

The Essentials of a Reproductive Disciplemaking Ministry

What are the essentials of the Navigator ministry - the activities we must be engaged in if we hope to accomplish our Aim?

This question grows in importance as we expand into an increasing number of cultures that are themselves in a constant state of change. Add to this the variety of personalities and ministry styles represented among our staff. With so many variables, how can we hope to work together to fulfill our particular calling? Our unity depends upon our mutual commitment to biblical principles that we agree upon as being essential.

There are three activities that fall into this category. They are Evangelizing, Establishing and Equipping. These are the least common denominators of our ministry in that, if any one of these were missing in a particular ministry, it would be incomplete.

Unity on these essentials does not imply uniformity of methods and means. How we do them will vary with the circumstances. Consequently we do not address ourselves to methods in this study. They are to be worked out on the scene.

What	Why	Emphasis	Result
<i>God wants:</i>			
Evangelizing	Everyone Saved <i>1 Timothy 2:4</i>	Gospel	Converts
Establishing	Everyone Mature <i>Colossians 1:28</i>	Growth	Disciples
Equipping	Everyone Prepared <i>1 Peter 4:10</i>	Ministry	Laborers

The following pages in this Section, therefore, contain two kinds of information. We will define what we mean by each of these essentials and we will state the principles that are universally applicable to each.

Evangelizing

I. Definition:

“To evangelize is to spread the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, and that as the reigning Lord He now offers the forgiveness of sins and the liberating gift of the Spirit to all who repent and believe.” (Note 12)

II. Aim:

To lead a person into an understanding of the Gospel so that he or she can respond.
Result - Converts.

III. Basic Assumptions:

A. Salvation comes through Jesus Christ by the Word of God and the persuasion of the Holy Spirit. The disciple is the message bearer - Romans 15:18; cf. John 15:4,5.

B. Evangelizing is a process involving both sowing and reaping -John 4:37,38.

C. All Christians share in this ministry as a way of life by what they are, what they do and what they say - Philippians 2:15,16; Matthew 5:16; 1 John 1:3.

D. Methods and approaches should be determined mainly by the needs and mentality of the hearers. We are to “by all possible means” save some - 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

E. Decisions should be confirmed as being a turning to God the Father of Jesus Christ and away from trust in anything else -1 Thessalonians 1:9; John 1:12,13.

IV. Basic Ingredients:

A. Following Jesus - Matthew 4:19, Acts 22:14,15.

B. Prayer - Romans 10:1; Colossians 4:2-6.

C. Prompted by the Spirit - Acts 1:8.

D. Loving service, i.e., incarnation of the Gospel - John 20:21.

E. Verbal expression - includes

1. Witnessing to God's goodness - Mark 5:19.

2. Sharing one's testimony - John 9:25, Revelation 12:11.

3. Teaching the Gospel from the Word - 1 Peter 1:23.

4. Persuading or confronting concerning a decision -2 Corinthians 5:11.

Note: Without verbal expression, personal evangelism has not been accomplished. Romans 10:17.

Establishing

I. Definition: the process of helping believers mature.

II. Aim: to present every person mature in Christ. Result - Disciples.

III. Basic Assumptions:

A. God wants every believer to grow toward maturity - Colossians 1:28.

B. There are identifiable marks of maturity - Hebrews 5:14 (holiness); I Timothy 1:5 (love); I Corinthians 3:13 (endurance). *Note: The Greek word for establishing is "sterizo". It means to establish, to strengthen, to support.*

We are to be established :

1. II Peter 1:12 - in truth...against deception (believer)

2. I Thessalonians 3:13 - in holiness ...against temptation (saint)

3. I Thessalonians 3:2,3 - in faith ...against persecution (brother)

4. II Thessalonians 2:17 - in good works and words ...against uselessness (laborer)

C. The responsibility for establishing lies with:

1. God - Romans 16:25; 1 Peter 5:10; James 1:2-4.

2. Fellow believers - Ephesians 4:12-16; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16.

3. The believer himself - Jude 20; Colossians 2:6,7.

IV. Basic Ingredients:

A . From God

1. His Grace - 2 Peter 3:18.

2. The Word - Acts 20:32.

3. The Holy Spirit - Galatians 5:16 & 25.

B. From fellow believers

1. Prayer - Luke 22:32; John 17; Ephesians 1:15-19.
2. Mutual support - Ephesians 4:15; Hebrews 3:13; Hebrews 10:24,25; 1 Thessalonians 2:11,12.
3. Word of God - Acts 20:32; Hebrews 5:12-14; II Timothy 3:16,17; I Peter 2:2,3.
4. Example - Philippians 4:9; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7.
5. Love - I Thessalonians 2:8.

Note: The Navigators give special emphasis to the application of the Scriptures, rather than simply to teaching knowledge.

C. By the believer himself (The Wheel)

1. Christ-centered
2. Obedient
3. Word of God
4. Prayer
5. Fellowship
6. Witness

V. Growth in Grace

Growth is by God's grace, not by our works. The process is extremely important. We grow in Grace - II Peter 3:18; Isaiah 7:9b. Appropriating the Grace of God makes the difference between a fleshly work and a spiritual work. It is the starting point of all true spiritual progress - Colossians 1:6.

To grow in grace - 2 Peter 3:18; Isaiah 7:9b

1. God - "of all grace" - 1 Peter 5:10.
2. Christ - "full of grace" - John 1:14
3. Obedience - "grace ...teaches us ...to live" - Titus 2:11,12.
4. Word - "word of His grace" - Acts 20:32.
5. Prayer - "throne of grace" - Hebrews 4:16.
6. Fellowship - "share in God's grace" - Philippians 1:7.
7. Witness - "gospel of God's grace" - Acts 20:24.

Equipping

I. Definition: *Equipping is the process of helping disciples become laborers.*

II. Aim: *“To prepare God's people for works of service” - Ephesians 4:12.*

Result - Laborers.

- A. In the world - Evangelizing
- B. In the body - Establishing

III. Basic Assumptions

- A. It is laborers who help fulfill the Great Commission.
- B. God wants every disciple to become a laborer.
- C. God uses equippers to help disciples become laborers.
- D. The responsibility for raising up laborers lies with
 - 1. God: Certain things He alone can do.
He enables. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6; 1 Timothy 1:12, Ephesians 2:10.
He sends. John 20:21; John 15:16.
 - 2. The believer himself.
He makes himself usable (character & godliness). 1 Timothy 4:6-10.
He equips himself to work. 2 Timothy 3:16,17.
 - 3. The gifted and called equipper
He Prays: Pray for laborers. Matthew 9:37,38.
He Labors: Laborers come out of laboring. Colossians 1:28,29.
He Equips: Teaching and involvement. Mark: 3:14; Acts 16:3
“with Him...sent out”

IV. Basic Ingredients

A. To become a laborer, a disciple needs:

- 1. Christian character. Titus 2:7.
- 2. A heart for people. 1 Thessalonians 2:8.
- 3. Convictions. 2 Timothy 3:14,15; Hebrews 5:12,13, Eph. 3:14,15.
- 4. Ministry content and know-how. 2 Timothy 2:2 and 3:16,17.

B. A disciple is equipped to labor by:

- 1. Example. 2 Timothy 3:10,11 .
- 2. Instruction. 2 Timothy 1 :13,14.
- 3. Involvement. Acts 16:1-3.