

The Human Mind

The Discipline of Renewing It Daily

Session 8

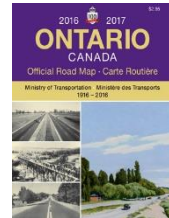
1) Having A Healthy View on God's Plan

Which view is your view?

A) Following God is like following the exact directions that google maps gives you. Each decision in life is a turn, and to get to the right destination, you have to follow the directions exactly and get every turn right. If at some point in life you have taken a major wrong turn (say... bankruptcy, divorce or coming to Christ later in life), you've failed and God's plan has passed you by.



B) Following God is like having the whole map, if I miss the turn, there is always a different turn that I can turn on to get me back on track.



The Google Maps paradigm "is rooted in a worldview that says that life is a series of right and wrong choices—if you make the right ones you are blessed, and if you make the wrong ones, you lose. It's a pre-Christ worldview: grace and redemption are not part of the picture. In the reality of God's grace, there is always a future and a hope." (Tony *Stoltzfus*) No matter where you are starting from, today (and each day) God will take your life and continue growing you into a mature multiplying disciple.

Another Example... A Parenting Example

“If you gave your son a set of step-by-step directions for cleaning the garage, and he messed up a step, how would you handle it? Would you say, ‘That’s it—you are never going to amount to anything?’ Or would you correct him, do a reset, and have him start again?”

2) Emphasizing Failure Distracts From God's Changing Power

The greatest shortcoming of the Google Maps View....

It doesn't acknowledge how God grows us into a mature multiplying disciple through

_____ as well as success.

When God is trying to teach you something, you can learn the lesson through success as well as through failure. You can fail and still get to where God wants you to be because where you are supposed to be is more about who you are becoming than being in the right place doing the right thing at the right time.

1) What are different ways you can address a disciple who says....“I made a mistake and therefore I missed it”?

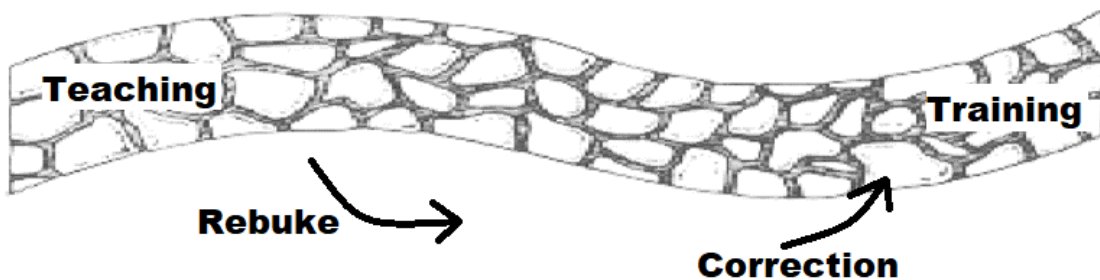
Take a look at _____

You feel called to eradicate human trafficking but you ended up in business for the last 20 years instead? Maybe you and Moses ought to have a heart-to-heart—you’ve got a lot in common. Had an affair with a friend’s wife and destroyed your ministry along with your friendship? David repented, dealt with God and became a better man for it—why can’t you? Ashamed of how much you did in your pre-Christian years to turn people away from God? Maybe you and Paul should compare stories. If these leaders can walk through catastrophic failures and still go on to fulfill their destinies, what does that mean for you? God is in the redemption business.

3. Through the Word

A) The Discipling Journey

2 Timothy 3:16-17



Colossians 3:16-17

4. Building a Support Team

Who is on your team?

We all have people in our lives that we can have join our team of support. Encouraging them to build a team of good people who are intentional in seeing them move forward; being intentional with **support, encouragement and accountability (S.E.A.)**. Having friends, church family, our immediate family and co-workers creates a great resource for change.

If you provide accountability for the one you are discipling, you've helped them change one thing. If you help them learn to develop accountable relationships, you'll affect every change issue they undertake for their whole lives.

The most effective approach is to put the accountability where the behavior is. For instance, if your goal is to develop a daily exercise habit, having a running partner is a great way to get effective accountability. Every day, someone knows whether you ran or not. For daily habits, someone who sees you in action can be a wonderful help.

Equipping Them Is Necessary

The disadvantage with this strategy is that most people don't know how to make peer accountability work. Without guidance, what will happen is this: they will ask a person off the cuff to hold them accountable to such-and-such. No direction will be given for what to ask, nothing will be written down, and no structure will be set up to ensure that the question is consistently asked. Nine times out of ten, they will never be asked an accountability question.

Peer accountability is a powerful tool. But for it to work for the ones you are discipling, you'll have to teach them to teach their friends to provide effective accountability. Here are three keys to making peer accountability work:

1. Permission

Saying, "Please ask me about this"; one time will probably not be enough. It may seem awkward, but a formal, written accountability agreement between the one being disciplined and accountability partner makes a huge difference. Giving permission several times verbally is also a big help. A friend who knows what to ask and is clearly empowered to ask it is an effective peer partner.

2. Question

Develop and write down the question you want your friend to ask you. This way the accountability partner feels free to be direct while knowing we won't be offended.

3. Structure

Accountability is most effective when it is consistent. Saying, "I'll ask you about it when I see you at church, does not cut it. Define when and how often the accountability will be provided.

Deployment

1. Who is on your team? Pray about it.... Then list one to three people who you can be transparent and vulnerable with.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

2. Each person on your support team have different strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, who you go to for one struggle in your life, may not be the same person you speak to concerning a different struggle. Out of those three people, what strengths do they possess that you can use to help you move forward with God.

Examples: Freddy use to struggle with forgiveness and now has found victory. When I struggle with forgiving someone, I will naturally go speak with him.

Isabelle is such a prayer warrior. Every time I need prayer support, I go to her.

Warren has the gift of discernment. Every time I face a choice that I have no peace in making, I will naturally go to him.

What are the persons' strengths that can contribute to your accountability?

3. These people may or may not be aware that you consider them as part of your support team. However, if they are already aware, many times we do not properly equip our support team to effectively be that key support.

For those people that you are either adding to your support team or have chosen to keep them on your team, what will you do to teach each support team member on how to effectively be that key support and accountability?

What Permissions will you give each one? (as the permissions could be different for each)

Remember: A friend who knows what to ask and is clearly empowered to ask it is an accountability partner.

What Questions do you want to be asked? (remember each person you can give different questions)

What Structure will you develop with each team member?

Define when and how often the accountability will be provided.

4. When will you begin implementing this deployment of implementing/teaching your support team?

When will you speak with each one?