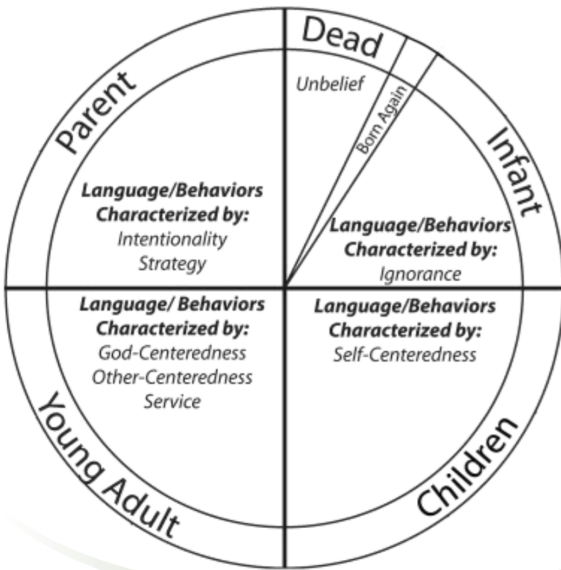


## week 7: a closer look at the reproducible process

Remember the wheel used in week 3 to explain the stages of spiritual growth? Take a minute to review it here.



### day 1: THE SCMD PROCESS

This week is an overview of how the reproducible process cooperates with the stages of growth. On the following wheel diagram find the ring near the center of the wheel. It contains the stages of spiritual growth.



1. Write the words from the outer ring of the wheel diagram that match up with the stages of spiritual growth.

Stage of Spiritual Growth		Word from Outer Ring
Spiritually Dead	↔	
Infant	↔	
Child	↔	
Young Adult	↔	
Parent	↔	

### A Real Life Ministries Story

Brandon Guindon was teaching a team of church planters how the SCMD process worked to make disciples in small groups. There he met Jimmy, a man in his early twenties. Jimmy was funny, relational, and just a great guy.

At first Jimmy was disengaged and looked bored. He had grown up in the church, but in his college years he had walked away from the Lord. As the training continued, Jimmy began to engage more, even answering questions Brandon posed to the group.

During lunch on the second day of the training, Jimmy sat quietly, arms crossed with a frustrated look on his face. When Brandon asked what was on his mind, Jimmy blurted out, "I never knew any of this stuff! I grew up in the church and never ever was taught about being a disciple. I sat in church every Sunday, listened to sermons, and even attended Sunday school classes. I had no idea there was any kind of intentional process. My mom did her best, but she had no clue how to be intentional. I want to be disciplined by someone!"

For the first time, Jimmy saw what could be. He saw that Jesus had an intentional process to make disciples, and he wanted it more than ever in his life.

2. Do you know people like Jimmy? Write their names here.

You may have written your own name. Did you? Could you learn more of what Jimmy saw that day — a process to disciple people?

### The SCMD Process

As we mentioned earlier, at Real Life we use the concepts of **share**, **connect**, **minister**, and **disciple** (SCMD) to provide a common language for the discipleship process. Jesus intentionally met people where they were at in their growth. The SCMD process comes out of His example. This process helps people think in terms of what to *do*, not just what to *know*. This process helps disciple-makers be intentional as they lead others through the stages of spiritual growth.

Here is an overview of how we bring a person through the SCMD process. Fill in the blanks after each paragraph.

**Share:** At the beginning of the discipleship process, we intentionally share the gospel, its truth, and our lives with those who are spiritually dead. We purposely look for such opportunities. With those who are spiritual infants, we share what it means to follow Christ as His disciple.

3. A disciple-maker **shares** with those who are spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ as well as with spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

**Connect:** As people begin to grow in their faith, an intentional disciple-maker helps them connect to God,

to others, and to their purpose in the church. This connect-level discipleship happens primarily with a spiritual child, who knows about Christ but has never grown in relationship with Him and His followers. At this level, the intentional disciple-maker emphasizes the relational nature of discipleship.

4. A disciple-maker helps spiritual **connect** relationally with God and other disciples.

**Minister:** In the third step of the process, the disciple is maturing and becoming a spiritual young adult. The intentional disciple-maker trains spiritual young adults to use their gifts and abilities to minister to others. Disciple-makers equip, encourage, and walk with these young adults as they do ministry.

5. A disciple-maker equips and encourages spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ as they **minister**.

**Disciple:** In the fourth stage, disciples are becoming spiritual parents and are accepting the responsibility to intentionally disciple others. An intentional disciple-maker equips and releases his or her disciple to disciple others — to be spiritual parents for other disciples. During this stage, we become peers with those we have disciplined. We now support each other to make disciples.

6. Finally, a disciple-maker releases a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ to intentionally **disciple** others.

7. Let's see if you can apply these descriptions in the following statements. Place an S, C, M, or D next to the statement that best fits what you as an intentional leader need to do.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have noticed that my disciple is ready to start leading a group for the first time and helping other people.

\_\_\_\_\_ I realize that my neighbor does not believe in Christ, so I need to look for opportunities to present the gospel.

\_\_\_\_\_ The person I have been discipling is beginning to disciple other people. I need to release and equip him to do this on his own.

\_\_\_\_\_ I just met a new person in our church. She is eager to join a small group, so I am going to invite her to join ours this week.

How did you do? Your answers should be: M, S, D, C. Remember that each step in the SCMD process requires intentional action from the leader to help the disciple move toward the next stage.

8. As you look at the overview of the reproducible process, how intentional have you been as a disciple-maker? Check the answer that best fits you.

☐ I am like Jimmy in the opening story. I am just learning there is an intentional process that can be reproduced.

☐ I have tried to help people grow, but I didn't have a clear plan for helping them become disciples who make disciples.

☐ I have generally done what I could to help people, but I have not known how to help them grow and reproduce.

☐ I intentionally help people grow and reproduce and can show others how to as well.

## Review

- There is a reproducible process of spiritual growth: share, connect, minister, and disciple.
- Each step corresponds to stages of disciple growth.
- One must be intentional to help disciples grow to reproduce.

## day 2: JESUS MODELED SHARING

The rest of this week, we will provide you with an overview of the reproducible process (SCMD). If it seems as if we are racing through the material, don't worry. We spend a week on each phase of the process in weeks 8 through 11. In order for something to be intentional, it must be reproducible. If it is going to be reproducible, it must be understood.

### Sharing with the Spiritually Dead

Jesus, the greatest disciple-maker, is our model for how the process of discipleship begins. How did Jesus share His life and message with those who were spiritually dead?

1. We see an example of how He shared in John 4:4-42, the story of the woman at the well. Take a moment to read the story in your Bible. Then circle each of the ways Jesus shared with her.

- A. He waited until the woman spoke to Him first.
- B. He asked a leading question to peak her interest.
- C. He disregarded social prejudice so He could relate to her.
- D. He cared primarily about His own thirst.
- E. He began by quoting a lot of Scripture to her.
- F. He was sensitive to her spiritual need.
- G. He was careful not to condemn her for the lifestyle of a spiritually dead person.
- H. He was quick to win an argument with her.

You should have circled B, C, F, and G.

At the beginning of the story, the Samaritan woman was spiritually dead. Jesus met her as she was. As God in the flesh, He knew all about her and her struggles, yet He did not walk up to her and condemn her for her sin or pronounce judgment on her. Instead, He began a conversation with her. He spent time with her, just as He had done with the disciples on the shores of Galilee. He went to where she lived, got into her world, and interacted with her in a relationship. He didn't lecture her or enter into a debate with her.

He shared the gospel with her in a way she could understand, describing salvation as "living water" (verses 10 and 13). He was not stopped by her gender, her morality, or her ethnicity. He created a desire in her for the gospel by telling the difference in the water she sought and the water He gave. Once He had her attention, He began to share the gospel — the good news — with her. (Next week we will show you a simple plan for explaining the gospel to someone.)

2. Which of the following obstacles hinder you from sharing with spiritually dead people?

- ☐ Discomfort with people's lifestyle
- ☐ Fear of not knowing answers to people's questions
- ☐ Fear of being criticized or rejected
- ☐ Not knowing what to say
- ☐ Not having access to non-Christians
- ☐ Feeling too overwhelmed and busy to take on another thing

3. How can you be more like Jesus and intentionally share with a spiritually dead person?

Be prepared to share your answers with your small group.

## Sharing with Spiritual Infants

Jesus did not stop at the gospel. Once the woman accepted the truth about who He was, she believed in Him (see verses 28-29). Even though He was on His way to Galilee, Jesus did not abandon the woman or the other new believers in town. He spent two days with them. Of course, we do not have a complete record of what transpired during that time, but because of how Jesus disciplined other people, we can assume that He continued to disciple the people of Sychar. When we spend time with spiritual infants, we help them understand truth and form new habits.

Read this list of new habits we should help spiritual infants develop:

- Regular Bible reading
- Church attendance
- Prayer
- Tithing
- Commitment to a small group

They also need our support and help for losing any bad habits they may have.

4. List other habits that you think spiritual infants may need to develop:

Be prepared to share your answers with your small group.

## Review

- We are to share with spiritually dead people and infant believers.
- We should share our lives, the gospel, truth, and new habits.

## day 3: JESUS MODELED CONNECTING

Today we look at relationships and their importance in helping spiritual infants move to the next stage of growth. We use the word *connect* to illustrate the bond that Christians share with each other as members of God's family. We also rely on the word *connect* to underscore the necessity of discipleship being done in the context of relationship. Disciple-making is not simply a transfer of information.

### Individualism Versus Others

Many Christians have bought into the idea that they can do Christianity by themselves, without other people. They think they can sit alone on the lake, in the woods, or even at home and relate to God with no need for relationship with other disciples. While they try to stay connected to God, they ignore His design to be connected to others. Meanwhile, they are dying on the inside because no one truly knows them, and seemingly no one cares. Worse yet, they are not growing as disciples and are unable to fulfill Christ's command (see Matthew 28:18-20).

We think this belief system contradicts Jesus' words in Mark 12:29-31.

***“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”***

*(Mark 12:29-31)*

1. Read Mark 12:29-31 and answer the following questions:

- What is the relationship described in the first commandment?
  
  
  
- What relationship is described in the second commandment?
  
  
  
- How would Jesus’ words conflict with the belief that “I can do Christianity by myself”?

Jesus indicated that to completely fulfill God’s commands you need two categories of relationships. First, you must be in relationship (connected) with God. Second, you will be in relationship (connected) with your neighbor. Both of these connections are vital.

### **Connecting with God**

Jesus modeled a deep, abiding relationship with God the Father. The disciples observed Jesus’ relationship with God in daily life as well as in a time of distress.

2. Read the following passages and write a phrase that describes Jesus’ connection with the Father.

Luke 2:49	
John 2:16	
Matthew 11:25-27	
John 5:18-20	

Your answers should be similar to the following: Even as a child, Jesus wanted to be about His Father’s business (see Luke 2:49). In John 2:16, Jesus was indignant because His Father’s house was being used for dishonest profit. Jesus openly spoke to the Father, expressing His gratitude and praise (see Matthew 11:25-27). In John 5:18-20, Jesus’ relationship with God the Father revealed a deep, loving connection.

Jesus knew that His disciples needed a relationship with God that went beyond just surface knowledge. He spent time together with them and built a strong connection. They came into relationship with God through Jesus. He connected with His disciples in a real bond, not a distant association.

***“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”***

*(Luke 2:49)*

***To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!”***

*(John 2:16)*

**Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.**

**“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”**

*(Matthew 11:25-27)*

**For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.**

**Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.”**

*(John 5:18-20)*

3. Let’s assess your connection with God on two levels: frequency and depth. Place an “X” in the box that best describes you.

The **frequency** in which I spend time specifically with God is:

	Regularly throughout the day	At a settime each day	Once or twice a week	Hit and miss, but at least monthly
<b>Frequency</b>				

The **depth** of my relationship with God would be best described as:

	Like an ocean	Like a lake	Like a pond	Like a mud puddle
<b>Depth</b>				

We hope you are striving to become a disciple who spends time with God and in as deep a connection as possible.

### **Connecting Spiritual Children with a Spiritual Family**

Along with connecting to God, disciples need relationships with each other. As children need a family to be healthy, spiritual children need a family in order to grow strong and healthy.

Jesus continually modeled and promoted connection with others. He didn’t just meet with His disciples one-on-one for an hour a week; He also brought them into a small group of twelve to do life together. This group was inseparable for three years. The level at which Jesus’ disciples connected together in a group illustrates the value Jesus placed on in-depth relationships. Though we may not be able to spend 24/7 with those we disciple, we must be in relationship with them at a deeper level than just a weekly meeting.

4. Read 1 John 4:19-21. What does this passage say about the importance of being connected to God and how it affects our connection with others in His family?

Notice what happens if we do not love each other. If we don't love fellow believers, we cannot love God. Jesus prayed for this relational connection when He said, "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me" (John 17:23).

***We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.***

*(1 John 4:19-21)*

### **The Early Disciples**

We also see connection in the early church. We will look at this more in depth in week 9, but for now, read Colossians 3:12-17 .

***Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.***

***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***

*(Colossians 3:12-17)*

5. Put the following phrases from these verses into your own words.

- Bear with one another
  
  
  
  
  
- Together in perfect unity
  
  
  
  
  
- Teach and admonish one another with all wisdom

6. Next write an accurate definition of the discipleship connection. Disciples connected in relationship means ...

Be prepared to share your answers with the group.

### **Review**

- Spiritual children need to be connected in relationships with God and with other disciples.
- Jesus modeled both of these types of connection.



## day 4: JESUS MODELED TRAINING FOR MINISTRY

It has been a few weeks since we reviewed our definition of a disciple. Can you remember the three key parts?

1. Fill in the blanks with words from this box:

mission	committed
following	changed

- A disciple is one who is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.
- A disciple is one who is being \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus.
- A disciple is one who is \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

Go back in the book and check if you are unsure of your answers.

From the beginning, Jesus told the disciples that He would make them into something different: “Come, follow me, ... and I will *make* you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19, emphasis added). Their occupation of catching fish changed into a mission of fishing for people. Each step along the way, Jesus taught them to share with others, connect people to God, and minister to those who were in need. Today we look at how Jesus involved His disciples in ministry.

### The Ministry Phase and Spiritual Young Adults

The ministry phase of the discipleship process matches up well with the characteristics of the young adult stage of spiritual growth, as reflected in the following table.

Young Adult Stage	Ministry Phase
Heart change from self to others God-centered in motivation Others’ needs are important Desire to serve and lead	Equip for ministry/serving Provide opportunities to minister/serve Release to do ministry independently

When a disciple matures into a spiritual young adult, he or she needs training and opportunities to serve.

### Hands-On Training

Jesus used everyday opportunities to train the disciples to minister. We have looked at the feeding of the five thousand to see how Jesus was an intentional leader. Let’s go back to this account to discover the **ministry** phase of the disciple-making process.

***When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.***

***Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”***

***Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”***

***Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who***

***were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.***

***When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.***

*(John 6:1-13)*

2. Take a moment to read John 6:1-13. List all the things you see that Jesus had His disciples do to minister to the people.

The twelve disciples served the people that day while they were learning a great lesson about who Jesus really was. They organized the groups, distributed food, and gathered up leftovers. Ministry was part of their discipleship process.

At the feeding of the five thousand, the Twelve were learning about ministry as well as about who Jesus was.

***Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near.***

3. Mark the ministry lessons that the Twelve should have learned from the experience:

- A. Only miracle workers can be involved in ministry.
- B. We are responsible for doing something about others' needs.
- C. We depend on God to provide for others' needs.
- D. We serve others to make us look important.
- E. Involving disciples in ministry is part of how Jesus made disciples.
- F. Service has to match directly to my spiritual gifts or I can't do it.
- G. I learn things through serving that would be hard to learn just by listening.

Statements B, C, E, and G are correct.

Jesus modeled intentional actions in His relationships with people. He **shared** with spiritual infants, **connected** with spiritual children, and actively trained the disciples to **minister** to others.

As we see in the example of the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus gave the disciples hands-on experience in learning to care for others. Jesus got His disciples “in the game.” They did not sit on the outside watching Him meet all the needs of people. Jesus valued their involvement and used it for their growth as disciples. We think Jesus used this opportunity to train them and give them a process of how they should train other disciples in the future. As disciple-makers, we can utilize this process to help people grow intentionally.

4. How were you introduced to service/ministry?

5. Answer the following questions about the process you experienced by circling Yes (Y) or No (N):

Y	N	Were you well equipped to serve before you were on your own?
Y	N	Were you given opportunities to serve and then coached as you went?
Y	N	Were you asked about your heart for God before you were asked to serve?
Y	N	Did your service stem from an attitude of caring for others in need?
Y	N	Were you released to serve independently before you felt ready?
Y	N	If you made a mistake, did someone take the time to help you learn from it and improve?

We tend to train others for making disciples the same way we were introduced to ministry. Think about how intentional you could be when leading someone through the **ministry** phase of discipleship.

6. Write three things you would like to remember to do in the **ministry** phase of making a disciple:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Be prepared to share your answers with your small group.

### Review

- The ministry phase of the SCMD process matches up with the spiritual stage of young adult.
- Jesus intentionally involved His disciples in ministry/service in order to train them.

## day 5: JESUS MODELED RELEASING DISCIPLES

Today we conclude our overview of the reproducible process. SCMD is our road map for moving disciples through the stages of spiritual growth. We are going to cover each aspect of this process in more depth in the coming weeks. This week we have been focused on the biblical support for this process.

1. Can you name the spiritual stage of growth that matches the phase of the SCMD process? Feel free to look back at this week's lessons if you need help.

Phase of SCMD	Stage of Spiritual Growth
SHARE	
CONNECT	
MINISTER	
DISCIPLE	