Companion Book

YouShare

TRAIN DISCIPLES TO REACH NEW DISCIPLES

Using

Youshare

John Hendee

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Couples have many different reactions to the idea of having babies.

Some find out they aren't able to have babies. Some of them will choose to adopt.

Others don't want children for any number of reasons. I suppose a major one is that they realize having children will impose on their freedom and their life style.

Some realizing they are pregnant prefer to end the pregnancy rather than give birth.

Most realize that to have any number of children will bring changes to their lives. There will be new challenges: health issues, expenses, time commitments, loss of many freedoms, sharing time and energy, possible discipline problems, any number of potential crisie in the life of the children, etc. With each additional child those things are multiplied. While there is the potential for great blessings, there is also the risk of great problems.

But knowing all that some still want one or two kids while other people want lots of kids. The potential blessings for many couples outweigh the potential problems.

Once a woman is aware she is pregnant there are many things to be done.

She needs a checkup.

She needs to take special care of herself.

They need to start saving money, fix up the room or place the baby will sleep, start buying supplies, foods, clothes, etc. Sometimes there will be a baby shower when family and friends can bring gifts to help the couple with their new baby to come.

There can be a lot of excitement and much stress involved in the whole process.

What does a new baby need?

Food, water, milk, clothes, medical attention and LOTS of love, attention, cleaning, comfort and much more.

What happens when these things are denied?

You list some of the hazards if they don't get these things.

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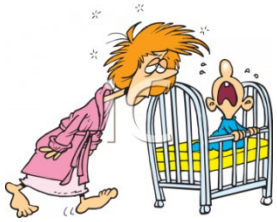
After the birth there are;

-Post natal checkups,

-Lost sleep

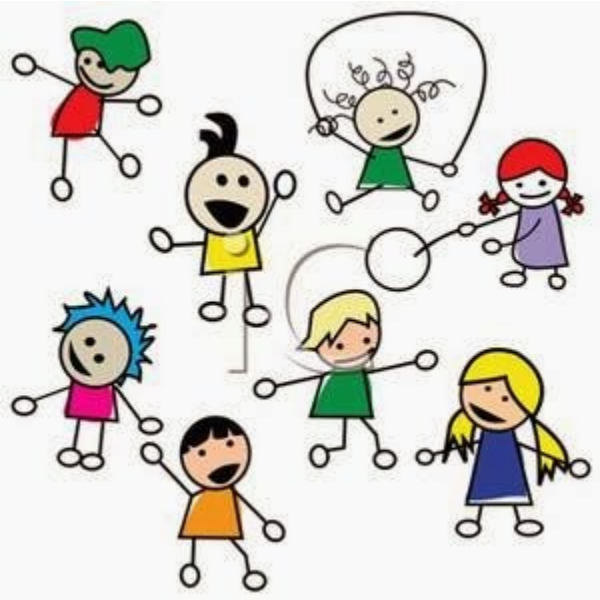


-New schedules,

-New expenses, etc.

-A NEW life together has begun.

What do parents desire for their new born?



You make a list:

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Did you think of any of thes

-That the child be born in good physical condition and health.

-That they be happy, loved and that they grow up into maturity.

-They will need to be taught how to feed themselves, how to walk and talk.

-They will need to be modeled good morals, and how to find the answers to all the whys they will have in life.

-They will need to learn how to respect others, how to study in school, how to be a friend, how to be generous and so many other things.

We all know of cases where parents have failed as parents. We know of cases where kids are abandoned, neglected, persecuted, punished unreasonably and abused verbally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. It is sad to see any of those things happen. That certainly is not God's plan for babies and children.

TAKING CARE OF NEW DISCIPLES

Churches or we could say church leaders have many different feelings or attitudes about actually making and receiving new disciples into their ministry.

Some really don't want to see new disciples in their midst. Oh, seeing members', kids accept Christ and be baptized is o.k. but in spite of what they may say or preach, they really don't want to see new outsiders coming into their ranks. New people run new risks. They can become problems in so many ways. It is safer and easier to keep the family small and controllable.

Others are more open to making new disciples and actually work in any number of ways to make new disciples. They welcome them into their midst. Some will

see dozens become disciples of Jesus in a year and other ministries will see thousands.

We trust that you are one of those who wants to see people won to Jesus and that you and your people will be welcoming them into the 'family'.

We are going to take a look at what could be and should be done to help care for New Disciples. You will be guided through the process of building the best plan you can to be sure you are doing all you can to take care of your New Disciples.

My guess is that none of us have done a perfect job in this area any more than none of us have been 'perfect parent's' with our child or children.

But that doesn't mean we can't work harder to do a better job in the future with new Disciples who come into the family of God.

The goal is for you and your people to come up with your plan on how to Care for New Disciples and then carry it out.

This is to be YOUR ministry plan. By that I mean you and the team you work with should build this plan. A number of people should be involved in building this plan.

I will suggest some things that could be done but I challenge you to take any of my ideas you like and add them to your ideas and build a plan for New Disciples. Of course we want to be sure what we are doing is carrying out God's desires for new disciples that we find the New Testament.

It would make for an interesting investigation to find passages in the New Testament writings that talk about how the early Christians took care of new disciples and any directions given that we should be practicing today.

So let's get to it.

I suggest you sit down with other leaders in your ministry and work your way through this. Maybe do an initial pass through it and note any ideas. Then have

everyone go home for a week or so and keep praying, thinking and maybe researching more answers.

Here are a couple items to read as you work on this:

THE TALE OF TWO SHEEP

John Hendee

TALE ONE; THE STORY OF MIA.

John 21: **15-17** When they had finished eating, Jesus said MIA Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” she said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

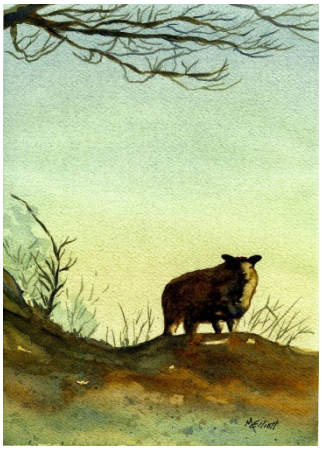
She answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

17 The third time she said MIA her, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked her the third time, “Do you love me?” She said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.



The Story of MIA

It is an all too common story.

MIA was born into a flock of sheep on a large ranch in Montana.

The day of her birth was a joyous day.

Other ewes had gathered around MIA’s mother after she gave birth.

They celebrated the new birth and congratulated her.

It was a difficult birth but the baby lamb had the looks of a baby that would grow up into a strong, healthy sheep.

Hours later the many ewes left MIA and her mother to themselves to rest.

In the coming weeks MIA grew rapidly.

She love jumping and bounding around the coral as her energy and muscles grew.

She was a joy to watch. She seemed grow up so fast.

Life was good. She had her mom and dad and hundreds of aunts and uncles and cousins around her.

Food was good and plentiful along with good water.

She lived in safety from prowling enemies sneaking around the far perimeters of the ranch.

As she grew she became curious about many things. One of them was that every now and then she stood near the fence and looked out beyond the outer perimeters near the distant forest. Occasionally she saw other sheep way out there. She asked his mother about them. Who were they? Why were they out there? She explained they were sheep that had escaped from the ranch and never came back and they had avoided all the ranchers' efforts to capture them again.

She thought it looked like they were having a great time out there. They were running wild and free. It started to look quite interesting. As time went on life in the coral started to seem very boring and limited. The life of the sheep in the distance started to look more and more attractive. She had been warned many times about the risks and dangers of living out there.

The time came that she convinced herself that she wanted the better life, the free life. So she planned his escape one night. She sneaked off while the others were sleeping and she squeezed through the fence and ran as fast as she could toward the forest. She got to the edge of the trees and lay down and slept till morning. As the sun came up she started to see some of the free sheep gathering around her. Oh, they seemed so friendly. She liked them. They welcomed her into their flock. She started running and frolicking every day with them. This was the life.

Many days had past. She often thought about her mother and all the comforts of the ranch coral but the excitement of the free life and her new friends quickly drew her back to her new life.

Since the day of her escape there had been daily conversations among the flock about MIA. What had happened MIA her? Where was she? Her mother stood by the fence looking out in the distance for her, calling her name.

A couple of times other sheep thought they saw her running with the distant pack. One of them was whiter, cleaner than the others and they guessed it was MIA but she was too far way to really tell.

As the days went by MIA lost weight due to not having the good food at the ranch and her wool got dirtier and dirtier and knotted up from sleeping in the dirt and weeds.

As time passed MIA got into a routine of life with the new family. They really weren't as free as she had thought. Once in a while she would stand at the edge of the forest and look at the ranch and tears would form in her eyes.

On a few occasions, back in the early weeks of her disappearance, there were conversations among the sheep at the ranch as they talked about MIA. It was suggested that someone had to go look for her; they were sure she was out there. All agreed. But as they went around the group everyone had an excuse as to why they couldn't be the one to do it. "Oh, I have a new lamb and can't leave her." "I have guard duty today and I can't go." "I'm the head ram, I can't leave the flock." "I'm in charge of clean up today." And excuse after excuse was offered up. All agreed that someone should go, but no one went.

Once or twice more the discussion was held suggesting that someone go find her. A more common response of some was "Hey, she knows where we are. If she wants to come back, no one is stopping her. This was her choice."

There were days when MIA wondered if anyone would come looking for her. She had mixed emotions about that. She really didn't want to be found but it would have been nice to know she was missed; loved. The more time that passed without anyone actually coming out and hunting for her it created a greater sadness in her.

She also discovered that the 'love' of those in the new, free family wasn't all that it seemed to be in the beginning. That hurt and made her feel foolish for having believe life would be better 'out there'.

There were moments when she thought about going back to the farm but so much time had passed she was embarrassed to think about it very long. "What would they say? They will mock me and belittle me. Will they even accept me back? What an embarrassment it will be to my mother."

More time passed without seeing anyone coming to find her. That resulted in his sadness turning into anger and bitterness. She no longer had moments of wanting to go back. Now she would never go back. It was obvious no one loved or cared about her.

One day the ranch hands were in the sheep coral doing some repair work and the sheep overheard them talking. "Hey, the boss found a stray sheep out there by the forest. She was a big one but she had been killed by the wolves. As the boss looked closer he found one of the ranch tags on the remains. It was MIA. Remember that ram that wandered off last year? Ya, it

has her. And the boss said there was something unusual about it; it was like there were still tears in her eyes."

The sheep listened on in horror, sad and grieving at the loss of MIA. "How could that have happened they wondered?'

End of story.

I remember (John Hendee) one day we were having a staff meeting at our church with about 10 people present. Someone asked about the Jones's or some family. They hadn't seen them for some time and were 'worried' about them. It was suggested that someone needed to reach out to them and maybe visit them to see what was happening. Quickly people started saying "Ah, I know who they are but I don't know them very well." In their mind that disqualified them as being the person who should go looking for them. No one went.

Sometime later I was getting a drink of water from a water fountain and overheard a conversation going on between an Elder in our church and a man who was part of our congregation. The man told the Elder that she was frustrated because his wife had lost interest and didn't want to come to church anymore. He was hoping someone could visit and help convince his wife to come back. The Elder's response was "I think I'm too close to her to be the one to do that."

I remembered the staff meeting. Hummmm. So who then is qualified to seek out those who have dropped out?

Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" And his answer was a resounding "Yes, you know I do Lord."

"Then feed my sheep."

How often do sheep need to be fed?

How often do they need to drink water?

How often do they need protection?

It is more than once or twice a week for an hour.

What can we be doing to TAKE CARE OF HIS SHEEP?

TALE TWO: THE STORY OF LODI.

Life had been good for LODI.

She had been born into a wonderful family, part of a huge flock on the ranch.

There had been much excitement about her birth.

She had many brothers and sisters and most got along pretty well.

They spent a lot of time together.

The farmer provided the best of food and water for them.

They had some great sheep dogs to keep an eye on them, or should we say on the outlook for any wolves wondering around. They lived in relative safety.

They even had a doctor check on them now and then to be sure they were healthy.

What more could you ask for?

Food, water, safety, and fellowship with the flock.

It was bound to happen one day.

It just hadn't registered before now but it should have been rather obvious to LODI, but she had missed it. She was having too good of a time.

One day she overhead the older sheep talking about her. She had grown enough now thanks to the good food, water and protection. It went with being a sheep. She was expected to reproduce or start having other sheep. What?

She was shocked at what she heard.

"ME"!?

She immediately started thinking of all the reasons why she couldn't.

She was too young.

That was the other sheep's responsibility.

It scared her. She had never done that before.

While something inside her pulled her toward it, like it was in her sheep being or nature, the very thought of it scared her.

She had been told she should do it but no one sat down with her and explained it all to her. No one really prepared her for it all. She was just told she had to do it if she was going to be a good sheep.

She lived in daily fear of it all.

She started avoiding other sheep.

She avoided the rams.

She found busy work to do. "Oh, I'm too busy to do that. Let others do it."

Now an interesting thing happened to the flock. Other sheep were watching LODI. And her actions started affecting others. Fewer and fewer wanted anything to do with having lambs.

Oh, they were busy helping clean the corral and helping care for others lambs. But reproduce them themselves? No way.

With time the flock started shrinking. It alarmed the head ram. He called the sheep together and kept telling them they had to reproduce, make more lambs. But his words fell on deaf ears. He was disappointed. The herd had to grow or it would die out. He could even lose his position as head ram.

He couldn't convince many of them to produce NEW lambs so he came up with a plan B. He had seen how this had worked well on a few other ranches and the flocks were growing there.

So he started telling his flock to invite sheep from other flocks to come and join their flock. What a great idea. He kept telling them to just 'share their story' of how being part of their flock was so wonderful and life changing.' While it actually worked in some cases few even did that.

In the end there weren't enough visiting from other flocks and staying to stop the shrinking from happening.

Other sheep from the surrounding ranches would occasionally wander into his flock on their own and see what good food they had and what a great Ram they had and they decided to stay.

That approach worked for a while. The problem was glaringly obvious to some. There were still too few having NEW lambs themselves to keep the flock from shrinking.

The Ram never really got it. While lecturing the flock that they needed to produce more lambs, neither he nor others really prepared the sheep in the flock for the whole experience of reproducing themselves, making new sheep.

Most of the sheep didn't understand it or how to do it. It was all very frightening. So they kept eating and drinking and doing the work assignments they had been given in the coral. Yes all their jobs were important but in the end it didn't count for much if they weren't producing more new sheep.

A big lesson most didn't see was that 'just being born' in and of itself didn't really prepare one for reproducing more sheep. It was a fatal flaw in their thinking. Just tell them to have sheep and it will happen. Not so.

Oh, the older sheep weren't reproducing either. They had become pretty good at taking care of new sheep, but making new sheep? Not much. The older sheep had their excuses as to why they couldn't reproduce too. "We have a lot of things to do here in the coral. We are too busy.

The younger ones need to take care of that. We have done our share in the past! That's not my job. I'm in charge of watching over the elderly. I have a lot of sheep meetings to attend." Yes they had many excuses.

The flock continued to shrink. There were very few new births. They lamented that but they just sort of learned to live with it. What could they do about it?

With time the sheep in the flock grew older and older.

They were seeing a lot more funerals and losses.

New babies were a rare event.

Eventually the flock got so small that the rancher had to sell the ranch.

It was purchased by some land developer.

They converted the large barn to be used for storage.

Oh, I know. It all sounds sort of far fetched doesn't it?

Oh, by the way, LODI, her name was short for "Let Others Do It."

I encourage all Christians to take our online training in effective personal evangelism. It is being used around the world. It works. It will show you how to start a conversation with unbelievers that can lead to sitting down with them and sharing Jesus.

My observation and experience in over 55 years as a Christian, working in small and mega churches, working overseas in many countries is this: No training in effective personal evangelism will result in very few Christians ever sharing the Gospel of Jesus with others. Period. Experts say that 95% of Christians never lead another person to Jesus. Think on that. If you are part of that 95% it is NOT TOO LATE. Take our online training. You will be thrilled.

A SURVEY, EXAMINATION AND GUIDE FOR CARING FOR NEW DISCIPLES

Once you have helped lead someone to becoming a Disciple of Jesus we know from Matthew 28:18-20 that YOU are to baptize them. That is what it says.

Let's pick up from the time they have decided to become a Disciple and think about what we do to help them from that point on. As stated, in Matthew 28 Jesus said that once we make a Disciple and baptize them we are to teach them (and this actually includes us) to obey all he has commanded. This is a life-long process; teaching his commands and obeying them.

For the sake of this study/plan preparation let's focus on **the first year** of those who become New Disciples of Jesus.

Before we start working on your plan it is good to remember that in spite of all your best and well intentioned efforts, not everyone who becomes a disciple of Jesus will remain faith. Don't let some falling away discourage you or stop you from continuing to do the best to care for the other New Disciples.

Remember the parable of the Sower of seeds?

Among other things we always want to base our answers in the Scriptures. Does what we do and teach match or support what is in the New Covenant.

Let's get started:

How do you prepare those who become Disciples of Jesus for their baptism?

Is what you do based on Scripture of the traditions of a church or denomination?

How do you explain to them what it is all about, what it means, and how it is done?

Who baptizes them?

When are they baptized?

Where do you baptize people?

How do you dress to do the baptism?

How do they dress to be baptized.

Do they invite others to their baptism? Family, friends, etc.

If that is done how is it done?

What do you do with or for these New Disciples immediately after their baptism?

How do you celebrate their baptism/new life with them?

What do you do with or for them in the coming week?

What do you do with or for them in the coming month?

What do NEW Disciples in Jesus need? Make a list. What Scripture do you base this on?

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Now that they have become a Disciple and been obedient in baptism what are God's goals for them? What Scripture do you base this on?

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How do you share those goals with them.

What do you do to help them achieve those goals?

Who does it?

How often is this reviewed to see how it is going?

What is provided to the new Christian to help them in their new life?

Visits, teaching times, books, emails, hand outs, meals, invitations to your homes, prayer times with them, times to find out how things are going for them, etc.?

Are they assigned to someone to keep working with them?

How is that done?

What is the person to do with/for the new believer?

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Does anyone start meeting with them on a regular basis?

Does anyone phone, write, visit or invite them on a regular basis?

Does anyone pray with and for them regularly?

Does anyone invite them over for dinner?

How does the church/people show interest and concern for them?

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What is done to help them feel a part of their new family?

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What is done to help them truly feel welcomed, encouraged, loved?

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What is done to help them grow in Jesus?

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What training is offered them?

What do you believe they need to be trained in?

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How, when and where is that done?

Who does it?

Is there a plan as to how to find out:

What they know and need to learn? How do you do this?

What fears they might be dealing with as a new disciple?

What questions or doubts they might have about their new faith, Bible, Jesus, Church, etc.

What struggles in life might they be dealing with?

What sins and sin problems they might be dealing with?

What Dragons from their past or present they might be dealing with?

> See Hendee's book, 'A Dragon Slayers Life'. It is free at WWW.YOUSHAREJESUS.org under 'free books'.

What are their prayer needs?

What if any counsel they might need?

What if any relational problems they have?

What if any relational, work or school problems they might have as a result of accepting Jesus?

What is any health problems they are dealing with?

What if any financial crisis they might be living under.

What if any legal problems they might have?

What addictions might they be dealing with?

How do you even lovingly and tactfully find any of this out over time?

What can you do in light of what you might learn?

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How can the church ‘family’ help them in dealing with all these issues?

Do you have specialists who can help with specific needs?

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Who does it?

RESOURCES TO HELP IN WORKING WITH NEW DISCIPLES.

Below is a ‘life survival back pack’ loaded with the things a person might need to survive out in the wilderness.

A new disciple has ventured out on a new life journey. They have entered a new land, with a new culture, a new language and they will need a lot of help and support as they learn how to live this new life. Sometimes those of us who have been in Christ for some time can take it for granted and greatly underestimate

what it is like for a brand new person who has been living a life without thinking about Jesus.

So while we have been laying out a plan as to how we can best support them, maybe it would be a good idea to prepare them a 'New Life Survival Back Pack' filled with some things that would be helpful to them on the journey.

THIS IS NOT TO TAKE THE PLACE OF WHAT THEY NEED MOST; Us and our personal support and attention. But a New Life Survival Back Pack could be helpful. What would be in it?

The basics. Don't make it so heavy that they can't carry it, figuratively speaking.

They are a 'new babe in Christ.'

So what might be most helpful to them to grow that could be put in the Pack?

They might not use it all at the very beginning but it will be good for them to have it on hand in the future.

- A Bible if they don't have one.
- A couple DVD's of good Christian music; or some links to download on their phone.
- A copy of A Dragon Slayers Life by John Hendee
- The link to Biblegateway.com; someone should show them how to use the concordance, etc. found there.

- A copy of “It’s ALL About Love”. John Hendee
- A page of links; videos for Christians
- What Must I Do to Be Saved? John Hendee
- Acts 2:38, Jim Larsen
- Discipling Christians; a six month study for new Disciples; John Hendee
- My Heart, Christ’s Home; Order on Amazon Books
- More Than a Carpenter; Josh McDowell; order in bulk at josh.org

Now, put your plan together.

Review it every year to see what is working and what isn’t.

How can you improve it?

Take care of your sheep.