

3. DISCIPLE-MAKERS EARN TRUST BEING KNOWN IN THEIR COMMUNITY

By John
In Disciple-maker

3 Min read



“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel... but our lives as well.” — 1 Thessalonians 2:8

When speaking about *being known in the community*, we’re not talking about being outgoing, boisterous, *working the room* at every men’s event, or being someone you’re not. Earning trust in their community has everything to do with being *steady, present, and trustworthy*.

On any trail, the hikers you trust most aren’t the ones barking directions—they’re the ones who walk with you. They know the terrain, know your pace, and know when you’re struggling long before you say a word. You listen to them because you’ve watched them walk it. In the same way, a disciple-maker becomes known in his community not by announcing expertise, but by showing up consistently, living honestly, and sharing life long before he ever gives instruction.

True influence is earned over time. Paul told the church in Thessalonica that he shared not only the gospel but his very life with them. That’s the heartbeat of disciple-making: people trust the man who is present, patient, and proven—not the one who wants to be noticed or pushes his ideas on everyone else.

APPLICATION

Being known in the community is not about visibility; it's about being available and present for others. A disciple-maker is steady, he listens more than he talks, and when appropriate, he gives Godly counsel. He invests in relationships with other men instead of offering to fix things. He serves before he speaks.

This quiet presence does something position never can—it builds trust. Trust opens doors that titles cannot. And trust is what gives a disciple-maker the influence to actually help shape lives. When men see how a disciple-maker handles pressure, conflict, disappointment, and success, they learn that his words come from life lived, not theory taught.

Disciple-making begins with credibility—a godly life lived out over mountain experiences, life's setbacks, and the everyday moments that show what a man's faith is made of.

LIVE IT OUT

A disciple-maker becomes known in the community by showing up without being asked. Lending a hand where real life happens. He's the man who checks in when someone goes silent, shows up at a ball game, shares a meal without an agenda, or lends a hand without asking for anything in return. Over time, these simple, steady patterns form a reputation—*not of greatness, but of trustworthiness*.

People begin to recognize him as someone safe, someone reliable, someone who cares enough to be present. And when the moment comes for truth to be shared, his life has already prepared the ground for it to land.

Influence grows quietly, step by step, through a life that can be seen up close.

Consider this: "Where is God inviting you to build trust slowly, patiently, and quietly—before offering guidance or influence?"

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**Traits describe the man God desires—
Paths develop the man God uses.**

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