

# Briner Institute

## *The Five -Ships of Roaring Lambs*

### DISCIPLESHIP

#### **Definition:** <sup>1</sup>

A disciple is a follower or adherent of a teacher. It is not the same as being a student in the modern sense. A disciple in the ancient biblical world actively imitated both the life and teaching of the master. It was a deliberate apprenticeship which made the fully formed disciple a living copy of the master. (Wikipedia: Disciple)

Discipleship requires Roaring Lambs “of being followers of God who know how to fully integrate their commitment to Christ into their daily lives” (18)

“Our job as Christians (/Disciples) is not to take over the various communities in our world; it is, however, to penetrate them, to be present, to provide God’s alternatives to evil, to demonstrate Christ’s relevance there, to be as good a representative as possible for Him and His church” (47)

#### **How do we Disciple:**

- “...if I want to reach them with the Gospel, the worst thing I could do is invite them to church or “witness” to them during a break in a board meeting. On the other hand, if I want to point them toward the Savior, I need to make sure my professional behavior is stellar. I need to make the best presentations, close the most successful deals, deliver the greatest product I possible can. To them, my work is a reflection of who I am.” (32)
- “The idea, and a good one, was for church members to invite their friends, who might never go with them to church, to have a night out with them at the movies. In the neutral setting of a movie theater, a quality motion picture would present the claims of Christ in a dramatic way. It was a good idea” (79)
- “We need to be out there, but only with our best. Even our best writing and best writers will be challenged and ridiculed. A clear presentation of the Gospel that shows the relevance of Christ to life in today’s world will always meet resistance. Many will scoff, but, if it is our best work, some will be convinced, some will believe, some will be won.” (121)

#### **Actionable Enterprises:**

“We need to show the world in powerful, positive ways that artists devoted to God and to building his Kingdom do not work with a cloudy lens or drab palette, but, on the contrary, they see the world more clearly and colorfully because of His power in their lives.” (151)

- Publishing company that focuses on “books of the highest possible quality written by skilled Christian authors who artfully weave biblical truth into their manuscripts” (133)
- Music Label that helps to convey even more powerful messages of hope, light, understanding, and grace (145)
- Film/TV inroads- “Endowing programs at colleges and seminaries; by offering prizes, including monetary rewards, for the best scripts or program treatments; by sponsoring television writing workshops; and by guaranteeing production dollars for programs of merit” (104)

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, parenthetical quotes are taken from Roaring Lambs by Bob Briner, © 1993 by Bob Briner.

# SCHOLARSHIP

## Definition:

“God sent you here to develop your mind so you can serve Him better. Drop out of all your Bible studies and ministry teams, skip vespers if you have to, but start studying” (160)

Merriam-Webster defines Scholarship in three distinct ways:

1. A grant-in-aid to a student, as by a college or foundation
2. The character, qualities, activity, or attainments of a scholar
3. A fund of knowledge and learning

The Briner Institute promotes scholarship in all of these forms. We believe “certainly a first-grade teacher can be just as important to God and His kingdom as a secretary of state. A writer of Sunday school literature can accomplish as much for God as a syndicated columnist whose work appears in the New York Times.” (162)

## How do we promote Scholarship:

- Putting our money where our mouth is. We need to award scholarships to students going into fields other than professional ministry. Award financial aid to writers, artists, and business students. “Except for those going into the professional ministry, no one has laid out for most of them either the possibilities or the responsibilities of penetrating every area of our society with the message of Christ” (157)
- “As we increase our support and sacrifice to send you our children, we will also increase our expectations. All too often, everyone in Christian higher education- faculty, administration, parents, students- expect less than the best when the label “Christian” is applied. That has to change. Administrators have to provide the same level of leadership competence that one would expect to find at Harvard. Faculty members need to continually upgrade themselves both in content and method. Students need to be held to rigorous standards of scholarship, with learning taking precedence over ministry. And parents need to stand behind the school’s effort to produce leaders” (159)
- “More and more employers are looking for graduates from liberal arts colleges- graduates who have been well schooled in the world of books, words, ideas, ideals, history, ethics, speech, communication, and creativity. No expensive equipment is needed here. For the most part, we already have the most important “equipment” in the form of well-trained, highly motivated, dedicated faculties. We need to pay them better, encourage them to reach higher in their own scholarship, and expect them to set examples of excellence for our students, while accepting nothing but excellence from them.” (160)

## Actionable Enterprises:

- Roaring Lambs Scholarship Fund
- Roaring Lambs Curriculum
- Internship programs
- Apprenticeships
- Job placement programs

## MENTORSHIP

### Definition:

“If all the world were Christian, it might not matter if all the world was uneducated, but as it is, a cultural life will exist outside the church, whether it exists inside or not. To be ignorant and simple now, not be able to meet the enemies on their own ground, would be to throw down our weapons and betray our uneducated brethren who have, under God, no defence but us against the intellectual attacks of the heathen. Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered.” -C.S. Lewis/The Weight of Glory (162)

“Mentoring is a process for the transmission of knowledge, social capital, and the psychosocial support relevant to work, career, or professional development; mentoring entails informal communication, usually face-to-face and during a sustained period of time, between a person who has greater relevant knowledge, wisdom, or experience (the mentor) and a person who has less (the protégé)”. (Wikipedia)

This crucial transfer of knowledge is what brings light to the darkness. Thousands of candles can be lit from one.

It's meeting one-on-one with the younger generation in hopes of teaching battle-tested strategies for bringing light to a world that so desperately needs it. It's sharing your experience, strength and hope with someone else with no return guaranteed.

### How do we Mentor:

- “If we really hope to reclaim these very important fields for God, we have no choice. Hollywood will not clean itself up. It needs Christian actors, actresses, and filmmakers who will help make good movies. Sure it's a risk. Your kids will face one of the toughest environments in which to live out there faith, but if they are good, they will make it. And if the church surrounded them, prayed for them, supported them, loved them, and stood by them, they will most likely hold onto their faith in Christ.” (178)
- “This is what being a roaring lamb is all about. It is not always an easy path. It is not about always winning. It is about being there, being where the battle is, where the salt is needed. As far as ridicule and persecution are concerned, when we begin to shy away from it and take the easy path, we need to reread Paul's description of his lot as he took salt to the ancient worlds.” (128)
- “You never reach a place where you can be at ease with the facts. Your task is to continually search, to study, to present the material in a careful and diligent manner. Get your facts straight. People are striving for knowledge of the truth and you owe that to them. Be a wordsmith. Place value on communicating clearly and correctly and where you can, concisely. If there is a place we can find shoddy and careless writing, alas, it is among the Christian ranks. Make a difference. Follow Luke's example.” (126)

### Actionable Enterprises:

- Advisory Network
- One-on-one meetings
- Matchmaking Mentor/ Protege relationships

## FELLOWSHIP

### Definition:

-A friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests.

“What active positive strategy does this church have regarding Christ’s command to be salt? How are we marshaling and deploying our forces and our resources to be engaged in our community we live in a better, more productive place, and how can we give it to a longer-lasting vision for effective evangelism? What kind of God-glorifying alternatives can we provide for those things that are antithetical to building His kingdom?” (171)

The Briner Institute hopes to answer these questions by establishing a fellowship that is seeking an active, positive strategy to create God-glorifying alternatives in alignment to Christ’s command to be salt. We are marshaling and deploying our forces and resources in an effort to be engaged with our entire community, not just the Christian portion of it. “At the most basic level, regardless of what our gift or gifts might be, we can all support good and godly projects and enterprises and avoid those that are evil. If every Christian would do only those two things in a very positive way, our society and our world would be dramatically affected for the good. A powerful salty solution would penetrate, and the roar of many lambs would create the sweetest music this side of heaven.” (172)

In short, our subculture is healthy. It doesn’t need more attention. It’s the world that needs help.

Briner is here to help.

### How do we create Fellowship

- “The number one way, then, for Christians to be the salt Christ commands them to be is to teach His relevance, to demonstrate His relevance, to live His relevance in every area of life.” (40)
- “When the church and its people are absent, when there is no preserving salt and no roaring lambs, the same thing always happens. It is just as sure as a law of physics. When a vacuum is created, it is always filled. When good departs, evil always fills in behind it. If you remove the salt, the meat spoils. It rots.” (80)
- “Christian writers are like Japanese tennis players. They once ventured out into the wide world of ideas and put their works in head-to-head competitions with those of all other persuasions. Like the Japanese tennis players, they did not win every time. Their books did not always shoot to the top of the best-sellers list. Not everyone was always convinced by their stories that often reflected Christian themes and biblical truth. They didn’t win every time, but they made an impact. They delivered the salt.” (121)

### Actionable Enterprises

- Faith in Film Breakfasts
- Conferences
- Social Events
- Workshops
- Networking/ Social Media/ Connections

## MEMBERSHIP

### Definition:

“Attributed the rights of being a member of an entity. Either individually or collectively, belonging to a group. Some memberships require a fee to join or participate ; some do not. Some have specific skill requirements to meet prior to acceptance into the group, as in the case of MENSA. Members are entitled to special privileges or benefits, but, some members may have different rights and privileges. A leader, for instance, might have special privileges to lead meetings or propose group rules and guidelines.” (Black’s Law Dictionary)

Beyond the technical definition, the members of this organization believe “it’s time to go on the offensive- to unleash this army of supporters in creative campaigns that produce something good to plug into the mainstream of American culture. In my circles, Christians are thought of as people who are against things. I want us to be known as people who are for things good, wholesome, creative, wonderful, and fulfilling.” (148)

“We can recognize both our responsibilities and our opportunities and can act accordingly. Then, when those around us see our effort and our joy, many will, I believe, want to join in.” (172)

### Who are our members:

- “There is literally unlimited opportunity for every Christian- every man, woman, and child- to be fully involved, totally engaged every day in obeying the scriptural admonition to be a preserving salty influence in society. And the point is that your positive involvement will produce many positive results in your own life and in the lives of many others. Perhaps the most exciting, life-enriching benefit will be a sense of fully participating in kingdom building. You can do Christianity as well as be a Christian.” (170)
- “Regardless of what others may or may not do, each one of us can, at the very least, begin a life of active, effective ministry to the community by simply supporting good projects, programs, and events and avoiding the bad ones. It does not take special talent or a special gift to just say thanks when someone or some organization does something that honors God and His Word. Stay awake. Stay alert. Say thanks. Support the good and refuse to support the bad. Doing this will provide a foundation of ministry for every Christian. Everyone can begin to be involved. Everyone can make a positive contribution.” (173)
- “The good news, then, is that every Christian can be a roaring lamb. It is not necessary to wait for anyone to begin. We can all begin to raise awareness levels, particularly our own. We can all, at the very least, begin to support good, godly efforts and to avoid bad, ungodly ones. We can all assess our individual talents and abilities and begin to use those in the most appropriate ways.” (174)

### Actionable Enterprises:

- Salt/Light Certificate Program to encourage continuing education
- Awards for Roaring Lambs in key industries and roles
- Newsletters and learning materials made available
- Book Studies and Small Groups
- Local Chapters and National Conventions