

Preparing

What Does a Lead Discipler/Teacher Look Like?

The following definition of mature faith comes from *Effective Christian Education; a National Study of Protestant Congregations* (Minneapolis: Search Institute, 1990).

- A person of mature faith...
 - Trusts and believes
 - Experiences the fruits of faith
 - Integrates faith and life
 - Seeks spiritual growth
 - Holds life-affirming values
 - Has a genuine love and concern for children
 - Can initiate a ministry partnership with others
 - Can patiently and prayerfully guide other workers
 - Willingly accepts responsibility and initiates ministry

Even as we are discipling others it is important to recognize we are on a spiritual journey together. As children come to faith, God speaks to them. We can learn from children and partner with them in ministry, even as we are discipling them. In fact, the most affective discipling occurs as we journey through life together.

When people consider what a children's teacher/discipler looks like, they have often limited their thinking to what transpires in a classroom setting. But Christ taught as he walked through life, the settings were varied: from Synagogue and temple to streets; boats; hillsides; plains; rivers; and homes.

Christ's rabbi model is what we might call a mentor, teacher, and discipler. Jesus invested in the lives of his followers. I believe that we are called to do the same. A Children's Ministry teacher walks through life with those s/he is mentoring. They journey through GROW together. For some, this may mean discipling within the church building. For others it will mean serving outside the building. And for still others it may mean walking through life together.

Plan for Spiritual GROWth Toward Maturity

- God's Word: explore the Word together
- Relationships: guide and affirm and interact outside the context of the church facility
- Obedient Living: model, minister and serve together
- Worship: be mindful of and rejoice in God's continual presence together

Be There to Meet Their Needs

- Contact regularly about how the ministry is going.
- Determine needs and develop a plan to address them.
- Offer training.
- Offer encouragement.