

## **Follow Up**

***John Repass***

### Introduction

Follow Up in the spiritual life is conserving the fruits of evangelism. It has been called spiritual pediatrics. Follow up is a term first applied to the Christian life by Dawson Trotman.

“Interpret personal experience in light of scripture and not scripture in light of personal experience.”

### I. Follow Up And The Great Commission

*And Jesus came and said to them, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.* Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

A. All who know Christ are responsible for the great commission

B. Jesus standards for discipleship

#### Exercise: Jesus Standards For Being His Disciple

John 2:1-2 On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

They are called His disciples after only a few days by the Holy Spirit Who inspired the book of John

C. Their Spiritual Qualifications For Being Jesus Disciples At This Point (3-7 Days Later)

1. They had repented of their sin and been baptized by John...
2. They had believed, received, and accepted Jesus as the promised Messiah,
3. They were following Jesus as best they knew how and obeying what he said to do.
4. They were learning from Jesus the Living Word and applying it to their lives.

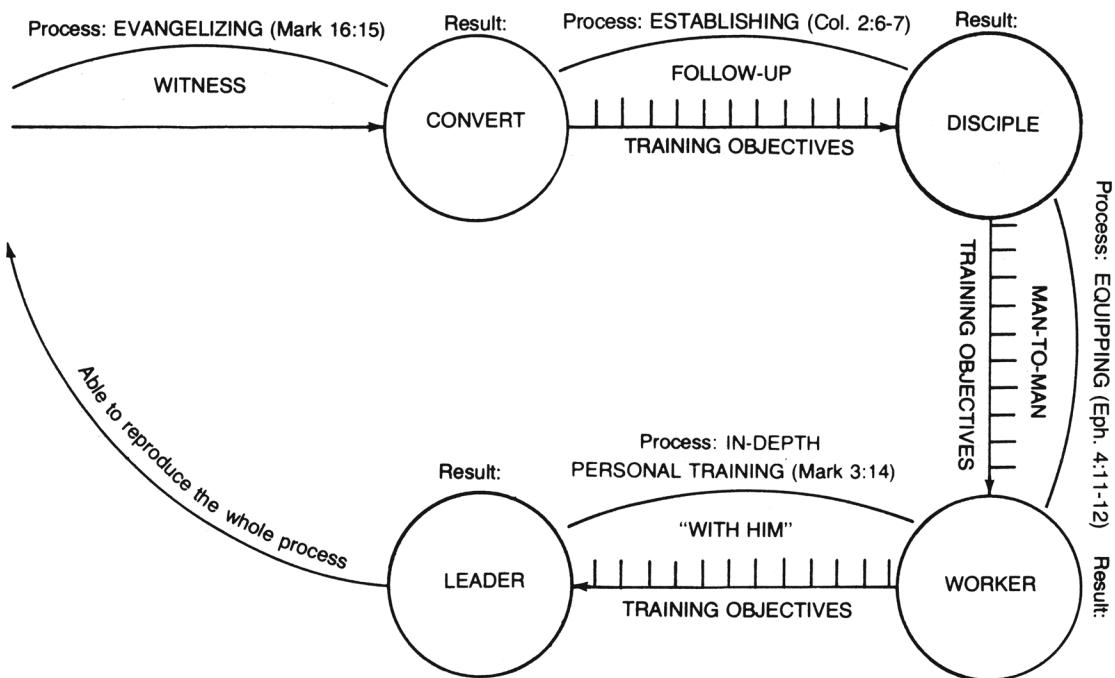
How then do we reconcile this simple definition with the standards Jesus gave later about being His disciple? With...

*Luke 6:40 (ESV): “A disciple Is not above his teacher but everyone when he is*

fully trained will be like his teacher.”

The lord wants fully trained disciples.

D. Follow up is the first step in making disciples\*



## Convert to Disciple

After Conversion -> Establishing

**CONVERT ... FOLLOW UP ... & ... DISCIPLING ... DISCIPLE (FULLY TRAINED)**

**John 1:40 - 42      Colossians 2:6,7      Matthew 28:18 – 20    Luke 6:40**

\*The Lost Art of Disciple Making – LeRoy Eims, page 183

## **Follow Up Is ...**

1. Establishing new or immature believers (converts) in the faith Colossians 2:6 - 7
2. Helping Another Grow In Grace From Immaturity To Discipleship 2 Peter 3:18

1 Peter 2:2 Key to the concept of Follow Up is the fact that when we are born of the spirit through faith and trust in Jesus, we are born again as spiritual babies.

3. Helping Another To Be Conformed To Christ's Image Romans 8:29, Eph. 4:13 - 14

### **II. How Jesus Did Follow Up John 1:1 - 4:3**

#### **A. Biblical Background Of Jesus' Ministry**

#### **B. The First Five Disciples John 1:35 - 2:2**

1. He recruited men who were already committed disciples of John the Baptist. A. They had repented of their sins, been baptized, and obeyed John.
  - A. They believed Jesus was the lamb of god, the messiah, the son of god, the king of Israel been born again.

#### **C. How Jesus followed up the first 5**

1. He asked the first two to come spend time with him
2. He asked the five to follow him back to Galilee and they obeyed what he asked
3. He took them to his home in Nazareth
4. He was teaching them about himself
5. He loved them. John 13:1b
6. He demonstrated a servant heart toward his family before them. John 2:12 LTB
7. He allowed them to go back and forth to work
8. After a few months he took some of his disciples to the Passover John 2:17
9. He shared verses on assurance of salvation John 3:3,16 of it.
10. Jesus got them involved in his ministry of making other disciples and trained them to baptize. John 4:1,2 John 3:26 - 27 People to disciple are a gift from God.
11. He lived as an example of a fully trained disciple before them.

The #1 Principle Of Follow Up: "Example is not a way to teach it is the only way to teach." We must be what we want to teach others. You reproduce after your own kind whether you want to or not.

12. He prayed for them. We are His instruments but it is His work to change men.

13. Later He called the four to leave their nets follow Him and be made into full time fishers of men. Matt.4:19-20.

14. Later still, Mark 3:13,14, He chose them and 8 other disciples to be His apostles Follow up is conserving the fruits of evangelism BUT it does not have to be the fruit of our own evangelism..

### III. How The Apostles Did Follow Up Acts 2:40 - 47 (ESV)

#### A. The Apostles Gave The New Converts:

1. The apostles teaching - the word of god that Jesus had given them.
2. They shared fellowship together (Koinonia - sharing the common life of Christ)
3. They broke bread together - eating together and sharing in the Lord's supper
4. They taught them to be givers to those in need.
5. They went to temple worship together - every day
6. They taught them to pray and to praise god in prayer.
7. They were witnessing to others and bringing them to Christ.

### IV. How Paul Did Follow Up In Thessalonica I Thessalonians 2:7,8,11,12

#### A. Paul Focused On His Relationship With Them

1. He was gentle, like a nursing mother is the meaning here
2. He was affectionate with them - like a father with his son, not like a football coach
3. He desired for them to grow and make it in the Christian life.
4. He shared with them the gospel
5. He shared himself, his life, his walk with Christ, who he really was, he had an example that he wanted them to follow.
6. He lived a righteous and blameless life before them
7. He was like a father with his children - loving them, helping them
8. He exhorted each one
9. He encouraged each one
10. He charged each one to live a life worthy of God

When we are doing follow up it is important that the person we are helping accept Gods Word and its authority. Otherwise we can't help them very much.

#### B. Effective Individual Follow Up And Discipling Is Brought About By

1. Having a firm conviction of the necessity for Follow Up. That means we really believe that the Lord wants us to do it. I am more and more convinced of the need for follow up and discipling the saved.
2. Knowing what a Followed Up Convert and a Biblical Disciple is.
3. Being what we are trying to make.
4. Taking followed up individuals into discipleship who are F.A.T.
5. Application of right training principles.

#### C. Techniques Of Doing Follow Up

1. Don't make any assignments at the beginning. Confirm his salvation at the beginning.
2. Do what we do in the session together.
3. Begin with relational questions about them and how they are doing.
4. Don't ask them to memorize scripture at the beginning.
5. Let the Bible Study and extra - materials I share guide us into quiet time, scripture memory.
6. Go as far as we can with the time allotted. Pick up there next time we meet.
7. Focus on helping them get started in meeting with God Daily
8. Demonstrate that I memorize scripture by having him review me.
9. Help him learn a verse by repeating it over together with him.
10. Get him a verse pack and help him learn how to print up his own verses.
11. Teach him to pray with ACTS. Share prayer requests and spend time in prayer each meeting.
12. Share my life, my workplace, his workplace, my family, my home, my ministry, my friends.
13. Try to get him to a good church if he doesn't have one.
14. Go over scriptural baptism with him and encourage him to be obedient.

## **Seven Meeting Follow Up Plan**

If you led a person to Christ who was in your city for a special school and you had only eight weeks to follow him up and you knew that you would never have direct contact with him again, what would you do with this new babe in Christ in the following major areas assuming that you have only 7 structured one - hour one to one meetings to do it in? List the materials that you would use by the topic.

Assurance of Salvation \_\_\_\_\_

The Word \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing \_\_\_\_\_

Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_

Application \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture Memory \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Quiet time \_\_\_\_\_

Fellowship \_\_\_\_\_

The Church \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessing \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## What Are Jesus Standards For His Disciples?

*(In chronological order based on Dr. A.T. Robertson's A Harmony of the Gospels, 1922)*

### TIME

1. John 3:3 (ESV) 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.' John 3:7b You must be born again.' \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 27
2. Matthew 10:24 - 25 (ESV) "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master" \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 27-29
3. John 8:31 RSV "Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in Him, If you continue in My Word you are truly my disciples" \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 28
4. Luke 14:26 RSV "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children, yes and even his own life he cannot be my disciple" \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 29
5. Luke 14:27 RSV 'Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.' \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 29
6. Luke 14:33 (ESV) So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 29
7. John 13:34 - 35 (ESV) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 30
8. John 15:8 RSV "By this is My Father glorified that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 30
9. "And Jesus came and said to them, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18 - 20 (ESV)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(After The Resurrection) A.D. 30
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Answers**

1. Born again through faith in Christ.
2. A learner of Christ who is open and teachable.
3. Continues in the word by filling his life with it and applying it.
4. Loves Jesus above all other relationships and more than his own life.
5. Openly identifies with Christ and dies to selfish desires.
6. Gives away all his possessions - to Jesus - and keeps only what Jesus says to keep.
7. Loves the other believers in Christ.
8. Bears much fruit of character and of people.
9. Has been baptized as a believer.
10. Is learning all that Jesus commanded.
11. Is attempting to obey all that he knows that Jesus commanded.
12. Is involved in the great commission of reaching others for Christ.