

DISCIPLE TO DISCIPLE (D2D)

(What you need to know for who you need to be...)

Course Description:

Disciple to Disciple is a 33-week course (3 X 11 week classes) spread throughout a year, that I have long have had on my heart as more than few Christians feel they: 1) have not had the opportunity to really develop the primary and solid Christian habits that can be life changing and fruitful for the Kingdom of God; 2) don't really know how to share with someone about how Jesus Christ became real to them; 3) don't know what to say when talking to someone about Christ and the offer of salvation; 4) are feeling guilty because of all the above; 5) have always wanted to grow deeper in their own faith, but haven't found the means, material (or mentors) that could guide them through the process.

Name:

The name "Disciple to Disciple" is multilayered. In the *noun* form (***Disciple to Disciple***), this speaks of being Disciple-d as a Christian *by* another Disciple of Christ. The goal is working together to help one be better grounded in one's own faith, and progressing toward maturity in one's understanding of their own unique Christian life-calling. The second is the *verb* form, (Disciple **to** Disciple). This speaks of Christ's admonition to be about the business of making disciples. Disciples are Disciple-d to be able to Disciple others! With that said, regular, systematic and deliberate discipleship always has been the methodology of the Church; and more, Christ's mandate passed along to His Church in the Great Commission.

*Disciples are Disciple-d
to be able to Disciple others!*

Material:

Navigator 2:7 Series

The *2:7 Series*[®] is a discipleship training curriculum done in small discussion groups. Each of its three workbooks is an 11-week course led by a qualified leader/facilitator. The three training courses are:

**Growing Strong in God's Family
Deepening Your Roots in God's Family
Bearing Fruit in God's Family**

What is the significance of the name The 2:7 Series?

The name is based on the Scripture reference Colossians 2:7—the statement of the Apostle Paul to a New Testament church:

“Rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

What the apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, expresses in this passage clearly defines the specific goals of this training:

- 1) For a Christian to become built up in Christ and strengthened (or established) in his or her faith. This series of courses includes instruction in practical Bible study techniques, Scripture memory skills, how to have an exciting devotional life, and how to be more effective in evangelism.
- 2) For a Christian to learn to overflow with gratitude in everyday life. The series will help an individual learn to experience and enjoy a stable and consistent Christian walk.
- 3) For a Christian to be taught (or instructed). This implies that training needs to take place before believers develop into a follower of Christ whose life can significantly impact in the lives of people around them.

The three books are designed to be completed in sequence. Book 2 builds on the work done in book 1. Book 3 builds on what your group has accomplished in the first two books. You will enjoy each book's biblical and practical approach to discipleship. As many others have, those of you who participate in a 2:7 group can expect to experience positive life changes as you study and apply this time-proven material. Following is the main content of the three courses.

Book 1: Growing Strong in God's Family

In the first book in *The 2:7 Series*, you complete exercises that strengthen your spiritual foundation through enriching Bible study, Scripture memory and group interaction.

Book 2: Deepening Your Roots in God's Family

The discipleship training in this second book builds on the work done in the first book. You will learn ways to deepen your own Christian life, approaches for sharing your faith, and how to experience an extended time alone with God.

Book 3: Bearing Fruit in God's Family

You will continue to develop and strengthen your walk with Christ during this third book in the series. You discuss priorities and life management, learn a versatile tool for explaining the gospel, and sharpen your own salvation testimony.

The 2:7 Series is discipleship training. Navigators tend to think of training groups as being more demanding than growth groups. It is difficult to perfectly differentiate between the two. An example of a growth group might be people who prepare a Bible study, come together to talk about what they have studied, and pray together.

People in training groups learn and practice skills while they experience spiritual growth. In *The 2:7 Series* people learn and practice skills such as quiet time options, ways to meditate on Scripture, how to sharpen and tell their salvation story, and other skill-based topics.

Time Commitment:

We will work with the group members to discuss the very best time when most if not all members can have the time and schedule to accomplish an entire book (11 weeks—3 months).

A few examples may be:

March through May, September-November,
or a Summer schedule: June-August (etc.)

Each class will take approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours.

There is a LOT of group discussion.

Cost:

Each Book is \$13.00.

Materials needed:

- Bible or your own choice.
- The group may decide to utilize one translation in order for everyone to be on the same page.
- Notepad and writing utensils.
- Package of index cards.

Key Dynamic:

The group can consist of anywhere from 6-12 people. Any less or any more can be prohibitive to the dynamics. If there are only 3-5 we may consider not offering the course at this present time.

End Result (Personal):

Undoubtedly you will be more grounded in your own faith and have a better grip on the scope of the life of faith that Christ has called you to be a part of. You also, will be able to share with others the dynamics of being disciple-d—ultimately, I would like to see you as a D2D facilitator of your own group.

End Result (Our Church):

This is the true task of the church. Can we not expect and believe God will bless our efforts as we are about His business? Who knows where God can take us as we devote ourselves to Him in our community.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Can this be done by SKYPE or HULU or another streaming program?
The short answer is yes. However, this is not the ideal, as people generally grow better and learn more from interaction in the presence of others.
- 2) Do you have to complete the books in systematic order? Yes.
- 3) How many classes can I miss before the material might be unfruitful?
Hopefully, everyone can make every meeting. But in reality, that is not really practical. A total of 2 missed meetings should be our limit for each 11 week course.
- 4) Can I take one course and then take another at some other time, maybe in a year or two? Life has a way of sending us curve balls and this may happen. However, if this is the intention from the beginning, you may wish to consider taking the course at a time when you can complete the courses as close together as close as possible?
- 5) Other?

Facilitators:

Rev. Dr. David A. Cook and his wife, Bernice, are originally from San Diego, California. They have served as Pastor and spouse in Presbyterian congregations located in Pennsylvania, New York, Missouri, and South Dakota. Rev. Cook holds a Bachelor's degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston, Massachusetts. His Doctoral Thesis is entitled: "Grand-Legacy: How Grandparents can share their faith in Christ with their grandchildren in an age-appropriate manner."

David is an avid golfer, oil painter, genealogist, and teacher. Bernice is a lifelong lover of books, music, children, and contemplative Christianity. The Cooks have two grown sons: Brian (Kendra) who works in Oregon and is a devotee of martial arts, and Joel (Elise) who serves with the Office of Special Investigations for the United States Air Force while making their home in Hawaii.

Carla Richmond is single and never been married. She was born and raised in Denver, Colorado and has a twin brother, older and younger sister. Now she calls Hot Springs, South Dakota her home, having lived here since May 2004

Carla is an Industrial Hygienist/Safety Officer at the VHA Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS), Hot Springs campus. Carla has worked as a federal employee for thirty-two (32) years. First, serving in the US Army as a Preventive Medicine Specialist, then as an Industrial Hygiene Technician at the VHA Eastern Colorado Health Care System, in Denver, Colorado; and finally, as an Industrial Hygienist at the BHHCS. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Sterling College, Sterling, Kansas, and Master of Arts degree in Biology from the University of Colorado at Denver.

She is currently starting work on her Master of Divinity degree at Denver Seminary.