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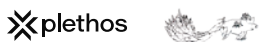
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# Huddle Leader Handbook

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# Before we dive in...


## Who are your Top 5?

*(We'll talk more about this in Session 2)*



**Top 5s**

Create a shortlist of the top five people in your home and circle of influence that you'd like to build a discipling relationship with. As you unpack Huddle Leader Handbook, ask the Lord to prepare your heart and mind for the life-altering love of Christ through the Gospel. Over the next several weeks, begin looking for opportunities to build a bridge.



- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_





## Define

**Disciplemaker:** a follower of Jesus who intentionally makes disciplemakers

**Home:** where we build a disciplemaking culture with our family

**Huddle:** a small group of disciples set apart for intentional disciplemaker training

**Coach:** the leader of a disciplemaking huddle

The home and the huddle.

These environments are two of the most valuable spaces in a disciplemaker's life. In Deuteronomy, Moses recorded the Lord's promise to the Israelites, their children and their children's children; that as long as they continued to live out His

decrees and commands, their journey onward and upward would go

well. He goes on to offer guidance in Deut. 6:4-9 (NIV):

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get

up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

It's a rhythm of life that centers around the home, spilling outward.

If you've traveled with Christ for a season or two, you understand how impactful the home-front is. There is no space in the lives of our kids and spouses more holistically formative and filled with the Spirit than the home. And it's our home base which then informs and impacts every other space we engage. As men and women, disciplemakers looking for greater impact in disciplemaking, we need to grasp how important the overflow of our hearts is as we attempt to live and model Christlikeness in every situation. Particularly with those in our huddle who will look to us for biblical, practical, and personal Christlike engagement.

Parents, coaches, and small group leaders each play a unique role in disciplemaking. Not only do we engage the Gospel and its power in real-time through Scripture, but we strive to help each member of the huddle begin to identify their preferred future, that is, who they want to be as a disciplemaker in their home and circle of influence. Ultimately, it's a journey in discovering the heart of Christ as a disciplemaker.

You and I are called to remain strong in the “grace that is in Christ” (2 Timothy 2:1). We “entrust to reliable people” the truth of the Gospel (2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 2:4). Coaches, to the best of our ability, “teach what is in accord with sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1). We “preach the Word.” We live faithful lives in our homes and communities “prepared in season and out of season” to present the truth of Christ (2 Timothy 4:2).



When those in our care, on our team, or in our huddle choose to sin, we “restore [them] gently” (Galatians 6:1). As coaches, we rely on “the Spirit [who] helps us in our weakness” (Romans 8:26). We engage in and instruct in “carry[ing] each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2). And because “all Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,” coaches press on “so that the [men and women] of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 4:16-17).

Throughout *Huddle Leader Handbook*, you’ll be invited and challenged to explore new perspectives, tools, and practices for a new season of discipling in your immediate and most intimate circle of influence. Be sure to pause, thank God for the awareness of and empowerment to fulfill your calling, and continue to ask Him for clarity, confidence, and courage to move forward each and every day.



# The Heart of a Disciplemaker

## Session I / Seven Practices



### DEBRIEF

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**Q.** Were you disciplined while growing up or as an adult? If so, share your experience.

**Q.** Are you discipling your family or some people in your circle of influence? If so, share how you disciple your family or those people in your circle of influence.



### DIG

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“It’s easier to not,” was the phrase a recent huddle repeated regularly and often in discussion. It would be followed up with, “do hard things.”

Our hearts are fickle. We quickly drift into easy mode instead of choosing to do hard things. Being a disciplemaker is as challenging as it is rewarding. At times it feels like an impossible task, which is why it’s so important to remember that nothing is impossible with God. We’re convinced that hard things done with Jesus bring the most joy. And healthy, tried, and true disciplmaking habits like the following seven,

empowered by Christ, help us navigate and persevere on the journey. Let's do hard things.

Spend some time reviewing each practice below and its role in your home and huddle.

### **1. PRAYER | Jesus prayed.** (John 17)

Jesus always spent time with His Father in prayer. As a result, He only did what the Father told Him to do. In fact, in John 17, we catch a glimpse of how Jesus intentionally prayed for Himself, His disciples, and the Church yet to be built. Elsewhere we see Jesus invite His disciples to join Him in prayer, challenging them to stay alert and engaged with the Father (Mark 14:37-38).

As disciplemakers, you and I can plant seeds, and we can water, but only God causes the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6). Through prayer and time in the Word, we go directly to the Master Gardener to acknowledge God's work, admit our sin(s), and appeal to Him (see The Prayerful Disciplemaker diagram at the end of session two) for a filling of the Holy Spirit and a hearing for our requests. Without prayer, disciplemaking will not work.

---

**Q.** What role does prayer currently play in your life?

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## **2. INTENTIONALITY | Jesus was intentional.** (Matthew 4:19)

In Matthew 4:19, Jesus invited the men He chose to drop what they were doing and follow Him. Our invitation is similar in that, like the apostles, the participants in our huddles will have to create time to follow us as we follow Jesus. This invitation not only challenges them but also invites us to be intentional in our disciplemaking habits.

For example, it's wise to set a time and date to connect with our huddle weekly or bi-monthly. Having this organized time together, both in the home and the huddle helps establish our relationships and the spiritual habit of connecting.

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**Q.** How are you being intentional with your time in your disciplemaking?

---

## **3. ACCESS | Jesus gave access.** (Matthew 4:19; John 2:2)

Jesus said, "Come follow me..." As disciplemakers, you and I ought to create ways to provide access to our lives for those we're discipling. While it may seem obvious to offer access to those under the roof of our home, creating space for access is often overlooked within the huddle. Offering access fleshes out the "as you go" process of disciplemaking, which inevitably creates teachable moments. After all, "more is caught than taught."

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**Q.** So what, where, and when do we invite disciples into our daily lives?

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Here are a few suggestions: meals, shopping, hobbies, home improvement, serving opportunities, morning coffee, ball games, on the way to school, etc.

#### **4. PRESENCE | Jesus was present.** (Philippians 2:5-8)

Jesus modeled presence by becoming one of us. He came to earth through the virgin birth, put on flesh, and made his home among us (Philippians 2:5-8). Fully God, yet fully man.

Jesus understands both the joy of sharing life together and the burden of being present through thick and thin, celebration and struggle. As disciplemakers, we need to create margin in life to be both available for and with our disciple(s). In the same way that Jesus pursued the apostles, we pursue time with those in our homes and huddles. Think of it like this: presence is giving away our most valuable resource—time.

---

**Q.** How are you present with your kids, disciples, and circle of influence?

---

#### **5. COMMITMENT | Jesus was committed.** (Luke 6:12-17; Matthew 4:19)

Jesus made a commitment to His disciples, noted in Matthew 4:19, “Come follow me and I will MAKE YOU fishers of men.” Powerful, isn’t it? The following is the Disciplemaker’s Commitment we formally make to every participant we coach:

- ❖ I am going to start on time and end on time.
- ❖ I will strive to be at every scheduled meeting.
- ❖ I will follow the 5 Ps: **P**roper **P**reparation **P**revents **P**oor **P**erformance.
- ❖ I will be “Worried up” and “prayed up.”
- ❖ I am committed to promptly put into practice what has been taught.
- ❖ I aim to be an example for you to follow as I follow Jesus.
- ❖ I will be available and accessible throughout the week.
- ❖ I will be vulnerable and create a safe place to be authentic.

---

**Q.** How does this commitment alter your view of the importance of a discipling relationship?

---

## **6. CONTENT | Jesus delivered true, memorable and practical truth.**

(Matthew 28:19-20)

In Matthew 28:19-20 (paraphrased), Jesus said, “Go make disciples... baptizing them...and teaching them all I have commanded you and surely I am with you always....” Jesus taught His disciples so that they could understand His teaching, put it into practice and then pass it on to others. This is the ultimate example for the disciplemaker.

It's also important to remember that every disciple will be at a different stage spiritually, and it's our role to help each one connect the content (the Bible) to their life. Think about the varied needs of an infant compared to a toddler. Or a teenager compared to an adult.

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**Q.** As a disciplemaker, how are you helping new disciples become self-feeders in the Word, attain personal accountability, rely on the Holy Spirit, and pass on the Gospel through disciplmaking?

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**7. REPEAT | Jesus' disciples repeated His truth.** (Philippians 3:1b; 2 Peter 3:1)

What does this mean? Check out what Peter said about repetition, "This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder" (2 Peter 3:1 ESV).

Paul said something similar, "I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith" (Philippians 3:1b NLT).

Jude said it this way, "Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it" (Jude 1:5a ESV).

Jesus was the ultimate master of repetition. In fact, as we read the Bible, we see that it repeats itself over and over again in many different ways and stories, often with the exact wording. It's common to have a disciple say, "Oh, I know that already." When they do, we should be quick to say,



“Right on, teach it to me!” In reality, most of us don’t fully grasp it until we can teach it. Paul highlighted this point when he said, “ About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God” (Hebrews 5:11-12 ESV).

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**Q.** How are you doing at repeating Gospel truth to your kids, disciples, and huddle? How are they doing at repeating it back clearly?

---

We know that time is precious. Growing the heart of a disciplemaker isn’t a light and easy calling. Maybe this is why Jesus only disciplined twelve men intentionally and then invested most of His time into them. Whatever the case, we’re convinced that you can do it. We believe that as these practices are lived and passed on, our disciplemaking relationships will grow deeper and multiply with more and more blessing from the Holy Spirit.



## DISCUSS

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1. On a scale from 1 to 10, how confident are you in modeling these disciplemaking practices in your home and/or huddle? Why? Why not?
2. Which practices do you want to grow in? Which are your strengths? Share.
3. Are there any disciplemaking practices you would add to these seven? Share.
4. Why do you believe we push the importance of the Bible as your primary content?
5. How will you begin to incorporate these practices into your disciplemaking rhythm at home or in the huddle?



## DO

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What is the ONE THING you are going to DO as a result of this session?

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“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

**Matthew 4:19**

# Seven Practices of a Disciplemaker





# The Prayerful Disciplemaker

## Session 2 / Acknowledge - Admit - Appeal



### DEBRIEF

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**Q.** Prayer was the number one practice of a disciplemaker shown in the last session. How is your prayer life? Describe it.

**Q.** What or who are some current circumstances or people in your life we can pray for together?



### DIG

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Prayer focuses our hearts and minds on Jesus. It shifts our focus in all circumstances to Christ “who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20). In other words, prayer is the bridge between the disciplemaker (you and I) and the Disciple-Creator (Jesus) that unlocks the eternal power of Christ at work within us.

Nowhere is the power of prayer more essential than in our homes and huddles. Praying regularly and earnestly with our families and participants is key to unlocking and experiencing God’s work here and now. As a

coach, prayer is also vital to the work that takes place behind the scenes in our individual lives. Prayer impacts our hearts, minds, and intimate interactions. How Jesus empowers us on mission is indicative of how we pray in private.

So, how do we engage in prayer on a daily basis?

Let's breakdown a healthy prayer rhythm into three key parts:

**Acknowledge**

**Admit**

**Appeal**

**PART 1: ACKNOWLEDGE (God)**

.....

Prayer begins by acknowledging our Father and all that He is, all He has done, and all that He is currently doing for, through, and within us.

From the greatest gift of redemption to the daily doses of mercy and grace, God is working in our lives. And prayer is a direct and personal avenue for acknowledging Him and His work, provision, and engagement each and every day. Starting each day, each prayer session by acknowledging God and His holy action, shifts our hearts and minds from self-centered prayer to God-centered prayer. It creates a foundation of thankfulness that immediately opens our hearts and minds to honestly share with God more and more of our own lives and be receptive to what God is revealing to us.

Check out the diagram at the end of the session and acknowledge God's many areas of impact in a disciple's life.

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**Q.** What are some characteristics of God that you would add to the list?

---

## **PART 2: ADMIT** (Sin)

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Prayer continues by asking the Lord to reveal any sin that would keep us from serving the Lord worthily, serving people acceptably, praying effectively, and running the race set out for us. Admitting our sin is key to maturing as a disciple of Christ. Admitting our sin to God and the brothers and sisters in Christ with whom we share life is vital to confidently live as disciplemakers. Admission is often the result of acknowledging what God has done, is doing, and wants to do in our lives. And it sets us free. And when we're free from our sin, we're free in Christ to live as more than conquerors.

---

**Q.** So how do we admit our sin? Where do we begin?

---

When we ask a child to admit something, we often start by saying, "Just tell the truth, buddy." And the truth about what you did, said, thought, or felt is a starting point. It's a statement of fact, and facts are often very revealing. As children of God, we ought to respond similarly.

Ask God to help you acknowledge sin's heart, soul, mind, and body impact. Call it what it is. Be honest. Be humbled.

Discover what Scripture has to say about your sin, your mindset, your attitude, and your actions as a follower of Jesus. What Jesus has done with your sin and about who you are in light of—and despite—your sin. Then, directly and specifically ask for forgiveness, being willing and prepared to offer forgiveness to others.

And, of course, make a simple plan to put this admission into action in your life right away. Check out the diagram to see what impact admitting our sin has on our spiritual journey with Christ.

---

**Q.** What do you need to repent of today? (Remember, *repent* simply means that we turn away from our sin and toward God for forgiveness.)

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### **PART 3: APPEAL** (to God)

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One key element of the appeal phase of prayer is to ask. Ask the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Check out Ephesians 5:18, where Paul encouraged them to be filled with the Holy Spirit in contrast with the human desire to be filled with wine (or any substance or habit used as a substitute) with Jesus' way, truth, and life through the filling of the Holy Spirit. Asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit is a sign of a disciple's spiritual maturity.



An appeal is simply an earnest request. Disciplemakers are called to bring all their requests and present them before God’s throne of grace. The New Testament is filled with examples of disciples asking God to intercede, engage, equip, heal, respond, protect and prosper.

---

**Q.** What do your appeals to God sound like?

---

See the list of passages in the final section of the diagram to catch a glimpse of what and how a disciplemaker appeals to God for the benefit of his or her journey, the blessing of those under our roofs, and the fruitfulness of our huddles through the power and presence of Christ.



### **Top 5s**

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Part of being a prayerful disciplemaker means praying for those in our homes and circles of influence. That said, at the front of this handbook is a page titled Top 5—spend some time creating a shortlist of the top five people in your home and circle of influence and begin praying daily for the opportunity to intentionally spend time with them in the context of God’s Word.



## DISCUSS

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1. How does this rhythm of prayer challenge or affirm your prayer habits?
2. Are any of the three aspects of prayer missing in your prayer life? Which one(s)? What can you do to incorporate these into your rhythm?
3. What examples of prayer have you learned over the years? From who?
4. How has the power of prayer impacted your discipling journey so far? Share.



## DO

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What is the ONE THING you are going to DO as a result of this session?

# The Prayerful Disciplemaker

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16b)



1

## Acknowledge (God)

- He created us (Gen 1:27)
- He redeemed us (1 Pet 1:18-19; Titus 2:14)
- He's restoring us (Heb 10:14; 2 Cor 13:11)
- He chose us (Jn 15:16)
- He's coming again for us (Jn 14:1-3)
- He disciplines us (Heb 12:5-6)
- He gives us wisdom (Jam 1:2-5)
- He makes us more than conquerors (Rom 8:37)
- He loves us (Jn 15:13; 10:11; Jer 31:3)
- The Lord is faithful (1 Thes 5:24; 2 Cor 1:20)
- The Lord has given us promises (2 Pet 1:3-4)
- The Lord provides materially (Matt 6:25; 6:33)
- He has given us the people we need in our lives (1 Cor 12:13; Gen 2:24; Ps 127:3)

2

## Admit (Sin)

- To reveal any sin (Ps 139:23-24)
- To serve the Lord worthily (2 Thes 1:11)
- To serve people acceptably (Rom 15:30-31)
- For praying effectively (Jam 5:16)
- To run the race set out for us (Heb 12:1-2)

3

## Appeal (to God)

- To be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18)
- To be obedient in our call (Jn 17:18; 20:21) and embrace our mission (Mt 28:19)
- To go with His purpose (Lk 19:10), power (Acts 1:8), provision (Mt 6:33; Php 4:19), and to the particular people we're assigned to (Mt 15:24; Gal 2:9)
- To pursue holiness (Heb 12:14)
- To testify at every opportunity (Jn 15:27)
- To have sorrow for the lost and a desire for their salvation (Rom 9:1-3; 10:1)
- To pray for those appointed for salvation (Acts 13:48)
- To do all things for God's honor and glory (1 Cor 10:31; Rev 4:9-11)
- To keep ourselves free from idols (1 Jn 5:21)
- To seek God's kingdom and righteousness (Mt 6:33)



# The DNA of a Disciplemaker

## Session 3 / The Big Three



### DEBRIEF

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**Q.** Review your ONE THING takeaways from the previous sessions. How are you doing with following through in holding yourself accountable to what God is asking you to do?

**Q.** What are some good habits you've developed as a disciple? What are some bad habits?



### DIG

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The DNA of a disciplemaker is made up of *The Big Three: Learn It, Live It, and Pass It On*. These habits were fleshed out by Ezra 2,500 years ago. "For Ezra had devoted himself to the study of the Law of the Lord, to fulfilling the Law of the Lord in his lifestyle, and to teaching the Lord's decrees and laws in Israel" (Ezra 7:10 paraphrase). Ezra learned it, lived it, and passed it on.

These habits, like DNA, are the building blocks of a disciplmaking rhythm of life. Let's spend some time digging into the keystone habits

and begin the process of adorning each as we disciple those in our homes and huddles.



### **Keystone Habit #1: Learn It**

---

Knowing and understanding the Word of God is key to navigating the discipling journey. Sounds elementary, doesn't it? It is. But it's true. After all, "the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12), but unless we grab ahold of the sword, live with it, train with it, and pass on our knowledge of how to use it, well, it's not much benefit, is it?

On the other hand, when we grasp the Word diligently, the fruit of our adventure changes. When we spend time each day systematically learning the Word, meditating on it, studying it, and remembering it, we gain clarity. The overflow of Gospel clarity is confidence to ask the Spirit to put what we're learning to use in our homes and huddles. And putting truth into action takes courage. Courage to pass it on through "teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It's a confident reliance on the Spirit to do what only God can do through disciples who trust God and hold themselves accountable to do it.

Listen, Christ calls us to become like Him and follow in His footsteps on mission to the world around us. In honor of Him and for the sake of those

around us, let's spend time in His Word with a desire to know His love and truth and way of life more and more (Joshua 1:7-8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

One key habit of a learn it disciplemaking lifestyle is to develop a systematic Bible reading plan with a way to hold ourselves accountable to practice what we learn.

---

**Q.** So, do you have a current systematic Bible reading plan? What is it? How do you hold yourself accountable to it?

---

One question worth asking after every quiet time, discipleship connect, or huddle to help foster a learn it mindset is: What does God want me to be and do?

**Practical Tool:** The *Storyline Bible Reading Plan* is a daily guide through scripture to help you create the habit of spending time in God's Word. (Check out [plethosglobal.com](http://plethosglobal.com) for a free downloadable guide.)



**Keystone Habit #2: Live It**

---

Our homes and huddles are the two spaces in our lives that, as disciplemakers, we have the honor of immediately and intentionally impacting with a Gospel-centered, live it lifestyle. Live it is the natural

response to learn it. It's putting into practice the knowledge discovered in the Bible. It's the renewing of the mind and then putting on the clothes of the new creation and immediately engaging in both worship and work.

To help live out a Gospel-centered life, we recommend applying G220, a Plethos tool revolving around Galatians 2:20 (see below). It's designed to impact every part of our lives each and every day (2 Timothy 1:13-14). From our beliefs, thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions, applying the Gospel is key to living disciplemaking lifestyles.

So then we ask ourselves, "how do I become and act on what God wants me to be and do?"

---

**Q.** How about you? How do you put into practice what God asks you to do?

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**Practical Tool:** G220 - Put to heart and mind the different elements of Galatians 2:20. (See [plethosglobal.com](http://plethosglobal.com) for access to this free resource and more.)



### Keystone Habit #3: **Pass It On**

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The final habit woven into the DNA of a disciplemaker is the ability and willingness to pass on what they're learning and living—in particular,



replicating this discipling rhythm and reality in the lives of those in our huddles. Passing on biblical truth for a biblical worldview to help those in our circle of influence shape a biblical lifestyle fulfills a 2 Timothy 2:1-2 discipling habit, which states, “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

Catch that? Sharing what we’re learning is a vital step in internalizing what we’re learning and adorning the Gospel we’re professing. Passing on Gospel truth is not only beneficial to our homes and huddles but also modeled by Jesus and mandated to all disciples in Matthew 28:18-20.

---

**Q.** How are you currently Passing It On to others? Is it Gospel-centered? Is it fruitful?

---

Why is it so important to pass on what we’re learning to others? First of all, it’s important because Jesus mandates it. Period. But it’s also the method by which He passed on divine truth to His disciples—who then passed it onto others and so on—from one generation to the next until here we are, in a new culture and new season of life, learning how to pass it on to others.

**Practical Tool:** The *4D Circle* (page 66) is a great way to begin to practice capitalizing on teachable moments (both in passing and in teaching) and intentionally engaging those in our homes and circles of influence.



## DISCUSS

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1. Which habit is currently a strength of yours? Which do you want to grow in? (Learn It. Live It. Pass It On.)
2. What are your current Bible reading practices, rhythms and routines? Share.
3. Share some live it habits you're winning at right now.
4. How have you in the past and/or how are you currently passing it on? What's your method? Is it easy to replicate? Is it memorable?



## DO

---

What is the **ONE THING** you are going to **DO** as a result of this session?

# The Big 3

Building our Faith on Spiritual Habits



## Keystone Habit #1: Learn It

**THE WHAT:** Systematic Bible reading and having a way to hold yourself accountable to practice what you learn.

**Q.** What is God teaching me?

**BIBLE:** This one habit will change our lives. We have been given the words of life. Let's crave it and practice it with God's power (Joshua 1:7-8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).



## Keystone Habit #3: Pass It On

**THE WHY:** Passing on what we're learning in our homes and / or circles of influence.

**MULTIPLY:** Passing on Gospel truths is a key way for us to help people meet, know, and follow Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:1-2).

**Q.** Who am I going to share it with?

## Keystone Habit #2: Live It

**THE HOW:** Learning and applying Galatians 2:20 (G220).

**GOSPEL:** This is what we call "Gospel-centered Living." When we know the truth of Galatians 2:20 and practice it, then we will begin to live a Gospel-centered lifestyle.

**Q.** How am I going to respond?





# The Environments of a Disciplemaker

## Session 4 / Home & Huddle



### DEBRIEF

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- Q.** How are you applying what you have been learning about discipling in your home or circle of influence?
- Q.** What are some discipleship resources you have used personally or have seen in your local church that have helped disciples grow in Christ?



### DIG

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We believe the most effective environments for discipling are the home and the huddle.

The home is our deeply personal, intimate space. It's where we eat, sleep, and hang out. Who we live with is who we have the opportunity to impact the most. When we refer to home as an environment, we're saying that the family unit, the people under our roofs, are the primary focus of our discipling rhythm of life.

Likewise, the huddle is a personal space designed to help brothers and sisters in Christ develop alongside one another into disciplers.

When we call the huddle an environment, what we're saying is that outside of the home, a huddle, or small group of believers, is our secondary focus of discipling.

There are many environments used in the local church, from one-on-one to large groups, through which we go about making disciples who make disciples. However, at Plethos, we believe that the home and huddle are undoubtedly two of the primary spaces God designed, created, and modeled for multiplying disciplers.

Let's unpack these two environments.



The family unit is God's Plan A for multiplying His children. Let's explore God's call through history by beginning at the beginning. In Genesis 1:28, God said to the first family, "Be fruitful and multiply."

Fast forward to Abraham. In Genesis 12, God set apart a family to call His own. To this faithful man, God said, "I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you," (Genesis 12:2-3 CSB). It's an incredible call, isn't it?

Later in Deuteronomy 6:4-7, we see Moses tell the people of Israel, "Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

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**Q.** How important is the home when it comes to practicing discipling? What might this mean for Christians today?

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So what do we mean by family? Family includes those closest to us: dad, mom, children, anyone else living under our roof, and even our extended family and close friends. These are the people we primarily invest in and share spiritual life with 24/7.

The home is a microcosm of the local church. And the local church is made up of many families. Families and individuals who, in Christ, become one Kingdom family. Through this lens, it's easy to understand why, to be an elder within the local church, men with families must be able to manage their households well (1 Timothy 3:5). After all, healthy homes create healthy churches, which produce healthy places to live, work, and play.

Gathering together is messy, isn't it?

Satan loves to divide Christians, local churches, homes, marriages, and families. This is why we believe the primary place to start making disciples is in the home and that the healthiest homes learn, live, and pass on the Gospel. It's why we believe that if there's a man or woman of God in the home, to the degree that their context allows, they must trust God's

design and Jesus' call to make disciples in their homes, "baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them everything [God has] commanded," (Matthew 28:19b-20a). Be encouraged, Jesus promised to help us, be with us, and teach us everything we need for godly living, and that includes discipling our families.

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**Q.** What does discipling in your home look like in this season of life?

**Q.** What does Deuteronomy 6:4-7 teach us about how to disciple those living in our home?

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Jesus modeled the huddle throughout the gospels. A huddle is simply a small group of disciples set apart for intentional discipling training.

Although many others followed and served Him, including women, Jesus personally appointed twelve men to be His disciples (Luke 6:12-15). It's because Jesus lived it that we believe the huddle is so important.

But we also see the huddle modeled by the Apostle Paul. In 2 Timothy 2:1-2, Paul encouraged Timothy to teach reliable men who would teach others also. In this passage alone, we see four generations of disciplers.



So what does the huddle environment look like here and now?

First, we recommend huddles form as gender-specific groups that consist of no more than seven men or women. Smaller group sizes foster a great environment for deeper relationships and growth. Yes, Jesus disciplined twelve, but He invested in three of the twelve with greater intentionality. It's because of these deepening relationships that we encourage gender-specific groups. We know that conversations connecting the Gospel to our lives can get personal, and no doubt there are plenty of examples of ministry relationships stepping out of bounds, which is why we, at Plethos, train and equip through small, gender-specific huddles.

Second, a huddle ought to plan on meeting weekly for a least one year. Why? Because it takes time to build trust in a group setting before transformational growth can occur. Disciplemaking takes time. After all, Jesus spent more than three years with the twelve on a daily basis.

Third, huddles take work. Paul, writing to Timothy, used a sports metaphor to describe the disciplemaking journey. "[Timothy,] train in godliness. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come" (1 Timothy 4:7-8). Just as it is in training for anything of value, our huddles will take work. But that work will pay off not only in the lives of those we equip but also in the generations impacted by their faith.

---

**Q.** Have you led a form of the huddle in the past? What did it look like? How did it function?

**Q.** What stands out to you about Jesus' modeling of the huddle with His disciples?

---

Take a look at this snapshot of how the home and huddle, actively developed and practiced in our daily lives, can take shape:

1. Be a disciple of Jesus. (Individual)
2. Disciple our homes. (Home)
3. Disciple a handful of others to do the same. (Huddle)
4. Give out our gifts of grace in the local church and beyond. (Local church)

If we do these four things for the rest of our lives, no doubt we'll finish the race strong.

**A Word of Caution:** Be careful not to compare yourself with those brothers and sisters further along the journey and / or more fruitful than you appear to be. Likewise, be careful not to shame those who haven't quite connected the home and huddle dots to the degree that you have on your journey of discovery.



## DISCUSS

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1. Which discipling environment is most intimidating? Home or huddle?
2. Share how you are leading your home spiritually. What does intentional discipling look like in your home?
3. How have you come alongside others to help them be disciplers in their homes and circles of influence? What did it look like?
4. What is God saying to you today about the home and huddle?



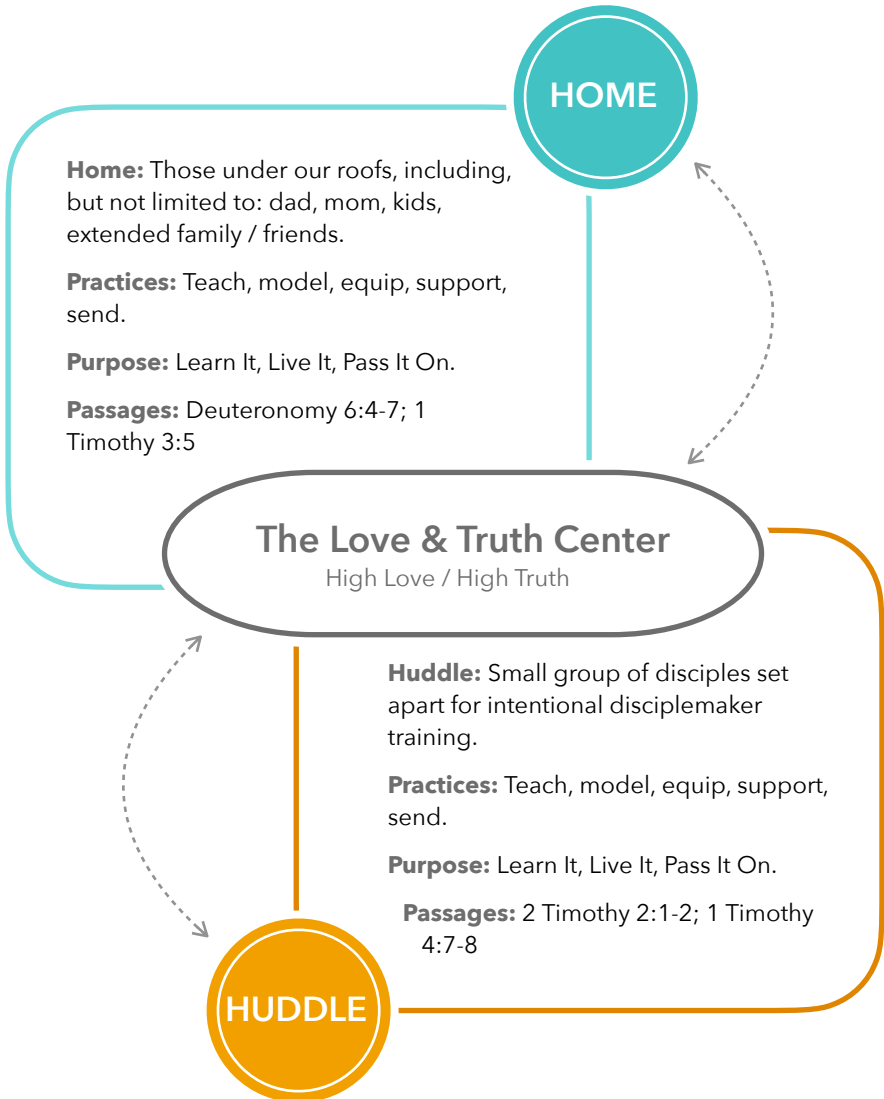
## DO

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What is the ONE THING you are going to DO as a result of this session?

# The Environments of a Disciplemaker

Engaging the *Home* and the *Huddle* on Mission



# How to Start a Huddle

Session 5 / 12 Steps



## DEBRIEF

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**Q.** What characteristics do you look for in a disciple?

**Q.** Why is the home a great place to begin the discipling journey? What challenges come with beginning here? What blessings?



## DIG

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Let's start with defining the huddle.

A huddle is a small group of disciples set apart for intentional discipling training. It's often made up of two to seven gender-specific people of faith. In his book *Replicate*, Robby Gallaty defined potential disciples through the acronym **F.A.I.T.H.**, disciples are: Faithful, Available, Intentional, Teachable, and Humble. When inviting others to go deeper into the discipling journey with Christ, it's wise to both pray for and look for people who display these qualities.

But it's a journey, right? We're not seeking to invite and engage perfect people into our huddle. On the contrary, young or new people of

F.A.I.T.H. are often rough around the edges as they engage Christ in more profound ways. These are often the future disciplemakers we're looking for.

After all, the men Jesus invited to follow him weren't quite the qualified high-brow seminary grads the average evangelical church seeks out today (Luke 5:27-28; 9:54). And the women who traveled and served with Him weren't necessarily polished or culturally revered (Luke 7:37-38). Yet they were men and women of F.A.I.T.H., changing the world.

Whoever you're determined to invite, remember that the Holy Spirit will do the work.

We also believe that the family unit is the first huddle. The people under our roofs, those we share meals with, repair the home with, hammer out finances with, these are our built-in huddle participants. They're in our intimate circle when we rise in the morning and lay down at night. Want to be a disciplemaker? Want a safe place to practice leading a huddle? Begin by discipling in your home first.

Spend time reading through, discussing, and planning out your own twelve steps to starting a huddle in your circle of influence.

### **The Invitation:**

Take a look at the first five steps of starting a huddle in 'The Invitation' section of the diagram at the end of this session. Read them over:

1. Make a top five list of gender-specific people of F.A.I.T.H. Start praying over the names on this list.

2. Invite them to a coffee meeting or a zoom chat. Share your heart and vision to equip people to be disciplemakers in their homes and circles of influence.
3. Go over the content, your commitment, and the approach you will use for your weekly meetings. Let them know the:
  - meeting place (local or virtual)
  - start date & time
  - length of commitment (weeks/months)
4. Let them know it will be a small group of disciples set apart for intentional disciplemaker training.
5. Ask them to pray about it for a week or two before committing.

Did you notice how prayer is the first step before all other actionable steps? It should be. To the same degree that Jesus prayed for you and me in John 17, we ought to be praying for the future disciplemakers in our huddle. In the next three steps, we take action by reaching out to our top five, those in our homes, and a few within our small groups and personally invite them to join the huddle. We explain the mission, details, and make-up of the group. Then we ask them to pray about their decision before committing.

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**Q.** Have you pinpointed your top five? Who will you commit to inviting first?

**Q.** Which step do you anticipate being the most difficult to engage? Why? What can you do to prepare for it?

---

## Follow Up:

You've asked them to pray about joining the huddle. Now follow up with them on their decision. Unless they've already said no, in which case you'll want to honor their decision, don't hesitate, feel embarrassed, or apologize for following up. You've already made the ask, and now it's time to follow up! And it can be a simple connect too:

6. Follow up with a text, such as, "I'm praying for you." Really, be praying for them. Soon after, schedule another time to connect one-on-one and just hang out and chat. Ask them if they feel led to join the huddle.
7. Invite those who are ready to dive in to purchase whatever content is needed for the huddle.

---

**Q.** What are some of the benefits of asking for a commitment to the potential disciple, the huddle, and the coach?

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## Stay Connected:

Healthy coaches foster healthy huddle communication. While we're often strong in some methods of communication and weak in others, we'll want to start strong by gathering multiple contact points from our team members and welcoming them to the journey.

8. Gather from your participants: mailing addresses, emails, phone numbers, and social media handles.



9. Email each participant a Welcome email with all the detailed information needed for your huddle. If online, make sure all participants know how to link and join before your first meeting. Be sure to send a Reminder email and text the day before your first meeting.

The more detailed we are in our initial communication, the more thorough we are about the process, materials, and tools, the more excited and engaged the members will be from the start.

---

**Q.** What might you include in your first *Welcome* email to the group? What would you like to know if you were diving in with little or no experience with a huddle for the first time?

**Q.** How familiar are you with online call formats like Zoom or Google Meets? If applicable, what can you do to get familiar enough to comfortably use and explain your chosen format to others?

---

### **Begin the Journey:**

It's time. We've reached out. Informed our top fives and discerned their interest. Made the ask. Followed up. Gathered information. Sent the Welcome email. And maybe even followed up with any first session questions or confusion.

Now we begin to live out the disciplemaker mindset we're in the process of passing on.

10. Show up 15 minutes early for the Meeting Before the Meeting. Invite others to do the same. Keep your meeting to 60 minutes. Stay after 15 minutes, Meeting After the Meeting, or as long as you're able for those who wish to dig in relationally, personally, or with questions about the content. Come Early. Work Hard. Stay Late.
11. At the end of your first group connect, invite your huddle to join a Group Text for participants only. Explain that the group text is for the participants to share contact information, prayer needs, scripture, updates, and encouragement—nothing else. Ask them to respond to the group with full names as a way of sharing contact info. This will become your home base.
  - text for daily connection
  - email for communication
12. Dive in! Train faithful men and women to be disciplemakers in their homes and circles of influence.

---

**Q.** So, what are you anxious about? What do you need to hand over to Jesus in order to begin the journey with clarity and confidence?

**Q.** What are your expectations for the first session? Are they based on your abilities? Are they based on the new participants response to the first huddle? Or are your expectations grounded in a Philippians 4:6-7 framework?

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## DISCUSS

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1. What step do you feel you need most in preparation for your first huddle?
2. What role does prayer currently play in your preparation? What role would you like it to play? What action step will you engage in to fulfill your prayer goal?
3. Who will you ask to partner with you in prayer and accountability throughout the leading of your huddle?
4. What challenges can you foresee in starting your own huddle? What will you pray about?
5. What are you hoping to accomplish through this huddle?



## DO

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What is the ONE THING you are going to DO as a result of this session?

# How To Start A Huddle

12 Steps for a Healthy Launch



## The Invitation:

1

Make a **TOP 5 List** of gender-specific people of **F.A.I.T.H.**

Pray over the names on this list.

Invite them individually to coffee or a zoom connect to **Share** your heart and vision to equip people to be *disciple-makers in their homes and circles of influence.*

2

3

Go over the **content**, your **commitment** and the **approach** you will use for your weekly meetings. And let them know the:

**meeting:** virtual or local

**start:** date and time

**length** of commitment

4

Let them know it will be a **small group** of no more than:

5

Be sure to ask them to **pray** about it for a week or two before **committing.**

OR

7

men

7

women

## Follow Up:

6

**Follow up** with a text, such as, "I'm praying for you." Really be praying for them.

Soon after, **schedule** another time to connect **1x1** to just hangout and chat. Ask them if they feel led to join the huddle.

## Stay Connected:

7 Invite them to **purchase** whatever **content** is needed for the huddle.

8 **Gather from your participants:**

mailing addresses  
emails  
phone numbers  
social media

9

**Send out a *Welcome email*** with all the detailed info needed for your huddle. Ask for a **reply** to confirm email address. Send **text** to confirm phone #'s.

**Meeting online?** Make sure all participants know how to link and join before your first meeting.

Send a **Reminder email** and text the day before your first meeting.

## Begin the Journey:

10 Show up **15 minutes early**. Invite others to join.

Keep your meeting to **60 minutes**.

Stay **after 15 minutes** and offer others to join for any follow up. (Come early. Work hard. Stay late.)

**Text** for daily connection.

**Email** for communication.

**Create a Group Text** for the Huddle. Explain that it's for: contact info, prayer, Scripture, encouragement. Nothing else. Ask them to **reply all** with full names for participants to save as new contacts.

11

12

**Go and equip** faithful disciples to be disciplemakers in their homes and circles of influence.



# How to Lead **Huddle Participants**

## Session 6 / 3 Cs of Leading a Huddle



### DEBRIEF

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**Q.** Is your top five list made up of people of F.A.I.T.H.? If so, how do you know? If not, what can you do about it?

**Q.** What step are you on from the twelve steps we talked about in the previous session?



### DIG

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Connection, content, and communication are three key aspects of a huddle. While most coaches and disciplinarians are fluent and engaged in one or two of these, it's important to grasp and be active in all three for a thriving huddle adventure. As we unpack the following 3 Cs of leading a huddle, begin to discern how you, the coach and lead disciplinarian, will customize your approach, personalize your process and ultimately own your disciplinarian habits.

## CONNECTION

Connection is key. Relationships, even those across digital lines, are built and rely on healthy connection. And within a huddle, there are two simultaneously occurring connections taking shape and in need of ongoing, intentional encouragement.

The first is the direct connection between *coach and participant*. A coach is most effective when understood, available, and engaged. You and I want to offer insight into who we are as men and women of God living Christlike lifestyles. It's important to invite others into our own journey with Christ—our current habits, where we've been, and our own areas of struggle and growth (2 Timothy 3:10-11).

But connection is more than just sharing our story; it's also about being available to connect beyond that one-hour huddle each week. For some, this is where the Meeting Before the Meeting and the Meeting After the Meeting connect some relational dots. These are simple practices that create space for a deeper connection with the content or beyond it into the nitty-gritty of real life. Text messages, personal calls, and intentional emails can only help build the bridge. Ultimately, coaches are called to be relationally engaged with those the Holy Spirit has placed in their huddle. We pray, invite, encourage, challenge, train, and send weekly.

The second line of connection forms between *huddle members*. It starts in that group space through discussion, digging into the Word, and prayer. But it spills over through those electrifying moments of personal experience and insight. Through repentance and accountability. Through grace and truth. A huddle is formed at the invitation of a coach. But a



huddle becomes a team as it engages the way, truth, and life of Jesus Christ together.

## CONTENT

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Content is king”? Coined in the '90s, acknowledging the importance of content is undoubtedly relevant today. How about, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful”? Paul the super-apostle encouraged Timothy, one of his disciples, with that defining statement. Put another way, “Scripture is our God-breathed, core content.” And it’s the foundation to everything a coach passes on in their huddle.

But content is more than just a question of what. It’s also about how. Teach the content so that others can learn it, start to live it out (apply it), and pass it on (teach it). After all, clarity gives confidence and the courage to act. The following points are intended to assist you, the coach, share content as you lead your huddle. Take a look and evaluate your practices as you go.

### **Less is more.**

Sometimes we overwhelm people with so much content that not only are they unable to process it and apply it in their own lives, but passing it on to others gets lost in the overwhelm. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time, right? Too much info in one sitting is just as overwhelming as too much elephant in one spoonful.

Think about it like this, teach the page, not the lines. Don't get caught up in making sure you cover all the content in one session that you miss helping your huddle understand and apply the main point.

**Ask questions. Then ask some more.**

As coaches, you and I should be asking questions. We should ask lots of open-ended questions. After all, Jesus asked a lot of questions. It takes work, but take the time to learn how to ask good questions. It'll be worth the effort.

**Pete and repeat.**

Don't forget to apply the practice of Pete and repeat regularly (2 Peter 3:1; Philippians 3:1b; Jude 1:5a; Hebrews 5:11-12). It's more than okay to repeat important truths over and over again as though our huddle is hearing them for the first time. In fact, as we grow in our equipping and connecting, we'll undoubtedly expand our teaching methods, stories, and illustrations useful for engaging our huddles and building onto one session after the other.

**Participant Context.**

As we get to know our huddle participants individually, we'll become more effective during our organized sessions. Think about the needs of an infant, a toddler, a teenager, or an adult. You will have all the stages of spiritual maturity in your huddle. Never assume someone knows what you are talking about. As a coach, you'll be helping your group identify their current reality, ultimately helping them get to where they need to be. To the degree that you're able, organize and customize your teaching plans to bring along the whole group.

### **More is caught than taught.**

Give them a model to follow. Think through how you are teaching and ask, “is it reproducible?” As the sessions unfold, invite each person to play a role in the teaching and discussion: have them read a bible verse, offer their own analogy, or speak into others' experiences in their discipling journey.

All that said, as coaches being remade in the image of Christ, it's important that you and I be ourselves. Rely on the Holy Spirit. Be confident. Act like the amazing discipling makers Jesus has equipped us to be. After all, if it's worth doing, it's worth doing continually.

Finally, be humble. Be teachable. We can learn just as much from our huddle as they can from us. Give them time to share and ask questions. Don't be a know-it-all. Let the Word of God do most of the talking, then follow up with more questions.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Communication, though intertwined with connection and content, is focused most specifically on the method and mission of the mediums we use to communicate. It's not just that it's essential to connect on a personal and spiritual level with our huddle, but the manner in which we use our tools of communication is important in building trust and relaying different types of information.

In our daily life, we navigate this all the time. Personal conversations with our spouse happen most often face-to-face, one-on-one. Quick notes,

comments, and jokes are passed through a text. In comparison, calendar updates and financial details may come through automated messages, emails, or group discussions around the table.

Jesus modeled this too. There were times when teaching the crowd was enough to satisfy His plan (Matthew 7:28-29). Yet other times, He pulled aside the disciples to share more personal details about His mission (Luke 18:31-34). Some conversations and meals were shared with the crowds (Mark 2:1-5). Other times He invited only the twelve for more personal teaching, training, and connection (John 13:1-17). No, Jesus didn't text, call, or email, but He did use the space and time at His disposal for intentional communication.

Beyond the weekly huddle session, three tools readily exist for ongoing communication: email, text, and social media.

### **Emails:**

1. **Reminder Emails:** Start by filling in the subject line. Write a short note, any needed communication updates, and include the Zoom information required. Be sure to explain any attachments and then attach the files.
2. **Follow-up Emails:** Again, fill in the subject line. Then, write a short note with any highlights from the previous huddle session. Offer some encouragement and follow up on any promises you made during the huddle.

### **Text Messages:**

1. Ask the participants if they would like to opt-out of the Group Text. Honor their request. Let them know they will miss out on some important connections that will happen during the “interruptions” of a group chat.
2. Set up a Group Text with the rest of the participants. Explain in the text the purpose: This is a private text group only for sharing your ONE THING(s): encouragements, prayer, scripture, and other helpful stuff. Please do not use it for anything else. Please only use it from 7 AM - 9 PM to honor people’s schedules. Please use it as often as you feel led. Pray for each other daily. Please respond to this text with your FULL NAME so you can share contact information.

### **Social Media:**

1. Facebook or other: Ask to become friends with your huddle participants.
2. Invite your huddle participants to join the @plethosglobal social media spaces.
1. Please use discretion on what you post as a coach. What you decide to post builds your reputation as a disciplemaker. Who do you want to be known for in today’s “marketplace” or “neighborhood”? Less is more. A bit of advice, only post what is helpful for building up your huddle. Be as wise as a serpent and gentle as a dove (Matthew 10:16). Be winsome.

The result? Huddle participants fully engaged in the huddle, the sweet spot of disciplemaker training. The huddle will go faster and further together. Why? Because when there is good communication, meaningful connection takes shape. And when there is meaningful connection, the content moves beyond information and into actual life change.



## DISCUSS

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1. Which area, connection, content, or communication do you find your strongest in?
2. What area do you struggle in the most?
3. What did you learn about creating connection in a huddle?
4. What did you learn about delivering content in a huddle meeting?
5. What did you learn when it comes to communicating with your huddle participants?



## DO

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What is the ONE THING you are going to DO as a result of this session?

# How to Lead Huddle Participants

The 3 Cs of Leading a Huddle Like a Pro



Connection is greater than content in the beginning. Help foster group connection.

**Pro Tip**

## CONNECTION

Two key lines of relational connection to be aware of: first of all between coach and huddle member; second, between huddle members.

Consistent, clear communication fosters connection.

People don't care what you know, until they know how much you care.

## FLOW

Clarity gives confidence and courage to act.

## COMMUNICATION

Staying in touch via email, text, and social media are simple but effective ways of keeping your connections alive in between huddle sessions.

**Pro Tip**

Understand the key differences and the purpose of each form of communication. Use with discernment.

## CONTENT

Teaching and training in a way that is memorable, concise, contextual, repeatable, reproducible, and sourced in Scripture.

**Pro Tip**

Make sure your content is the Bible or anchored in the Bible. And keep in mind that less is more when teaching. Ask more questions.





# How to Lead a Huddle Meeting

## Session 7 / 4D Circle



### DEBRIEF

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**Q.** Discuss your ONE THING from the previous session. How did you do with putting it into practice?

**Q.** What have you done this past week to grow in fostering connection, delivering content, or communicating consistently and often with others?



### DIG

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The 4D Circle is designed to foster relational discipling through conversation and teaching in everyday life. It provides a framework for processing teachable moments one-on-one or with the huddle.

Once made a habit, the 4D Circle helps us navigate biblical, relational, spiritual, emotional, and physical discoveries with our disciples through their everyday experiences. Spend some time digging into the key elements of each of the following 4Ds. Take note of your strengths and weaknesses—the good, bad, and ugly of your current coaching and discussion habits.



## DEBRIEF

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Huddles open with a time of review. Yes, we review the previous week's discussion, but more importantly, we tap into the real-life teachable moments that occur during our time apart.

A word of caution—debriefing is not designed to interrogate a disciple's spiritual successes and failures. That's not our role. This short debriefing period is intended to help our disciples clarify what God might be teaching them through a family event, an impactful point in Scripture, a vocational decision at hand, or a character challenge the Holy Spirit is bubbling to the surface in their life. As coaches, we steer the conversation through the general rhythm below. Let Scripture guide healthy replies while the disciple does the work of responding and connecting the dots.

Take a look at the following discussion points. Pause and spend a few minutes working through a teachable moment together.

1. **Observe:** Many teachable moments happen throughout each week. Take a minute to pray and think about the past week. What comes to mind? What moment, circumstance, or encounter stands out?
2. **Reflect:** Ask questions to get a more detailed picture of the teachable moment being discussed.
3. **Share:** Let the group speak into the process, sharing thoughts, questions, or observations with the individual.
4. **Ask,** "What might God be teaching you/us through this teachable moment?"



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This section will take up the most considerable amount of time in a given huddle. The coach's role is to bring the focused topic to the table and begin the process of teaching, training, and equipping. But we don't do this alone. The Holy Spirit is working in the lives of your disciples, enabling them to bring their insights to the table. When their insights are off the mark, use that as another teachable moment to steer them toward truth.

Take a look at a few simple elements of the dig time below and note how you do, will, or would like to put this into practice.

1. **Decide:** What is the content/topic to dive into either in light of the revealed teachable moment OR in step with systematic training prepared in advance for your huddle.
2. **Teach:** Dig into the Bible and content, frequently stopping to ask clarifying questions that will stir them to think and respond. Keep it interactive and engaging like a ping pong volley. Take turns reading the passages aloud and sharing thoughts along the way.
3. **Share:** What are some relevant illustrations to share? You want to keep the teaching focused on one topic. Remember, less is more.
4. **Pro Tip:** This is a time for mutual learning together. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead and speak in a reciprocal community. Give space for God to speak through His Word.



## DISCUSS

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Discussion happens throughout, doesn't it? A healthy huddle is engaged more and more in discussion as you grow in life together. If talking is light at the start, don't worry. Intentional time, space, and connection will deepen your relationships as you journey together.

That said, within a huddle, we want to leave ample time to discuss the core principle from the day's digging. This time is designed to foster personal responses to the content at hand. Through questions, goals, insights, and clarifying passages, coaches steer the team toward personal responses that can be engaged and explored in the coming week.

Take a look at the key discussion elements below and share beneficial questions, personal accountability practices, and goal-setting habits that might help your group develop a healthy discussion rhythm.

1. **Apply:** Ask questions that lead to applying the content or text you just spent digging into together. Get personal. Go deeper. Keep asking the Holy Spirit to lead you. Is there an area you need to focus on and bring challenges? Maybe, you need to bring some encouragement and/or comfort.
2. **Plan:** Ask, "What could be a plan to help you apply what you are learning?"  
  
Be sure your plans are **S.M.A.R.T:** Specific - Measurable - Attainable - Relevant - Time-bound.
3. **Gospel:** Ask, "What does Scripture say in light of this topic/discussion?"



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Discussion leads to action. At least it should. This is where the role of the coach is wildly beneficial. A coach helps navigate the principal truths and discoveries toward practical responses and applications. No, we don't tell people what to do, but we assist them in clarifying one concrete action to pray over and put into practice in the coming week. Why? Because Christ calls us to live on the vine. Vines grow and climb and produce. As we learn Gospel truth, we're invited and challenged to put it into practice HERE and NOW.

Spend a few minutes looking over the simple process of clarifying an action step. What have you found helpful in discerning what to act on?

1. **Ask** more questions that lead to action. Be intentional with next steps. Ask, "What is the ONE THING you are going to DO as a result of our time together?"
2. **Ask**, "How will you hold yourself accountable this week to do what you said?"
3. Write down the **ONE THING** and pray over it.

DO is the natural overflow of our time Debriefing, Digging, and Discussing. DO is the putting into practice of our faith. What changes and growth come to mind in light of the discussion and discovery at hand? What ONE THING can be put into action as soon as possible?



## DISCUSS

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1. What about the 4Ds stands out to you? Why?
2. Share some strengths, weaknesses, and habits that you currently practice from The 4Ds. Which aspect remains foggy or confusing?
3. How much time do you need to prepare your Dig portion beforehand? What does this time look like for you?
4. How are you personally practicing what you're learning? In other words, are you following through on your ONE THING each week?
5. How can you implement the 4D conversation into your family teaching rhythm? With your spouse? With your kids?



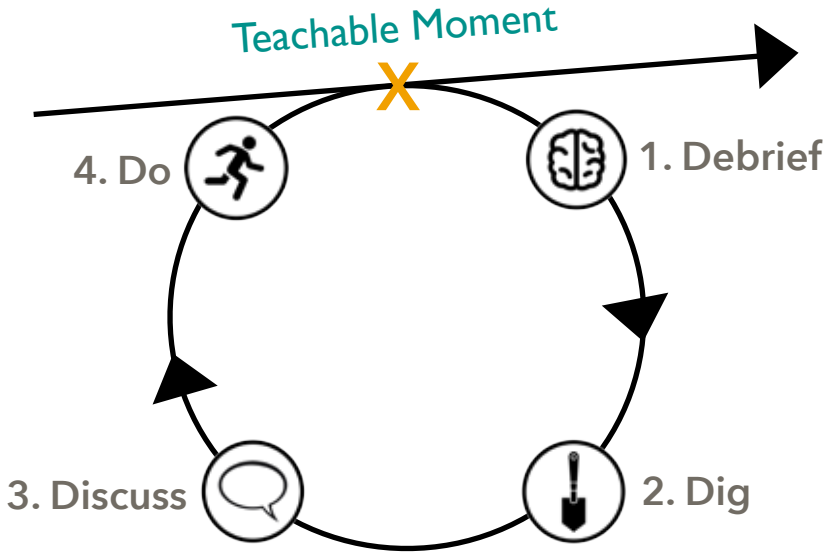
## DO

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What is the ONE THING you are going to DO as a result of this session?

# The 4D Circle

How to Lead a Huddle Session



## 1. Debrief

**Observe** teachable moment(s).



**Reflect** on observations.

**Share** in discussion with the group.

**Ask** what God is teaching.

## 2. Dig

**Decide** what to dig deeper into.



**Teach** Scripture / resource.

**Share** relevant illustrations.

**Pro Tip:** Trust the Holy Spirit to lead as you learn together.

## 3. Discuss

**Apply** content / text both individually and as a group.



**Plan** on engaging S.M.A.R.T. goals.

**Gospel-centered** discussion and application ideas.

## 4. Do

**Action-oriented** steps / goals.



**Accountability** to goals / steps.

**One Thing** to put into practice immediately.





# How to Ask Huddle Questions

## Session 8 / Open & Closed Questions



### DEBRIEF

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**Q.** What was your ONE THING you committed to DO in the previous session? Did you do it? Reflect on it. How did it go?

**Q.** Did you have a 4D conversation? Describe how it went.



### DIG

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Asking fruitful questions within a small group setting isn't a new concept. No doubt there are countless books, studies, and classes created to develop such question-asking skills. At Plethos, we believe that a good launching pad for asking better questions is the use of open-ended questions.

So what's an open-ended question? Simply put, these are questions with more than one answer. Unlike yes/no questions, these questions are intended to foster deeper personal insights. Good open-ended coaching questions can stimulate a handful of fruitful outcomes:

- honest reflection into teachable moments
- biblical understanding
- Spirit-filled insights
- clarity into personal successes and failures
- actionable steps

As coaches, our huddle experiences may be as casual as sharing life with a group of women from another neighborhood or as complex as equipping a team of men from a different country, tongue, or tribe altogether. What works for me may not work for you. What works in my home may not fly in yours. What works in my neighborhood may not work in yours.

Just as Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers, “follow my example as I follow the example of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1), it’s not the coach’s place to burden a participant with a list of disciplinmaking demands. Instead, healthy coaches model healthy practices rooted in Christlikeness. They ask thought-provoking questions and are prepared to give clear and biblical responses when asked why we do what we do.

It’s comforting to know that Jesus himself led a diverse group of disciples who, though all Jewish, lived at cultural extremes within their international world. From the wealthy and complicit tax collector (Matthew 9:9-13) to the avenging and conspiratorial zealot (Matt 10:4) to the average tradesman (Matthew 4:18-22). Married and single, old and young, every age and stage, Jesus’ disciples were a cross-section of the world he was born into. Whatever position we find ourselves in, each

group will be unique, requiring a healthy practice of asking effective questions.

So, let's get practical.

## **Open-Ended Questions**

As we noted above, good coaching questions are often open-ended questions that seek full-bodied, meaningful, and explorative answers. This type of question challenges huddle members to pause, reflect, share, and discuss their responses beyond simple facts, data points, and rote memorization.

Open questions empower the respondent to steer the conversation, offering greater personal buy-in or ownership of their observations, ideas, and action steps.

Open-ended questions invite; they don't interrogate. You can set boundaries within a question to narrow the focus OR remove specifics to open the response field. Open questions often invite others to join in the discussion, share their observations and insights, and develop deeper relationships as a result.

Take a few minutes to review the examples below. Note the keywords used to formulate open-ended questions.

### **What / How / Share / Describe**

**What:** "What would you do if all obstacles were removed?" "What are

three actions you can engage in as a result of this discussion?"

**How:** "How would you handle that if you were living the Christlike rhythm you desire?" "How will you take the first step to put that into practice in your home?"

**Share:** "Share a little about how you've handled that in the past." "Share how you would act if you were confident the Holy Spirit was empowering you for victory?"

**Describe:** "Describe your decision-making process." "How would you describe your current discipling process?"

.....  
**Q.** What are some open-ended questions you've used in your leading and coaching?  
.....

## **Closed-Ended Questions**

**Caution:** As coaches, it's helpful to be aware of our use of closed questions, questions that can be answered with grunts and single-word replies. Closed-ended questions often narrow, slow, or stop the flow of information and participation in a discussion. It's good to be aware of what we're actually asking of our huddle members when setting up our expectations for each session.

For instance, if we're hoping to foster extended discussion, yet we continue to ask yes / no questions, we'll be disappointed with the lack of member engagement and depth.

On the other hand, a simple yes / no question can be refreshing after a series of deeper open-ended questions. These questions can create space for a mental or emotional break, lighten the mood, or offer breathing room if things get tense. Closed questions can be necessary when confirmation, basic data, or information that doesn't require serious mental energy is needed. However, too many closed questions may inadvertently let a participant off the hook during a deep discussion, an honest reflection, or when a good old-fashioned challenge is needed.

### **Who / Did / Can / Is**

**Who:** "Who is your favorite author?" "Who is the main character in the passage?"

**Did:** "Did you like the book?" "Did you accomplish your goal from last week?"

**Can:** "Can you grow in that area?" "Can you ask your spouse what they think?"

**Is:** "Is that going to be an obstacle?" "Is that how you pronounce your last name?"

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**Tip:** When you find yourself asking another closed-ended question, just add: "Why?" "Would you share a little more?" "Explain that a bit." etc.

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One more thing. Within every huddle session, the goal is to get each member to engage, open the Bible, and pray. This may take some careful effort at the beginning of the huddle experience. Don't force it. Lead toward it with grace. The goal is to learn from each other. We must always have our palms up, ready to receive what the Lord might want to teach us through another brother or sister in Christ. Good questions are developed through healthy listening, gospel living, and prayer-filled attention.



## DISCUSS

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1. What are some additional insights that might be helpful when discipling others from different backgrounds or cultures?
2. Do you recall any lightbulb moments when your eyes were opened to new insights about people different than you?
3. What are some blind spots people might have when relating to those who are different? Share a blindspot you discovered along the way.
4. How will you work on growing your ability to ask good open-ended questions?
5. Are there any good resources you might recommend for learning how to engage a multi-cultural world like Jesus?



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What is the ONE THING you are going to DO as a result of this session?

# How to Ask Huddle Qs

Developing Healthy Qs for a Discussion Habit



## DISCUSS

*(A deeper dive into the 3rd 'D' from the 4D Circle.)*

**Open-Ended Qs** seek full-bodied, meaningful and explorative answers.

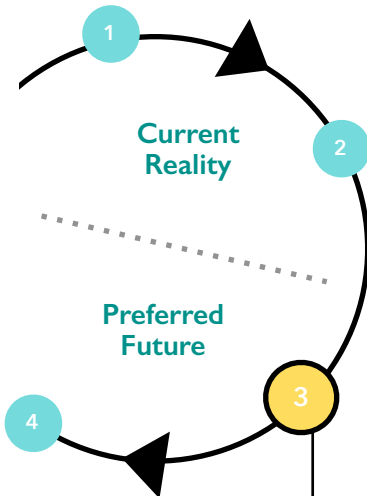
They invite group members to pause, reflect, discuss and engage the material in their personal context. To own their responses. Examples:

**What:** "What would you do if all obstacles were removed?" "What are three actions you can engage in as a result of this discussion?"

**How:** "How would you handle that if you were living the Christlike rhythm you desire?" "How will you take the first step on putting that into practice in your home?"

**Share:** "Share a little about how you've handled that in the past." "Share how you would act if you were confident the Holy Spirit was empowering you for victory?"

**Describe:** "Describe your decision-making process." "How would you describe your current discipling process?"



**Closed-Ended Qs** slow the

conversation allowing the member to offer specific points, information or observations. At times, closed-ended Qs release the individual or group anxiety of too many open-ended Qs. Examples:

**Who did / Who said?**

**Did you / Will you / Can you / Can I?**

**Is that?**

These types of questions tend to foster yes / no, one word, or short responses that require less explanation.



# How to Create a **Disciplemaking Culture** in a Huddle

Session 9 / Love & Truth



## DEBRIEF

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**Q.** What was your ONE THING from the previous session? How did you do in following through?

**Q.** What types of questions are you prone to ask: open or closed? Which do you need to put into practice in your home and/or huddle, and how would it benefit those you lead?



## DIG

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At Plethos, we desire to help every disciple transform their home and huddle into Christ-loving, Christ-centered, Christ-replicating relationships. And the space where this transformation takes place we call *The Love and Truth Center*. Which begs the question: what is a love and truth center? Let's unpack this a bit.

For the family, the home is the central location where the love and truth of Christ are learned, lived, and passed on every day. The home is

divinely designed to be a hospitable environment full of grace and mercy, invitation and challenge, teaching and rebuke. The home is our personal space where the fruits of the Spirit are planted, watered, matured, and harvested. Just as Peter said that we're called to purify our souls by obedience to the truth so we can love one another earnestly from the heart (1 Pet 1:22), our homes are the stomping ground for every family to practice God's truth and love.

The huddle also creates a unique space for developing a Love and Truth Center. No doubt that in-person huddles and virtual huddles will function differently; nonetheless, building relationships centered on God's truth through teaching and rebuke, as well as modeling God's love with grace and mercy, will foster depth and endurance in the lives of our disciples.

Take a moment and check out *The Love and Truth Center Diagram* on the last page of this session. The four quadrants offer some insight into the character, mindset, and expression of a Christian's faith.

On the spectrum of God's love and truth within a believer's life, (+) and (-) symbols offer a paradigm for engaging the degree of *love distortion* and *truth distortion* in all three quadrants outside of the **Christlike High Love** and **High Truth** upper righthand square. When we are filled with the Spirit, faithfully empowered by the Gospel, and attempting to model Christ's love and truth daily, then we're engaging Christlikeness.

As you review it, ask yourself which quadrant best reflects your faith? Are you living out a love and truth centered life? How about your home? Huddle? Local Church? Spend some time unpacking how a **High Love** and **High Truth** faith might impact your home and huddle.

## LOVE

As Paul points out in 1 Corinthians 16:14, disciples are commanded to do everything in love. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, he notes 16 action words that describe love. In Hebrews 12:5-6, we're told that God disciplines out of love. This framework for God's love is what we call *High Love* on the diagram. When partnered with God's truth, a high love home or huddle is a place full of the Spirit and models the many facets of Christ's love. Think about how encouraging our homes and local churches would be with this type of divine love expressed and anticipated.

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**Q.** What are some habits of a high love home? How about a high love huddle? What do you do? Which expressions of love from Paul's list have you experienced?

---

The opposite of high love is what we've titled *Low Love*. Low love will often express itself as either *Worldly*: I claim Christ but live apathetic to the Gospel and conformed to the world's standards; or generally as a *Legalist*: I try to live by my own power by adding rules to Jesus' commands and expecting others to live and believe accordingly while offering little love in the process. These expressions miss out on the extraordinary love of Christ that Paul writes about in Ephesians 3:14-21.

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“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” **John 13:34-35**

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## TRUTH

Our families are designed for more than simply experiencing or displaying expressions of God’s love. They’re also designed for grasping and sharing His truth. Disciples are called to seek, grasp, meditate on and share the truth in order to be a holistic love and truth center. We call this a *High Truth* rhythm of life.

What is truth? Jesus’ prayer recorded in John 17 demonstrates His heart for His disciples. Particularly that God the Father would “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” And the best way to get to know His truth is to be in His Word, to daily and systematically read through the Bible, holding ourselves accountable to practice what we learn. Truth requires commitment, perseverance, and a continual renewal in our hearts and minds of the majesty of Christ, which stirs up a daily hunger for truth.

Simply put, grasping the depth of God’s truth and putting it into practice requires faith and takes work (Proverbs 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 2:15).

---

**Q.** How does biblical truth play a role in your home? How about your huddle? How have you seen truth and/or hunger for knowledge abused? How have you seen this lived well?

---

*Low Truth*, much like low love, offers a distorted view of Christ and Christianity. Low truth fosters an *Enabling* approach to understanding Jesus' Great Commands and Great Commission. Without a high desire to know biblical truth or a lack of conviction to live it out courageously, we conform to the world's view of love in that we claim to love others by tolerating and / or accepting their sin to their own destruction.

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"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" **John 8:31-32** ESV

---

Ultimately, we practice being a love and truth center when we obey by grace through faith what Jesus taught His disciples, who then passed on His love and truth to others. When you and I learn and live out Galatians 2:20 and Matthew 6:33, we develop healthy love and truth centers in our homes and huddles.

Spend some time digesting the awesome picture of a love and truth center found in Galatians 5:22-23. Afterward, take some time to meditate

on the picture of a "sin center" found in Galatians 5:19-20. Ask yourself which description you want in your home, neighborhood, school, workplace, church, etc. Then, go forward in grace-empowered

faith, attempting to obey God and expecting him to fulfill your attempt with his power (2 Thessalonians 1:11).

### High Love / High Truth

We believe the love and truth center, through Christlike transformation, is developed within each individual, our homes, huddles, and our local churches.

The High Love & High Truth disciple is filled by the Spirit and empowered by the Gospel. Check out the upper right quadrant of The Love and Truth Center Diagram to see how it stands against low love and low truth. (Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:15)





## DISCUSS

---

1. Is your home a love and truth center? Is it lukewarm? Is it a sin center?
2. If someone who knew your family well were brutally honest, how would they describe your home life? Love and truth, or something else?
3. Which character qualities and spiritual habits do you display in your home and huddle? Which do you need to put into practice more?
4. How about your huddle, small group, or discipling relationships? Are these spaces full of high love and high truth, or are you training up apathetic, prideful, critical, and sin-tolerant disciples?
5. If Christ, who peers behind all curtains, shadows, and private places, were to describe your home, how would he describe it?



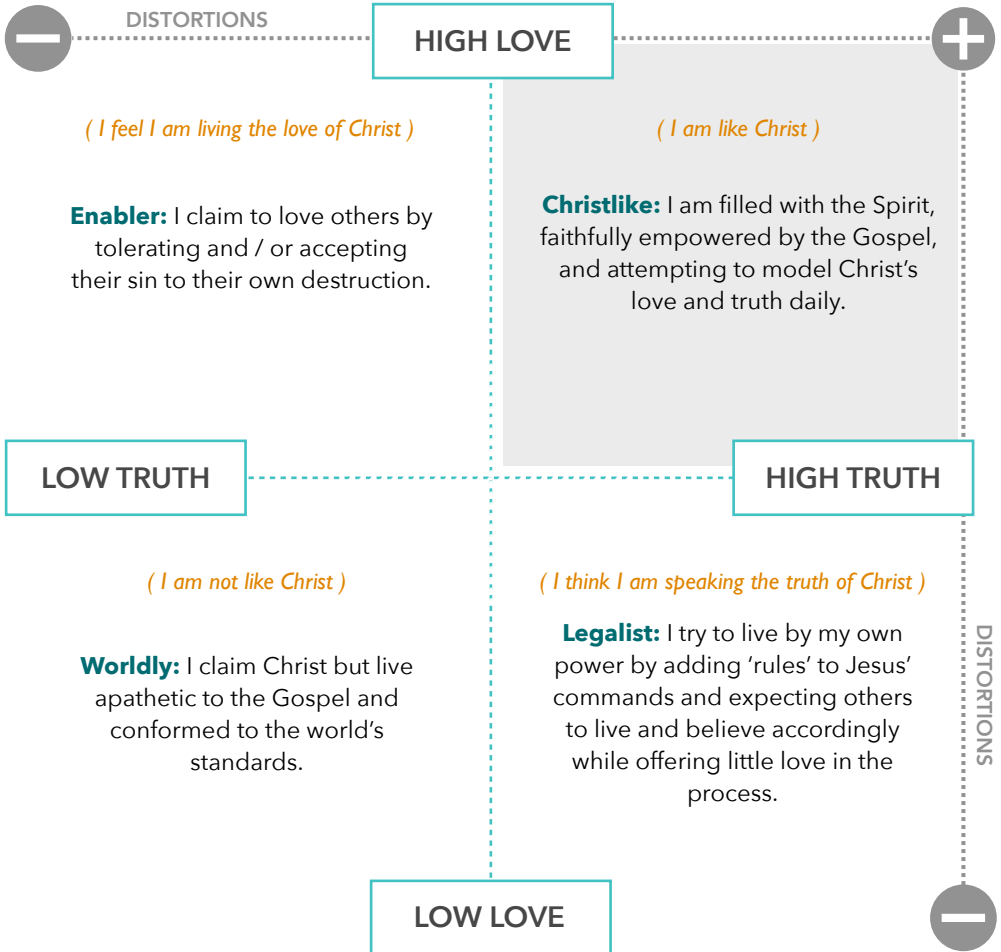
## DO

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What is the ONE THING you are going to DO as a result of this session?

# The Love & Truth Center

A Self-Assessment Tool for Christians





# Next Steps for a Disciplemaker Rhythm

## Session 10



### DEBRIEF

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**Q.** What was one takeaway from the previous session? What did you attempt to put into practice? How did it go?

**Q.** Is there an overarching theme the Spirit is revealing to you about your leadership, discipling habits, or family rhythm? Share.



### DIG

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A word of encouragement—each one of us has already begun the journey.

If you're a follower of Christ...

If you're a part of a local body of believers...

If you're a spouse, parent, coworker, or connected to your community in any deep and meaningful way...

If you're a living and breathing disciple of Jesus...

Then you've already begun the discipling journey!

So, if we're already on the journey, and Jesus is already with us in the fray (Matthew 28:20), then the anxiety that can creep in with diving into a new adventure, practice, or habit is diminished twice over. First, our feet are already on the path toward making disciples. Second, and more importantly, because Jesus is with us. Disciples have nothing to fear. Just look at what Paul said:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7 NIV).

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**Q.** What do you fear about developing a discipling lifestyle in your home and/or huddle?

**Q.** Knowing that you're already on mission as a disciple, what are some parts of the unique journey God has you on that you're thankful for?

---

Let's unpack some possible next steps for launching your home and/or huddle rhythm. As you go, discuss the importance of each step and how you plan to implement these in the coming weeks.

### **1. Pray.**

A. Pray for your top five.

**Q.** How often are you praying for your list of family and friends?



3. **Take a look at Session 5: *How to Start a Huddle*.** Pick up at the next appropriate step and follow the guide to make your huddle a reality.

**Q.** What is your next step?

**Q.** When are you going to act on your next step?



## DISCUSS

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1. Have you heard any disciplemaking success stories in the home and huddle? If so, share.
2. Do you know of any disciplemaking churches? If so, what methods do they use? How are they intentionally training disciplemakers in the home and huddle environments?
3. If you have already worked through this book with a huddle, what will you repeat for others? What will you leave behind? What will you improve and/or innovate?
4. Over the last ten sessions, what has been a standout takeaway?



## DO

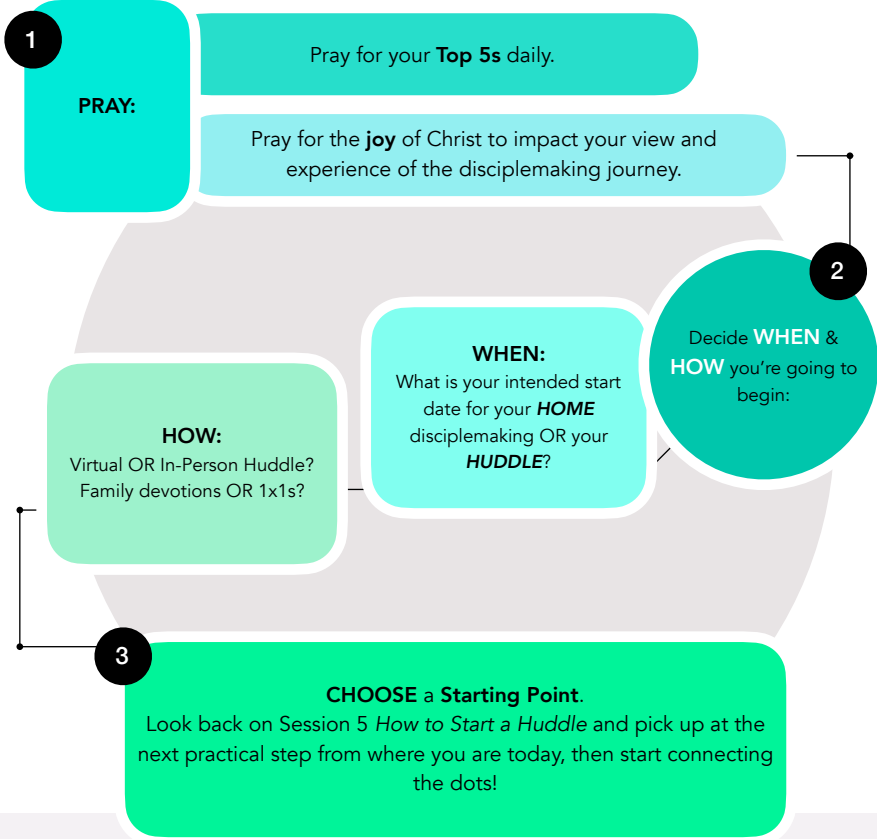
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What is the **ONE THING** you are going to **DO** as a result of this session?

# Next Steps Flow Chart



Continue the Journey:



## Next Steps' Notes

Praying for:

When:

How:

Starting Point:



# Let's Follow Up...

So who are your Top 5?

## Top 5s

Create a shortlist of the top five people in your home and circle of influence that you'd like to begin discipling. As you unpack Huddle Leader's Handbook, ask the Lord to prepare their hearts and minds for the life-altering love of Christ through the Gospel. Over the next several weeks, begin looking for opportunities to build a bridge.



1

2

3

4

5

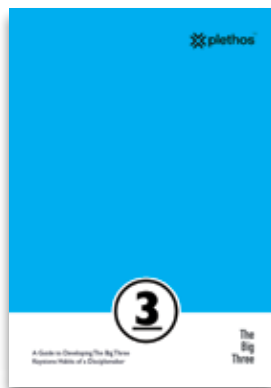




## CHECK OUT these core Plethos Resources:

Order yours at [plethosglobal.com](http://plethosglobal.com)

**The Big Three** is a core discipling resource here at Plethos. In the span of 10 sessions, future disciplers *Learn*, begin to *Live Out*, and are invited to start *Passing On* their faith. Develop a discipleship rhythm in your home, small group, or circle of influence by equipping them with the keystone habits of a discipler.



**The 4D Journal** is designed to help you navigate your 1x1, huddle, and small group discipling connects. We believe the 4D Journal helps parents, small group leaders, and disciplers purposefully *Pass It On*. In each session you'll: *Debrief, Dig, Discuss*, and prepare to *Do*. Whether you prep ahead of time or meet on the fly, the 4D Journal will help you to confidently lead.

Check out [plethosglobal.com](http://plethosglobal.com) for more discipling resources.

