

Discipleship Plan

Equipping & Maturing Soldiers in the Faith: Young Man 1

1 John 2:13b,14b - Young Men, Overcomers (conquerors, zeal, battle seekers), Strong, Sturdy

13b I write to you, young men,

Because you have overcome the wicked one. ...

14b I have written to you, young men,

Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you,

And you have overcome the wicked one.

Stages of Discipleship:

- 1) Visitor / Acquaintance of PRC Member —>***
- 2) Unbaptized Catechumen —>***
- 3) Child (1-3 years for adult convert, age 9-13 for a Covenant child)***
 - a) Baptized Catechumen (Start Child / Novice) —>***
 - b) Communicant Member —>***
 - c) Established (End Child/Novice) (Start Young Man / Soldier) —>***
- 4) Young Man (Complete before age 20 for Cov. Children)***
 - a) Able to be an assistant to a Deacon or Elder***
 - b) Complete Young Man 1 Training (Veteran Soldier / Mature Young Man / Deacon Minimum Level of Doctrine) —>***
 - i) Complete skills training for Deacon - “Man of Valor Training”***
 - ii) Able to be nominated for Deacon after “Young Man 1” & “Man of Valor”***
 - c) Complete Father Training (“Young Man 2” phase / Start serving as a Father)***
- 5) Father (Complete before age 30 to avoid wasted time)***
 - a) After Completing “Young Man 2” a man has a Father level of Doctrine and has the minimum Doctrinal training necessary for an Elder.***
 - b) Complete Skills Training for Eldership - “Mighty Man Training”***
 - i) Prerequisite of “Man of Valor”***
 - c) Once a Man is a Father & a Mighty Man of Valor, then he is able to be nominated for Elder.***

What is a young man in the faith (or a soldier)?

A young man in the faith is someone who is mature enough in the Reformed faith to be put into difficult situations alongside a more mature believer. They are useful and trustworthy; they have the basic knowledge and character to allow the more mature believer to get more good work done while continuing to develop their own understanding and skills.

Goals of Document:

- 1) Identify Soldiers / Young Men in the Faith.
- 2) Instruct Soldiers how to be more discerning of good doctrine, intermediate objectives, and tasks to select for taking those objectives while helping to make soldiers more prudent in selecting the order of operations, and more skilled in performing the work.
- 3) Help Soldiers to work alongside and under the leadership and supervision of Veteran Soldiers, Fathers in the faith, and Officers.
- 4) Instruct those who want to equip and mature Soldiers in the faith so that the Young Man can become a “Father in the faith” who is able to lead, equip, and mature others.

Young men in the faith understand:

- 1) The Westminster Shorter Catechism & The Church Covenant,
- 2) The Gospel,
 - a) The SOLAS, TULIP, Covenant Theology,
 - b) The Trinity, & the Incarnation,
- 3) The Good, The Law, Outward & Ordinary Means, & the Communion of the Saints,
- 4) Authority of the Church,
- 5) Biblical Conflict Resolution,

Young men in the faith are to be matured. They need:

- 1) Consistent reinforcement of basic doctrines; constructing logical implications and applications.
- 2) Direct and clear corrections for inconsistencies or errors in doctrine.
- 3) Accountability for knowing and applying the law.
- 4) Detailed study in Biblical and church history.
- 5) Testing and strengthening points of weakness in doctrine and practice by regular engagement between one another and with Fathers in the faith (sparring).

Young men in the faith are to be equipped. They need:

- 1) Tools to draw conversations from less basic (hot button) topics down to the more basic principles, and to develop the discipline to do this consistently.
- 2) Practice and proficiency with sound patterns of words in defense of the truth.
- 3) History and details of false institutions that will be encountered in the battle.
- 4) Inclusion in church life and mission; beginning to serve as assistant to deacons in the local body, removing burdens from the fathers in the faith (grunt work).
- 5) To methodically study relevant heretical teaching.
 - a) To consume recommended Reformed resources on the topic.
- 6) To begin external facing ministry under the discipleship of a Veteran Soldier, Father, or Officer in the faith.
 - a) Watching, listening, and judging,
 - b) Attending public meetings with other churches,
 - c) Attending debates/discussions with individuals,
 - d) Increasing engagement as they grow in knowledge and skill.

Resource & Scripture focus for young men in the faith:

- 1) The 66 Books of the **Bible** should be your constant companions - read the whole Bible at least once and focus on key and common places to learn and grow:
 - a) Well known & used to disciple others:
 - i) Genesis 1-9
 - (1) Individual - Gen 1-2
 - (a) Word & Conscience
 - (b) The Image of God
 - (c) Dominion - Working & Keeping
 - (d) 3 Offices
 - (2) Household - Gen 1-2
 - (a) Word & Rod
 - (b) Master, Husband, Father
 - (c) Heritage of Wealth & Wisdom
 - (3) Church - Gen 3-6:8
 - (a) Word & Keys - Christ's Doctrine, Worship, & Government
 - (b) The Regulative Principle
 - (c) Sabbath

- (4) State - Gen 6:9-9:29,
 - (a) Word & Sword - Christ's Rule, Law, Liberty, & Justice
 - (b) Civil Covenanting - Theonomy - Purpose, Form, Powers, Crimes, Punishments
 - ii) Proverbs 1-9 (I), 10-24 (II, III, IV), 25-29 (V), 30 (VI), 31 (VII)
 - iii) Romans 1-11 (Doctrine), 12-16 (Practice)
 - iv) John - Jesus is God
- b) Know the Story of:
 - i) Genesis - 2 Kings - Continuous History - Matthew (Jesus is King)
- c) Familiar with:
 - i) Leviticus, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra - Priestly History
 - (1) Connected to Ezra - Esther, Nehemiah, Malachi, Zechariah, Haggai
 - (2) Priestly Practice - Psalms (reading, study, and singing morning & evening and every Lord's Day should develop broader familiarity), Song of Solomon (see Phillip Kayser's Outline)¹
 - ii) Luke (Jesus is Priest), Acts, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Hebrews - Priestly Order of New Cov
 - iii) Ecclesiastes - Wisdom to deconstruct false goods
 - iv) 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus - the Social order
 - v) Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians - Key Doctrine
 - vi) Mark (Jesus is Prophet)
 - vii) Daniel 9, Matthew 24, The Olivet Discourse, & Revelation
- 2) The **Psalter** should start to become familiar
 - a) Expand Familiarity with the Psalter and deploy them in private and household worship
 - b) Sing loud, develop the ability to lead others in singing in small groups by being familiar with the basic tunes in the event that you have to lead your household or others in singing in morning or evening worship

¹ <https://biblicalblueprints.com/Sermons/BibleSurvey/19%20SongOfSolomon>

- 3) Bible History - Basic outline of Biblical timeline:
- a) ~4004 BC - Creation - Adam**
 - b) ~2500 BC - Noah - Flood**
 - c) ~2000 BC - Abraham**
 - i) Job, Melchizedek
 - d) ~1500 BC - Moses & Exodus**
 - i) ~1492 BC Exodus
 - e) ~1400 BC Joshua in Promised Land**
 - f) ~1400-1000 BC Judges-Saul/David**
 - g) ~1000 BC Solomon/Temple/Wisdom books**
 - h) ~1000-600 BC Decline of Israel, Ups and downs in Judah**
 - i) ~677 BC Assyrians stopped by God & Hezekiah's Prayer at Jerusalem**
 - i) Assyria attacks northern tribes - Exile before
 - ii) Isaiah
 - j) ~587 BC - Destruction of Jerusalem / Nebuchadnezzar / Babylon**
 - i) Genesis - 2 Kings
 - k) ~537 BC Cyrus the Great of Persia / Rebuild Temple and Jerusalem**
 - i) 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Ezra, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
 - ii) Ezra rebuilds temple
 - iii) Queen Esther intervenes to stop the annihilation of the Hebrews and the Prophet Mordecai institutes Purim
 - iv) Nehemiah sent to Jerusalem (under Queen Esther) to rebuild walls
 - l) ~400 BC - Old Testament completed with Nehemiah and Malachi**
 - m) ~3 BC Christ is born**
 - n) ~30 AD Christ dies**
 - o) New Testament written**
 - p) Council of Jerusalem**
 - q) 70 AD Jerusalem destroyed / Apostolic era ends / canon closed / Old Covenant passes away**

- r) Kingdom filling the earth, post millennial hope, kingdom of Grace reigning**
 - i) Dispensational Premillennialism
 - (1) Pre-Trib
 - (2) Mid-Trib
 - (3) Post-Trib
 - ii) Classic Premillennialism
 - iii) Amillennialism
 - iv) Postmillennialism**
- s) Christ returns, dead are raised, final judgment, enter the kingdom of Glory 1000's of generations since creation of world**
 - i) Full Preterism
 - ii) Orthodox (Partial) Preterism**
 - iii) Historicism
 - iv) Futurism
 - v) Idealism

- 4) The **Westminster Shorter Catechism** should be well known and used to disciple others
- a) Familiar with the big sections and the basic order inside of them
 - i) 1-38 - The Knowledge of God & His Decrees
 - (1) The Purpose of Life
 - (2) Sola Scriptura
 - (3) Contents - The Double Knowledge - The Knowledge of God & The Knowledge of Self
 - (4) Define God
 - (5) Monotheism
 - (6) Trinity
 - (7) God's Decrees
 - (8) All Decrees are either Creation or Providence
 - (9) Creation Defined
 - (10) Mankind as the Image of God with Dominion
 - (11) Providence Defined
 - (12) Covenant of Works
 - (13) The Fall, Freedom of the Will, & the Fourfold State of Man
 - (14) Sin Defined
 - (15) The First Human Sin
 - (16) The Federal Headship of Adam
 - (17) The Consequences of the Fall
 - (18) The Estate of Sin
 - (19) The Estate of Misery
 - (20) Covenant of Grace
 - (21) The Federal Headship of Christ as the God-Man
 - (22) The Incarnation
 - (23) The Triple Office of Christ
 - (24) Prophet
 - (25) Priest
 - (26) King
 - (27) The Humiliation of Christ
 - (28) The Exaltation of Christ
 - (29) Partaking in Redemption Accomplished by Christ
 - (30) Redemption Applied by the Holy Spirit
 - (31) Effectual Calling
 - (32) Benefits in this Life
 - (33) Justification
 - (34) Adoption
 - (35) Sanctification
 - (36) Additional Connected Benefits in this Life
 - (37) Benefits to Believers at Death
 - (38) Benefits to Believers at the Resurrection

- ii) 39-81 - The Law of God
 - (1) 39 - Ethics depend upon God's Revealed Will
 - (2) 40 - The Moral Law is God's Revealed Will
 - (3) 41 - The 10 Commandments are the Moral Law
 - (4) 42 - Two Tables - Love God, Love Neighbor
 - (5) 43 - Preface
 - (6) 44 - Preface Explained
 - 45-62 - 1st Table
 - 63-81 - 2nd Table
- iii) 82-107 - The Outward & Ordinary Means of Grace
 - (1) 82 - Total Depravity, Constant Transgression
 - (2) 83 - Degrees of Heinousness
 - (3) 84 - The Just Penalty for Sin
 - (4) 85 - Escaping Wrath in Justification & Curse in this Life
 - (5) 86 - Faith
 - (6) 87 - Repentance Unto Life
 - (7) 88 - Outward & Ordinary Means of Grace
 - (8) 89-90 - The Word
 - (9) 91-97 - Sacraments
 - (10) 98-107 - Prayer

5) The **Church Covenant** should be well known and used to disciple others

- a) Can recall the basic content and order of the questions

6) Read through and examine the **Westminster Standards**²:

- a) Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF),
- b) the Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC),
- c) Westminster Directory of Public Worship (WDPW),
- d) the Westminster Form of Presbyterial Government (WFPG),
- e) The Westminster Directory of Family Worship (WDFW),
- f) & any clarifications, expansions, or modifications adopted by PRC

² <https://www.apuritansmind.com/westminster-standards/>

- 7) Rules of Practice:
- a) Familiarity with the Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) on the Law
 - i) Q 91-152 (62 Questions)
 - b) Familiarity with the Westminster Directory of Family Worship (WDFW)
 - c) Familiarity with the Westminster Directory of Public Worship (WDPW)
 - i) Worship - WCF Ch. 21, WLC 108, 109, WDPW
 - ii) Q&A by the men
 - iii) Private Ministry of Elders for prayer of healing with Oil & laying on of hands
 - d) Familiarity with the Westminster Form of Presbyterial Government (WFPG)
 - i) Household voting on:
 - (1) Election of Officers
 - (2) Removal of Officers
 - (3) Excommunication
 - ii) 3 Local Voting Bodies
 - (1) Men of Israel (heads of House) - Communicant Member Men of 20 and above
 - (2) Diaconate - Elders and Deacons
 - (3) Session - Elders
 - iii) The Men of the congregation Nominate, Test, and Elect
 - iv) The Existing Officers Ordain
 - v) Principles of the Devolution / Evolution of Powers
 - vi) All Elders have authority to rule, teach, and exhort publicly
 - vii) Church must have officer training programs and not be dependent upon external universities or create what we think of as modern accredited universities seeking the approval of the state or other bodies external to the church