



Coaching Guide

Strategic Partnerships



Invite other people into their discipleship journey.

“As He reviewed some experiences which the disciples had He would bring out some practical application of it to their lives.”

“The Master Plan of Evangelism” - Robert Coleman

Our goal is to inspire you to forge strategic partnerships to keep you on mission in your disciple making journey.

God didn't mean for us to journey alone, he created us to be relational creatures and to learn from and teach each other. He wanted us to hold each other accountable, with grace and love. The Lord has also provided us with a partner in the Holy Spirit, to help us understand what God is calling us to do and how we can take action.

Before we begin this journey to introduce the nuanced progression from a disciple to a disciple coach, here are our basic definitions:

- The disciple, by definition, is a follower of Jesus.
- The disciple shifts, ever so slight, when they become a disciple maker.
- The disciple maker shifts, by adopting a coach approach, to multiply disciples.

Overview

Strategic partnerships answer the question: “Who will help me stay on mission?” These relationships provide accountability to stay on mission as a disciple coach. One value that Jesus embodied was obedience “...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). Note that Jesus did not leave His disciples on their own – He left them in the able hands of the Holy Spirit.

Strategic partnerships provide accountability, with grace, to the important actions that will support the newest disciples on their spiritual journey. Accountability helps the disciple coach keep the main thing the main thing, learn from real experience and stay in motion.

Real-life Journey

In the marketplace I had the opportunity to lead a rather large team of operations colleagues. My boss knew little of the details of what I did on a daily basis. However, he did one thing that was extremely helpful for us both. He asked me to detail how in the coming year I was going to execute the corporate business strategy in our operational team.

In general, he did not tell me what to do. However, he did create accountability to what I said we were going to do. I knew he was going to ask me about our plans every 3-4 weeks. We always talked about the main points of the plan, how the team was doing and learning, what needed to change, and what new results were expected.

After I had his buy-in on our goals, this accountability allowed me to effectively lead our organization and to be able to do the same down the line with my team. We were able to excel and maintain a high level of execution without creating tremendous stress in the organization.

Simple, strategic, and consistent accountability was the key.

Before we begin this journey to introduce the nuanced progression from a disciple to a disciple coach here are our basic definitions:

Reflect

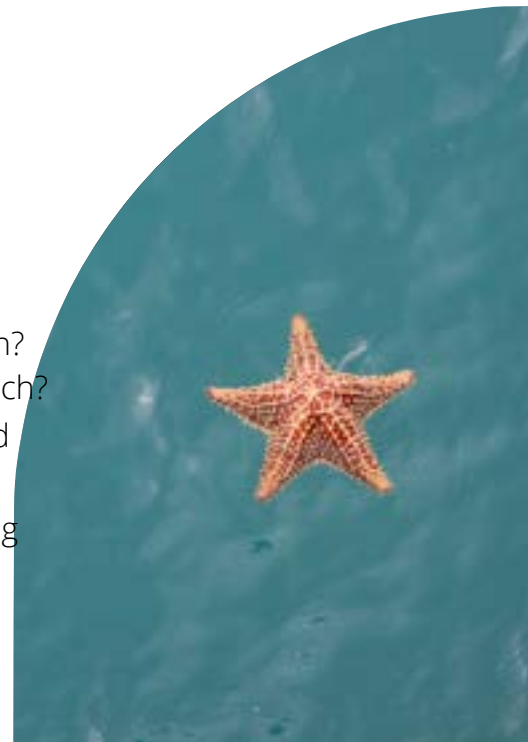
Take 20 minutes of alone time and walk through the Reflection Questions below by writing out your answers on a piece of paper. Most of us resist writing our answers down, but please take the extra several minutes to do so.

1. Accountability with yourself

- How am I prioritizing life events as a disciple coach?
- What am I not doing that I know I should be doing?

2. Accountability with a coach

- What do you do to process missed opportunities as a disciple coach?
- How do you celebrate your progress when you act as a disciple coach?
- What do you do to process setbacks with a disciple when their good intentions don't produce the intended fruit?
- What progress are you observing with the disciples you are coaching on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis?
- How do you celebrate a disciple's progress when they act?



3. Accountability with God

- What are you learning about God?
- How do you know when you are doing the things God has called you to do as a disciple coach?

Act

This week take time to sit with a friend and talk about where you see God leading you in the near future. That may be 60 days. It may be a year. Ask your friend to hold you accountable to what you perceive God is leading you to do.

Additional areas to explore with your friend:

- Think about your discipleship journey and the people you are touching (from potential disciples to trusted mentors). What do you sense God is doing through you and in you?
- What would you like your friend to do for you as you journey together?
- How can each of you pray for the other?

Take a look at the verses at the end of this guide. When we look at the verses we can envision how a mentor, a spiritual director, and discipleship coach can help us stay true to our calling. They are not there to define your call, God does that. These partners lovingly help you hold yourself accountable to what God is calling you to do in and through you.

- Is God calling you to help others along their discipleship path?
- How are you using your unique experiences to go and make disciples?

Discover

Jesus understood the importance of working with a team; a team of twelve. He sent them out in pairs to minister together, return and debrief their experience. Jesus understood the importance of learning through experience and accountability. When Jesus left, He left them in capable hands - the Holy Spirit. Jesus trusted that they had what they needed to further the mission to make more and better disciples: strategic partnerships with one another and the Holy Spirit.



Going Deeper

Here is a fuller explanation on Strategic Partnerships [CLICK HERE](#)

Quotes:

"As He reviewed some experiences which the disciples had He would bring out some practical application of it to their lives."

-The Master Plan of Evangelism - Robert Coleman

Verses:

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

-Proverbs 27:17

"If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them."

-James 4:17

What book, video, podcast, coaching, webinar or additional support do you need to form strategic partnerships to stay on mission in your disciple making relationships?

