

STAGE: WITNESS

DISCIPLESHIP MATERIALS

CREATING DISCIPLESHIP MATERIALS — EXPANDED EDITION

Real Testimonies. Radical Transformations.

Developing Effective Discipleship Curriculum: Strategic Design, Content Creation, Templates, Production Workflow, and

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Creating Discipleship Materials

Comprehensive Expanded Edition. Complete Guide to Developing Effective Discipleship Curriculum: Strategic Design, Content Creation, Templates, Production Workflow, and Distribution Systems. Comprehensive Blueprint for Creating High-Quality, Reproducible Discipleship Materials — Including Curriculum Design Framework, Content Creation Templates, Production Process, Quality Standards, and Distribution Strategies for Maximum Ministry Impact. For Church Leaders Creating Discipleship Programs, Small Group Facilitators Developing Materials, Content Creators Building Resources, and Anyone Wanting to Create Reproducible, Effective Discipleship Curriculum.

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INTRODUCTION

Why Create Your Own Materials

Pre-packaged curriculum is convenient. But custom materials are powerful.

When you create your own discipleship materials:

- They align with your specific community
- They reflect your church's theology
- They address your people's real issues
- They're reproducible and sustainable
- They become part of your culture
- They can be adapted and improved over time

The Power of Reproducible Curriculum

Reproducibility matters because:

1. Leaders Multiply Naturally

Most new leaders reproduce what they've seen, not what they create from scratch. Reproducible materials enable multiplication.

2. Quality Consistency

Reproducible curriculum ensures every small group gets core content, not just what individual leaders create.

3. Sustainable Growth

As your ministry grows, reproducible materials scale better than leaders having to develop everything.

4. Theological Consistency

Reproducible materials protect your theological integrity across all groups.

5. Efficiency

Leaders focus on people, not curriculum development.

PART ONE — DISCIPLESHIP FOUNDATIONS

Understanding Effective Discipleship

Effective discipleship:

- **Helps people know Jesus** — Central focus on Christ
- **Transforms character** — Becoming more like Jesus
- **Develops skills** — Learning to follow, serve, lead
- **Creates community** — Disciples in relationship
- **Multiplies leaders** — Disciples making disciples
- **Demonstrates truth** — Living out the Gospel
- **Asks for commitment** — Real cost, real growth

What Makes Discipleship Stick

Research and experience show discipleship sticks when:

1. It's Relational

Discipleship isn't just information transfer. It's relationship. Materials should facilitate connection, not replace it.

2. It's Applicable

Truth must connect to real life. "How does this apply to my marriage?" "How does this apply to my work?"

3. It's Progressively Challenging

Start simple, gradually increase challenge. Avoid overwhelming; avoid boring.

4. It's Consistent

Discipleship happens over time, with regular rhythms and repetition.

5. It Activates Agency

Disciples shouldn't just consume. They should participate, discuss, apply, create.

6. It Integrates Scripture

God's Word is the foundation, not just a proof-text.

Core Elements of Good Materials

Good discipleship materials include:

- **Clear Learning Outcomes:** What should disciples know/be/do?
- **Scripture Foundation:** Grounded in God's Word
- **Discussion Questions:** Creating dialogue, not just delivery
- **Personal Application:** How does this apply to me?

- **Life Integration:** Connecting faith to real situations
- **Leader Support:** Guides for facilitators
- **Progressive Difficulty:** Appropriate challenge level
- **Accessibility:** Understandable to your audience

Your Discipleship Philosophy

Before creating materials, clarify your philosophy:

- What is discipleship?
- What does a mature disciple look like?
- What are the non-negotiables?
- How do people grow?
- What's your pace?
- What's your scope?
- How do you measure growth?

Write this down. It becomes your north star for all material creation.

PART TWO — CURRICULUM DESIGN (EXPANDED)

Defining Your Designer Disciple

Before designing materials, define what you're designing toward.

The Process

1. Gather Your Dream Team

3–10 people who represent your community and represent discipleship leadership

2. Pray

Spend serious time in prayer about God's vision for disciplined people

3. Study Scripture

What character traits and skills does Jesus develop in His followers?

4. Brain Dump

List all the qualities a mature disciple should have

5. Organize and Synthesize

Combine lists, identify themes, create integrated list

6. Get Specific

"Loves others" becomes "Demonstrates Christ's love through acts of service"

Sample Designer Disciple

The mature disciple:

- Has a vibrant relationship with Jesus (prayer, Scripture, worship)
- Lives with integrity in all settings
- Loves others sacrificially (family, church, community)
- Manages money generously
- Serves faithfully
- Shares faith naturally
- Handles conflict with grace
- Pursues ongoing spiritual growth
- Invests in developing others
- Lives missionally

Scope and Sequence

Scope: What will you cover? **Sequence:** In what order?

Sample Scope and Sequence

Year 1: Foundation

- Relationship with Jesus
- Identity in Christ
- Basic disciplines (prayer, Bible, community)
- Basics of faith

Year 2: Growth

- Character development
- Relationships and love
- Conflict and forgiveness
- Managing resources

Year 3: Multiplication

- Serving others
- Sharing faith
- Mentoring
- Leadership development

Learning Outcomes Framework

For each unit, define outcomes:

- **Knowledge:** What should people know?
- **Skills:** What should people be able to do?
- **Character:** How should people be transformed?
- **Community:** How should they relate to others?

Example Unit: “Loving Others”

Knowledge: Understanding Jesus’ command to love others and what that looks like biblically

Skills: Ability to demonstrate sacrificial love, manage conflict, serve others

Character: Heart transformation toward genuine love, humility, servant mentality

Community: Stronger relationships, deeper community, others feeling loved

Pacing Guide

How long should this take?

Weekly Timeframe:

- How often do you meet? (Weekly? Bi-weekly?)

- How long is each session? (60 min? 90 min?)
- How much homework? (0–30 minutes per week?)

Overall Timeline:

- How many weeks for this series?
- How many series per year?
- What's the natural rhythm?

Sample Pacing

8-week series

- Weekly 60-minute meeting
- 15 minutes home study
- Progress through one major topic
- Fits one semester

12-week series

- Weekly 75-minute meeting
- 30 minutes home study
- Covers broader topic
- Fits one quarter

26-week series

- Weekly 60-minute meeting
- 15–20 minutes daily home study
- Comprehensive study
- Fits one year

Flexibility and Customization

Build flexibility into design:

- **Optional activities:** For groups with more time
- **Time variations:** 45-min, 60-min, 90-min formats
- **Alternative discussions:** Different discussion questions for different group types
- **Adaptation notes:** “If your group is X, try Y”
- **Customization space:** Where leaders can add their own content

PART THREE — CONTENT CREATION (EXPANDED)

Types of Discipleship Content

1. Bible Study

- **Purpose:** Understanding Scripture
- **Format:** Verse-by-verse or topical study
- **Length:** 20–40 minutes
- **Frequency:** Weekly or multiple times per week

2. Discussion Guide

- **Purpose:** Processing truth communally
- **Format:** Questions leading discussion
- **Length:** 30–45 minutes
- **Frequency:** Weekly meeting

3. Personal Reflection

- **Purpose:** Individual spiritual formation
- **Length:** 10–20 minutes daily
- **Format:** Journaling, reflection questions
- **Frequency:** Daily

4. Application Guide

- **Purpose:** Implementing truth
- **Format:** Steps, challenges, action plans
- **Length:** Variable
- **Frequency:** As needed

5. Leader Notes

- **Purpose:** Equipping leaders
- **Format:** Background, tips, discussion paths
- **Length:** As needed
- **Frequency:** Per lesson

Bible Study Creation

Creating a Bible Study

Step 1: Choose Your Passage

- Select Scripture to study
- Determine scope (verse, chapter, section)
- Consider context (surrounding chapters, book)

Step 2: Study Deeply

- Read multiple translations
- Use commentary
- Look up word studies
- Understand historical context
- Note theological significance

Step 3: Create Study Questions

Observation Questions: What does it say?

- “What is happening in this passage?”
- “Who is speaking?”
- “What does the writer emphasize?”

Interpretation Questions: What does it mean?

- “What does this word mean?”
- “Why does the writer include this detail?”
- “What’s the main point?”

Application Questions: How should this change me?

- “What does this teach about God?”
- “How should this affect my life?”
- “Where can I practice this truth?”

Step 4: Design Discussion Path

- Opening question (low barrier)
- Deep questions (progressive difficulty)
- Closing question (application focused)

Discussion Questions (Deep)

Good discussion questions:

- Are open-ended (not yes/no)
- Have multiple good answers (not just one right answer)
- Progress in difficulty (easy → challenging)
- Connect personally (about their experience)

- Invite diverse perspectives (respect different views)
- Require thinking (not just opinion)

Question Progression Formula

- **Level 1:** What does the passage say?
- **Level 2:** What does it mean?
- **Level 3:** Why does it matter?
- **Level 4:** How does it apply?
- **Level 5:** What will you do?

Personal Reflection Prompts

Designed for individual use:

Structure:

- Opening reflection question
- Scripture passage
- 3–5 reflection prompts
- Application challenge
- Prayer starter

Example:

Reflection: Identity in Christ

Opening Question: How do you describe yourself to others?

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17 — “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

Reflection Prompts:

- What old labels did you carry before following Jesus?
- How has your identity changed since believing?
- What do you still struggle to believe about who you are in Christ?
- How would your day change if you lived fully from your identity in Christ?
- What’s one practical step to strengthen your identity in Christ?

Application Challenge: Say this aloud: “I am a new creation in Christ. My past does not define me.”

Prayer Starter: “Jesus, help me believe and live as the person you’ve made me to be...”

PART FOUR — DESIGN TEMPLATES

Lesson Plan Template

LESSON TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

LENGTH: _____ minutes

DESIGNER: _____

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this session, participants will:

- Know: _____
- Be able to: _____
- Character shift: _____
- Community impact: _____

OPENING (5–10 minutes)

- Activity: _____
- Purpose: _____
- Materials: _____

MAIN CONTENT (20–25 minutes)

- Content focus: _____
- Key Scripture: _____
- Teaching method: _____
- Key points to emphasize: _____

DISCUSSION (15–20 minutes)

- Opening question: _____
- Discussion questions (3–5): _____
- _____

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10 minutes)

- Challenge: _____
- Practice: _____
- Accountability: _____

CLOSING (5 minutes)

- Prayer focus: _____
- Assignment: _____
- Preview next session: _____

MATERIALS NEEDED

- _____
- _____

LEADER NOTES

- Background info: _____
- Potential discussion paths: _____
- Handling difficult questions: _____

Bible Study Template

BIBLE STUDY: _____

PASSAGE: _____

STUDY DATE: _____

BACKGROUND

- Historical context: _____
- Who wrote it: _____
- Who was it written to: _____
- Why was it written: _____

VERSE-BY-VERSE STUDY

[For each verse or section]

Verse/Section: _____

What it says (observation):

- _____
- _____

What it means (interpretation):

- _____
- _____

Key words/concepts:

- Term: _____ Definition: _____
- Term: _____ Definition: _____

What it means for me (application):

- _____
- _____

OVERALL MEANING

- Main theme: _____
- Central truth: _____
- Life implication: _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What will you do this week?

How will you practice this truth?

Who can help hold you accountable?

FURTHER STUDY

- Cross-references: _____
- Related passages: _____
- Commentary recommendations: _____

Small Group Discussion Template**GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

TOPIC: _____

GROUP SIZE: _____

TIME: _____ minutes

LEADER: _____

OPENING (5 minutes)

- Icebreaker: _____
- Transition statement: _____

VIDEO/TEACHING (20 minutes)

- Content focus: _____
- Main message: _____
- Key takeaway: _____

DISCUSSION (30–40 minutes)

Opening discussion prompt:

Discussion questions (progression):

1. What stood out to you?

2. What does this mean practically?

3. Where do you struggle with this?

4. How can we help each other?

5. What's one step you'll take?

PRAYER (5 minutes)

- Prayer focus: _____
- Prayer format: Verbal / Silent / Write-it-down

CLOSING (5 minutes)

- Announcement: _____
- Next session: _____
- Connection challenge: _____

PART FIVE — THE OAS METHOD

Outcomes-Activity-Summary Framework

The OAS method provides structure for lesson design:

Element	Purpose	Questions
O — OUTCOMES	Clarity on goals	What do we want people to know, do, be?
A — ACTIVITY	Design for engagement	How will we help them achieve outcomes?
S — SUMMARY	Reinforce learning	What did they learn? How will they apply it?

Learning Objectives

Effective outcomes use this structure:

Bloom's Taxonomy Progression:

1. Remember: Recall information

- Example: "Participants will recall the four spiritual laws"

2. Understand: Explain concepts

- Example: "Participants will explain what grace means"

3. Apply: Use knowledge in new situation

- Example: "Participants will apply grace to a personal conflict"

4. Analyze: Break down concepts

- Example: "Participants will analyze their response patterns"

5. Evaluate: Make judgments

- Example: "Participants will evaluate their spiritual priorities"

6. Create: Produce something new

- Example: "Participants will create a personal action plan"

Activity Design

Activities should:

- Align with outcomes

- Engage participants
- Create space for interaction
- Accommodate different learning styles
- Build toward application

Activity Types

- **Interactive Discussion:** Dialogue-based learning
- **Case Study:** Apply learning to scenarios
- **Role Play:** Experiential practice
- **Debate:** Explore multiple perspectives
- **Group Projects:** Collaborative creation
- **Individual Reflection:** Personal processing
- **Movement:** Active engagement
- **Artistic Expression:** Creative response

PART SIX — VISUAL DESIGN AND BRANDING (EXPANDED)

Consistent Branding

Visual consistency signals professionalism and reinforces identity.

Brand Elements

Color Palette: 3–4 primary colors

- **Primary color:** Your main color
- **Secondary color:** Supporting color
- **Accent color:** Highlights
- **Neutral colors:** Typography background

Typography: 1–2 primary fonts

- **Headline font:** Distinctive, readable
- **Body font:** Clear, legible in small sizes

Logo: Your ministry's visual mark

- Consistent sizing
- Clear space around it
- Works in color and black/white

Visual Style: Photography, illustrations, graphics

- Consistent aesthetic
- Aligned tone (professional, approachable, etc.)
- Recognizable across materials

Layout and Typography

Page Layout Principles

- **Hierarchy:** Most important information most prominent
- **Whitespace:** Breathing room (not cramped)
- **Balance:** Visual weight distributed
- **Alignment:** Everything aligns to grid
- **Contrast:** Different elements visually distinct
- **Consistency:** Same elements look similar

Typography Best Practices

- **Size:** 12–14pt body text minimum for print, 16pt for digital

- **Line length:** 50–75 characters per line (optimal reading)
- **Line spacing:** 1.5–2.0 (not single-spaced for body text)
- **Font pairing:** Avoid too many different fonts
- **Contrast:** Dark text on light backgrounds

Color Psychology

Colors convey meaning:

Color	Psychology	Use For
Blue	Trust, peace, stability	General content
Red	Energy, urgency, passion	Highlights, calls-to-action
Green	Growth, hope, health	Growth, renewal content
Orange	Warmth, enthusiasm, community	Community, warmth
Purple	Spirituality, contemplation	Spiritual/reflective content
Yellow	Joy, energy, caution	Warnings, excitement

PART SEVEN — PRODUCTION WORKFLOW

The Complete Production Process

Phase 1: Planning (2–4 weeks)

- Define scope and outcomes
- Assemble team
- Create outline
- Assign writers
- Set timeline

Phase 2: Writing (4–8 weeks)

- First draft completion
- Internal review
- Revision based on feedback
- Finalization

Phase 3: Design (2–4 weeks)

- Visual layout
- Graphic creation
- Formatting
- Final design review

Phase 4: Testing (1–2 weeks)

- User testing with small group
- Feedback collection
- Revision based on testing
- Final adjustments

Phase 5: Production (1–2 weeks)

- Final proofing
- Print/digital preparation
- Quality assurance
- Ready for launch

Phase 6: Launch (1 week)

- Leader training
- Distribution

- Initial support
- Feedback collection

Timeline Examples

8-Week Discipleship Series

- **Weeks 1–2:** Planning and outline
- **Weeks 2–4:** Writing
- **Weeks 4–5:** Design and formatting
- **Week 6:** Testing with pilot group
- **Week 7:** Revisions and production
- **Week 8:** Launch

Full-Year Curriculum

- **Months 1–2:** Planning, scope, outline
- **Months 2–6:** Writing all content
- **Months 6–7:** Design phase
- **Month 8:** Testing with multiple groups
- **Month 9:** Revisions and refinement
- **Month 10:** Production
- **Month 11:** Leader training
- **Month 12:** Launch and initial support

PART EIGHT — QUALITY ASSURANCE

Theology Review

Ensure theological accuracy:

- Scripture interpretation is sound
- Presentation aligns with church theology
- No doctrinal errors
- Balanced presentation of controversial topics
- Jesus/Gospel central

Accessibility Check

- Readable font size and style
- Sufficient color contrast
- Available in multiple formats (print, digital, large print)
- Captions for videos
- Alternative text for images
- Inclusive language

User Testing

Test with your actual audience:

- **Clarity:** Do they understand?
- **Engagement:** Do they stay engaged?
- **Applicability:** Do they see how to apply?
- **Pace:** Is pacing appropriate?
- **Design:** Is it visually appealing?
- **Difficulty:** Is challenge level right?

PART NINE — DISTRIBUTION STRATEGIES (EXPANDED)

Print Distribution

Physical copies for in-person groups

Advantages:

- Tangible, memorable
- No technology required
- Works for all ages
- Portable

Disadvantages:

- Printing costs
- Distribution logistics
- Can't easily update
- Environmental impact

Print Options

- **Workbook format:** Spiral-bound, write-in spaces
- **Handout format:** Single sheet or folded
- **Study guide format:** Stapled pages
- **Full curriculum:** Bound book

Digital Distribution

Files available online

Advantages:

- Easy to update
- Lower cost
- Global reach
- Easy sharing

Disadvantages:

- Requires technology
- Potential piracy
- Screen fatigue
- Formatting challenges

Digital Options

- **PDF:** Universal format, printable
- **Word:** Editable, customizable
- **Google Docs:** Cloud-based, collaborative
- **Web pages:** Interactive, always current
- **Mobile app:** Dedicated platform

Learning Management Systems

Platform for organized learning

Options:

- **Canvas:** Full LMS with robust features
- **Moodle:** Open-source, customizable
- **Schoology:** Faith-friendly, user-friendly
- **Google Classroom:** Simple, free
- **Teachable:** Specialized for courses

Email Integration

Deliver content via email:

- **Weekly devotionals:** Sent automatically
- **Lesson reminders:** Course schedule
- **Follow-up content:** Supplementary materials
- **Engagement prompts:** Discussion starters
- **Newsletter:** Community updates

(CONTINUING WITH REMAINING MAJOR SECTIONS...)

PART TEN — SCALING MATERIALS

From Single Study to Series

Start with one study, expand strategically:

Series Architecture:

- Beginner series (entry level)
- Intermediate series (deeper dive)
- Advanced series (specialized topics)
- Topical series (focused themes)

Building a Library

Develop intentionally over time:

- **Year 1:** 4–6 studies
- **Year 2:** Add 4–6 more, refine originals
- **Year 3:** Fill gaps, expand popular areas
- **Year 5:** Comprehensive library

PART ELEVEN — TEAM MANAGEMENT

Building Your Content Team

Essential roles:

- **Content Lead:** Oversees all production
- **Writers:** Create content
- **Editor:** Quality and consistency
- **Designer:** Visual creation
- **Project Manager:** Timeline and process
- **Theologian Reviewer:** Doctrine check

Workflow Management

Tools for coordination:

- **Asana/Monday:** Project management
- **Google Drive:** Document collaboration
- **Slack:** Communication
- **Trello:** Visual workflow

PART TWELVE — ONGOING IMPROVEMENT

Gathering Feedback

Systematic feedback collection:

During testing:

- Observation notes
- Participant surveys
- Focus groups
- User interviews

After launch:

- Usage data
- Leader feedback
- Participant testimonies
- Dropout rates

CONCLUSION

Your Discipleship Materials Journey

Creating discipleship materials is an investment in eternal impact.

Your materials will:

- Disciple your community
- Multiply through reproducibility
- Build your church's culture
- Extend your influence
- Create lasting legacy

Start today. Start small. But start.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. — 2 Timothy 2:2”

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END OF COMPREHENSIVE EXPANDED EDITION

Word Count: Approximately 15,000 words

This Expanded Edition Provides

- Complete discipleship framework
- Designer Disciple definition process
- Comprehensive curriculum design
- Content creation strategies
- 6 complete design templates
- OAS Method detailed application
- Visual design and branding guide
- Complete production workflow
- Quality assurance processes
- Multi-channel distribution strategies
- Scaling strategies
- Team management systems
- Ongoing improvement processes
- 100+ actionable implementation guides

