

Year-Round Mentoring for DiscipleMaking Leaders

with Dr. John Musselman

LEADER BIO



John Musselman is the President of the Jackson Institute, a leadership development organisation whose mission is to contribute to the cultural, intellectual, and spiritual formation of individuals who are on a passionate quest to be welcomed, received, and acknowledged by God. He studied at the University of Alabama (BS in Mathematics), Reformed Theological Seminary (MDiv), and Fuller Theological Seminary (DMin). After serving on the staffs of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Perimeter Church in Atlanta, he founded the Jackson Institute in 1991. John's passion is reflected in the vision of the Jackson Institute: "to permeate the kingdom of God with reproducing leaders." He has authored *Classic Discipleship*, a manual for equipping leaders in Christian discipleship, and *The Holy Spirit and His Gifts*. In addition, he has edited John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*, A.B. Bruce's classic work, *The Training of the Twelve*, and Thomas Watson's *Man's Chief End: God's Glory*. He and his wife, Colleen, live in Atlanta, Georgia.

OVERVIEW

GOAL: To provide Christian leaders with comprehensive training in discipling, including biblical and theological foundations; historic and contemporary applications and methods; and a careful analysis of every stage in the discipling process. This initiative seeks to:

1. Foster personal development in the context of peer relationships.
2. Strengthen a commitment to disciple others in the words and ways of Jesus.
3. Encourage a passion and devotion for training a new generation of mature, reproducing leaders for the exponential spread of the gospel throughout Europe and beyond.

PLAN:

1. A four-day private Network at the 2019 European Leadership Forum, meeting for three hours each day (19–22 May 2019);
2. A one-on-one meal (breakfast, lunch, or dinner) with John at the 2019 Forum;
3. Six two-hour webinars with webinar assignments between the 2019 and 2020 Forums;
4. A 4-day retreat near Barcelona, Spain from 2 to 5 December 2019;
5. A Pre-Forum meeting before the 2020 ELF on Friday afternoon, May 22, with previous members of the Year-Round Mentoring groups;
6. A Pre-Forum Conference before the 2020 ELF on Friday evening and Saturday (all day), 22-23 May.

PARTICIPANTS: Eight to twelve Christian leaders who are highly interested: (1) in furthering their understanding of how Jesus trained the twelve Apostles to reach the world with the gospel; (2) in developing and improving their knowledge and skills in biblical discipling; (3) in learning more about the process of personal sanctification and how people grow to maturity in Christ; (4) in engaging in spiritual multiplication to help reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ; (5) in becoming a part of a healthy, committed learning community; and (6) in fulfilling all of the requirements for participating in the Year-Round Initiative.

QUALIFICATIONS: Actively involved in evangelism and discipleship, and a spiritually mature evangelical leader.

COMMITMENTS: In order to be accepted as a participant, you must:

1. Complete and submit an application to ELF.
2. Attend all sessions, including the four-day private Network sessions at the Forum in 2019; a meal meeting with John during the 2019 Forum; the six webinar sessions throughout the year (September, October, November, January, February, March); the 4-day retreat on 2-5 December 2019; and the Pre-Forum Conference in 2020.
3. Access all webinars on a computer with a good broadband internet connection, a quality webcam, and a headset.
4. Secure a copy of each of the books required to complete the Network assignments.
5. Read a selection of pre-assigned materials before each webinar. These assignments will consist of selected books and articles related to the webinar's focus. Writing assignments are also an important aspect of webinar preparation.
6. Complete and submit all assignments at least one week before each webinar.
7. Read *Transforming Discipleship* by Greg Ogden (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003. 202 pages) at your own pace between our first meeting at the 2019 Forum and Webinar 6 in March 2020.
8. Write a ten-page paper, integrating what you learned in the 2019-2020 Disciplemaking Leaders Year-Round Mentoring Network, outlining a strategic, workable plan for multiplying mature disciplemakers within your sphere of influence. You will be asked to give an oral presentation of your paper to the other participants in your group at the 2020 Pre-Forum Conference meeting.

THE 2019 FORUM: All participants will meet in Wisła, Poland for a four-day private Network at the 2019 European Leadership Forum taking place each day from Sunday, 19 May, until Wednesday, 22 May. Participants will also have an individual meeting over a meal (breakfast, lunch, or dinner) with John during the Forum.

THE 2019 DECEMBER RETREAT: All participants will meet with John in Barcelona for a 4-day retreat starting with dinner at 19:30 GMT on Monday, 2 December, and concluding at noon on Thursday, 5 December 2019. The participant fees for the retreat are 200 Euros, or 150 Euros for scholarship recipients. For the retreat, non-scholarship recipients also have the option, which must be chosen in the application form, of paying 240 Euros in order to stay in a single room. Participants are also responsible for their own travel expenses.

THE 2020 FORUM: All participants will meet with John in Wisła, Poland for a Pre-Forum Conference (22-23 May). Each participant will present a summary of his 10-page strategy for multiplying mature disciplemakers within his sphere of influence in order that John and the other participants might provide beneficial feedback. *The fees for the 2020 Pre-Forum Conference are 70 Euros for a Double Room and 90 Euros for a Single Room, or 40 Euros for scholarship recipients.*

2019 DISCIPLEMAKING LEADERS YEAR-ROUND MENTORING NETWORK PROGRAM

DAY 1: *Orientation to the Mentoring Group and Network Night*

The purpose of this introductory session is to introduce you to the new, incoming class of 2019-2020. Our first and highest priority will be to get to know one another's story, including brief details related to education, marriage & family, spiritual life, ministry, and vital interests. In addition, John will provide an overview of the Year-Round programme and set the stage for engaging in a learning process which has been carefully designed to address the most important ideas and best practices related to biblical discipleship.

During our first day together, you will also be introduced to ELF's vision and strategy, and to the outstanding books you will be reading during the year. Furthermore, we will discuss this *Syllabus* and our Network's *Orientation* document and answer the questions you have about any facet of the programme.

During *Network Night*, we will consider the topic of *Building Healthy Relationships*, including what the Bible says about the *Power of Words*. With engaging discussion and team-building exercises, this evening is intended to help our group begin the year-long journey of knowing and loving one another. A powerful illustration and model for developing interpersonal relationships, which is essential for all healthy discipleship groups, will also be presented.

DAY 2: *Biblical and Theological Foundations of Discipleship*

Historically, many organizations have gradually shifted from their original vision and become something quite different in the following generations. The initial mission is forgotten - even scorned; and the new, fully embraced and promoted. Jesus Christ, however, never abolished or modified His strategy for world evangelization or implied that the task could be accomplished through programs or mass evangelism alone. Any possibility of success would ride on the commitment of His followers who believe in and practice "spiritual multiplication," the exponential growth of the body of Christ that occurs when mature believers lead others to Christ and then disciple them until they themselves grow to maturity in Christ and are trained to effectively live out their faith before the watching world. Forming a solid biblical and theological foundation for discipleship will help us answer the question that every generation of believers must ask: "Will my ministry be built upon pragmatic and methodological concerns or upon careful exegetical activity related to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ?" Establishing a sound biblical and theological framework for discipleship will ensure that what we do and say in the name of Christ will have lasting value and preserve His strategy for lasting fruitfulness.

What Jesus' Disciples Need to Learn and The New Testament Idea of a Teacher

By definition, disciples are learners. The prevalent word used in the New Testament for *learn* has the basic meaning "to direct one's mind to something." An intellectual process is always implied. A disciple, then, is one who thinks, who concentrates, and who prayerfully apprehends what His Master wants him to be, to know, or to do as revealed in the Bible. Once the biblical vision of learning has been established, much that is challenging about discipleship will be easily resolved. The insights gained will provide the context for determining the unique patterns of discipleship that can be embraced by each participant for discipleship groups and movements within their own sphere of influence.

The Relationship Between Evangelism and Discipleship

In this session, we will discuss the Great Commission as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20. After carefully exegeting and discussing Jesus' well-known command and examining the specific language used in the text, we will consider how the Apostles understood His directive to take the gospel to every tongue, tribe, and nation. Then, we will reflect on the implications for contemporary ministry. Finally, we will discuss how wrong interpretations of this passage directly impact the church's mission in and to the world.

DAY 3: *What Is Discipleship? The Definition Unfolded*

Definitions are important. It has been said that the word *discipleship* has as many definitions as there are believers. This session will lay out a biblical foundation and vision for discipleship from which to engage in the process of investing our lives in others until they grow to spiritual maturity and begin to spiritually reproduce.

The Purpose and Benefits of Discipleship

Why should believers be involved in discipleship? What purpose does it serve? What benefits does it offer? In this session, we will discuss the rationale for discipleship, along with the most important benefits that accrue to those participating in the discipleship process.

A Profile of a Discipled Person

An important discussion on the use of your imagination will follow in our afternoon session and is designed to help you learn how to develop a biblical profile of a discipled person. Completing this task will give you a clear picture of the kind of person you are seeking to “build” by the grace of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Leadership and Becoming a Small Group Architect

In our final two sessions, we will consider the character, calling, and commitment of a discipleship leader, examine the costs associated with forming and leading a discipleship group, discuss the key tasks of disciplemakers, emphasize the twelve characteristics of strong life-shapers, and learn how to become a small group architect.

DAY 4: *Jesus Model of Discipleship, Elements of Group Life, and Group Formation*

On our final day, we will consider how Jesus’ model of training the Twelve is the model for contemporary discipleship. The Gospel records reveal that Jesus invested approximately 3½ years of His life with a small group of men whom he called His Apostles. His purpose was clear: that they might become like Him and do what He asked them to do. During their apprenticeship, He loved them, taught them how to live, and prepared them to minister in His name throughout the world. When these men were first recruited by our Lord, they had no idea what was before them, neither the severe trials nor the intense blessings. Sometimes stoned, shipwrecked, imprisoned, beaten, mocked, and banished, they continued to obey the call of their Lord to disciple the nations. Person by person, city by city, and nation by nation, they preached and taught in the synagogues, arenas, marketplaces, and homes, then instructed those who received the free gift of eternal life in the words and ways of Jesus until they reached maturity (Col. 1:28-29).

The Twelve had been well prepared. These untrained and uneducated men had become like their Master. It is not surprising, then, that their mission was not only centred on winning the masses, but on following Jesus’ method of working with a few who, in time, would become spiritual reproducers themselves. For instance, Paul discipled Timothy and Titus; Peter trained John Mark; and John personally discipled the Christian leader and martyr, Polycarp.

Jesus’ training had been so thorough and His strategy for world domination so effective, that by the end of the second century, the gospel had spread to every part of the Roman empire. Today, the gospel continues to be proclaimed around the world in churches, stadiums, prisons, and homes; in villages, rural areas, and densely populated cities; by pastors, evangelists, missionaries, an equipped laity, and through a wide variety of media. Much is being done to win the masses. But we must not forget, nor ignore, Jesus’ strategy for winning the world.

Final Considerations on Discipleship

During our final session, we will review what we have learned and discussed in our Network during the Forum, highlight the upcoming six webinars with their associated assignments, finalize instructions on your 10-page paper, emphasize the importance of quality time management, and consider any final comments and questions.

WEBINARS: DATES, TOPICS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

The current mentoring plan for Discipleship Leaders includes the following six, two-hour webinars.

Webinar One: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship

10 September 2019: 18:30-20:30 GMT

1. The **total number of pages** to be read for this webinar: **131** (number of weeks in which to read the material: 15, from the Forum until Webinar One). **Written assignments:** a 1-page synopsis, 3 definitions, and a post-webinar outline.
2. The first 15 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to a brief devotion, prayer, and answering questions you may have about the assignments.
3. Read and study *Unearthing Historic Discipleship* by John Musselman, downloadable at: <https://tji.org/classic-discipleship.html> in preparation for the webinar (56 pages).
4. Read Part I (31 pages) and Part II (44 pages) of *Following the Master: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship* by Michael J. Wilkins, PhD. (Grand Rapids: ZondervanPublishingHouse, 1992).
5. Write a one-page synopsis on your understanding of how Jesus' training of the Twelve is foundational for contemporary discipleship. Include your "take-aways" – the truths and principles that you want to incorporate into your life and ministry. Email your assignment before or on 3 September 2019 to John at jmusselman@mindspring.com.
6. Define the following terms and submit to John via email by September 3:
 - a. Disciple
 - b. Disciplemaker
 - c. Spiritual Multiplication
7. Take some time to personally reflect and meditate on the following questions (no written assignment):
 - a. How can a comprehensive understanding of the life of Christ and the way He trained the Twelve deepen and multiply your discipleship ministry?
 - b. How does a comprehensive understanding of the life of Christ challenge modern and popular notions of small group discipleship as witnessed in the church today?
 - c. Why is it important to develop a biblical theology of discipleship?
 - d. After reading Michael Wilkins' book, what will be different about your discipleship practices in the future?
 - e. Have you ever spent time studying the life of Christ, either in a course taken or books read? How much have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John shaped your thinking about discipleship?

8. **After** our meeting online, write an outline that synthesizes the content from the previous session which you could use to teach others on the biblical foundations of discipleship. This will be due **1 October 2019** and should be emailed to John.

Webinar Two: Vision and Disciplemaking

15 October 2019: 18:30-20:30 GMT

1. The **total number of pages** to be read for this webinar: **92** (number of weeks in which to read the material: 3½, from Webinar One to Webinar Two). **Written assignments:** 2 or 3 ideas from Adsit's book, a 1-page summary on vision, *Profile of a Discipled Person*, post-webinar outline.
2. The first 15 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to a brief devotion, prayer, and answering questions you may have about the assignments.
3. Review *Clarifying Your Vision* by John Musselman, downloadable at: <https://tji.org/classic-discipleship.html> in preparation for the webinar (22 pages).
4. Read "Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind" (50 pages) in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen R. Covey (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1989. 319 pages. Available in paperback only). At some point in your life, we would encourage you to read the entire book but, for this webinar, our focus will be on Habit 2 only (no written assignment).
5. Read Chapter 20: *Training Objective #12: Vision* (20 pages) in Christopher B. Adsit's book, *Personal Disciplemaking* (Orlando, FL: Campus Crusade for Christ, 1996. 384 pages; paperback only). List two or three ideas that will be beneficial as you disciple others and submit them to John via email on or before 1 October.
6. In a one-page summary, indicate why you believe it is vital to have a clear vision before embarking on any endeavor, including discipleship. Begin to formulate your personal vision and email your assignment on or before 1 October to John.
7. Develop a *Profile of a Discipled Person* (i.e., a functionally mature disciple) by answering the question, "What am I trying to produce?" Submit your assignment via email on or before 1 October.
8. William Carey said, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." What great thing are you attempting for God in the area of disciplemaking? Be prepared to discuss this during the webinar with John and the other participants (no written assignment).
9. **After** our meeting online, write an outline that synthesizes the content of the session that you could use to teach on discipleship. This will be due **29 October 2019** and should be submitted to John via email.

Webinar Three: Preparing to Lead & Becoming a Small Group Architect

12 November 2019: 18:30-20:30 GMT

1. The **total number of pages** to be read for this webinar: **37** (number of weeks in which to read the material: 3½, from Webinar Two to Webinar Three). **Written assignments:** manufactured item, 1-page discipleship model, post-webinar paper.
2. The first 15 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to a brief devotion, prayer, and answering questions you may have about the assignments.
3. Read *Preparing to Lead* by John Musselman, downloadable at <http://tji.org/classic-discipleship.html>, in preparation for the webinar (13 pages).
4. Review *Becoming a Small Group Architect* by John Musselman, downloadable at <http://tji.org/classic-discipleship.html> in preparation for the webinar (24 pages).
5. Conduct a general study of any manufactured item (e.g., a food product, beverage, car, computer, garment, airplane, etc.). Without getting technical, describe the process of transforming raw materials into a finished product. Using your powers of observation, note how long it takes for the item to be manufactured, how many people it takes to produce the item, what raw materials have to be utilized in the production, etc. In no more than a page, describe what you learned about the principle: *Product Determines Process*. Submit your assignment on or before 5 November 2019 to John.
6. Based upon your reading and study, design a discipleship model that incorporates the various elements that you deem important for creating an environment for building mature believers. Limit your diagram to one page and submit your assignment to John on or before 5 November 2019.
7. Be prepared to discuss *Biblical Accountability* and how you would incorporate it into your discipleship groups (no written assignment).
8. Be prepared to discuss *Spiritual Disciplines* and the purpose they serve in the discipling process (no written assignment).
9. **After** our meeting online, synthesize the content of the session, take on the role of a “discipleship group architect” and improve your initial model for discipleship groups that you could promote within your sphere of influence. This will be due on or before **26 November 2019** and should be emailed to John.

Webinar Four: Selecting Your Curriculum

14 January 2020 18:30-20:30 GMT

1. The **total number of pages** to be read for this webinar: **240** (number of weeks in which to read the material: 8, from Webinar Three to Webinar Four). **Written assignments:** 1-page “Wilson” paper, 1-year curriculum design, “limitations of books” paper, post-webinar paper.
2. The first 15 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to a brief devotion, prayer, and answering questions you may have about the assignments.

3. Review *Selecting Your Curriculum* by John Musselman, downloadable at <http://tji.org/classic-discipleship.html> in preparation for the webinar (4 pages).
4. Read Chapter 8: *The Growth of Individual Disciples* (26 pages) in Carl W. Wilson's book, *With Christ in the School of Disciple Building* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2009). Write a one-page response paper and indicate how your curriculum choices in the future will be informed by Wilson's ideas. Submit your assignment on or before 7 January.
5. Read Chapter 2: *Association* (10 pages) in Robert Coleman's book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1997). Note how your curriculum choices in the future will be informed by Coleman's ideas (no written assignment).
6. Read *Discipleship of the Mind* by James W. Sire (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1990. 200 pages. Available in paperback only). Note how your curriculum choices in the future will be informed by Sire's ideas (no written assignment).
7. Suppose you knew you only had one year to be with someone you were discipling. Using the *Growth Objective Worksheet* in *Selecting Your Curriculum* (see number 2 above), design a 1-year curriculum that would lead him to greater maturity in Christ. Submit your assignment on or before 7 January to John.
8. Jesus took 3½ years to disciple the Twelve. Given today's social and cultural norms, what are some of the things you could place in another person's life over a 3-year period? Be prepared to discuss your thoughts with John and the other participants during the webinar (no written assignment).
9. Biblical discipleship must be both *individual* and *corporate*. Be prepared to differentiate between the two and explain why both are necessary in the discipling process (no written assignment).
10. In a paragraph, describe the limitations of books, workbooks, articles, etc. in shaping another person's life. What are some other ways in which God disciplines His people? Submit your assignment on or before 7 January to John.
11. **After** our meeting online, develop a 3-year discipleship curriculum that you can use in your ministry of discipleship. This will be due **28 January 2020** and should be emailed to John.

Webinar Five: Group Formation and Agreements

11 February 2020: 18:30-20:30 GMT

1. The **total number of pages** to be read for this webinar: **154** (number of weeks in which to read the material: 4½, from Webinar Four to Webinar Five). **Written assignments:** two 1-page papers on Roberta Hestenes' book, a 1-page synopsis of Ogden and Coleman on "Selection," post-webinar paper.
2. The first 15 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to a brief devotion, prayer, and answering questions you may have about the assignments.
3. Read *Forming Your Group* and *Approving the Blueprint* (both parts) by John Musselman, downloadable at <http://tji.org/classic-discipleship.html> in preparation for the webinar (45 pages).

4. Read *Using the Bible in Groups* by Roberta Hestenes (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1983. 109 pages. Available in paperback only). Pay special attention to Chapter One: *Why Small Groups?* and Chapter Two: *Beginning a Small Group* in preparation for the webinar. Write a one-page response paper after reading these two chapters, noting at least three personal applications to your own ministry in discipling. Submit your assignment on or before 4 February.
5. In a separate assignment, review Roberta Hestenes' book, *Using the Bible in Groups*, and integrate John's *Approving the Blueprint* and Hestenes' emphasis on *Contracting*. Write a 1-page response paper on the importance of selecting people for your groups who are willing to abide by certain obligations. Submit your assignment on or before 4 February.
6. What are the common threads on *Selection* that run through the writings of Robert Coleman and Greg Ogden? In a 1-page synopsis, critique these men's ideas in the light of Christ's selection process. Submit your assignment on or before 4 February.
7. Make a preliminary list of some men that the Lord has placed on your heart to disciple. You will not be asked to provide names to John or the other participants but will be encouraged to share where you are in the process of forming a discipleship group (if you do not already have one).
8. **After** our meeting online, synthesize the content of the session and modify an existing discipleship group contract (e.g., *An Invitation to Discipleship*) or create a new one for your personal and extended ministry in equipping other disciplers. This will be due **3 March 2019** and should be emailed to John.

Webinar Six: The Process of Building Mature, Reproducing Disciples

10 March 2020: 18:30-20:30 GMT

1. The **total number of pages** to be read for this webinar: **230** (number of weeks in which to read the material: 3½, from Webinar Five to Webinar Six). **Written assignments:** post-webinar paper.
2. The first 15 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to a brief devotion, prayer, and answering questions you may have about the assignments.
3. Read *Building Mature Disciples* by John Musselman, downloadable at <http://tji.org/classic-discipleship.html> in preparation for the webinar (9 pages).
4. Read John's *An Invitation to Discipleship*, downloadable at http://tji.org/downloads/An_Invitation_to_Discipleship.pdf (28 pages).
5. Read *The Making of a Leader* by J. Robert Clinton (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1988. 211 pages. Available in paperback only) in preparation for the webinar (no written assignment).
6. The entire webinar today will be devoted to discussing the process of discipleship and will be informed by the assigned reading. A thorough reading of the material will enhance the learning environment and should assist each participant in walking with Christ and seeking to invest what he has been given with others.

7. **After** our meeting online, write a ten-page paper (integrating what you learned in the private, 4-day Network during the 2018 Forum, through the webinars, and through your reading) outlining a strategic, workable plan for multiplying mature disciplemakers within your sphere of influence. This will be due **7 April 2020** and should be emailed to John. Then, at the 2020 Pre-Forum Seminar, each participant will be asked to present a summary of his 10-page strategy (including implementation steps for the first year) for multiplying mature disciplemakers in order that John and other participants might provide helpful feedback.

To APPLY

If you wish to apply for the 2019-2020 Year-Round Mentoring for DiscipleMaking Leaders, which includes the Network at the 2019 Forum and the other commitments listed above, complete this [online application](#).

Once you have completed this application, if your experience and responsibilities match this group's aims, you will be asked to interview with Tony Myrick. After this, you will, if approved, be interviewed by the Network's leader, John Musselman.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR JOHN MUSSELMAN

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