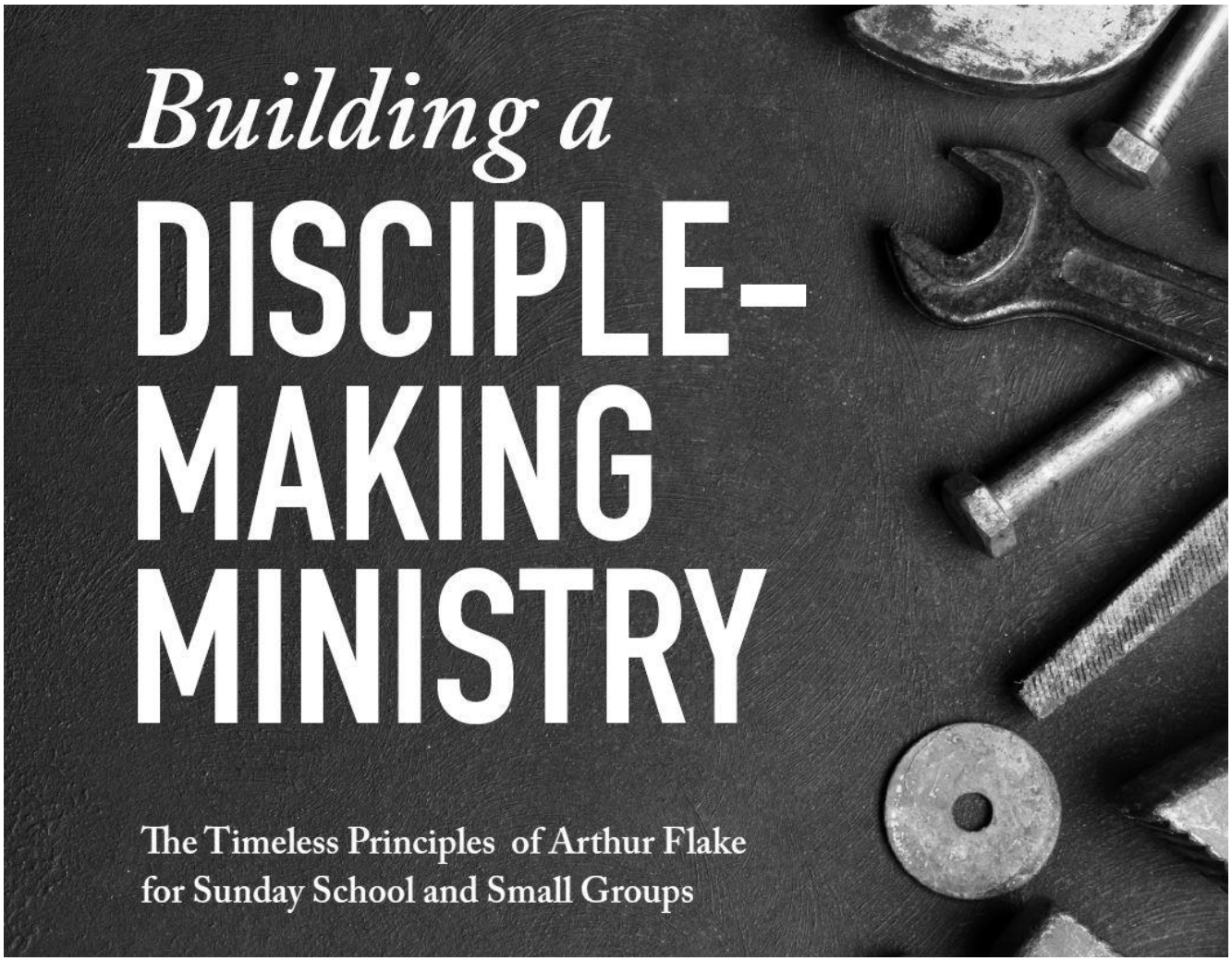

Conversation Points

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Using Conversation Points

Purpose: To facilitate informal conversations with leaders about concepts and ideas included in *Building a Disciple-Making Ministry*

Where?

- **Informal Settings:** Invite a few leaders (3 at the most) to visit over coffee, a meal, or even while playing a sport. Provide them with the Conversation Point and let them know you want to get their response to the suggested question(s).
- **Online Discussions:** Host an online discussion for your Bible study leaders and use the Conversation Points as the basis for these discussions. Consider using the tools in Facebook, GroupMe, group texts, or reply all emails as a starting point.
- **Regular Ongoing Training Meetings:** Use the Conversation Points idea as a starting point for your regular ongoing leader meetings. Supplement from your own experience and other resources (see lifeway.com/trainingresouces for additional books).

Note: The Conversation Points are organized by chapters in *Building a Disciple-Making Ministry*.

Chapter 1: Who Was Arthur Flake

Conversation Point 1

How did each step in Flake's life move him to the next step? How does God use a person's experiences to move them forward in His kingdom work? How has/is God using your experiences in His kingdom work today?

Conversation Point 2

How does Flake's involvement in establishing training for young people (students in today's terms) and Sunday School connect to each other?

Conversation Point 3

A.V. Washburn gave a warning about evangelism being absent from ongoing Bible study groups (p. 20). How does this warning apply to us today? Can we give evidence to prove that it does or does not?

Chapter 2: Arthur Flake's Journal

Conversation Point 1

To what degree do you agree with the statement that everyone ought to have the opportunity to study the Bible in a group? Explain.

Conversation Point 2

How are the challenges Flake identified (p. 26ff) seen today? What challenges would you add to his list?

Conversation Point 3

What role should prayer play in the reaching of people for Bible study? Why might a person or group fail to pray for opportunities to share the gospel with a specific person?

Chapter 3: Know Your Possibilities

Conversation Point 1

What are you doing to make yourself more aware of the people around you who are not involved in a Bible study group?

Conversation Point 2

What groups might your church need to add to better meet the needs of your community?

Conversation Point 3

What are you and your groups doing to find the next Billy (see p. 38)?

Chapter 4: Enlarge the Organization

Conversation Point 1

The author pointed out that a container can only hold so much (p. 45). How big is too big when it comes to the size of a Bible study group? (reference for discussion, in *Countdown* by David Francis and Rick Howerton, they define the optimum group size as 12 plus or minus 4, p. 9)

Conversation Point 2

The author emphasized that catalysts are needed to the organization to enlarge (p. 46). Who are the catalysts in your church or group that can foster the creation of additional groups? How can you help them work through the steps listed on pages 51-52?

Conversation Point 3

Of the four realities listed on pages 48 and 49, which reality most needs your attention right now? What factors justify that reality be given priority?

Chapter 5: Enlist and Train Workers

Conversation Point 1

Reflect on how you were recruited and prepared for your first volunteer assignment in the church. What was done well and what could have been done better? What do we need to do to make sure we recruit and prepare people well for that first day?

Conversation Point 2

The author highlighted believers being equipped for every good work (p. 55). What are the ramifications of 2 Timothy 3 in our group and church?

Conversation Point 3

Review the ideas under "A Systematic Plan" (begins on page 59). Which approach or approaches would work best in your setting? What adjustments might need to be considered in a post-COVID world?

Chapter 6: Provide Space and Resources

Conversation Point 1

Having reviewed the information about space killers (begins on page 64), what changes do we need to make in the space we currently have available? How can we better use what we already have?

Conversation Point 2

What kind of impression would you want your group to leave on guests? Of the ideas noted in the section "See through the Eyes of a Guest" (begins on p. 68), which do you think to be the most important? Which ideas need to be implemented as soon as possible in your group or church?

Conversation Point 3

Which of the reasons presented for using ongoing Bible study resources (p. 71-72) most resonate with you? What features make a Bible study resource valuable to you and the people in your group?

Chapter 7: Go After the People

Conversation Point 1

Review the reasons given for Evangelism being central to an ongoing Bible study ministry like Sunday School (p. 76-79). What would you add to the list? What keeps this from happening in some groups and churches?

Conversation Point 2

How does each of the six essential elements of an evangelistic Sunday School (begins on p. 79) impact the effectiveness of an effective ongoing Bible study ministry? How would you force rank these from most important to least? What criteria did you use to create your ranking?

Conversation Point 3

The author proposed the MTV plan (p. 82) as a potential way of contacting guests. What plan is your group or groups using to stay in contact with guests and potential participants?

Chapter 8: Building a Standard Sunday School

Conversation Point 1

Scan Chapter 8 and the associated charts in the appendix. What do the charts reveal about a commitment to a standard?

Conversation Point 2

What markers for excellence (see page 88-89 for standard set in 1920) should be used to define an effective ongoing Bible study group today?

Chapter 9: Arthur Flake's Legacy

Conversation Point 1

What is your response to the questions posed on page 98 under "The Next 100 Years"? What keeps us from being a part of the group that carries that responsibility?

Conversation Point 2

What is one action you are taking in each of the five ideas for leaders (begins on p. 99)? What is one action in each of the five areas that could be taken to reinforce the idea to a greater degree in the life of your Bible study group or groups?

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