

The Formation and Function of the Church
Lesson 12

Discipling Leaders/Building Elders

1. **Begin a Bible Study for Men** – Include those who desire the office of Elder. Look for availability, a heart for the Word, and teachability
2. **Teach Biblical Theology** – Give them a solid foundation of doctrine including the doctrine of the church
3. **Train them to relate biblical theology to life** – This is simply showing them how to solve life's problems and to answer life's questions with scriptural principles.
4. **Share your heart as well as your mind** – Give them your passion for Christ and His Church. Share your joys and frustrations. Like mindedness necessary for oneness among leaders comes from unity of doctrine and soul.
5. **Make them feel a part of every significant decision you make** - You are training them to make decisions in a biblical framework; thus, they will learn to share responsibility.
6. **Spend time with them individually** - This will weave your personal lives together.
7. **Confront and admonish them** - Face their failures with loving encouragement and honesty
8. **Give them ascending responsibility for areas of ministry all their own** – This gives them opportunity to develop and prove their leadership skills. Follow this sequence: I did it they watched; I did it they helped; They did it I helped; They did it I watched
9. **Pray for them** – This will keep them on your heart
10. **Sacrifice for them** - This lets them know how much you love them and how highly you hold their best interests
11. **Set the example of life for them** – This is the heart of credibility. If you fail everywhere else, a godly example will overcome it. But if you succeed everywhere else, you can't overcome a failure in your life pattern.