

## IDEA

“Pastor, I would like to have a better idea of how Jesus equipped His disciples for ministry. Where is the best place to start?” As always, you start with God’s Word. The Bible reveals how Jesus mentored and reproduced His leadership style in His disciples. That is why He was able to say, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father”** (John 14:12). If Jesus wasn’t absolutely sure that He could reproduce His marvellous qualities in His followers He would never have made such a statement. Of course, the Lord knew that the Holy Spirit was coming to live in each and every believer, however, He still had to equip and prepare those close to Him. Jesus did this for them to reproduce themselves in the lives of others. The idea was to make true disciples, and for them to go out and disciple whole nations. What an idea – what a vision – what a dream! Jesus entrusted the future of His Church to a few good men! He was convinced that what He had deposited in them could change the world! And the principles He used are still applicable today.

Let’s consider the Lord’s IDEA of how to reproduce Himself in others:

**I – Instruction.** He verbally taught them and used daily routines to instruct them.

**D – Demonstration.** He demonstrated the truth and let His men observe it closely.

**E – Experience.** He let His disciples experience and apply the truth themselves.

**A – Assessment.** He assessed their growth and gave them direction.

Whether you are a leader or not, the Lord Jesus has enough faith in you to declare that the works He did you will also do, and even greater works than these you will do because the Holy Spirit dwells in you. But note, it isn’t just about you! The reason these mighty deeds of power could be replicated and performed to a greater extent is because the Holy Spirit is now working through all believers. It is about numbers! Therefore, you have an obligation to equip others the same way Jesus equipped those around Him. You must use the Lord’s IDEA so that you can reproduce the Christ in you in others! You are to (a) provide INSTRUCTION; (b) DEMONSTRATE the truth; (c) allow others to EXPERIENCE the truth themselves; and (d) give direction and ASSESS their growth. As you are, they should become!

The Lord’s idea was to have His “Person” manifested in and through all believers. As Christ was an exact representation of the Father, we are to be an exact representation of Him. The Lord’s idea was that we are transformed into His perfect likeness to such an extent that He Himself would be present wherever we go. As a result, the “Person” of Jesus Christ is the One doing all these mighty and miraculous deeds of power. But He does them by the Holy Spirit, and through you and me. What an honour! Think about that... We are fully equipped to carry on the ministry of Jesus, and this is only possible because He made ‘true disciples.’ People who could “teach others to teach others” - to be just like Him. Today, His divine presence is manifest in human vessels! So remember, because Christ’s presence is always with you, His mighty power is also manifest to help you carry on His ministry. What a God-given IDEA!