

FAQS

Why articles?

Having a concrete and repeatable resource like this one supports all those who will be sharing the mission and vision of spiritual multiplication. These articles contain inspiring stories of saints who model the aspects of missionary discipleship being discussed. They cast clear and simple vision for the foundational habits and dispositions of missionary disciples that can easily be replicated, particularly down a discipleship chain, where vision tends to get watered down. They also will help build a consistent vision for discipleship across FOCUS.

Does this change discipleship?

Nothing replaces your witness, prayer, authentic friendship and investment in the people you serve. In that regard, nothing should change. We do hope, however, that your conversations will be deeper and that you will impart a deeper formation for your disciples that they can easily repeat and pass on to others. The people you serve will have greater confidence and clarity about what to do in discipleship. The articles are simply tools to help you accomplish the mission Christ has entrusted to you.

How should I use these articles?

These articles are designed to serve as a launching point for a meaningful conversation, not a teacher/student-style lesson. In tests of these articles, some missionaries added their own discussion questions or shared additional stories of saints or real-life examples of the themes being discussed. As long as the key stories and concepts are passed on, the “how” of the sharing is less important than keeping the goal in mind: to pass on the key concepts in each article and create meaningful, transformative conversation about the most important aspects of our life and mission.

How free am I to adjust the articles?

Do you have a great story you want to add on? Do you need to emphasize a few points in particular for your discipler, instead of covering every detail in the article? That's fine. Don't feel like the article is a straight-jacket. It's a tool. Use it as you need it. That being said, the one thing you should always include are the key transferable concepts. These are the key concepts of the article and shouldn't be excluded.

How can I make sure my conversations are authentic?

It is natural to desire discipleship to feel authentic—after all, authentic friendship is a key piece of discipleship! Keep in mind that these articles are always meant to foster a meaningful conversation, and that's where deeper authenticity happens—when we talk together about the things that matter most in life! Friendship is deepened when our conversations are elevated and we delight in the true, the good and the beautiful together. It might take some practice as you learn to navigate building a conversation using these tools, but as long as you are seeking to truly encounter the person you are with, the authenticity will be present. In fact, your additional preparation is a sign that you truly care about their formation!

Should I lead all the articles in a row?

Not necessarily. As the leader, you need to discern the needs of the person you are working with and use the articles when appropriate. One basic order to consider, however, is how some of the earlier articles are “pre-high call”—intended for people in the win/build stage. Other articles are “post-high call” and are intended for those who have responded to the high call and are now in training for mission. Keeping that general distinction between pre-high call and post-high call articles is important to consider. But within those general areas there is much flexibility in the sequence of articles one wishes to cover.

How do I prepare to share one of the articles?

In addition to the four steps above, each article has a specific leader's video that will explain each article and give you some tips for leading it effectively. It will also give you some context on how to know when a student is ready to receive that article and how to best follow up with the student after the article. You can find these videos at focusequip.org.

How do the discipleship articles relate to the blueprints?

The discipleship articles are based on the FOCUS "blueprints". Blueprints cast the vision. Discipleship articles help carry out that vision. Blueprints lay out the big picture of what things should look like in a discipleship relationship. The discipleship articles give you the tools to create that experience, to build what the disciple needs concretely to experience, learn and pass on to others.