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Harrington and Patrick's "Disciple maker's handbook" (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



Harrington, B. & Patrick, J. (2017). *Disciple maker's handbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 192 pp. \$16.99. ISBN 9780310525271

This book is well-suited for collections of books on practical hands-on discipleship and church development. This book is entirely practical, applying all the best scripture and theory to the very personal level of making disciples in a church setting. The co-authors speak plainly, openly, and often in first person narrative from their own rich and varied experiences of making disciples. Harrington is the co-founder of Discipleship.org, and his co-author, Patrick, is the teaching and discipleship pastor at Harpeth Christian Church (Franklin, TN).

In Part I, the authors give step-by-step guidelines for how to do discipleship of men in a church. They advocate paying careful attention to the first steps, which they declare are often skipped, misunderstood, glossed over, or hurried in many churches. Anyone seeking to be a mentor to those younger in the faith ought to first prayerfully listen and wait on God to lead, then recruit only those He leads one to, then prepare well. Only after these first steps should one proceed to engaging and releasing them to do ministry.

In Part II, the seven elements of a discipleship lifestyle are described in detail: relationships, Jesus, intentionality, the Bible, the Holy Spirit, the journey, and multiplying. All of these elements are fleshed out with diagrams, study guides, illustrations, and thought-probing questions.

A reader can easily read through it in a couple hours. Taking the author's invitations to heart, though, one might apply it in making disciples over a lifetime of ministry. The book is approachable, easily understood, but profoundly effective if put into practice.

Reviewer

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