

USING EVERYONE'S GIFTS TO DISCIPLE

Don Krow

Today we want to talk about using everyone's gifts to disciple. They can be used. We've been working with this discipleship program for many months with great success, seeing people's lives changed by being born again, baptized in the Holy Spirit, and water-baptized. One day I was talking to a friend and said, "We're missing some things—they're falling through the cracks." He said, "I thought everything was working great. What do you mean?"

What I'm going to share with you is how to bring an inward church, where people just sit, listen to the pastor, and go home, to be an outward church where they reach beyond the four walls of the church building. These are the real statistics: 95 percent of all Christians have never led anybody to the Lord and 90 percent of evangelism is directed towards Christians. The church building is the most evangelized area in the world. We evangelize the Sunday school rooms and we evangelize the sanctuary. The way we evangelize the building, you would think the church needs converting.

It wasn't until the third century under Constantine that church buildings came into being. Since that time, as far as reaching out to the lost, the church has gone inward and hid behind the walls of the church buildings. We want to talk about reaching out beyond those walls to turn an inward church into an outward church. Statistically, there are only 0.5 percent (less than one percent) of programs that reach beyond the four walls of our buildings. That says there is no major denomination in the United States today that has a plan to really reach the lost. Reaching and discipling people outside our church buildings is a part of Christianity that needs to be rediscovered.

Through the Reformation, Martin Luther brought the revelation of justification through faith to the church's attention. In the 1800s mass evangelism came through John Wesley. But it seems that personal one-on-one discipling and evangelism has not been rediscovered since the Apostles. You may say, "I don't know how." Through this program, we definitely will show you how—it's very easy. We'll show you how easy it is to work with people and to meet new people at the door through using your testimony. This is what I want to focus on now. This is the good news.

How would you like to do just what you want to do, not what somebody else wants you to do (that you really don't want to do), but exactly what you want to do. That's what we're talking about. When I show people how Discipleship Evangelism works saying, "Look, this is what we're doing, we're touching people's lives, they're being saved, born again, filled with the Holy Spirit, and water-baptized." People say, "That's great!" But if I said, "Now, how many of you want to go with me," there would be maybe three of you out of two hundred, because the rest of you are scared or don't know how to do it. Or if I said, "Now, forget about it. Don't worry about it; you don't have to be afraid. We'll go out and get the Bible studies and set up discipleship lessons for you." How many would want to teach? There would be more than—about ten or twelve—saying, "Yes, I want to teach," but it wouldn't go beyond that.

What we want to do is show you how every gift in the body of Christ can be used to reach the lost, to love and disciple them. It will take every gift, and those gifts are found only in the body of Christ, the local church. Some of you say, “I like to pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, healing, and things like that.” Well, there’s a time in our discipleship when we can bring you in just for that purpose. Other people say, “I’m not comfortable with that,” but can you bake a pie? Can you send a card? Can you make a phone call? Can you paint a fence? Can you baby-sit for a single mom we’re ministering to and give her an hour to herself so she can get out of the house? Can you do the practical things? What about intercession? Some of you are called to intercede, to pray. We’ll show you the people we’re ministering to, give you their names, and you can be praying and interceding, alone or in groups, for them and for the discipleship evangelism teams that go out each week.

There is room for everyone to reach out to others, to disciple. We have a program where every gift can be used. We’re developing teams of a teacher and a teacher’s assistant who go out in a discipleship capacity to minister. Then two people in the helps ministry come in behind them to do practical things like giving food, baking a pie, or calling to see how things are going. We also have people who are interceding for us and the people we minister to.

Do you know what we’re seeing? We’re seeing God change people’s lives because they are being pastored and cared for, because His love is being shown to them. And do you know who is doing the work of the ministry? It’s being done by the ones who are supposed to do it—the people. Ephesians 4:11 says the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher are given to perfect the saints so they can do the work of the ministry. The church is doing the work of the ministry, not only the man at the front called “the pastor.” When the pastor teaches and equips the church for works of service and they go and do them, that is true success.

Let me illustrate. If we declared war on another nation and our president said, “We lose too many men in war, so I have decided to do away with the army and send just the generals out there to fight.” The rest of the world would laugh at us, and really that’s what’s happening. The devil is laughing at us because we have sent the generals, the five-fold ministry, to do it all. Let them do it—we’re paying them to do it. We have failed to develop an army. God wants to develop that army, and every one of your gifts can be used in Discipleship Evangelism.

If it were possible we would come to your church to help you set up the program and a team. What we really want is to help you raise up leadership. We want to reproduce ourselves in others. But coming to you in person is not always possible, so, a video message by Jill Reece has been produced explaining how to implement the Discipleship Evangelism Program in your church. We want to help create an army, equipped with powerful tools to disciple—not just here in our city—but reaching around the world. It can be done through the tools we have developed, the Detailed Teacher’s Guide, the Discipleship Lessons, and all of the strategies God has given us. If you have any questions feel free to contact the Discipleship Evangelism Ministry and we will be glad to help you as much as we can. Write to: Discipleship Evangelism P.O. Box 17007 Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935-7007 or online: www.krowtracts.com or www.delessons, or call: 719-577-7775.

God bless you as everyone comes together to use their gifts to minister to the lost, to the new believer, and to keep Jesus’ commandment to go and disciple the nations.

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HERE ARE THE FACTS!

These facts come from three different sources:

1. The book "Where do we go from Here" by Ralph W. Neighbour.
2. "How to have a Soul Winning Church" by Gene Edwards.
3. "Christianity Today."

1. 95 PERCENT OF ALL CHRISTIANS HAVE NEVER LED ANYONE TO CHRIST.
2. 90 PERCENT OF ALL EVANGELISM IS DIRECTED TOWARD CHRISTIANS (Church Building Evangelism).

After the Third Century, Christians moved almost all of their activities of evangelism and discipleship inside the church building. Think about it! Almost every Sunday, we attempt to evangelize the world—by evangelizing the people in the church building. We evangelize in every classroom and every pew. The way we work at it, you'd think that the building needed converting.

Think about it: The only people who can be won to Christ are the lost people who will deliberately get up, get dressed, go down to the auditorium, and willingly expose themselves to the preaching of the Word. The only problem is that MOST PEOPLE WILL NOT DO THIS!

The lost world has been telling us: "Please make sure your pastor has a Theology Degree; an air conditioned building, and cushions on your pews. Invite us to church via radio, TV, phone calls, letters, bulletins, newspapers ads, AND WE STILL WILL NOT COME!" ("How to Have a Soul Winning Church")

3. IF EVERYONE IN AMERICA GOT UP ONE SUNDAY MORNING AND DECIDED TO GO TO CHURCH, ALL OF OUR CHURCHES IN AMERICA WOULD ONLY HOLD 4 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION—THAT MEANS 96 PERCENT OF THE LOST ARE OUT THERE!
4. IF THE LOST WON'T COME TO US, HOW DO WE REACH THEM?
CURRENTLY ONLY 0.5 PERCENT OF OUR EVANGELISTIC PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO REACH THEM.

That means there is not a denomination in America that has a program to reach the people who will not come to church. There is at least 80 percent of unconverted people in America who will not go to church under any circumstance!

5. CHRISTIANITY TODAY RESEARCHED THE GREAT REVIVAL OUTBREAK IN AMERICA, AND DISCOVERED THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF ACTIVITY WAS DUE TO CHURCH TRANSFERRING - NOT WINNING THE LOST.
6. AFTER 1,900 YEARS, FROM THE TIME OF THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH AND THE APOSTLES, THE CHURCH HAS NOT REALLY REDISCOVERED PERSONAL EVANGELISM DISCIPLESHIP.

In the 1500s and 1600s, through the Reformation and Martin Luther, justification through faith was re-discovered. In the 1790s William Carey brought back missions to the forefront. In the 1800s mass evangelism reappeared through John Wesley. It is incredible that less than 70 years ago, the first book on soul winning was written (R.A.Torrey). It is talked about, and written about, but there are only isolated cases of people doing it. One thousand years of church history does not show evidence of what would really happen if large numbers of Christians in a mass movement began to evangelize and disciple others. (Ibid).

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HERE ARE THE FACTS!

THE GOOD NEWS!

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO ONLY WHAT YOU DESIRE TO DO?

1. Evangelism
2. Teaching
3. Praying for people to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, deliverance and healing
4. Kindness Evangelism: Giving food, phoning people, painting a fence, baking a pie, baby-sitting, helping a single mom, sending a card, loving people
5. Intercessory Prayer
6. Organization
7. Agape love feast

THERE IS A PLACE FOR EVERY GIFT IN
REACHING THE LOST!

HERITAGE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
Discipleship Evangelism Outreach
Senior Pastor: Dan Funkhouser

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone Number: Home _____ Work _____

This is what I am interested in doing: (Check one or more)

- _____ Contacting new people at their door
- _____ Teaching discipleship lessons
- _____ Intercession: Praying for the lost and the discipleship evangelism teams
- _____ Praying for the others to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, healing ect.
- _____ Giving food or other items to families in need
- _____ Contacting others by phone
- _____ Kindness Evangelism: Baking a pie, sending a card, helps
- _____ Working with single moms and children
- _____ Providing Transportation to church, ect.
- _____ Organization
- _____ Other: I want _____

I am willing to make a six month commitment to the church for this outreach.

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Maybe (Undecided)

I need more information

_____ Yes _____ No

I would like training on how to contact others at the door.

_____ Yes _____ No

I would like training on how to teach the Discipleship lessons.

_____ Yes _____ No

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

DISCIPLESHIP FOLLOW-UP RESULTS FORM

Date of visit: _____

Trainer's name: _____

Trainee(s): _____

Name(s) of person(s) visited: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Age Group: Adult _____ Teenager _____ Child _____

Marital Status: Single ____ Married ____ Divorced ____ Unknown ____ Widowed ____

Children at Home: _____

Occupation: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Location of Presentation: _____

Lesson No.: _____ Subject of Lesson: _____

How did study go? _____

(Use back of page if needed)

Appointment made for next study? Yes _____ No _____

Appointment Date and Time: _____

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Discipleship Evangelism
P.O. Box 17007
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935-7007 U.S.A.
www.krowtracts.com www.delessons.org
Phone: 719-577-7775