

## **Abstract**

**CREATIVE PROJECT:** The Use of Emerging Media to Build Relationships and Make Disciples

**DEGREE:** MASTER OF THE ARTS

**COLLEGE:** College of Communication, Information and Media

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As life continues to evolve into the digital age there exists a need for Christian ministry, to do the same, specifically the process of discipleship. With the constant connectivity of mobile phones in our pockets or, most likely our hands, an avenue for online discipleship was created. While much research exists within Christian education and church presence online, there is not much research on the role relationship building plays in online discipleship. Establishing a transformational community through building relationships is one of several key pillars of a developing disciple. For this creative project, I looked at three current discipleship or relationship building mobile applications to address the strengths and weaknesses of each regarding the ability to create relationships online. Second, I addressed these strengths and weaknesses by applying a human-centered approach to establish a criteria of mobile application characteristics to be utilized when creating a discipleship mobile application (app). A discipleship mobile app prototype was developed and tested to establish if the characteristics were of value to potential end-users.

*Keywords: Relationship Building, Discipleship, Mobile App, Connection, Online*