



A GUIDE FOR DISCIPLE-MAKERS

The 6 Keys to Discipleship

MARK 9:1–9

What Jesus did with Peter, James, and John on the mountain is a pattern for everyone who walks with others toward him.

VISION

WITH

LEAD

LIFT

EXPERIENCE

DOWN

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Up the Mountain with Jesus

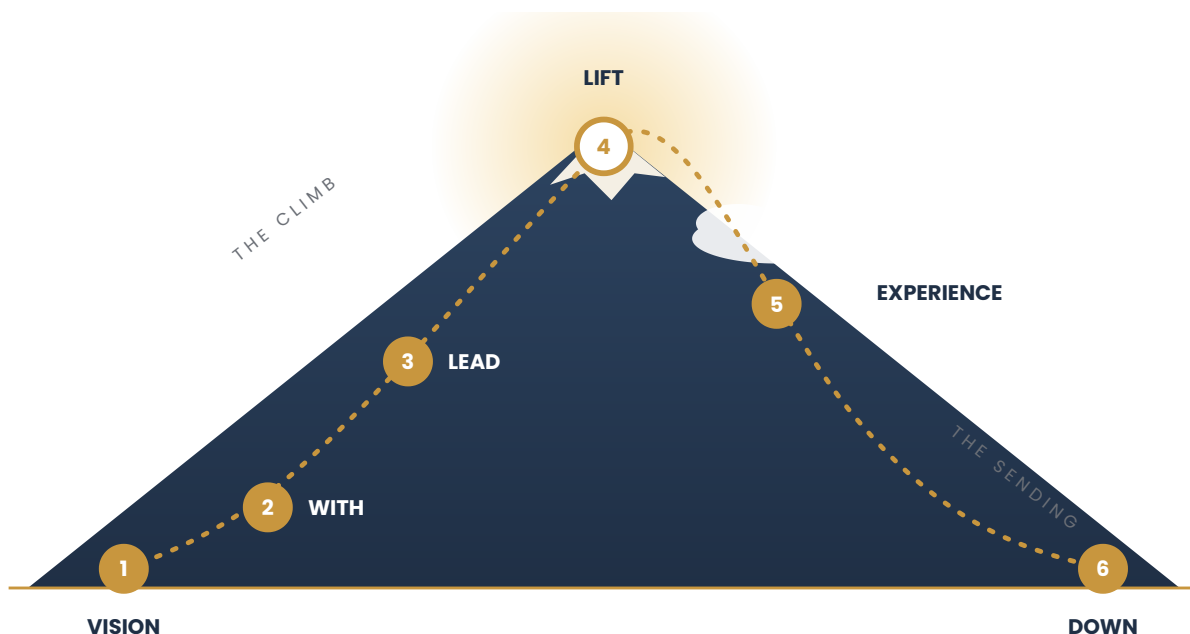
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¹ Jesus went on to say, “I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they **see the Kingdom of God** arrive in great power!” ² Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John **with him** and **led them** up a high mountain to be alone. As the men **watched**, Jesus’ appearance was transformed, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. ⁴ Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus. ⁵ Peter exclaimed, “Rabbi, it’s wonderful for us to be here! Let’s make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶ He said this because he didn’t really know what else to say, for they were all terrified. ⁷ Then **a cloud overshadowed them**, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him.” ⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them. ⁹ As they **went back down the mountain**, he told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

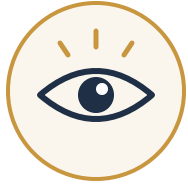
MARK 9:1–9 · NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

Highlighted phrases mark each of the six keys in the passage.

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE



The Climb



KEY 01

Vision

"SEE THE KINGDOM" · MARK 9:1

Know where you are taking them.

It does not matter where you meet with your group; it does matter that you know where you want to arrive. Hebrews 10:25 tells us not to give up meeting together. Keep meeting, and know where you are going.

I remember a mentor of mine asking about our sophomore class, "What do you want them to have experienced and learned by the time we arrive in May?"

TRY THIS Write one sentence describing where you want your group to be at the end of this season, and share it with them.



KEY 02

With

"WITH HIM" · MARK 9:2

Discipleship happens in time spent together.

There are 168 hours in a week, and you need to spend some of them with the people you are discipling. Going to them and being with them is crucial. Show up at "their thing": their office, their home, their practices, their games. Get some quality time.

Look for ways to double dip. Ride together, run errands together, or take something you already have to do and see whether it can become time together.

TRY THIS Look at your calendar this week and find one "double dip": a drive, an errand, or a practice you can share.



KEY 03

Lead

"LED THEM" · MARK 9:2

You are the leader, not a bystander.

Remember to speak up, take the lead, and take initiative.

I remember when a group did something they probably should not have. I spoke up and said, "We need to make this right." It was not popular, but they still talk about it. It was a leadership moment.

I also remember when a leader in my life took me to breakfast with six notes written on his page. Each one was an observation about my life and where I needed to grow. It was humbling.

TRY THIS Name one thing your group needs you to speak up about, and decide when you will say it.



KEY 04

Lift

"WATCHED" · MARK 9:2

When in doubt, focus on the life of Jesus.

If you don't know what to do, read from the Gospels and look into the life of Jesus. Scripture tells us that when Jesus is lifted up, he will draw all people to himself (John 12:32).

I currently have a group doing daily devotionals. It may not be perfect, and there are days people miss, but we are looking at the life of Christ every day! You can never go wrong doing this.

TRY THIS Pick one Gospel and read a short passage together each day this week.

The Sending



KEY 05

Experience

"A CLOUD OVERSHADOWED THEM" · MARK 9:7

People remember experiences more than anything else.

Trips, meals, events, walks, hikes, times of solitude, "two by two" walks, retreats, camps: these are what stay with people.

One group we led still talks about a day trip we took to a camp that was closed for the season. Nothing significant happened. We each spent an "hour with the Lord" by ourselves. Yet for four years, that was the event people mentioned most.

TRY THIS Plan one experience in the next month: a hike, a meal, a retreat, or an hour alone with the Lord.



KEY 06

Down

"WENT BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN" · MARK 9:9

Send them back to live their faith in the real world.

The most important thing you can do is send them back into their families, their work, and their schools to live out their faith. It is crucial that they have the tools to live it "down the mountain": on their team, with their friends, in the car, in their classes, at the office.

John 15:16 talks about "fruit that will last." That is what going down the mountain produces.

One group I led as teenagers is now in their 50s, and their kids following Christ is the "fruit that will last."

TRY THIS Ask each person, "Where will you live this out tomorrow?" Then follow up.

The Six Keys in Review

01

Vision

Know where you are taking them.

02

With

Spend real time in their world.

03

Lead

Speak up and take initiative.

04

Lift

Keep your eyes on the life of Jesus.

05

Experience

Create moments they will remember.

06

Down

Send them to live it out.

“You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit.”

JOHN 15:16 · NLT

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which of the six keys comes most naturally to you? Which is hardest?
2. Who is one person you could invite “up the mountain” this season?
3. What experience shaped your own faith most, and who led you there?
4. Where is your group’s “down the mountain” this week?

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