Introduction:
DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

Below are some interesting facts about self-worth and understanding one’s value. It concerns the Smithsonian Institute Hope Diamond. A diamond is just a piece of charcoal that handles stress exceptionally well. At first, the charcoal seems to have no beauty at all. Yet, underneath all the charcoal is a beautiful, shining stone.

He has made everything beautiful in His time, also he has set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from beginning to end (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

Embrace the diamond in the making in you and those you are called to reach!

1. Diamonds actually begin as the black carbon allotrope we know as charcoal. In the darkest, roughest places the most beautiful things emerge.

2. Diamonds are produced through pressure, heat, and time and you need the right combination of each of these three working together perfectly to create a diamond. In the fullness of time, the pressures of life, hot situations, and long seasons of what appear to be “nothingness,” create an undeniable testimony of God’s sovereignty, power, and grace.

3. Even after production, the beauty of the diamond is magnified with each cut, giving it the ability to reflect light, producing more sparkle and eye catching (and heart catching) brilliance as God saves us and uses others to disciple us in His Word. We are in a continual process, being beautified daily so that the light of Christ will break forth from our lives and His beauty shed abroad in us will capture the eye, touch the heart, and win the soul of mankind to Him!

As difficult as it may be, embrace the diamond at work in you. God need you to sparkle for Him that the world may see HIS good works in you, and glorify the Father which is in Heaven.

Many years ago, one of my church members asked me to visit her son in prison. He had been arrested on possession of crack cocaine. He had been in a gang for several years. He had been on drugs. He also sold drugs and shot to kill for drugs. At the time of my visit, he had been arrested 22 times. Although he tried to respect me as a pastor, his words were laced with profanity.
He told me how he had robbed in order to do drugs or survive. He had four children out of wedlock at the time with one baby on the way. He hated his father for not being in his life. He talked about wanting to kill him for how he treated him and his mother. He had already shot and killed other gang members.

I encouraged him and gave him a discipleship book and a Bible. I showed him how to use it and then prayed for him. This was back in 1983 or 1984. After 25 years of being incarcerated, he showed up at my church one Sunday. I did not know who he was, but he kept working to help me remember.

He told me that after I left him that day, he needed to hear a word from God. He took the book and Bible I gave him and began to devour it. He had nothing but time. He had no one after his mother died. He said, “God and that Bible became my friends.” He kept reading and meditating on God’s Word and began to hear God’s voice rising up inside him.

After reading the Word of God, he said his heart was filled with love toward his enemies and those who had hurt him in the past. He even made efforts to reach some through the mail to restore relationships if possible. He even contacted all the women he had children with along with his now grown children to repent to them.

Because of his new life and good behavior, he was actually able to get out of prison at least five years early.

Three years after he was released from prison, he became an engineer, made good money, and started his own business. He was professionally dressed and groomed handsomely. He got married to his present wife and had two children.

He told me how the Bible and discipleship book I gave him changed his life. When he went through a crisis in prison, he would resort to that book to find a scripture to believe. God brought him out many times. He even used that discipleship book to help and teach fellow cell mates. The book became so tattered and marked until he had to call the church several months later to request more copies, which we gave to him free of charge. He stated that this was the point when his life turned around. He was also in ministry helping other incarcerated men.

The comparison between the man I saw now and the young boy I had seen 25 years earlier was startling. What was shrouded and covered by drugs, dishonesty, profanity, murder, hatred, out-of-control sex life, out-of-wedlock children and gang life, was now a shining diamond in God’s eyes and kingdom. He gained hope as a result of one visit, a Bible, and a discipleship book. He was now a HOPE DIAMOND, involved in making other diamonds out of charcoal. All the rough places, like the graphite from the carbon in the bowels of the earth, were now gone. I had produced a diamond without realizing it. The day of the visit, I became a diamond maker after teaching him how to disciple himself.

God is also calling you to be a diamond maker, helping others cut away all their fluff of life and become useful to the kingdom of God. Every person you connect with has a hidden diamond or treasure inside them just waiting for someone to help them shine forth
(2 Corinthians 4:7). They just need someone to show them the way out. Will you become a diamond maker?

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2).

DISCIPLING DIAMOND MAKERS

When you disciple one-on-one and the person you are discipling doesn’t show up for a meeting, you immediately call to find out what happened. That’s the benefit of one-on-one discipleship – it has relationship and accountability. Discipleship works best in a one-on-one relationship.

The Diamond Makers Discipleship Manual is about one-on-one discipleship. You can use this book to disciple another person. Please note, it is a notebook for a reason. When you use this notebook with the person you disciple, you can review and discuss the questions in the first part of each lesson, then share the outline, and finally share a specific and practical application.

As you disciple through this notebook, the Spirit of God will give you practical insights into making relevant applications of truth that are needed with the person you are discipling. You will observe your disciple maturing in Christ and find out something else. There is nothing more exciting in the Christian life than enjoying God work through you to impact the life of another person.

What is Expected of You As a Disciple

- **Be committed to attending all the discipling sessions.** A discipling relationship based on this notebook will help develop the foundational disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and discipleship/evangelism in your life. Ask God to give you a desire for these disciplines.

- **Disciple another to love Jesus.** The ultimate goal of discipleship is not that you will be discipled but that you will disciple another person. Commit to discipling another to love Jesus.

- **Be willing to change.** This book presents a lifestyle: how to live as a Christian and how to disciple others. To disciple effectively you must be an example. When you disciple you must actually be doing what you are asking others to do. This is why older Christians who use this notebook must be willing to change their patterns or prayer and Bible study so that the principles taught in this notebook become their lives, lives that will be shared with others.

What Can You Expect from Your Discipler
• **Prayer.** Your discipler will pray for you daily.

• **An example.** Your discipler will be doing what is asked of you.

• **No gain.** Disciplers are not to gain from a discipling relationship – financially, professionally, or emotionally. Your discipler will not attempt to sell you anything, get you to join something, or try to manipulate you in any way.

• **No control.** Disciplers are not to tell you what decisions to make with your life. They will only teach the principles taught in this notebook and help you apply Biblical wisdom to the decisions that you need to make.

• **Follow the plan.** Your discipler will only use the material outlined in this notebook.

• **Proper boundaries.** Your discipler has made a commitment to lead you through this notebook in about 10 lessons. Some lessons may take two sessions. Your discipler does not have an obligation to spend more time with you than the ten required lessons. You should not look to your discipler as a counselor or therapist but rather as a friend who is walking with you. Your discipler will not be able to help you with severe emotional or financial difficulty. If you have difficulties outside the scope of this discipleship material, your discipler will help you find a Christian leader, pastor, or counselor who can help.

• **Lift up Jesus.** In all things we glorify Jesus. He alone deserves our praise.

**Next Steps**

If you were responsible to teach and train a new Christian, would you know exactly what to do to maximize the chances that this new Christian would reach maturity?

When you are finished with the discipling relationship defined in this notebook, you will be able to answer “yes” to the above question. You will know exactly what to do to maximize the chances that a new Christian will mature in Christ.

But what happens when your discipling relationship is over? Obviously the ten-week discipling relationship taught in this notebook is not enough. What next?

It is important that new believers get involved in a strong and biblical local church. One-on-one discipleship works best with a local church that has small groups. After the ten-lesson discipleship (often taking about three months) a disciple should join a small group in a local church or be involved in a local church even if it doesn’t have small groups.

One final point needs to be made: You will grow in Christ and gain His kingdom when you learn to lay down your life for His. Discipleship is not about you. Yes, in discipleship you will learn how to pray, overcome temptation, find God’s will, and many other necessary things, but discipleship is ultimately about you taking these same lessons and discipling someone else.

A prisoner in Ohio (USA), serving time for murder, felt helpless and worthless as a Christian because of his crimes. He wondered if God could ever use him again. He attended many Christian activities in prison, at the end of which, he would go back to his
jail cell and wait for the next program. After being trained with a discipleship book, he went back to his cell and asked his cellmate if he would like to be discipled.

During the next 10 weeks, the prisoner experienced God working through him for the first time in his Christian life as he discipled his cellmate. Later he gave this testimony: “It is true there is nothing more exciting than seeing God work through me to impact the life of another person.”

That is what Diamond Makers is all about.

From the book First Steps One-on-One Discipleship, Specificity Publications