



SESSION 5 CHAPTER 1

THE WAYS OF THE ALONGSIDER

< Change the room up by removing the tables. Put seats in three circles. As people come into the room, tell them to sit anywhere, but NOT sit with your spouse in the same circle. >
PRAY

Yes, you'll notice that the room is set up a bit differently than before. There is a reason. We'll go there in a moment.

But first... How did this week's Chapter 1 go for you? Did it seem fairly simple to follow? What, if anything, stood out for you in particular?

As you reviewed the Table of Contents and read the introductory remarks, did any question come to mind that you want answered before we begin? WAIT

I'm not going to spend all of our time today regurgitating every paragraph that you read. However, there are a few things I do want to review before we break up into groups.

CHAPTER 1 - THE WAY OF THE AMATEUR

The author, Bill Mowry, says he believes that God is looking for ministry amateurs to come alongside friends to model godly behaviors.

▶ Why do you believe Bill uses the phrase 'ministry amateurs'?

▶ You read the story illustrating ministry amateurs; summarize amateurs from your perspective: You don't have to be a professional athlete to enjoy sports.

Disciple Makers become 'Alongsiders' because they partner up with someone to do life in a new way. Like God's Holy Spirit, we come alongside the person who wants to grow in his or her intimate fellowship with Jesus.

Some authors call this an L2L approach. It's doing life in Life2Life ways. Alongsiders disciple people in the 'middle' of life < Draw picture on page 6 >

▶ Highlight the first two sentences - "we have unintentionally created a gap in the Christian life..." We have a lot of 'Christians' but not enough 'Disciples'. Let me remind you of the 'harvest versus workers' analogy we spoke of last week.

▶ Highlight near the bottom of Page 6 the last two sentences - "The test of a disciple's life is not found in a worship service or a retreat but in the midst of a crooked generation..." What do you think the author means by this statement?

Where we once hung old pictures of where people drew closer to following Jesus, such as only in a church service or a Sunday School Class, we can now hang new pictures related to your walking alongside someone who wants to spiritually grow.

▶ See graph on Page 7

Alongsiders Intentionally Do Some Simple Things:

< Ask for examples of the intentionality and simplicity of being an alongsider. >

▶ build authentic friendships

- ▶ read the Bible with others
- ▶ ask questions and encourage application
- ▶ have purposeful conversations
- ▶ invite people to live on mission

OUR GOAL: Implement V.I.M. into your ministry as an Alongsider (Bottom, Page 7)

- ▶ The three elements of V.I.M. strategy are the general pattern for spiritual transformation: the path for change from the inside to the outside of each of us that surfaces within a Disciple Maker to follow the Matthew 28: 18-20 commission.

V - vision (head) I - intentionality (heart) M - means (hands)

- ▶ V - Do I have a vision (a picture hanging up on my wall) for change?
(This 'change' impacts both the Disciple Maker and the one being disciplined as described in Col 1:28 and motivated to follow Matt. 22: 37-40)
 - ▶ I - Am I being intentional in pursuing my desire to achieve that change?
 - ▶ M - What tools do I have to be equipped to make it? (eg Quiet Times)
- Just as a heads-up... You're going to see the V.I.M. strategy presented in a variety of methodology as we progress through the upcoming chapters in this workbook.

I hope you filled out your personal Alongsider Assessment.

1. What did you discover about your strengths? Were you pleased?
2. What areas did you see that are ones you want to strengthen?

SUMMARY: Disciple Makers come alongside someone who wants to more closely follow Jesus' teachings in their daily lives. Then, in the simplicity of doing life together, the disciple maker maintains a clear vision of what their discipleship looks like. He/She intentionally commits to seeing it through and has the means of achieving it as God's Holy Spirit goes about making changes in each of their lives.

Next: I want you to separate. Count off 1, 2, and 3. Join the others who have your number - 1s with 1s; 2s with 2s; and 3s with 3s. Appoint someone who has not yet been a spokesperson to be today's spokesperson for your group. Each group will have a total of 15 minutes together. The spokesperson needs to make a few notes so he or she can share how you answered two questions that I'll come around and give you. Each group will have different questions. We're divided into somewhat equally numbered groups. At the end of the 15 minutes we'll reconvene as a larger single circle to discuss your collective considerations. Are there any questions? WAIT

Okay, begin. Check the clock... Circle up and review the following questions: < from page 147-148 >

- Group 1: How can being an amateur free you to disciple others?
 How do you feel about becoming an alongsider to someone?

- Group 2: What pictures hang in your mind about making disciples?
 What mental pictures will you need to remove to become an alonsider?
- Group 3: How is life-to-life ministry a different picture from other ministry approaches?
 Why do you think disciplmaking is important for church growth?

Reconvene

First, will the spokesperson restate the questions you were asked to respond to and give us those responses?

Are there any questions for that group? WAIT Then repeat twice more.

Fortunately, we still have ___ minutes left on our schedule. So now... Let's take some time to share more stories. Who wants to go first?

Give out handouts. "Triangle",

Complete Chapter 2

Close in Prayer.