



Intentionality

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Bobby Harrington and Josh Patrick

We believe it is important for the church today to recover models for discipleship that are intentional based on the example of Jesus.

I (Bobby) have been very strategic with a men's group I started. I wanted to be sure that I had the right men and that I was discipling them in a way that would have a lasting impact.

Here are **four intentional choices** I made to make this happen:

1. I *intentionally* picked a small number of men for the group.
2. I *intentionally* asked those I selected to commit to a group covenant and made the expectation for the group clear. I was clear in communicating that they should join the group only if they were going to uphold the agreement, and it was *okay* to say no if they weren't ready.
3. I *intentionally* selected the material for us to use, books and studies that are easily reproduced so the men could take what they learned and use it with others.
4. I *intentionally* asked one of the men in the group to be my apprentice. He was responsible for leading the group when I could not attend. This experience was to prepare him to lead his own group after we are finished with our group time.

Here are **five lessons** I have learned:

1. You need a plan
2. You need tools
3. You need to be a role model
4. You need to be discerning
5. Intentionality is the key to multiplication and reaching people

For Reflection: Each discipling relationship requires specific knowledge and practical skills. For the discipling relationship you want, what special knowledge and skills do you need? If you do not have them, how can you acquire them?

To become a disciple of Jesus requires intentionality — a purposeful attempt to foster the discipleship process day in and day out.
— Richard Foster

Since making disciples is the main task of the church, every church ought to be able to answer two questions: what is our plan for making disciples of Jesus? Is our plan working?
— Dallas Willard

A mature disciplemaker can point to several people he has disciplined who are now discipling others.
— Jim Putnam

¹Excerpt from the *Disciplemaker's Handbook* by Bobby Harrington and Josh Patrick, Zondervan, 2017, Chapter 6, "Intentionality", pp 99, 104-113.