

THE DISCIPLESHIP MAP FOR SMALL TEAMS

A clear, Spirit-led framework to build discipleship in your church, no large staff or fancy systems required.



FAITH NEST

Presented by: Faith Nest - Restoring leaders and renewing vision.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Discipleship doesn't require a big building, a large team, or a complicated system.

What it does require is intentionality, clarity, and faithful leadership.

This guide is designed to help you build a sustainable discipleship rhythm in your church, even if your team is small, your time is limited, and your plate is full.

With this tool, you'll learn how to:

- Understand the 4 essential stages of discipleship
- Identify simple leadership roles and delegate well
- Create a monthly rhythm that works in your context

This is not another program; it's a pathway. One that works with what you already have.

Blessings,
-Rudy

THE 4-STAGE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Discipleship is not a one-size-fits-all system. But it often follows a relational and spiritual progression.

Here's a simple, repeatable framework your team can use:

1- Connect: Belong Before You Believe

Purpose: Build trust, safety, and an authentic relationship.

Examples: Coffee meetups, Sunday hospitality, small groups, follow-up with visitors

Key Question: Are they known, welcomed, and invited into community?

2- Grow: Build Biblical & Spiritual Foundations

Purpose: Teach the basics of faith and spiritual habits.

Examples: Foundations classes, sermon-based studies, 1:1 mentoring

Key Question: Are they learning how to walk with Jesus, not just attend church?

3- Equip: Discover Gifts & Strengthen Identity

Purpose: Help people understand their purpose, personality, and calling.

Examples: Gift assessments, team roles, guided leadership conversations

Key Question: Do they know who they are and how God has wired them to serve?

4- Send: Empower to Lead & Multiply

Purpose: Release people into ministry roles with encouragement and accountability.

Examples: Training small group leaders, volunteer leaders, and local outreach.

Key Question: Are we sending disciples, not just gathering attendees?

DELEGATING DISCIPLESHIP ROLES (EVEN WITH A SMALL TEAM)

*You don't need a full staff.
You just need clear roles, even if one person holds
more than one.*

Here's a simple breakdown:

Role	Purpose	Who Could Fill It?
Connector	Welcomes, follows up, builds relationship	Friendly church members, hospitality team
Teacher/Guide	Facilitates Bible study or discipleship lessons	Pastor, small group leader, mature believer
Encourager	Walks 1:1 with someone new in their faith	Seasoned member, mentor, spouse of leader
Multiplication Coach	Helps train others to lead	Pastor, associate, trusted lay leader

Pro Tip: Start with who you do have, not who you wish you had. God uses what's in your hands.

SAMPLE MONTHLY DISCIPLESHIP CALENDAR

Here's a simple rhythm your church can adopt and adapt, ideal for small teams and real schedules.

Week 1: Connect & Gather

- Sunday: Welcome & follow-up with newcomers
- Optional: Midweek coffee meetups or shared meals

Week 2: Teach & Equip

- Small group or Bible study
- Send a devotional or discussion guide via email or WhatsApp

Week 3: Personal Growth Touchpoints

- 1:1 check-ins (mentor to disciple)
- Pastoral encouragement to group leaders

Week 4: Empower & Mobilize

- Encourage people to serve (on Sundays or in the community)
- Leadership huddle or prayer time with volunteer teams

Keep It Sustainable:

- Rotate responsibilities
- Re-use curriculum or sermon-based guides
- Celebrate small wins each month

NOTE: On the following two pages, you'll find two templates so you can choose the format you like best for scheduling your team's monthly discipleship sessions.

TEMPLATE MONTHLY DISCIPLESHIP CALENDAR (TABLE)

Clean template to fill out according to your calendar.

WEEKS	MONTH:
	TASK SCHEDULE
Week 1	
Week 2	
Week 3	
Week 4	
Week 5	

TEMPLATE MONTHLY DISCIPLESHIP CALENDAR (LIST)

Clean template to fill out according to your calendar.

MONTH:

WEEK 1:

- _____
- _____
- _____

WEEK 2:

- _____
- _____
- _____

WEEK 3:

- _____
- _____
- _____

WEEK 4:

- _____
- _____
- _____

WEEK 5:

- _____
- _____
- _____

IMPLEMENTATION NOTES

How to Start (Even This Week):

1. Pick one area from the discipleship map to focus on this month
2. Choose one person you can begin developing through an intentional relationship
3. Block 90 minutes with your team (or yourself!) to pray, plan, and prioritize

Questions to Ask as You Build:

- Where is our church strongest in this map?
- Where are we weakest?
- Who can help multiply the vision, without adding to my burnout?

*Discipleship isn't about perfection. It's about presence, clarity, and consistency. You don't need more pressure. You need a plan. **Faith Nest** is here to walk with you as you lead from vision, not exhaustion.*