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A Practical Strategy***  
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(excerpt)

# Disciple Building: A Practical Strategy

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Excerpt from *Disciple Building: A Practical Strategy* :

## **II. NGP Approach (How to Discern Nneeds, Set Goals and Write Projects for a Disciple)**

### **Introduction**

Now that many of the foundational philosophical roots have been discussed, the R-CAPS Grid explained and the restorative elements of disciple building presented, it is time to put these theoretical concepts into practical, disciple building situations.

As we grow and help disciples grow, it is important to recognize our dependence on God for wisdom and guidance. Although we have a responsibility to be faithful, diligent and loving, it is the Holy Spirit who enables us and causes us to grow. (I Corinthians 3:10-11)

But as the Lord of our sanctification, He has given us the privilege of cooperating with Him in effecting growth. To accomplish this He has provided practical approaches or strategies to use in carrying out our responsibilities. Just as we need a strategy for living (with goals, priorities, etc.) we need a strategy for building disciples. Understanding what people need, having clear goals that assist them, and prayerfully designing growth projects are essential ingredients in disciple building.

At WDA we integrate these three concepts into a tool called an “NGP” (an acronym for Needs-Goals-Projects/Plans). This tool is useful in training leaders to pray through, think through, write and implement a personalized disciple building strategy. Having a strategy in building disciples will help prevent aimlessness and “communication overload.” Paul’s admonition in Ephesians 5:15-16 sums up this approach: “Live life...with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life, but as those who do.

Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days.”  
(Phillips)

### **Step 1: Discover the Needs of a Disciple**

The well-known psychologist, A. H. Maslow suggested that there is a hierarchy of human needs. We need to be fed and clothed, we need to feel secure, we need companionship and love, we need to understand our purpose and the meaning of life, and we need to feel that we are a significant part of the world.

Excerpt from *Christian Growth Checklist* :

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**Instructions: Read over the items in each Phase and mark the items that are true of you. Continue marking items in each Phase until you come to a Phase in which you mark fewer than one-half of the items. This indicates that you need training and growth at this phase, and possibly, at the previous phase.**

**Remember, try to be consistent and honest in your appraisal of yourself. Celebrate what God has done in your life and eagerly anticipate what He will do!!**

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### **Phase I-B: Follow Up**

1.  I understand that God loves me.
2.  I have admitted that I have a problem with sin and need a savior.
3.  I know that my sin caused a separation between God and me before I became a Christian.
4.  I know that my good deeds are not the basis of my salvation.
5.  I know that if unbelievers continue to reject Christ they will experience separation from God and eternal damnation.
6.  I know that I am forgiven because Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sin.
7.  I know that Jesus Christ is the only way that people can be brought into a relationship with God.
8.  I know that the Bible is the Word of God.
9.  I know that I have eternal life.
10.  I have acknowledged my faith in Jesus Christ through baptism.
11.  I have placed my faith in Christ alone for salvation.
12.  I realize that the Christian life is journey that will last a lifetime.
13.  I have a desire to follow Christ.
14.  I find myself trusting Christ in new ways.
15.  My care and concern for others has increased.

### **Phase II: Laying Foundations**

16.  I know that I am a new person now that I have trusted Jesus Christ.
17.  I know that the Holy Spirit lives in me and will empower me to live the Christian life.
18.  I know how to be filled with the Spirit.
19.  I know that Jesus Christ is coming again.
20.  I have seen God answer specific prayers related to my everyday needs.
21.  I have experienced God's guidance and direction about a particular matter.
22.  I regularly attend a local church.
23.  I am learning to understand and apply the Bible to my daily life.
24.  I am establishing a personal devotional time in my daily routine.
25.  Since becoming a Christian, I have sinned and have experienced both the discipline and forgiveness of God.
26.  I am in a small group that meets regularly for Bible study and encouragement.
27.  I know that God is a just, benevolent, all-powerful Father.
28.  I know that God has a three-in-one nature: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- 29.  I understand Jesus to be God, reigning in heaven.
- 30.  I have an increasing interest in telling others about Jesus.
- 31.  I'm developing a day-to-day walk with the living Christ.

### **Phase III: Equipping For Ministry**

- 32.  I know how to explain to someone else how to become a Christian.
- 33.  I know how to lead an evangelistic Bible study.
- 34.  I have participated in an organized evangelistic outreach.
- 35.  I have shared my Christian testimony with a non-Christian.
- 36.  I have shared the Gospel with a non-Christian.
- 37.  I regularly contribute a portion of my income to God's work.
- 38.  I am beginning to discover my unique abilities and contributions to God's kingdom by participating in a variety of ministry situations.