentation for the group. As the leader, demonstrate how to give the presentation. Explain how the "Gospel in Hand" illustration is helpful as a presentation tool.
4. Ask the group to break into pairs and explain to each other their understanding of the "Gospel in Hand" presentation. Learning this in their own words is an effective way to explain the good news of Christ.
5. Staying in these pairs, have the group share with their partners experiences visiting neighbors and asking for prayer requests. Share any progress that has occurred on the request the neighbor made. Ask partners to pray for each other's neighbors and for witnessing opportunities.

## WALK WITH THE MASTER REFLECTION

1. Bring the group back together to wrap up with a quick discussion on their Walk with the Master assignments. Did you complete the activities on your Walk with the Master checklist?
2. What part was easiest for you to complete? What was most difficult?

## CLOSING

1. Ask members to complete their personal study and Walk with the Master checklist for week 3, "Establishing Spiritual Children," before the next group meeting.
2. Pray before you dismiss. Ask for prayer requests, pray over those requests together, and close by asking God to help each group member to make progress in their relationships with non-Christian friends this week.

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*Week 3*

*Establishing*  
SPIRITUAL  
CHILDREN

## Session 3

# ESTABLISHING SPIRITUAL CHILDREN

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Completing the assignments for week 3.
- Explaining the “spiritual child” stage of MasterBuilder.
- Presenting the “Gospel in Hand” presentation.
- Describing their experiences encouraging new Christians.
- Sharing ways they envision using “Welcome to God’s Family.”

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to recite 1 Peter 2:2-3 aloud together as a group.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. What did you do to encourage a new Christian this week?
2. What are some ways you’ve seen or experienced a mature Christian nurturing new believers?
3. Have a volunteer recite 1 Peter 2:2-3 again from memory. What do you think it means to “grow up in your salvation”?
4. Have the group look over the “Welcome to God’s Family” presentation on page 187. How do you envision using this with new believers? What is most helpful about this tool?
5. Have the group look back at the case studies on page 71. Have you encouraged new Christians in similar scenarios? If so, what did you do?
6. Have a volunteer read the Scriptures in the margin of page 73 to review how Jesus disciplined Peter. When has someone rebuked you in a way that helped you mature in the Christian life?

7. What are some things you've learned in MasterLife that you think might be helpful for a new Christian to know? What skills or habits have you gained that would be helpful to pass on to others? (Having a quiet time, memorizing Scripture, taking notes from a sermon, fellowshiping with believers)
8. What has kept you going in being a disciplined disciple?
9. Ask volunteers to share ways they experienced great enthusiasm for sharing their faith with others when they were new Christians.
10. Looking at page 78, go over the five guidelines for following up with a new believer. Which of these is most challenging to you, and why? How can you grow in this area and encourage a new Christian this week?
11. Have a volunteer explain the "spiritual child" stage of MasterBuilder. How does MasterBuilder help you understand your role in the life of a spiritual child?

## THE GOSPEL IN HAND

1. Have the group break into pairs and practice giving the "Gospel in Hand" presentation.  
  
**SAY:** Today, you will demonstrate how to draw the hand as you learned during week 3. The goal is to practice this until you know it by heart and can use it with a lost person.
2. Staying in these pairs, have each group member practice explaining MasterBuilder through the "spiritual child" stage. Invite all group members to provide kind, constructive feedback.

## WALK WITH THE MASTER REFLECTION

1. Bring the group back together to wrap up with a quick discussion on their Walk with the Master assignments. Did you complete the activities on your Walk with the Master checklist?
2. What part was easiest for you to complete? What was most difficult?

## CLOSING

1. Ask members to complete their personal study and Walk with the Master checklist for week 4, "Maturing as a Disciple," before the next group meeting.
2. Close with prayer. Ask for prayer requests, pray over those requests together, and close by asking God to help each member encourage and disciple new Christians.



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*Week 4*

MATURING  
*as a*  
DISCIPLE

## Session 4

# MATURING AS A DISCIPLE

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Completing the assignments for week 4.
- Explaining the “spiritual disciple” part of MasterBuilder.
- Making a contract to partner with God in the use of possessions (using “Guide to Financial Partnership with God”).

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to recite Luke 6:40 aloud together as a group.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. On day 1, you learned three illustrations for growth: human growth (also reflected in the stages of MasterBuilder), the growth of a plant (becoming rooted and established), and the growth of construction (being built up in God). What insight did you gain through these illustrations on what it means to be a mature disciple?
2. Why is the act of giving a natural part of the life of a mature disciple? With what mindset and attitude does a mature disciple give?
3. Have a volunteer read 2 Corinthians 8:8-9. How much did Christ give? How does remembering that sacrifice make you feel?
4. Have a volunteer read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. When have you reaped as generously as you sowed?
5. On page 98, what aspect of your life did you identify as an area in which you want to grow? In what ways are you seeing progress in this area?
6. On page 99, you identified people who excel in the area in which you want to grow. Name one of these people and share why you want to emulate them in this way. How can you continue to grow in light of their example?

7. On day 3, you learned that at the “spiritual disciple” stage of MasterBuilder, both the disciple and discipler have responsibilities. What are the roles of each person at this stage? Why is it important for each person to acknowledge their own responsibility?
8. Instruct your group to look back at the principles of discipling on page 106. Ask five volunteers to each explain one of the principles in their own words.
9. Have your group look at page 106 of the Bible study book. Ask members to describe ways the church commissioned Barnabas and Saul and ways Jesus commissioned Peter.
10. Why is it important for a person to feel that he or she is commissioned in order to begin a ministry? (Commissioning gives people a sense of validation. They are aware that someone is standing on the sidelines cheering and praying for them.)
11. Have a volunteer recite Luke 6:40 again. How does this verse speak to your role as disciple maker?

## GUIDE TO FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

1. Take a moment to revisit “Guide to Financial Partnership with God” on pages 95-97. What stood out to you as you reflected through this exercise personally? What lingering questions do you have?
2. Have a volunteer read Matthew 25:14-30, the parable of the talents. Relate the lessons about the use of money to the larger context of being stewards of everything God entrusts to them.
3. Looking again at pages 95-97, review step 1 by reading each principle. Ask members to write their initials in front of principles they accept if they have not done so already. If anyone questions a principle, read the Scriptures given. Move through the material, taking turns reading the principles and having members initial the ones they accept. When you get to step 5, suggest that members prayerfully consider renewing or restoring their partnership with God if they feel they need to.

**\*Consider taking a short break here.\***

## PRESENTATIONS

1. When have you had opportunities to use the Gospel in Hand presentation? What have those experiences been like?
2. Have the group break into pairs and practice the “Gospel in Hand” presentation. In the pairs, have each member kindly relay feedback, including positive observations about their partner’s presentation and suggestions for how to communicate the concepts or diagram more effectively.
3. Staying in these pairs, have each group member present the MasterBuilder presentation, from the “spiritually dead” stage to the “spiritual disciple” stage. Members are not expected to memorize the presentation word for word but to give it in their own words. Invite all group members to provide kind, constructive feedback.

## WALK WITH THE MASTER REFLECTION

1. Bring the group back together to wrap up with a quick discussion on their Walk with the Master assignments. **Did you complete the activities on your Walk with the Master checklist?**
2. **What part was easiest for you to complete? What was most difficult?**

## CLOSING

1. Ask members to **complete their personal study and Walk with the Master checklist for week 5, “Training Disciples,”** before the next group meeting.
2. Close with prayer. Ask for **prayer requests**, pray over those requests together, and close by asking God to help each member partner with Him in the work of the gospel.

## **\*IF YOU PLAN TO HOST THE OPTIONAL SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP**

1. If you are planning to host the optional Spiritual Gifts Workshop when the study concludes, share the plans for that event. Consider plans for food and snacks. Answer questions members might have. Make sure everyone understands that this workshop is a time to complete this final *MasterLife* study and celebrate everything members have accomplished. All assignments must be completed before the workshop.

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*Week 5*

*Training*

DISCIPLES

## Session 5

# TRAINING DISCIPLES

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Completing the assignments for week 5.
- Reporting on ministry to their families through family worship.
- Sharing their faith with a non-Christian friend.
- Giving the MasterBuilder, through the “disciple maker” stage.
- Identifying the three things a person can do to become a multiplying discipler.

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to recite 2 Chronicles 16:9 aloud together as a group.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. Describe your experience sharing your faith with a non-Christian this week. How did the person respond? What is your next step?
2. What is the only command in the Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20? (“Make disciples.” Going, baptizing, and teaching are parts of that command.)
3. Have a volunteer read 2 Timothy 2:1-3. What are three things we can do to multiply disciples? (Have the group refer to page 115 if they need help.)
4. On day 1, Avery said, “Being a good model is the single most important factor in multiplying disciples.” Why is our personal example so crucial in disciple making? How does reflecting on this responsibility make you feel?
5. Have a volunteer read the Scriptures from John in the margin of page 117. What does a disciple maker do, based on Jesus’s model in these verses?
6. Have a volunteer recite 2 Chronicles 16:9 again. Why does a disciple need to have a heart that truly belongs to the Father?

7. Invite volunteers to **share how the fellowship of believers supports them personally in their task of disciple making.**
8. Instruct the group to look at page 120 in their Bible study book. **How did you pledge to support someone in our church?**
9. **What is the name of someone God wants you to disciple? How can you encourage this person this week?**
10. Talk about what can happen if a new disciple is asked to do too much too soon. **How can you know when a disciple is mature enough to take on more responsibility as a disciple maker?**
11. **If someone asked you, “At what spiritual level are the people you are discipling?” how would you answer? What can do you to help them take their next step towards spiritual maturity?**

## **FAMILY WORSHIP**

1. Have the group look at pages 129-131 in the Bible study book. **Why should Christians worship God at home?** After several have responded, ask a volunteer to read **Deuteronomy 6:6-9.**

**SAY:** The primary reason Christians should worship God in the home is to be obedient to God’s command.

2. **What are other reasons Christians should engage in family worship?**
3. As the leader, share your own testimony of what family worship means to your home.
4. **What is needed to begin family worship in the home?** After discussion, point out that the only essential ingredient is a desire to be obedient to God and a willingness to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

**SAY:** Families may expect many obstacles to worship in the home, and the results can be disappointing sometimes. Let’s pray that God will help all of us to be faithful to our commitment to honor Him through worship in our homes.

5. Ask volunteers to **share results of this week’s family worship.** If they voice challenges, encourage group members to **offer helpful suggestions.** Review points in “How to Conduct Family Worship” as needed.

**SAY:** This worship time can be more difficult to establish than a quiet time. If you are persistent, you will find the best time, place, and plan for your family. Continue in this effort, even if all members of the family cannot or will not participate. God may use your faithfulness to convict other family members of their need to worship.

## MASTERBUILDER

1. Ask members to work in pairs to **present to each other the MasterBuilder presentation, through the stage of “disciple maker.”** In the pairs, have each member **kindly relay feedback, including positive observations about their partner’s presentation and suggestions for how to communicate the stages more effectively.**

## WALK WITH THE MASTER REFLECTION

1. Bring the group back together to wrap up with a quick discussion on their Walk with the Master assignments. **Did you complete the activities on your Walk with the Master checklist?**
2. **What part was easiest for you to complete? What was most difficult?**

## CLOSING

1. Ask members to **complete their personal study and Walk with the Master checklist for week 6, “Ministering as Colaborers,” before the next group meeting.**
2. Close with prayer. Ask for **prayer requests**, pray over those requests together, and close by asking God to help each member persevere in their efforts to make disciples until the fields are ripe for harvest.

## **\*IF YOU PLAN TO HOST THE OPTIONAL SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP**

1. Describe the upcoming Spiritual Gifts Workshop. Remind them of the date, time, and place for the workshop, and explain its purpose (see the final section of this leader guide). Invite questions.
2. Call attention to the week 6 assignment about taking the Spiritual Gifts Inventory and scoring it. They must **complete this inventory before the Spiritual Gifts Workshop.**



*MasterLife*

LEADER GUIDE

*Week 6*

MINISTERING  
*as*  
COLLABORERS

## Session 6

# MINISTERING AS COLABORERS

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Completing the assignments for week 6.
- Sharing ways they have seen other members change during their study of MasterLife 4.
- Presenting MasterBuilder in their own words.
- Planning a special time to spend with the Lord in prayer.
- Telling how they plan to find their areas of ministry.
- Reflecting on the six ways to gain awareness of spiritual gifts.

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to **recite all six memory verses from this study aloud together**, including this week's verse, Matthew 28:19-20.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. Have a volunteer read **John 17:1-4**. What is the mission of a disciple? (To glorify God just as Jesus glorified Him)
2. How will you disciple others in the future? How do you plan to pass on what God has taught you during MasterLife?
3. Ask your group to look at "How Shall They Hear?" on pages 151-152. Have volunteers read different portions of this section and discuss it as a group. Ask volunteers to share a number they identified for their present position in one of the areas at the end of this section and why they chose that number. What is God leading you to do next in this area?
4. How would you define "spiritual gifts"? What is the difference between spiritual gifts and the fruit of the Spirit? What is the difference between spiritual gifts and talents? (Talents are received at the time of natural birth; spiritual gifts, at the time of spiritual birth.)

**SAY:** Spiritual gifts provide spiritual power and motivation. Talents that have been committed to God can be vehicles for God to use. Talents are often the vehicles through which spiritual gifts are expressed.

5. Who has spiritual gifts, and how many can a person have? (Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift, often several. No one has all the gifts. The body of Christ will always be interdependent.) Who decides which spiritual gift(s) a person has? (Holy Spirit; see 1 Cor. 12:11)
6. What do you think would happen if all God's people discovered their spiritual gifts and used them?
7. How can we bring unity to the body of Christ by using our spiritual gifts?
8. Have your group look at the list of six ways they can gain awareness of their gifts on page 158. Ask volunteers to share how they learned more about their spiritual gifts by using this list.
9. Ask everyone in the group to share one spiritual gift they have and why they think they have that gift.
10. How can we be ambassadors for Christ? What is our role in the Great Commission?

## MASTERBUILDER

1. Instruct the group to break into pairs, and have each group member present the MasterBuilder presentation through the "spiritual disciple" stage. Invite all group members to provide kind, constructive feedback.

**\*Consider taking a short break here.\***

## REFLECTION

1. Bring the group back together and ask all group members to share one change they have seen in the person seated on their right since beginning MasterLife 4.
2. Instruct the group to turn to pages 161-162 in their Bible study book to look at the questions about their journey through MasterLife.
3. In what ways have you grown spiritually during MasterLife?
4. In which stage of development are you in MasterBuilder? Explain your answer and your current responsibilities.
5. What areas of growth do you want to work on in the future? What can you do to facilitate that growth?
6. How was your experience taking the Spiritual Gifts Inventory? What did you learn about yourself through this exercise?
7. What ministries have you performed in the past through which God has blessed others? What do you feel God is calling you to do now?

8. What other actions should you take now to gain more experience in this ministry?
9. Who will be your accountability partner to help you continue to walk with the Master now that you have completed *MasterLife*? How will they help you stay accountable?

## CLOSING

1. Share what you have observed in the group members over the last six weeks. Highlight how they have grown. Encourage your group members to **continue in their practice of the six spiritual disciplines and make a plan for the next steps in their own discipleship journey.**
2. Exhort your group to **take what they have learned in *MasterLife* and join God on mission to make disciples.**
3. Close with prayer. Ask for **prayer requests**, pray over those requests together, and thank God for what your group members have learned during this Bible study. Ask Him to help them retain what they have learned. Pray that each member will continue to walk with the Master throughout their lives.

## **\*IF YOU PLAN TO HOST THE OPTIONAL SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP**

1. Refresh members' memories about the time, date, and place for the Spiritual Gifts Workshop.
2. **Do you have any questions about the workshop?**
3. Urge members who may not have completed all their assignments to **finish them before the workshop.**
4. Remind members that they must **complete the Spiritual Gifts Inventory before coming to the workshop.** Invite questions about the inventory or the scoring process. Ask members to **review the definitions and characteristics of their identified spiritual gifts before the workshop.** Tell them they should be familiar with these gifts when they arrive.
5. Review what members should **bring to the workshop: Bibles, completed inventory, and their Bible study books with all assignments completed.**
6. Tell your group you are praying for them as they prepare for the workshop. Close with prayer. Thank God for the progress members have made. Ask God to give them courage, wisdom, and the efficient use of time in the days before the workshop. Pray that God will prepare their hearts to learn more about their gifts and that they will discover areas of ministry to which He is calling them.

*MasterLife*

LEADER GUIDE

*MasterLife 4:  
The Disciple's Mission*

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SPIRITUAL  
GIFTS  
WORKSHOP

## *MasterLife 4: The Disciple's Mission*

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP

### WORKSHOP GOALS

By the end of this workshop, group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Identifying their spiritual gifts and the ministry areas in which they are most gifted to serve.
- Having their spiritual gifts confirmed and evaluated by others.
- Confirming the gifts, goals, and talents of others for use in Christian ministry.
- Hearing others suggest spiritual gifts they may not be aware of.
- Planning next steps in discipling.

### BEFORE THE WORKSHOP

1. Pray daily for each member of your group.
2. Email each member of the group to be sure everyone will be there.
3. Review the goals for the workshop. Master the material in this leader guide for the workshop.
4. Check with the people responsible for the meeting site to be sure they are ready for the group. Ask them to decorate the meeting place for a time of celebration, including snacks and refreshments.
5. Have pens or pencils and extra blank paper on hand for the workshop.
6. Enlist a group member with strong leadership potential to help facilitate one of the two groups you will form for the spiritual gifts review. Before the workshop, meet with this group member and review the materials for the spiritual gifts review.
7. Pray for the workshop. Members need to have a sense of accomplishment and success at the end of MasterLife 4: The Disciple's Mission. Prepare to remind them of all they have accomplished by completing their Walk with the Master checklists and all four parts of the MasterLife process. Prepare to encourage them to use their spiritual gifts to glorify God and live on mission with Him.

### TODAY'S WORKSHOP AGENDA

- Welcome
- Spiritual Gifts Review
- Reflect and Celebrate

## DURING THE WORKSHOP

### Part 1 (25 minutes)

#### WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

1. Greet members. Ask each person to **share one change he or she has seen in himself or herself since beginning MasterLife 4: The Disciple's Mission**. Go around the group until each member has responded.
2. Pray together, asking each person to **thank God for the progress that he or she has observed in group members' lives throughout MasterLife**.

#### SPIRITUAL GIFTS OVERVIEW (15 MINUTES)

1. Ask your group to turn to "Definitions of Spiritual Gifts" on page 186 in their Bible study book. Briefly review the definitions of each gift. Ask if anyone has any questions about the definitions.
2. Read Ephesians 4:11-16.
3. Explain that the purpose of this workshop is to help members: 1) declare and discuss their personal gifts, 2) confirm one another's gifts, and 3) identify gifts they may not be aware of.

#### Break (10 minutes)

### Part 2 (1.5-2 hours)

#### SPIRITUAL GIFTS REVIEW

1. Bring the group back together, then ask them to **break into two smaller groups**. You will facilitate one group, and the group member you enlisted to help will facilitate the other.
2. Looking at page 186 in their Bible study books, have each group member **mark on the spiritual gifts diagram the gifts they think they have in each area**. If they feel strongly, they should put their check mark in pencil close to the center of the wedge near the circle. If they feel reasonably sure but not totally certain they have a gift, they should place their mark in the middle of the pie-shaped section. If they think they might have a gift but strongly question it, they should mark near the edge of the wedge. Ask members to **maintain silence and meditate on the definitions until all have made their marks**.
3. Ask each person to answer the following questions in their group while showing the group their diagram.
  - **Why did you place your mark where you did?**
  - **What has happened in your life that confirms the presence of this gift?**
  - **At what level did you place your mark? Why?**
  - **How deep is your conviction about this gift?**

4. After an individual has declared his or her gifts, ask the other members to **give feedback by confirming what the member has said about his or her gifts**. If members perceive a gift in the person that she or he has not declared, they can express that at this time.

5. Ask the individual these questions.

- Do your gifts cluster in one area of ministry?
- Which gifts are needed to balance your gifts?

**SAY:** For example, if someone has the gift of prophecy, they usually need someone working with them who has the practical gift of helps. Someone with the gift of mercy needs someone alongside him or her who has the gift of spiritual discernment. These gifts appear directly across from each other on the diagram. (The purpose of this activity is to help members recognize their need for one another in the body of Christ.)

- In what areas of service do you believe you can use these gifts? (Ask the person to think about the ministries depicted on the Disciple's Cross as he or she considers a ministry.)

6. Ask members to **continue giving feedback as this person shares**.
7. After the individual has shared and others have given feedback, call the group to a brief time of conversational prayer. Have the group members **gather around the individual and pray for that person's use of his or her spiritual gifts**.
8. Repeat this entire process for each member.
9. When every group member has shared, received feedback, and received prayer, bring the group back together. Allow volunteers to briefly **express their reactions to the spiritual gifts review. What were your biggest takeaways? How do you feel now that you have gone through this experience?**
10. For one final discussion before your group celebration, ask the following questions:
  - If our MasterLife group represented a church, where would the emphasis of our church be?
  - Would it be balanced, or would it lean toward the ministry of service, teaching, worshiping?
  - Are we strong in some areas and weak in others? Do we need other kinds of gifts on our team?
  - In what ways would our church be able to join God on mission?

**Break (10 minutes)**

## **REFLECT AND CELEBRATE**

1. Bring the group back together for a time of reflection as they celebrate completing the entire MasterLife process.
2. How are you feeling now that you have completed the last step of the MasterLife process?



3. Thinking back to where you were in your discipleship journey before beginning MasterLife 1, what is the biggest difference between your spiritual life then and your spiritual life now? How has your study of MasterLife contributed to this change?
4. How has maintaining the six spiritual disciplines through all four MasterLife studies impacted your walk with God?
5. Which spiritual discipline will be most challenging to continue implementing now that our study has concluded? What is your plan to make sure you continue in that discipline?
6. Who will be your accountability partner moving forward?
7. What is your biggest takeaway from MasterLife? What do you most want to remember?
8. What is your next step in your discipleship journey?

### CLOSING (5 MINUTES)

1. Congratulate members on completing all four MasterLife studies: *The Disciple's Cross*, *The Disciple's Personality*, *The Disciple's Victory*, and *The Disciple's Mission*. Celebrate their accomplishment and praise them for their dedication to seeing the process through to the end. Express appreciation for each group member.
2. Encourage them to **continue in their practice of the six spiritual disciplines**, and exhort them to **make plans for their next group Bible study experience**.
3. Encourage group members to **consider leading a new MasterLife group at your church**. Share how impactful leading MasterLife has been for you and the benefits they will experience from leading and helping other disciples grow.
4. Exhort members to **invest their spiritual gifts in the church**. Remind them that they are to **use their gifts intentionally as they live on mission with God**.
5. Close with prayer. Thank God for walking side by side with every group member throughout MasterLife. Ask God to speak clearly to them about His will for them in their next season of life as a disciple and in ministry.

### AFTER THE WORKSHOP

1. Write a note to each member, thanking him or her for participating in your group. Remind each member that you are praying as he or she continues to apply concepts of MasterLife to daily life.
2. This is a good time to take stock of the leadership you provided during MasterLife 4: *The Disciple's Mission*. If you have areas in which you want to grow as a leader, seek counsel from another seasoned MasterLife leader. If you believe a problem exists between you and a member, visit with this person and seek reconciliation.
3. Continue to pray for each member of your group.