

## Minimal Factors in Disciple Making Environments - Panel

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### Summary

This conversation discussed the essential ingredients for effective disciple-making: time, people, and intentionality. The panel discussion emphasized that discipleship takes time and cannot be rushed, but leaders can leverage their existing schedules to involve students in everyday activities. They also highlighted the importance of having spiritually mature adults who genuinely care for students and are willing to invest time in building relationships with them. Intentionality was stressed as the key focus, with leaders encouraged to plan weekly, monthly, and yearly activities that foster spiritual growth and relationship-building. The overall goal is to help students become lifelong followers of Christ beyond their high school years.

### Main Points

#### #1 - Time: Discipleship Takes Time

Discipleship requires a long-term perspective and cannot be achieved through quick fixes. Leaders should identify existing activities in their schedules and involve students in those activities to leverage the available time effectively. This could include tasks like grocery shopping, road trips, or even car repairs, as these provide opportunities for building relationships and having spiritual conversations.

#### #2 - People: Life-on-Life Relationships

Discipleship is about life-on-life relationships. Leaders do not need to be cool, young, or trendy; instead, they should be spiritually mature individuals who genuinely care for students and are willing to invest time in them. An adult

who cares for a student will always have a voice and influence in their life, regardless of their knowledge of current trends.

### **#3 - Intentionality: Focused Discipleship**

Discipleship should be the laser-like focus of youth ministry, not just one of many programs. Leaders should ask themselves what they are doing that will help students continue to be followers of Christ years after graduating high school. While immediate excitement and numbers can be tempting, the goal should be long-term, lifelong fruit.

### **Next Steps**

- Take an assessment of your current schedule and identify activities you are already doing that you could involve students in, such as inviting them to join you at church, grocery shopping, or other everyday tasks.
- Pray for the students you have on a weekly basis, setting aside dedicated time to lift them up in prayer.
- Plan monthly hangout events or activities that allow for relationship-building and spiritual conversations, such as hiking, pool parties, or hosting students at your home.
- Identify annual spiritual momentum moments, such as retreats, camps, or missions experiences, that can foster spiritual growth and relationship-building among students.
- Communicate and promote these annual events to students and parents, ensuring they are aware of the opportunities for spiritual development and community.