

lives in Charlottesville, VA.

- “When Problems Come Home,” Human, Convention Press, Nashville, TN
- “My Money and God,” Hastings, Broadman Press, Nashville, TN
- “My Family Cares for Me,” Cochran, Convention Press, Nashville, TN
- “A Child Like Me” Series, Massey, DeLoach, Woman’s Missionary Union, Birmingham, AL
- “Fun Around the World,” Branson, Woman’s Missionary Union, Birmingham, AL
- Bible Studies for Children, Lifeway Church Resources, Nashville, TN
- “I Am a Christian Now,” Lifeway Church Resources, Nashville, TN
- Virginia Baptist Historical Society, Richmond, VA

**If the resources are not available to you, do this:**

- Look at your own bookshelves for resources
- Explore your local bookstores
- Peruse your church library (or local library)
- Check with staff or other church leaders
- Check with your local association office
- Check with appropriate personnel at Virginia Baptist Resource Center
- Peruse WMU, Smyth & Helwys, Lifeway, and other Christian publishing houses

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# How Are We Making Disciples of Our Children?



## “Making disciples of children.”

What do we mean when we make this statement?  
How does one make a disciple?

In Matthew 10:1-7 we read that Jesus chose twelve men from His many followers to be His special helpers or disciples. In Acts 20:1-21:6 we discover that Paul made disciples for Jesus as he traveled from place to place, preaching God’s message. And in Matthew 14:26, we are reminded of the more numerous and public groups who became ardent disciples of Jesus.

But, what is a disciple? The dictionary defines a disciple as “one who believes in the thought and teachings of a leader; (a) follower.” (World Book Dictionary, Volume 1, 1967) One might define a disciple as one who models and learns from another.

Jesus’ disciples believed in His teachings and sought daily to model and learn from Him. As Jesus traveled about the country helping the lame to walk, the blind to see, and the weak to become stronger, Jesus’ disciples were observing and learning. As Jesus reminded the people about the nearness of the kingdom of God on earth and the way they should live, His disciples were listening and learning. Daily, Jesus involved His disciples in His work. Jesus’ disciples were being informed, equipped, educated, and led to do His work on earth.

Today, as followers of Jesus, we have been assigned the responsibility of making disciples of our children. What then are we doing to help them become followers of Jesus?

Each Sunday as we engage boys and girls in Bible activities, singing, conversing, praying, learning Bible verses, sharing, discussing right & wrong, and reflecting on the needs of others, we are laying groundwork for disciple-making. As the boys and girls learn Bible truths and infuse them into their daily lives, we are making disciples.

As we involve boys and girls in learning about missions, missionaries, and witnessing, we are making disciples.

As we help children to become involved in reaching out to meet the needs of others, we are making disciples.

As we help boys and girls become familiar with the words and tunes to songs through our music ministry, we are making disciples.

Thus, as we reflect on our ongoing church ministries and activities, we may discover that we are already about the business of disciple-making.

Think about some things you are already doing to disciple children. Record a few of your thoughts here.

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We are made aware that discipling is a continuous responsibility. As we disciple children through our ongoing church ministries, we need to involve them in activities outside the church. Children need to learn that becoming a disciple of Jesus means being a lifetime learner and follower.

With these thoughts in mind, list additional ways you wish to disciple the boys and girls you teach. Record your ideas here.

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For help, review additional ideas/suggestions below. Underscore those you would like to try. Add your own. Then make these plans about the discipling activity:

- **date & time?** - - after school, on a Saturday, early evening, stacked on another church activity
- **where?** - - church house, leader’s home, child’s home, park, retreat setting, etc.
- **what?** - - questions and discussion, sharing information, guests speakers/discussion leaders, games, regular study sessions, activities, etc.
- **who will do what?** - - publicity, snacks, meals, recreation, discussion leader, enlister of guest discussion leader, clean-up, transportation, etc. Planning ahead can make discipling of boys and girls a joy!

## Topics

For disciple-making activities:

- Introduce boys and girls to Bible heroes
- Teach children to pray
- Introduce boys and girls to missionaries
- Prepare children to deal with crises
- Talk with children about healthy and changing bodies
- Talk with children about respecting their bodies
- Help children to know how to have a healthy family
- Help girls and boys learn about other cultures
- Discuss becoming a Christian
- Talk about being a good steward
- Educate children about their Baptist heritage (heroes from the past)
- Talk about good choices
- Provide Bible studies for children
- Develop anger management skills

## Suggested Resources

(some may need to be adapted to meet the level of understanding of the child):

- “Knowing God Through Prayer”, Sledge, New Hope Publishers, Birmingham, AL
- “Tell Me About Prayer,” Kizer, New Hope Publishers, Birmingham, AL
- “I Can Pray,” Bevington, Convention Press, Nashville, TN
- “Meet the Missionary” Series, Broadman Press, Nashville, TN
- “Little Missionary” Books, Branyon, Providence House, Publishers, Franklin, TN
- “Miss Annie’s Secret,” Winters, Woman’s Missionary Union, Birmingham, AL
- “Lady of Courage,” Woman’s Missionary Union, Birmingham, AL
- “For All Time: The Story of Ann Judson,” Bates, New Hope Publishers, Birmingham, AL
- Children in Action, Woman’s Missionary Union, Birmingham, AL
- Girls in Action (dated materials), Woman’s Missionary Union, Birmingham, AL
- “Why Is This Happening to Me?” Rowatt, Rowatt, Rowatt, Convention Press, Nashville, TN
- Royal Ambassadors (dated materials), North American Mission Board, Atlanta, GA
- “Preparing for Adolescence,” Dobson, Vision House, Ventura, CA