THE DISCIPLE’S MISSION

MasterLife

BOOK 4

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Contents

The Authors .................................. 4

Introduction ................................. 5

Dimensions of Discipleship ................. 7

Discipleship Covenant ....................... 8

WEEK 1 Righting Wrong Relationships ...... 9

WEEK 2 Witnessing and Discipling Through Relationships ... 28

WEEK 3 Establishing Spiritual Children .......... 47

WEEK 4 Maturing as a Disciple ............... 65

WEEK 5 Training Disciples .................... 84

WEEK 6 Ministering as Colaborers ............ 104

The Disciple’s Cross ......................... 122

MasterBuilder .............................. 123

The Gospel in Hand ......................... 128

Prayer-Covenant List ....................... 131

Relationship Quotient ....................... 132

Discipleship Inventory ...................... 133

Spiritual-Gifts Inventory ..................... 138

Definitions of Spiritual Gifts ................. 142

Index ..................................... 143
The Authors

AVERY T. WILLIS, JR., the author and developer of MasterLife, served as the senior vice-president of overseas operations at the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention until his retirement in 2004. The original MasterLife: Discipleship Training for Leaders, published in 1980, has been used by more than 250,000 people in the United States and has been translated into more than 50 different languages for use by untold thousands. Willis authored many books, including Indonesian Revival: Why Two Million Came to Christ, The Biblical Basis of Missions, MasterBuilder: Multiplying Leaders, BibleGuide to Discipleship and Doctrine, and several books in Indonesian.

Willis served for 10 years as a pastor in Oklahoma and Texas and for 14 years as a missionary to Indonesia, during which he served for 6 years as the president of the Indonesian Baptist Theological Seminary. Later he served as the director of the Adult Department of the Discipleship and Family Development Division, the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) of the Southern Baptist Convention, where he introduced the Lay Institute for Equipping (LIFE), a series of in-depth discipleship courses. Willis went to be with the Lord in 2010.

KAY MOORE served as the coauthor of this updated edition of MasterLife. Formerly a design editor in the Adult Department of the Discipleship and Family Development Division, the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, she led the editorial team that produced the LIFE Support Series, biblically based courses that help people deal with critical issues in their lives. A writer, editor, and conference leader, Moore has authored or coauthored numerous books on family life, relationships, and inspirational topics. She is the author of Gathering the Missing Pieces in an Adopted Life and is a frequent contributor to religious magazines and devotional guides.
MasterLife is a developmental, small-group discipleship process that will help you develop a lifelong, obedient relationship with Christ. This book, MasterLife 4: The Disciple’s Mission, is the last of four books in that discipleship process. The other three books are MasterLife 1: The Disciple’s Cross, MasterLife 2: The Disciple’s Personality, and MasterLife 3: The Disciple’s Victory. These studies will enable you to acknowledge Christ as your Master and to master life in Him.

WHAT’S IN IT FOR YOU
The goal of MasterLife is your discipleship—for you to become like Christ. To do that, you must follow Jesus, learn to do the things He instructed His followers to do, and help others become His disciples. In these ways MasterLife will enable you to discover the satisfaction of following Christ as His disciple and the joy of that relationship with Him. MasterLife was designed to help you make the following definition of discipleship a way of life:

Christian discipleship is developing a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Jesus Christ in which He transforms your character into Christlikeness; changes your values into Kingdom values; and involves you in His mission in the home, the church, and the world.

In MasterLife 1: The Disciple’s Cross you explored your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You learned how to draw the Disciple’s Cross to illustrate the balanced life Christ wants His disciples to have. You learned that Christ wants to be at the center of your life so that everything you do is an outgrowth of your relationship with Him.

In MasterLife 2: The Disciple’s Personality you focused on Christ’s transforming your character into Christlikeness through the work of the Holy Spirit. You learned how to live a life of victory by building Christlike character. You were introduced to your personal counselor, the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and teaches, guides, directs, prays for, and empowers you to do God’s will and work.

In MasterLife 3: The Disciple’s Victory you focused on victory in spiritual warfare. You learned how to advance against the enemy with the defensive weapons of the Spiritual Armor, which protect you, and the offensive weapons, which lead you to confront the world, the flesh, and the devil. As you began demolishing your personal spiritual strongholds to “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5), you learned to believe God for all He wants to do through you.

MasterLife 4: The Disciple’s Mission will take you to the next stage in your discipleship journey by teaching you what it means to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19). As you examine MasterBuilder, an illustration of lifelong spiritual growth, you will make plans for your continued spiritual growth, witness to lost persons, and begin discipling other believers. You will discover your spiritual gifts and will determine a ministry to which God is leading you. This study will equip you with many skills you need to make disciples and to minister to others. In addition, you will continue to practice the six disciplines you learned in MasterLife 1: The Disciple’s Cross:

- Spend time with the Master
- Live in the Word
- Pray in faith
- Fellowship with believers
- Witness to the world
- Minister to others

THE MASTERLIFE PROCESS
MasterLife 4: The Disciple’s Mission is part of a 24-week discipleship process. Completing all four courses in MasterLife will provide you information and experiences you need to be Christ’s disciple.

The MasterLife process involves six elements. Each element is essential to your study of MasterLife.

1. The daily activities in this book lead you into a closer walk with Christ.
2. The weekly assignments in “My Walk with the Master This Week” will change your life.
3. The leader is a major element. Discipleship is a relationship. It is not something you do by yourself. You need human models, instruction, and accountability to become what Christ intends for you to be.
4. The weekly group sessions help you reflect on the concepts and experiences in MasterLife and help you apply the ideas to your life. Each session also provides training for the next stage of spiritual growth.
5. Christ is the Discipler, and you become His disciple. As you fully depend on Him, He works through each of the previous elements to support you.
6. The body of Christ—the church—is vital for complete discipling to take place. You depend on Christian friends for fellowship, strength, ministry opportunities, and support.

HOW TO STUDY THIS BOOK
Each day for five days a week you will be expected to study a segment of the material in this workbook and to complete the related activities. You may need from 20 to 30 minutes of study time each day. Even if you find that you can study the material in less time, spreading the study over five days will give you time to apply the truths to your life.

You will notice that discipline logos appear before various assignments. These logos look like this:

These logos link certain activities to the six disciplines you are learning to incorporate into your life as a disciple. These activities are part of your weekly assignments, which are outlined in “My Walk with the Master This Week” at the beginning of each week’s material. The discipline logos differentiate your weekly assignments from the activities related to your study for that particular day.

Set a definite time and select a quiet place to study with little or no interruption. Keep a Bible handy to find Scriptures as directed in the material. Memorizing Scripture is an important part of your work. Set aside a portion of your study period for memory work. Unless I have deliberately chosen another version for a specific emphasis, all Scriptures in MasterLife are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible. However, feel free to memorize Scripture from any version of the Bible you prefer. I suggest that you write each memory verse on a card that you can review often during the week.

After completing each day’s assignments, turn to the beginning of the week’s material. If you completed an activity that corresponds to one listed under “My Walk with the Master This Week,” place a vertical line in the diamond beside the activity. During the following group session a member of the group will verify your work and will add a horizontal line in the diamond, forming a cross in each diamond. This process will confirm that you have completed each weekly assignment before you continue. You may do the assignments at your own pace, but be sure to complete all of them before the next group session.

MASTERBUILDER
On pages 123–27 you will find the MasterBuilder presentation. MasterBuilder, which illustrates the path of spiritual growth, will be the focal point for all you learn in this book. Each week you will focus on a different stage of MasterBuilder. By the end of the study you will be able to draw the MasterBuilder diagram and to explain it in your own words. As a disciple of Christ, you can learn to identify your stage and others’ stages on the pathway of spiritual growth and to help yourself and others grow.
Dimensions of Discipleship

Read from 2 Timothy 2 the verses indicated, complete the statements, and be prepared to share your answers with your group.

1. Read verse 1. One aim of discipleship: that you be ____________________________

2. Read verse 2. Part of the mission of discipleship: ____________________________

3. Read verse 3. Part of the commitment of discipleship: __________________________

4. Read verse 4. The focus of discipleship: ____________________________

5. Read verse 5. The discipline of discipleship: ____________________________

6. Read verse 7. The teacher in discipleship: ____________________________

7. Read verse 8. The foundation of discipleship: ____________________________

8. Read verse 9. The potency of discipleship: ____________________________

9. Read verse 10. The fruit and ultimate reason for discipleship: ________________

10. Read verse 15. The challenge of discipleship: ____________________________

11. Read verses 20-21. The secret of individual usefulness in discipleship: __________

12. Read verse 21. The finished product of discipleship: __________________________

13. Read verses 24-25a. The essential nature of discipleship: __________________________

Discipleship Covenant

To participate in MasterLife, you are asked to dedicate yourself to God and to your MasterLife group by making the following commitments. You may not currently be able to do everything listed, but by signing this covenant, you pledge to adopt these practices as you progress through the study.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I commit myself to—
• acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord of my life each day;
• attend all group sessions unless providentially hindered;
• spend from 20 to 30 minutes a day as needed to complete all assignments;
• have a daily quiet time;
• keep a Daily Master Communication Guide about the way God speaks to me and I speak to Him;
• be faithful to my church in attendance and stewardship;
• love and encourage each group member;
• share my faith with others;
• keep in confidence anything that others share in the group sessions;
• submit myself to others willingly in accountability;
• become a discipler of others as God gives opportunities;
• support my church financially by practicing biblical giving;
• pray daily for group members.

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
__________________________________________  __________________________________________
__________________________________________  __________________________________________
__________________________________________  __________________________________________
__________________________________________  __________________________________________
__________________________________________  __________________________________________
__________________________________________  __________________________________________

Signed _____________________________________________________________  Date  _______________
WEEK 1

Righting Wrong Relationships

This Week’s Goal
You will evaluate your relationships with others and will seek reconciliation when needed.

My Walk with the Master This Week
You will complete the following activities to develop the six biblical disciplines. When you have completed each activity, draw a vertical line in the diamond beside it.

SPEND TIME WITH THE MASTER

☐ Have a quiet time each day. Check each day you have a quiet time:
  ☐ Sunday
  ☐ Monday
  ☐ Tuesday
  ☐ Wednesday
  ☐ Thursday
  ☐ Friday
  ☐ Saturday

LIVE IN THE WORD

☐ Read your Bible every day. Write what God says to you and what you say to God.

PRAY IN FAITH

☐ Pray with your prayer partner.

FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS

☐ Read “How to Use the Relationship Quotient Form.”
☐ Complete the Relationship Quotient form with your spouse, a family member, or a close friend.

WITNESS TO THE WORLD

☐ Write the names of lost persons on your Prayer-Covenant List.
☐ Visit at least one neighbor this week.

MINISTER TO OTHERS

☐ Complete the Personal-Assessment Worksheet.
☐ Read the MasterBuilder presentation.

This Week’s Scripture-Memory Verses

“If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has some-
thing against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled
to your brother; then come and offer your gift” (Matt. 5:23-24).
DAY 1

The Importance of Relationships

At your first group session your leader introduced you to MasterBuilder, which depicts the path of discipleship and spiritual growth. MasterBuilder illustrates that relationships are vitally important in spreading the gospel and in carrying out Christ’s mission. What is our mission as Christ’s disciples?

A disciple’s mission is to—
• glorify God by being a lifelong, obedient disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ;
• glorify God by making disciples of all nations;
• join God’s mission to—
  —glorify His name;
  —exalt Christ as Lord;
  —reconcile the world to Himself;
  —establish His kingdom.

Establishing relationships is essential to advancing the gospel and to making disciples of all nations. Poor relationships erect barriers to witnessing, to establishing a spiritual child, to training and discipling another person, to equipping a disciple maker, or to serving as a colaborer. Before we study each stage of spiritual growth in MasterBuilder, we will focus on the importance of maintaining healthy relationships.

Christians function as a loving family, but they experience misunderstandings and hurt, just as families do. This week’s study is designed to help you know what to do when a problem arises in a relationship. At the end of this week you should be able to—
• list three reasons relationships should be restored immediately;
• explain what action to take if you are the offender;
• identify six steps to take if you are offended;
• describe the role of a peacemaker.

THE HEART OF YOUR EXPERIENCE

Fellowship among Christians is at the heart of your Christian experience. Your relationship with God through Christ binds you together with other Christians as the body of Christ.

Jesus’ death on the cross paid the penalty for your sin and restored the broken relationship with God (see Rom. 5:1). It also made possible right relationships among God’s children. John tells you that your love for God is reflected by your love for one another (see 1 John 4:21).
Read 1 John 3:14 in the margin. How do we know that we have passed from death to life?

_______________________________________________________________

Love for one another is the way we see evidence that we have been delivered from spiritual death to eternal life in Christ. Someone who demonstrates Christlike love for others testifies that he or she has eternal life.

We are to love others in word and deed, as 1 John 3:18, in the margin, says. However, sin still interrupts fellowship among us.

Underline causes of problems between you and others.

jealousy  covetousness  bitterness
pride  insensitivity  impatience
anger  gossip  tactlessness
misunderstanding  boasting  greed

Differences of opinions, personality clashes, and power struggles also damage the love relationship among individuals. Jesus’ disciples struggled with loving one another in spite of human sinfulness.

Read Matthew 20:20-24 in the margin.

With whom were the disciples angry?  __________________________

Why were they angry?  _________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

The disciples were angry with James and John and became jealous of them because they wanted prominent places in the Kingdom.

Our relationship with Christ makes restored relationships possible. By asking forgiveness, we can be reconciled with God and one another.

Read 1 John 1:7 in the margin.

What is the source of Christian fellowship?  _____________________

What cleanses (restores) that fellowship?  _______________________

Our relationship with God through Christ is the source of Christian fellowship. The blood of Jesus restores fellowship.

“Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. ‘What is it you want?’ he asked. She said, ‘Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.’ ‘You don’t know what you are asking,’ Jesus said to them. ‘Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?’ ‘We can,’ they answered. Jesus said to them, ‘You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.’ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers” (Matt. 20:20-24).

“If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).
Recall the vertical and horizontal bars of the Disciple’s Cross (see p. 122). The vertical crossbar, depicting the Word and prayer, represents your relationship with God. If you live in the Word and pray in faith, that vertical relationship affects your horizontal relationships of fellowshipping with believers and witnessing to the world.

ON MISSION WITH THE MASTER

Read the MasterBuilder presentation on pages 123–27. You do not need to memorize it but should learn its principles. Beginning in week 2, you will focus on a different stage of spiritual growth each week. By the end of this study you will be able to draw the MasterBuilder diagram and to explain it in your own words.

The place to begin understanding the role of relationships in your life as a disciple is your daily quiet time, when you truly communicate with God—both hearing His message to you and communicating with Him.

During your quiet time today read 1 John 3:11-24, which teaches how to relate to others. Then complete the Daily Master Communication Guide in the margin.

DAY 2

What Christ Commands

As you learned in day 1, Christians are not immune to relationship problems. People attack you, ignore you, gossip about you, and avoid you even if you try to live a Christ-honoring life. You are also susceptible to the same sins in the way you treat others. However, when you become aware of a relationship problem, immediately take steps to correct it. Such action is necessary for three reasons:

• Wrong relationships affect your relationship with God.
• You are commanded to restore relationships.
• You are to restore right relationships as a witness to the unsaved world.

YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

First we will consider how wrong relationships affect your relationship with God.

Read the first two Scriptures in the margin on the following page and summarize them.
Sin destroys human fellowship, according to Matthew 6:14-15. If you do not forgive others when they wrong you, how can you expect God to forgive you? Fellowship on the human level is restored through forgiveness. First John 4:20-21 reiterates the seriousness of proper fellowship with others. If you do not love your brother, it makes little sense to say that you love God.

**CHRIST’S COMMAND**

The second reason to restore relationships is that Christ commands it.

See if you can write from memory Matthew 5:23-24, this week’s Scripture-memory verses, in the margin below the reference. Then read Matthew 18:21-22 and John 13:34-35 and write true or false beside each statement below.

_______ You are commanded to restore relationships only if the other person has wronged you, according to Matthew 5:23-24.

_______ According to Matthew 18:21-22, you are required to forgive 77 times.

_______ According to John 13:34-35, you are not expected to love one another as Christ loved you.

The three Scriptures command you to restore relationships, no matter who is at fault. You are to forgive again and again. Christ showed you how to love others, and you are expected to love in the same way He loved you. The second statement is true; the others are false.

**A WITNESS TO THE WORLD**

Third, you are to restore relationships because of your witness to the unsaved world. Jesus told His disciples that they could be easily identified.

You just read John 13:34-35. Check what this passage says is the mark of a true disciple.

- A Galilean accent
- Love for one another
- The sign of the fish

Jesus said that love for one another identifies His true disciples. How can you tell others about God’s love if you are unloving toward fellow believers? Just as God reconciled the world to Himself through Christ,

“If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matt. 6:14-15).

“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother” (1 John 4:20-21).

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times’ ” (Matt. 18:21-22).

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35).