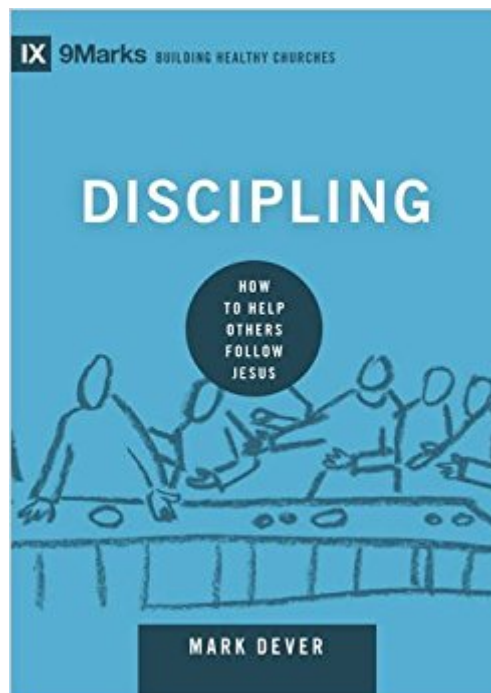




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# Discipling: How To Help Others Follow Jesus (9marks: Building Healthy Churches)



## Synopsis

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus instructed his followers to “make disciples of all nations.” But what does this command actually entail? What does it look like for Christians to care for one another’s spiritual well-being and growth? In this introduction to the basics of discipling, veteran pastor and author Mark Dever uses biblical definitions and practical examples to show how Christians can help one another become more like Christ every day. The eighth volume in the 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches series, this short book explains how discipling should function in the context of the local church, teaching pastors and church leaders how to cultivate a culture of edification and growth in their congregations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“If you want to move to another level in your spiritual life and leadership, take the time to read this book. It is not just biblical, but practical and readable. The emphasis on the local church and its role in discipling others sets it apart from other books. Read it and share it with others.”  
—Ronnie Floyd, Former President, The Southern Baptist Convention; Senior Pastor, Cross Church, Springdale, Arkansas  
“Mark Dever is known for being a faithful, exegetical preacher of God’s Word. But what you may not know is that Mark is an intentional disciple-maker. Whether he’s meeting on Saturday with lay leaders over lunch to discuss his application grid for Sunday’s message or discussing church polity in his study with a group of young interns, Mark emulates what he expects from others. I believe his

legacy will not be just on the pages of the books he has penned, but on the hearts of the men he's invested in personally. Don't just read this book. Implement the biblical principles found within.

•Robby Gallaty, Lead pastor, Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville, Tennessee  
"I love reading books written by authors who are zealous about the subjects they write about. I often feel like emulating their example even before I get to the last page of the book. If you know Mark Dever, then you know he is a committed discipler. Discipleship oozes out of him. What drives him and how he disciples others and gets his church members to do the same is what these pages are all about. Prepare yourself for a life-changing experience as you read this book!"

•Conrad Mbewe, pastor, Kabwata Baptist Church, Lusaka, Zambia; chancellor, African Christian University, Lusaka, Zambia  
"This book convicts, exhorts, and instructs followers of Christ concerning the call to a life of discipling others. It also offers warm-hearted glimpses of this call being answered in the life of a pastor and his congregation. Mark Dever takes us to the Scriptures and roots us in the church, with particular focus on church leaders and careful attention to all. This makes much sense, but we need to be reminded that the process of discipling others is every believer's clear and joyful calling."

•Kathleen Nielson, author; speaker; senior adviser, The Gospel Coalition  
"With simple yet profound insights, Mark Dever takes Jesus's final command to make disciples and teaches us what that means for us and for our churches. By answering our questions—the why, the what, the where, and the how of discipling—Pastor Mark coaches us in how to follow Christ by helping others to follow him, to know the truth, and to live it well. Every follower of Christ needs to read this book! It's the best book I've ever read on discipling."

•Jani Ortlund, speaker, Renewal Ministries; author, *Fearlessly Feminine* and *His Loving Law*, *Our Lasting Legacy*  
"Here is a church-strengthening book full of down-to-earth advice about the nuts and bolts of discipling. Dever's love for Jesus and his people shines throughout, and his firm placement of discipleship within the context and bounds of the local church is vintage Dever ecclesiology. He has a keen eye for pastors, addressing them about their role with warmth and clarity. I was personally challenged by Dever, who himself has a track record of prioritizing discipleship in the midst of all his other responsibilities. If Mark does it, I can do it!"

•Grant J. Retief, Rector, Christ Church, Umhlanga, Durban, South Africa  
"Dever reminds readers that discipling is a biblical mandate, motivated by obedience to Christ's commandment and love for others, and it is not an effort reserved for a select few. It does not reduce people to projects, but rather it seeks to intentionally develop a relationship

with them. It requires time invested in the lives of people who are interested and motivated to follow Jesus. Finally, only truly humble teachers should disciple Jesus's sheep, because when a disciple is fully trained, he will be like his teacher. These emphases and more are contained within this book. Upon reading it, you will most likely recommend it to others. I know I will.

•Miguel Nájera, A senior pastor, International Baptist Church, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; president and founder, Wisdom & Integrity Ministries

Mark Dever (PhD, Cambridge University) is the senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, DC, and president of 9Marks (9Marks.org). Dever has authored over a dozen books and speaks at conferences nationwide.

In this short book, pastor and author Mark Dever defines discipling as helping others to follow Jesus. Discipling is deliberately doing spiritual good to someone so that he or she will be more like Christ. He writes that before we can disciple others, we must become disciples. A disciple is a follower. And to be a disciple of Jesus means to follow Jesus. The goal of the book is help the reader understand biblical discipling and to encourage you in your obedience to Christ. The author writes that disciples disciple. Discipling of others is motivated by love and obedience. Discipling is a relationship in which we seek to do spiritual good for someone by initiating, teaching, correcting, modeling, loving, humbling ourselves, counseling, and influencing. Biblical discipling largely occurs in and through the local church. The author states that the New Testament ultimately charges the local church with responsibility for ensuring that members live up to their professions of faith and covenants with each other. He goes on to state that churches don't need programs so much as they need cultures of discipling, cultures where each member prioritizes the spiritual health of others. Discipling includes evangelism and conversion, and at its core, discipling is teaching. It is inviting someone to imitate you, making your trust in Christ an example to be followed. He addresses helpful questions about how and who to disciple. He states that we should disciple Christians in the same church and of the same gender. Age should be a consideration, with an older saint usually discipling a younger one. He states that the "how" of discipling is not that complicated. It's about doing life together with other people as you all journey toward Christ. I didn't find that the last chapter (how the author finds, encourages and raises up leaders in his church), and the Conclusion by Jonathan Leeman (how the author exercises gives away authority in his church) flowed as smoothly as the rest of the book. They almost felt tacked on. A helpful Appendix

includes books to use in discipling relationships. ÆfÂçÃ â ÑÃ Â•

This book is short and powerful. I rated it five stars because it painted broad strokes of theology and filled in smaller lines of practical theology. I would recommend this to any Christian. No caveats here. Every Christian is a disciple and we all can use some work on how well we are discipling.

This was a good brief on discipling and the principles ascribed to discipling through the gospels and the example of Christ. I would recommend this for an individual study, but the content is very abbreviated and probably would not make a good book for a group study.

Devoured this book in our young adult ministry at church - excellent resource guide.

Most excellent little book dealing with discipleship within its proper context, the local church. I have urged all the disciplers and those being mentored in the church where I serve as senior pastor to read and reread the book.

I have been in on many studies of discipling over the years. This study was helpful in renewal of my discipling skills and endeavors. It was a refreshing new approach.

The heart of evangelism is the Gospel of Jesus. Feel good programs are not eternal...the Gospel is. This book does an excellent job helping local churches set their priorities and ensure they are in line with God's priorities. A life and church-changing book.

Not the "One on One Discipleship SOP Manual" that I was expecting, but informative and worth the read nonetheless. The last two chapters regarding leadership were solid.

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