

Harrington, Bobby William, and Josh Robert Patrick. *The Disciple Maker's Handbook: Seven Elements of a Discipleship Lifestyle*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2017.

This book is a practical and easy-to-read book on discipleship. Bobby Harrington is the cofounder of Discipleship.org and the lead pastor of Harpeth Christian Church. He has written prior books on discipleship. The other author of the book is Josh Patrick, who is also a pastor at Harpeth Christian Church. He leads small groups at their church and is actively involved in discipling men in the community.

The book notes that many Christians have never been disciplined in their lives, so they really have no idea how to disciple others. The purpose of this book is to be a practical handbook for those who want to disciple others.

The first section of the book is related to how Christ should be the center of our lives. It touches on the reality of many unsaved people going to our churches, and many in our churches who are not active in outreach or discipleship. The second section of the book looks at the seven elements of a discipleship lifestyle, which include: God's intent for us to be in relationship; the centrality of Jesus; being intentional in discipleship; using the Bible for discipleship; relying on the Holy Spirit; the journey of our lives as disciples of Christ and disciplers of others; and, our call to multiply by discipling others who disciple others after them, according to 2 Tim. 2:2.

The book is targeted toward all Christians. It is not just intended for those who are pastors or work at the church. The book is not academic in nature, so it is easy for anyone to read and understand.

Something I really appreciated about this book is the focus on building tight relationships. This emphasis can be seen most clearly in the "Make it Life on Life" section in Chapter 4. And the next small section right after that, "Go Deep," shows the great need for us being vulnerable about our sins and struggles with those we are discipling. We must recognize the importance of pouring our lives into people, and modeling to them how Christians are to be open and transparent about the darker sides of our lives.

Also, there are many insightful quotations from well-respected pastors or writers, including Francis Chan, Scot McKnight, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Tim Keller, David Platt, Kevin DeYoung, and

Paul Tripp. The authors seemed to be well read and well prepared in writing this book, and also bring a lot of their own personal experiences into the book.

I will use this book for the missionaries I oversee in NW China, requiring them to read and implement things from it.