



# Salt & Light

## How to Build a Bridge for Disciple-Making...

**Much of what will be accomplished and what will last from the “March Miracle” will be a result of those of us who are involved in the process of disciple-making.** Jesus patterned the way for us to make disciples. He invested his life in a small group of individuals—twelve to be exact. His investment in the life of his disciples was highly relational. Read the gospels and you will see the story of a Savior and group of his closest friends.

**The basis for disciple-making and the purpose of our church is recorded as the last words of Jesus to his disciples in Matthew’s gospel.**

*“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” — Jesus*

**As you move forward with the person that you will be discipling, it might be helpful to see yourself as a bridge between this new disciple and the church.** A bridge allows traffic and communication to cross where otherwise none would be possible. Let me suggest some keys to building a bridge.

**Blessing:** Disciple-making is about self-less sacrifice. It is about speaking blessing into the life of the person to whom you are relating. Let me suggest five ways in which you can BLESS your new disciple.

1. **Body**—There may be physical needs that exist which could include sickness, finances, etc.
2. **Labor**—You may need to help someone find a new job or learn to thrive in their current situation
3. **Emotions**—What a blessing it is to have someone to both cry with and to laugh with.
4. **Social Relationships**—Everybody has relationships. You may need to provide help in making new ones.
5. **Spiritual Growth**—Growth happens one day at a time and one step at a time. Patiently lead them forward.

**Relating:** Your bridge will be built on your relationships. As your friendship goes deeper—your bridge will get stronger. Begin your talks with surface conversations that are primarily informational. Gradually lead the conversation into deeper water (spiritual things).

**Involving:** Look to find ways to involve your new friend in our church family. Invite them to sit with you and to attend events and Bible studies with you. Introduce them to your friends.

**Dreaming:** Everybody has dreams and goals for their future. In fact, God has planted dreams in the hearts of His children. Those dreams are very much tied to God’s purpose for each of us. You may want to both read Rick Warren’s, “The Purpose-Driven Life” as a resource to guide your conversations.

**Guiding:** A disciple follows his teacher. You will have the amazing opportunity for someone to learn Christianity by following your example (scary...isn’t it)

**Encouraging:** In a world filled with discouragement, you are called to be the voice of encouragement. You are a motivator and a cheer leader. Go get ‘em!

***I can’t wait to see what God is going to do through you!***

***Equipping the Saints!***