

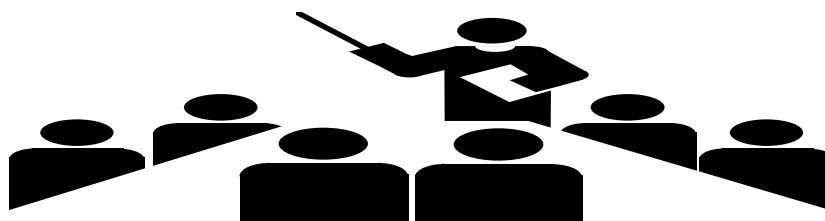
Christian Discipleship Seminar



Facilitator
The Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr.
Director, Bureau of Evangelism
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Charlotte, North Carolina



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Topic: Perfecting the Saints

- Lesson 1: Enabling God's People to Live for Christ
- Lesson 2: Equipping God's People to Serve Christ
- Lesson 3: Empowering God's People to Witness for Christ

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Lesson #1: Enabling God's People to live for Christ

- I. The Spirit of God can give us the heart purity we need to live for Christ.** (Ezekiel 36:25-27)
- A. Baptism is an outward symbol of the inward purity that accompanies our new birth. (25)
 - B. Regeneration involves the imparting of God's nature into our hearts as believers. (26)
 - C. Conversion results in our being indwelt by the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. (27)
 - D. The indwelling Holy Spirit enables us to live according to God's commandments. (27)
- II. The Church of God can give us the nurture we need to live for Christ.** (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)
- A. In the church we are encouraged to live in a manner that pleases God. (1)
 - B. In the church we are taught to obey the commandments of the Lord. (2)
 - C. In the church we are challenged to pursue holiness. (3-8)
 - 1. Sanctification or holiness is God's will for us. (3)
 - 2. Our sex life should be an expression of our holiness. (3-6)
 - a. We must abstain from sexual immorality.
 - b. We must control our own bodies honorably.
 - c. We must live differently from unbelievers who live in the passion of lust.
 - d. We must never take advantage of people, for we know that God will avenge.
 - 3. God calls us to holiness not uncleanness. (7)
 - 4. Rejection of this divine calling is a rejection of God, who gave us His Spirit. (8)
- III. The Grace of God can give us the motivation we need to life for Christ.** (Titus 2:11-14)
- A. The grace of God makes salvation a gift that is offered to all of us. (11)
 - B. The grace of God teaches us how to live for Christ in this present age. (12)
 - 1. The grace of God teaches how to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.
 - 2. The grace of God teaches how to live soberly, righteously, and godly.
 - C. The grace of God motivates us to live for Christ. (13-14)
 - 1. The immanent return of Christ inspires us to live for Him.
 - 2. The sacrificial death of Christ motivates us to live for Him.
 - 3. The redemption of Christ inspires us to live for Him.
 - a. He redeemed us from every lawless deed.
 - b. He purified us for Himself- His own special people, zealous for good works

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Lesson #2: Equipping God's People to Serve Christ

Scripture: Ephesians 4:7-16

- I. The Lord Jesus Christ provides the means by which we can serve Him.** (7-10)
- A. He descended and ascended that we might receive the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 4:7-10; Acts 2:32, 39)
 - B. He conquered sin and death that we might receive the measure of grace. (Ephesians 4:7)
 - C. He led captivity captive that we might receive spiritual gifts. (Ephesians 4:8)
- II. The Lord Jesus Christ supplies the gifted leaders who can equip us to serve Him.** (11-16)
- A. He has given us leaders who are especially gifted to equip us (11)
 - 1. Apostles: those with the gift to plant churches and provide oversight for us
 - 2. Prophets: those with the gift to speak God's special message to us
 - 3. Evangelists: those with the gift to share the gospel and train us to do so
 - 4. Pastors: those with the gift to care for our souls and nurture us to maturity in Christ
 - 5. Teachers: those with the gift to teach us to obey God's word by precept and example
 - B. He has given us leaders who can equip us for the work of ministry. (12)
 - 1. They can help us discover our spiritual gifts.
 - 2. They can help us develop our spiritual gifts.
 - 3. They can help us exercise our spiritual gifts.
 - C. He has given us leaders who can equip us to edify the body of Christ. (12,13)
 - 1. We can help people come to the unity of the faith.
 - 2. We can help people come to the knowledge of the Son of God.
 - 3. We can help people come to maturity in Christ.
 - a. Spiritual maturity enables us to avoid dangerous pitfalls. (14)
 - 1) Spiritual instability
 - 2) Spiritual vulnerability
 - 3) Spiritual gullibility
 - b. Spiritual maturity enables us to speak the truth in love. (15)
 - c. Spiritual maturity enables us to contribute to the growth of the body. (16)
 - 1) The Body of Christ is held together by what each joint supplies.
 - 2) The Body of Christ grows as each part does its share.

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Lesson #3: Empowering God's People to Witness for Christ

I. The Great Commission mandates that we witness for Christ.

- A. We are sent into the world as witnesses for Christ. (John 20:21)
- B. We are to preach repentance and remission of sins to all nations. (Luke 24:47-48)
- C. We are to go into the world and share the gospel with everyone. (Mark 16:15)
- D. We are to make disciples for Christ in every nation. (Matthew 28:19)

II. The Holy Spirit empowers us to become witnesses for Christ.

- A. He promises to be with us always as we go. (Matthew 28:20)
- B. He promises to work powerfully through us as we go. (Mark 16:20)
- C. He commands us to wait for the endowment of Holy Ghost power before we go. (Luke 24:49)
- D. He commands us to receive the Holy Spirit before we go. (John 20:21)
- E. He promises that the Holy Spirit will give us power to be witnesses for Him. (Acts 1:8)

III. Disciple making is the process that produces witnesses for Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20)

- A. We must place disciple making at the heart of the church. (Matthew 28:19)
- B. We must clearly communicate the roles of the pastor, people, and disciple-making process.
 - 1. The pastor must be devoted to the following:
 - a. The ministry of the word and prayer (Acts 6:1-7)
 - b. The training and deployment of leaders [disciple makers] (2 Tim. 2:2)
 - c. The equipping of the saints (Ephesians 4:11,12)
 - d. The management of the ministry (1 Pet. 5:1-5)
 - 2. The people must be devoted to the following: (Eph. 4:11-16)
 - a. Works of ministry
 - b. Spiritual growth
 - c. Pastoral care
 - d. Church growth

3. The disciple-making must produce the following
 - a. Mature disciples
 - b. Responsible disciples
 - c. Reproducing disciples.

- C. We must understand the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9, 10)
 1. As priests we have the authority to pray: to go to God on behalf of people.
 2. As priests we have the responsibility to evangelize: to go to people on behalf of God.
 3. As priests we have the privilege to testify: to share with people how we became God's people

- D. We must have a genuine commitment to multiplication, not just reproduction.
 1. Reproduction: making disciples
 2. Multiplication: Training disciple makers

- E. We must use the small group as the primary means of disciple making.
 1. It provides an environment where we can develop basic skills.
 - a. A working knowledge of Scripture
 - b. A belief in and understanding of prayer
 - c. The benefits of sharing ones life with others
 - d. The ability to communicate the message of Christ
 2. It provides an environment where peers can help us keep our commitments.
 3. It provides an environment where we will be accountable and responsible.
 4. It provides an environment where we can be trained to do outreach ministry.
 5. It provides an environment where we can do pastoral care.

- F. We must use the small group for training disciple makers.
 1. It provides a means by which we can train those who qualify for leadership.
 - a. Those with the gifts
 - b. Those with the character
 - c. Those with the usefulness
 - d. Those who have been disciplined
 - e. Those who are committed to disciple making
 2. It provides a means by which we can equip leaders in disciple making.
 3. It provides a means by which we can deploy disciple makers as church leaders.
 - a. The official leaders of the church should be disciple makers.
 - b. Those who lead the church's ministries should be disciple makers.
 - c. Those who lead the small group discipleship should be disciple makers.