

# The 5 Basic 'A's' of Disciple-Making (Overview)

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Excerpt from Harvest Mentality Training Manual



“The Resurrection Changes Everything!” Nik Ripkin

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# 1. Affirmation

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**L**OVE THEM! Documents or words are not sufficient. Love is conveyed via action and availability. Remember... *“I love you too much to leave you where you are.” “I will not merely point the way you should walk, I will walk with you in it.”*

**VITAL:** This is not a licence for insensitivity or control. Understand your framework and your disciple’s social/emotional disposition/maturity. This is always a relational monitoring process, watching, listening, asking and edifying. *(1 Thess 2:7-8)*

# 2. Availability

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**T**he extent of it in today’s society is a huge indicator of how ‘real’ you are.

**Important:** Set boundaries on needs (particularly ‘felt needs’), not development. Remember in a love-starved, emotionally, and socially dysfunctional society a little real love goes a long way. Many will need it and avail themselves of it. But beware the ‘emotional vampire’, you set the parameters.

It’s important to note that love-based boundaries are concerned more with the long-term development than the short-term need, so you the mentor, don’t yield to emotional manipulation.

On the other hand, if they are hungry to pursue God then you can set less strict boundaries on your availability.

***You are the spiritual parent and apprentice maker – development demands loved based discipline. (1 Thess 2:10-12)***

## 3. Accountability

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To hold someone accountable, one must understand and practice the need for accountability in your own life. Socrates once said... “*An unexamined life is not worth living*”. There is no greater life to live than the Christian life, so there is no greater context for accountability.

The previous mentioned, when in operation, afford you tremendous openings and opportunities (not rights of control). It enables you to really speak robustly, with clarity, care, and of course, grace, because this dynamic creates safety for you both.

**Ask the hard questions.** If in this accountability you end up becoming responsible for their actions and don't teach them to be so for themselves then the plot, as they say, has been lost. **(Galatians 6:7)**

Though the law of sowing and reaping is immutable, God's breathtaking redemptive grace can bring good from a repented of action. **(Romans 8:28-29)**

## 4. Access

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Be well resourced and in-turn resource your mentee.

Materials, information, training, but more importantly, people. If you are growing in God and have access to many resources and relationships, you make available a larger pool from which you and your 'charge' can draw. If your network of support and accountability and growth is good, then it will be likewise for your disciple. Give them access to these things, but again, discretion and timing are important. It is a relationship, not a system.

Remember, if your mentee is growing, eventually you will need to refer them to others to take them further, ultimately you will not have all the answers, so don't let pride or control cause you to limit access to necessary resources.

# 5. Action

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**I**mperative: People need to implement.

Give them study, relational, service, and evangelistic tasks, as well as opportunities to fulfil and targets to aim at.

God's Word is rich with illumination and inspiration, but also very pragmatic. It works, we are created for 'good works' (*Ephesians 2 : 10*) so we must therefore, work - not for it – but in it!

*SO YOU, my son, be strong (strengthened inwardly) in the grace (spiritual blessing) that is [to be found only] in Christ Jesus. And the [instructions] which you have heard from me along with many witnesses, transmit and entrust [as a deposit] to reliable and faithful men who will be competent and qualified to teach others also. Take [with me] your share of the hardships and suffering [which you are called to endure] as a good (first-class) soldier of Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 2:1-3 AMPC



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