

PERSONAL GROWTH, TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION AS A DISCIPLE

Purpose: To help the mentor give perspective to the disciple on the relationship between their personal growth, training requirements, building a local movement and helping to fulfill the Great Commission.

Objectives: By the end of this session, the mentor will be able to:

1. Explain how the disciple's training requirements fit with their personal growth.
2. Explain how the disciple's training requirements fit with the building of a local movement.
3. Explain how the disciple's training requirements fit with fulfilling the Great Commission.
4. Identify the common misunderstandings of the training experience.
5. Handle questions commonly asked by the disciple of their training experience.

Key Verses: Matthew 28:19, 20

I. Training and Personal Growth.

The goal of this training is to help the disciples/students grow spiritually as well as grow as a whole person. The training will help the disciples build a lifetime commitment to God and follow His will for their lives in every area of their life.

How has this happened to you when you were trained at some time in the past?

(Note to instructor: be prepared to share your answer to this question in class. Afterward, call on others in the class to share.)

II. Training and the Local Movement.

Training the disciple takes priority over their direct involvement in movement responsibilities. For example, if one of your disciples is asked to be a special speaker for your ministry team's big outreach, you as the mentor must take a careful look at what is being asked of the disciple, how it fits with his/her training, and if someone else should do it. Your disciple is helping the movement to the greatest degree possible by saturating a target area with the gospel through spiritual multiplication. So it must be a high priority to take him/her away from that.

III. Training and the Great Commission.

Training is secondary to helping to fulfill the Great Commission (we don't train first, then fulfill the Great Commission). We train as we are fulfilling the Great Commission. The Great Commission is the necessary context for training. Jesus trained men not for ministry, but in, through and by doing the ministry.

IV. Common Misunderstandings of the Training Experience.

1. “Training is the most important priority for our disciples.” What’s wrong with that statement?

(If not mentioned, instructor could say, “In reality, we want to help them succeed in fulfilling the Great Commission in their target area. But as we do this, we must remember that their relationship with God is highest priority, and people are more important than training.”)

2. “Training must precede ministry.” What’s wrong with that statement?

(If not mentioned, instructor could say, “As mentioned earlier, Jesus trained men in, through, and by doing the ministry. Ministry helps the training come alive and immediate application of what is learned is remembered and applied more than if it was learned and hopefully later applied.”)

3. “Personal Development, Training, and Reaching a Target Area are unrelated parts of the training experience.” What’s wrong with that statement?

(If not mentioned, instructor could say, “They all work together. Personal development most often occurs when one goes through challenges – like this training and reaching a target area. The training includes how to grow in personal development and how to reach a target area. Reaching a target area is a great environment in which to apply the training and what one is learning about maturing and personal development.”)

4. “At the end of the training, the disciple will achieve excellence, competence, and confidence in every area of practical ministry.” What’s wrong with that statement?

(If not mentioned, instructor could say, “This takes time. It’s not the fault of the mentor, disciple, nor the training. More training is available. More experience is needed.”)

V. The Most Often Asked Questions by Disciples.

1. “Do I have to do this activity? I can’t see how it will help me in future ministry. I didn’t want to reach out in this kind of Target Area.” How would you respond?

(If not mentioned, instructor could say, “What you learn and experience here can carry over to what you could do in a future ministry situation. The target area that you want may be a different one than what we are ministering in, but the principles are the same. For example, the training director may select a campus as the target area because it is much easier to apply what the disciples/students are learning in the short time of the training session. When the students have completed the training, then they can use what they learned in the target area they choose, like the community for example.”)

2. “Why are you asking me to minister before I’ve been trained?” How would you respond?

(If not mentioned, instructor could say, “As mentioned earlier, Jesus trained in, through, and by doing ministry. It’s the best way to learn the goals and objectives of this training. Remind the disciple that they will not be thrown alone into a target area, but they will have a mentor to demonstrate ministry skills to them and help the disciple improve in their ministry skills as they reach a target area together.”

3. “I thought my relationship with God was primary, but it seems to me that reaching this Target Area is what’s really important to you.” How would you respond?

(If not mentioned, instructor could say, “Your relationship with God is primary. This training will help you to more effectively obey His command to “go and make disciples of all the nations.” The goal of the training is for the students/disciples to grow in character and to be more effective in God’s harvest.”)

4. What other questions have you heard concerning the training experience, and how would you respond to them?

VI. Summary

We are developing people – whole people – with needs, sensitivities, backgrounds, experiences, etc. They are not ministry machines. We are developing people for a task. The task is the Great Commission. We want the disciples to trust God to use them to reach a small piece of “all nations” (Matthew 28:19). We assume this is what they want from us.