

Session 1: SEIZE THE MISSION OF JESUS!

- What is God's mission?
- What is my part in God's mission?

"As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you"

—John 20:21

"God's church falters from exhaustion because Christians erroneously think that

God has given them a mission to perform in the world.

Rather, the God of mission has given his church to the world.

**It is not the church of God that has a mission in the world,
but the God of mission who has a church in the world.**

The church's involvement in mission is its privileged
participation in the actions of the triune God."

—Tim Dearborn, *Beyond Duty: A Passion for Christ, a Heart for Mission*

Seize the Mission!

Our mission has not life of its own: only in the hands of the sending God can it truly be called mission. Not least since the missionary initiative comes from God alone ... Mission is thereby seen as a movement from God to the world; the church is viewed as an instrument for that mission. There is church because there is mission, not vice versa. To participate in mission is to participate in the movement of God's love toward people, since God is a fountain of sending love.

David Bosch, *Transforming Mission*

God is a Missionary God! Jesus Christ is a Missionary – sent by God. (John 20:21) The Church is to be a Missionary Church. The Church does not have the function of mission, it exists for mission.

When kept in the context of the Scriptures, missio Dei correctly emphasizes that God is the initiator of His mission to redeem through the Church a special people for Himself from all of the peoples (ta ethne) of the world. He sent His Son for this purpose and He sends the Church into the world with the message of the gospel for the same purpose.

--Van Sanders, *The Mission of God and the Local Church*

Jesus Christ is the _____ of the mission.

The Holy Spirit is the _____ of the mission.

The Church is the _____ of the mission.

The Culture is the _____ in which mission occurs.

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

- 1 Peter 2:9

God is a missionary God and He has sent the Church to participate in His mission of reconciling the world to Himself. That mission is the purpose of the Church on this earth, and the message is the good news of the kingdom. Missional activity encompasses the redemptive mission of Jesus. Just as Jesus was sent to seek and to save what was lost, the Church is sent to seek and to save what was lost.

--David DeVries, *Missional Transformation*

ACTION STEP 1.1

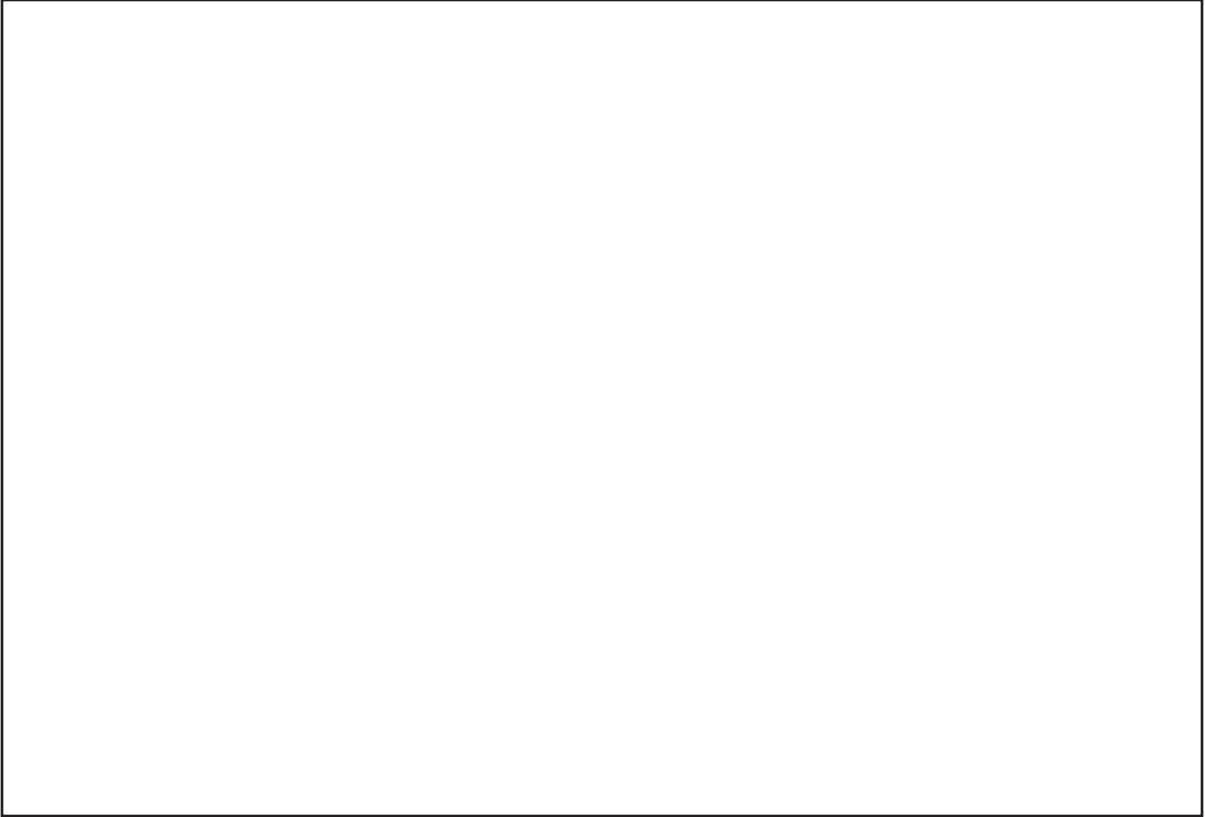
Summarizing the Mission of Jesus

1. Read each passage and write out the key phrase.
2. Summarize the theme of each passage.

Mission Statements of Jesus

Reference	Key Phrase	Theme
Matt 5:17		
Matt 9:13		
Matt 10:34		
Mark 10:45		
Luke 4:18–19		
Luke 19:10		
John 3:17		
John 6:38–40		
John 10:10		

3. Based on these Scriptures, summarize the Mission of Jesus.



4. How did Jesus accomplish His mission?

“I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do.”
--*Jesus*, John 17:4

The Supremacy of the Great Commission

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
–Matthew 28:19-20

“The object is not to find them, gather them, or improve them. The object is to make them.”
–John Edmund Kaiser, *Winning on Purpose*

5 Practices of Disciple Making

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

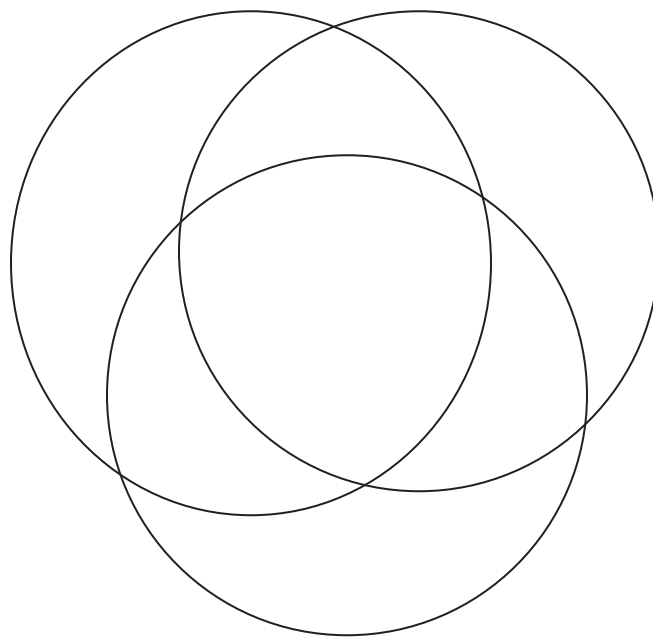
4. _____

5. _____

A Missional Perspective

Jesus has sent every believer as a missionary with the gospel together in community with other Christians to visibly and incarnationally display and proclaim who Jesus is to those in the culture around them. Every Christian is a missionary. Every neighborhood and workplace is a mission field.

Missional Circles



"Missional church is a community of God's people that defines itself, and organizes its life around, its real purpose of being an agent of God's mission to the world. In other words, the church's true and authentic organizing principle is mission. When the church is in mission, it is the true church. The church itself is not only a product of that mission but is obligated and destined to extend it by whatever means possible. The mission of God flows directly through every believer and every community of faith that adheres to Jesus. To obstruct this is to block God's purposes in and through his people."

Alan Hirsch, The Forgotten Ways

Biblical/Missional Distinctives

Sent by _____

(John 17:18; 20:21, Luke 9:2; Matt 28:19–20; Acts 1:8)

Sent with the _____

(1 Cor 1:18, Eph 2:16, Col 2:14, 1 Pet 2:24, 2 Cor 5:17–24)

Sent in _____

(Acts 2:42–47; 5:42; John 13:34–35; 1 John 3:16–17)

Sent to every _____

(John 1:14; Matt 20:28; Acts 17:22–34; Luke 5:29)

Sent for the _____

(Matt 10:7; 25:34; Luke 4:43; Rev 11:15–17; Jer 10:7; John 18:36)

MISSIONAL DNA

These three loves demonstrate the missional alignment of a believer’s heart:

- Loving Jesus
- Loving One Another
- Loving the Lost

When Christians love Jesus (embracing the cross), love one another (experiencing community), and love the lost (engaging the culture), the mission is advanced.

D _____

N _____

A _____

The DNA pattern has three applications:

- _____ is our response to truth (embracing the Cross)
- _____ is our response to relationships (experiencing Community)
- _____ is our response to mission (engaging the Culture).

CROSS	Divine Truth	Loving Jesus	Greatest Commandment	Mt 22:37–38
COMMUNITY	Nurturing Relationships	Loving One Another	Second Greatest Commandment	Mt 22:39–40
CULTURE	Apostolic Mission	Loving the Lost	Great Commission	Mt 28:19–20

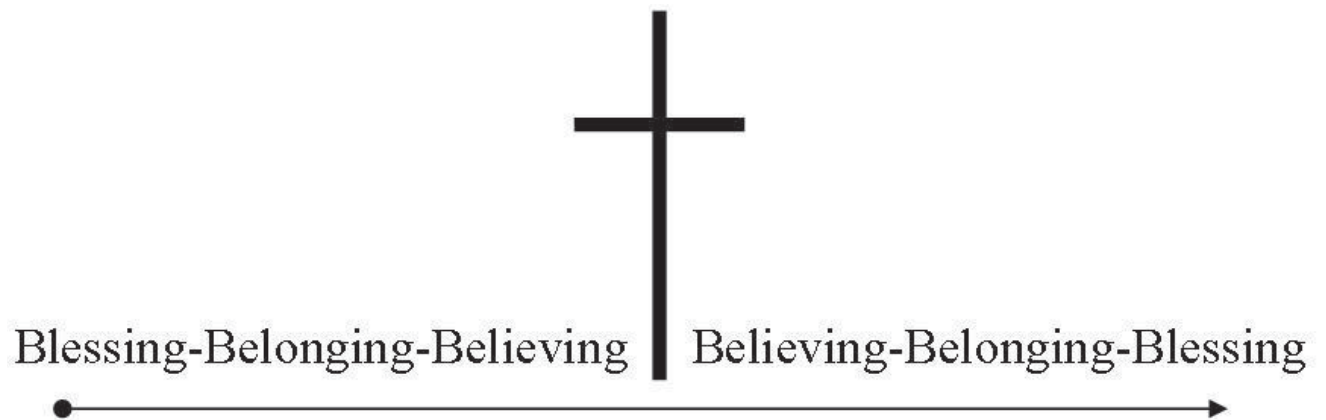
Reference: DNA adapted from Neil Cole, Organic Church

“We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”
--1 Thessalonians 1:3

➤ Faith = Believing

➤ Love = Belonging

➤ Hope = Blessing



An Incomplete Missional Perspective

“If we concentrate on one part of DNA and eliminate any other part we will lose the whole of it; death and mutation are the result.” Neil Cole, *Organic Church*

Jesus sends every believer with the Cross in Community to the Culture. When Christians fail to love Jesus, one another, and their neighbor simultaneously, the mission is thwarted. One of the contributing causes toward the Church’s failure to fulfill this mission is that Christians are faithful to only one or two of these. Subtracting even a portion has devastating results.

Cross + Culture – Community =	
--------------------------------------	--

Culture + Community – Cross =	
--------------------------------------	--

Community + Cross – Culture =	
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Neglecting the Culture NO MISSION	Neglecting the Community NO CHURCH	Neglecting the Cross NO HOPE
Missionless Church	Churchless Mission	Dead Religion
Isolation and Separatism	Spiritual Orphans	Consumer Christianity
Legalism	Loneliness	Liberalism: Social Gospel
“Come to Us” Mentality	Believing without Belonging	Belonging without Believing
No Spiritual Reproduction	Individualism	Cultural Accommodation
Internalism	Selfishness & Immaturity	Salvation by Works
Fundamentalism	“Parachurch” = Substitution	“Country Club” Mentality

ACTION STEP 1.2: **Brainstorm Ways to Seize the Mission!**

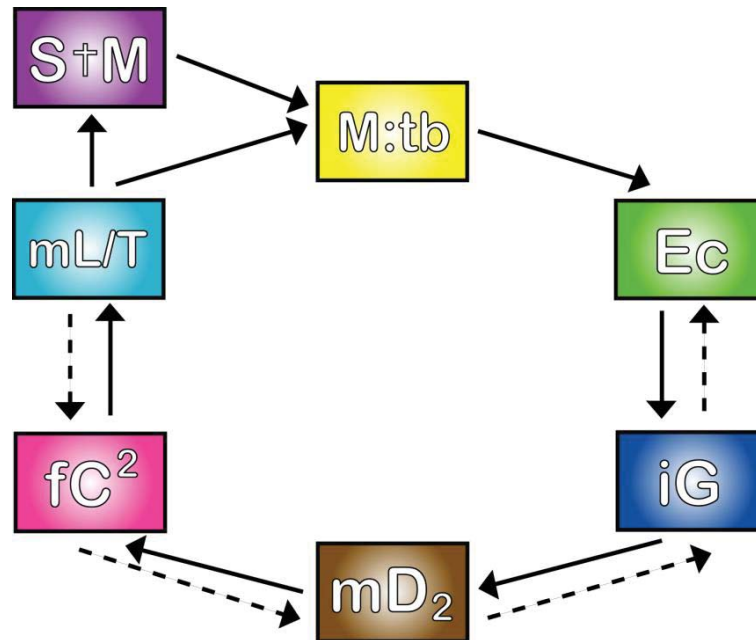
In groups of 3 or 4, list possible ways to help yourself and others to better grasp the redemptive mission of Jesus as your own!



What is My Part in the Mission of Jesus?

Am I a person who lives to fulfill Jesus' redemptive mission to the glory of God?

Essentially, every Christian is sent by Jesus to “be Jesus” to everyone everywhere. It is important for every Christian, aligned with Jesus' missionary heart, to *incarnationally* display the gospel to those around them and to make disciples.



Becoming Missionaries in Our Zip Code

1. Seizing the Mission
2. Adopting Missional Thinking and Behaviors
3. Exegeting the Culture
4. Incarnating the Gospel
5. Multiplying Disciple Makers
6. Forming Communities→Churches
7. Mobilizing Leaders and Teams

Understanding My Unique Giftedness

“And He gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors** and **teachers**, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.” Eph 4:11-12

Ephesians 4:11 = APEST FUNCTIONS

APOSTLES *extend the gospel.* As the “sent ones,” they ensure that the faith is transmitted from one context to another and from one generation to the next. They are always thinking about the future, bridging barriers, establishing the church in new contexts, developing leaders, networking trans-locally. Yes, if you focus solely on initiating new ideas and rapid expansion, you can leave people and organizations wounded. The shepherding and teaching functions are needed to ensure people are cared for rather than simply used.

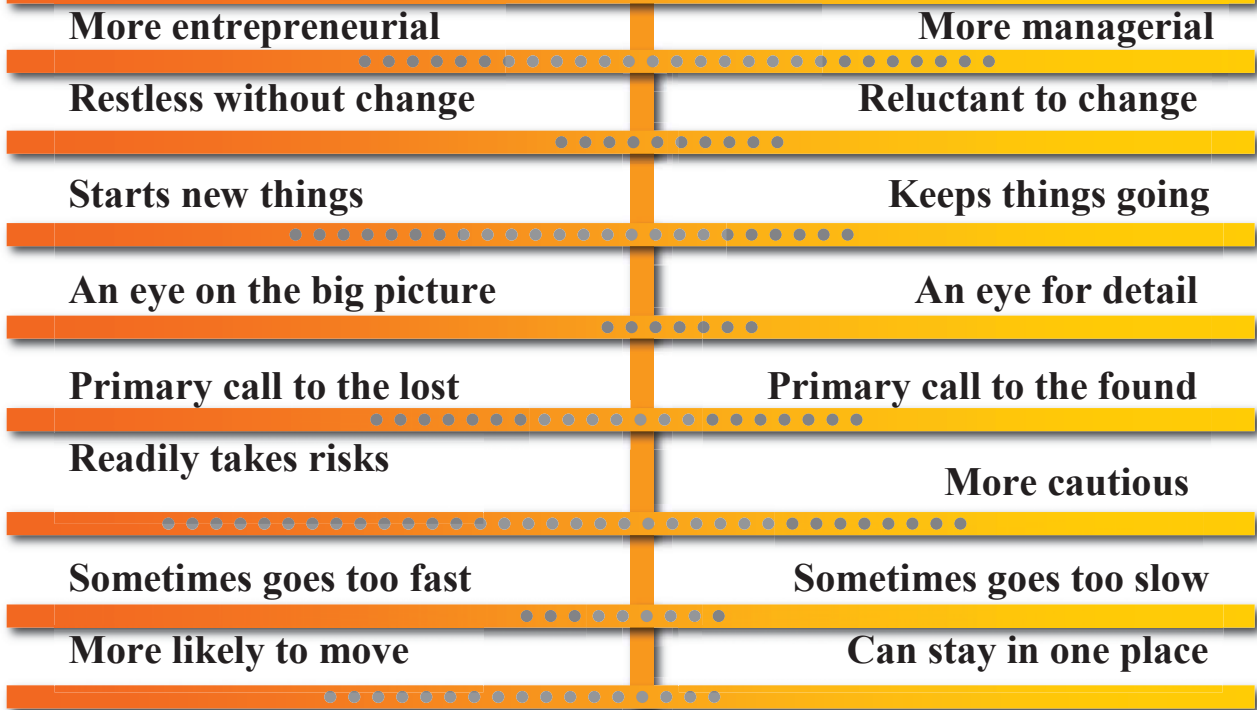
PROPHETS *know God's will.* They are particularly attuned to God and his truth for today. They bring correction and challenge the dominant assumptions we inherit from the culture. They insist that the community obey what God has commanded. They question the status quo. Without the other types of leaders in place, prophets can become belligerent activists or, paradoxically, disengage from the imperfection of reality and become other-worldly.

EVANGELISTS *recruit.* These infectious communicators of the gospel message recruit others to the cause. They call for a personal response to God's redemption in Christ, and also draw believers to engage the wider mission, growing the church. Evangelists can be so focused on reaching those outside the church that maturing and strengthening those inside is neglected.

SHEPHERDS *nurture and protect.* Caregivers of the community, they focus on the protection and spiritual maturity of God's flock, cultivating a loving and spiritually mature network of relationships, making and developing disciples. Shepherds can value stability to the detriment of the mission. They may also foster an unhealthy dependence between the church and themselves.

TEACHERS *understand and explain.* Communicators of God's truth and wisdom, they help others remain biblically grounded to better discern God's will, guiding others toward wisdom, helping the community remain faithful to Christ's word, and constructing a transferable doctrine. Without the input of the other functions, teachers can fall into dogmatism or dry intellectualism. They may fail to see the personal or missional aspects of the church's ministry.

Apostle-----Prophet-----Evangelist-----Shepherd-----Teacher



► **Stop and Think:**

1. Which functional role has God given you?
2. What are the roles of others on your team? (List names)

Apostle _____

Prophet _____

Evangelist _____

Shepherd _____

Teacher _____

3. How will you help your team to use fulfill these functions?

Reference: Alan Hirsch, www.apest.org/apest/
[For further insights for you or your team, take the online assessment]

ACTION STEP 1.3

Personal Reflection

Am I aligned with the mission of Jesus?

Low

High

I am living to fulfill Jesus' redemptive mission to the glory of God!	1	2	3	4	5
I am aligned with Jesus' mission to seek and to save what was lost.	1	2	3	4	5
I am fueled by a passionate, fervent commitment to the knowledge of the glory of God filling the earth as the water covers the sea (Hab 2:14).	1	2	3	4	5
I reject the idea of simply going to church as a measure of my commitment to Christ and His Church. I seek to actually "be Jesus" to everyone everywhere!	1	2	3	4	5
I function as a missionary where I live, where I work, and where I play.	1	2	3	4	5
I do not only care for the spiritual needs of people but also for physical needs. I embrace spiritual practices that reflect the heart of Jesus for the poor, oppressed and disenfranchised.	1	2	3	4	5
I embody – incarnate, exemplify, represent, personify, demonstrate, typify, show, explain, prove, confirm, illustrate, epitomize, display, exhibit, verify, attest, substantiate, authenticate, express, characterize, and be – the gospel to those in the culture around me.	1	2	3	4	5
I am a committed follower of Jesus – loving, obeying, serving, honoring, sacrificing, giving and living like Jesus.	1	2	3	4	5
I am committed to the truth of God's Word and live in obedience to God's Truth!	1	2	3	4	5
I am not interested in someone making a decision but rather in making disciples.	1	2	3	4	5

What is it that you need to drop, in order to better align with the mission of Jesus?

What are the ways that you can impact those in my neighborhood with the gospel?

Who do you know that needs to follow Jesus? Pray for them right now. How can you share Christ's love with these people in the next week?



Session 2: ADOPT MISSIONAL THINKING & BEHAVIORS

- What shifts do we need to make?
 - What habits will we practice?

“As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you”

—John 20:21

“Generally speaking, unsaved people are to be reached *by* the church,
not *in* the church.”

—Gene Getz, *Sharpening the Focus of the Church*

Missional Transformation

Missional Transformation is a process of discovery that begins when believers recognize their responsibility to align themselves (passions, desires, behaviors, habits) with the missionary purpose of Jesus.

Missional Transformation requires a series of significant shifts in one's thinking and behaviors; shifts away from "doing church" in ways that are familiar and even comfortable to actually "being Jesus" to everyone!

Minor Change?

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

It is about new behaviors and requires...

- Radical adjustment
- Realigned activities
- Relevant approaches
- Redemptive action

Alignment, not Assignment

When we act out of our own reasoning rather than aligning ourselves with God's ways, we are like an obstinate goat that puts itself at cross purposes with the Master's will. If we want to be on mission with God we simply *must* pause long enough to understand *how* God is on mission. Only then can we know with some degree of certainty that we are aligned as his instruments and not misaligned as his obstacles.

David Garrison, *Church Planting Movements*

► Stop and Think: How will you function as a missionary where you live, work and play?

Disciples, not Decisions

- What if the focus of evangelistic activity shifted from leading someone to make a decision to leading someone to make disciples?
- What if the measure of our accomplishment did not focus on conversions but on everyone making disciplemakers?

▶ Stop and Think: How will you make disciples who make disciples who make disciples?

“Being Church,” not “Doing Church”

“We are not called to *go* to church. We are called to *be* the church.”
George Barna, *Revolution*

“The church is first and foremost a *community*, a collection of people who belong to one another because they belong to God, the God we know in and through Jesus.... The church exists for two closely correlated purposes: to worship God and to work for his kingdom in the world. You can and must worship, and work for God’s kingdom, in private and in ways unique to yourself, but if the kingdom is to go forward, rather than around and around in circles, we must work together as well as apart.”
N. T. Wright, *Simply Christian*

▶ Stop and Think: How will you start “being the church” and not just “do church”?

Mission, not Maintenance

“Too many churches are trying to prohibit themselves from dying that they cannot live.”
Pastor Jim Ryan, *Heart of the Canyons Church*

Maintenance-minded churches tend to design most of their events for their members. Missional churches exist to reach those who are not yet part of the church, and so design activities that connect them with people outside the church.

Milfred Minatrea, *Shaped by God's Heart*

► Stop and Think: How will you stay focused on the mission and not on the needs of church members?

Incarnational Practices, not Institutional Programs

Jesus was a disciplemaker. Discipleship was not a program; it was a pattern of His life. As He was going through the villages of Galilee, He invested in the spiritual development of those with Him. Discipleship has to be more than completing a course or a program. It must be a practice of spiritual reproduction.

► Stop and Think: What incarnational practices will you adopt to care for the physical needs of those around you – the last, the lost, and the least?

Sending Capacity, not Seating Capacity

“Missional churches measure growth by their capacity to release rather than retain.”
Milfred Minatrea, *Shaped By God's Heart*

► Stop and Think: How will you focus on equipping your members as disciplemaking missionaries? when will you start?

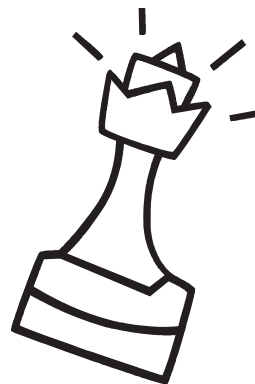
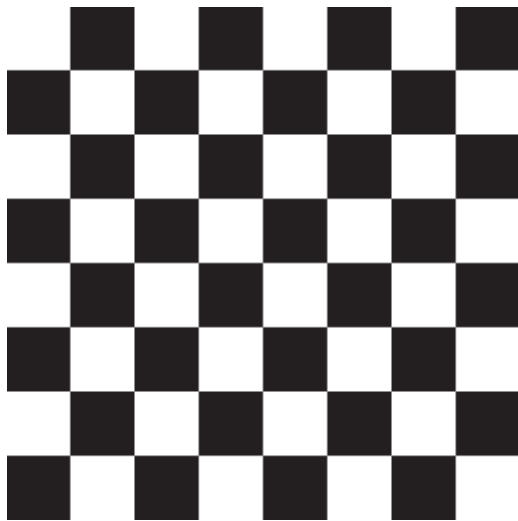
People of God, not Place of God

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9–10

“Where's Your Church?” – How would you answer that question?

► Stop and Think: How will you help others to understand that church is not a destination?

“Remove the Queen”



► **Stop and Think:** How will you start being the church even before you start public worship services?

Missional Values → Behaviors

Values reflect a person's unique beliefs, core convictions, and guiding principles. These values will guide ongoing attitudes and behaviors. Often times, values are unwritten assumptions that guide actions. In any situation...

Values are confirmed by actions, not just by words.

Values are more about deeds than words. Core values should be able to be expressed in terms of acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

Values help us determine what to do and what not to do. They're deep-seated, pervasive standards that influence every aspect of our lives: our moral judgments, our responses to others, our commitments to personal and organizational goals. Values set the parameters for the hundreds of decisions we make every day. Kouzes & Posner, *The Leadership Challenge*

Another way of viewing values is that values are "rules of the road" for people on a journey.

Core values are necessary to help people with day-to-day decision making. Vision is long term. People need guiding stars to navigate and make decisions day to day. But core values are only helpful if they can be translated into concrete behaviors. For example, one of our core values is openness, which we worked long and hard to understand—finally recognizing that it requires the skills of reflection and inquiry within an overall context of trusting and supporting one another. Peter Senge, *The Fifth Discipline*

Conflict in churches often arises from differing expectations or values. The mission of Jesus is often hindered because missional values are not embraced in a local church. If these values are absent or not practiced, even the highest levels of commitment to Christ and devotion to one another will not accomplish the mission.

ACTION STEP 2.1

Preferred vs. Practiced Values

It is important to recognize that there is a difference between *preferred values* and *practiced values*.

- *Preferred Values* are important beliefs, but they are not always exhibited in behaviors.
- *Practiced Values* are an obvious part of one's behaviors.

Discuss: In groups, consider these values: Teamwork, Integrity, Community, Prayer...

What does it look like when _____ is a preference?

What does it look like when _____ is a conviction?

Reality Check: Values must match our behaviors!

Identifying Core Values

Core Values are...

- _____ – they rarely change.
- _____ – they generate emotion and energy.
- _____ – they are rooted in Scripture.
- _____ – they reflect God's unique assignment.
- _____ – they influence what you do! (not what you say)

Core Values are NOT...

- Core values are not statements of faith, belief, or theology.
- Core values are not a biblical purpose statement which could describe every congregation.
- Core values are not a list of our favorite programs. The programs are the delivery systems.

Why Values Are Important

Although they are not our theology they must be firmly rooted in Scripture and thoroughly understood by the leaders and emerging church body. Firmly rooted values protect the church from every strong opinion or dominant personality that tries to shape the church. Strong values keep the church from being taken off course by every fad or new program that comes along.

Steve Ogne, *What Are My Ministry Values?*

- Values provide the foundation for formulating goals and setting the direction of your church's ministry.
- Most strategic planning fails because values are not articulated at the beginning of the process. If values differ significantly, even the best action plan will not be effectively implemented.
- Conflict in churches often arises from differing values.

Values Describe Who You Are!

- They are the hills you have already died on.
- When the waves come, you will throw values off the ship that are not yours. You'll throw over the side the things that you don't hold on to.
- They are measured by your calendar and your checkbook.



Clarifying your values will enable you to...

- Explain to others what you are doing.
- Build agenda harmony.
- Maintain your missional focus.
- Use Resources wisely.

ACTION STEP 2.2

Identify Biblical Values

1. Read Acts 2:42-47.
2. List the behaviors and accompanying values evidenced in the early church.

Behaviors

/

Values



ACTION STEP 2.3

Discern Our Values

Answer the following questions...

1. If the Church is to be what God designed it to be, what should we be doing?
2. What do you get passionate about? What makes you slam the table? Or weep?
3. How do you invest your time and money?
4. For what do you want your church to be known?
5. If we were serious about embodying the mission and message of Jesus, what would we be doing?
6. What are the essential functions of a missionary?
7. What did Jesus do to fulfill His mission?
8. What did the early Church do to fulfill the mission?
9. What is keeping believers from incarnating the gospel?
10. What would it look like to “be Jesus” to those around me?

Understanding Missional Values

- They are not simply beliefs about Jesus, the Church, or the importance of evangelism.
- They are convictions that determine if and how believers will function as missionaries everywhere they go.
- They influence goals and the direction of missional activity.
- Without missional values, there will be no missional behaviors.

Missional Values MUST be evident in Missional Behaviors!

Authenticity

How do we as a community demonstrate authenticity?

- We don't pretend to be spiritual
-
-
-
-

Compassion

How do we as a community demonstrate compassion?

- We serve others 3x each week
-
-
-
-

ACTION STEP 2.4

Clarify Our Values

1. Circle 7-10 words in the wordle below that reflect your values or choose your OWN. (<http://www.wordle.net/>.)

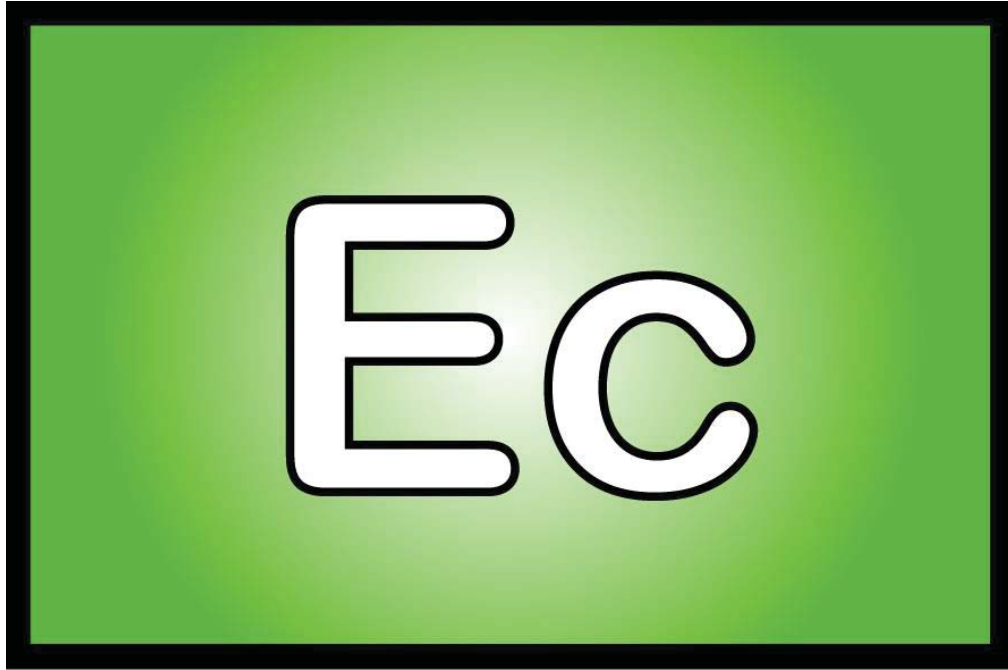


2. Prayerfully list 4-7 core values on the chart below.
3. Provide 2-3 behavioral indicators for each core value.
4. Include a key verse or passage for each core value.
5. Share your list with another person and seek feedback.

Value	Behavioral Indicators	Key Scriptures
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ ▪ 	
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ ▪ 	
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ ▪ 	
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ ▪ 	
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ ▪ 	
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ ▪ 	
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ ▪ 	

6. Discuss how each core value impacts...

- how you spend your time
- how you deal with crisis
- how you budget
- what you reward



Session 3: EXEGETE THE CULTURE!

- What is unique about our community?
 - Who are we trying to serve?

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

—Jeremiah 29:7

“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.”

—Acts 17:26-27

How Do You Interpret Your Neighborhood?

“Most of us have been taught to look at a text in context. The single verse or passage may communicate powerfully and immediately by itself, but it usually helps us to relate it to the chapter and the book, to know what kind of literature we are reading, to know something about who wrote it and when and why. We need to apply the same principle to our neighborhood. We can regard it as a specific text, or we can work to find out what makes the city tick and how that affects our community.”

– Dr. Ray Bakke

I Chronicles 12:32 – The Men of Issachar

“...understood the times and knew what Israel should do.”



Start with Research!

“Like Joshua and Caleb, as they spied out the promised land, we need Spirit-directed research on the ‘harvest force’ (the church) and the ‘harvest field’ (the world) ... We need to observe the signs of the time; we need to read and interpret the newspapers, statistics, trend analysis and whatever helps us to understand that nature and magnitude of the unfinished task in a nation. Since we cannot really love what we do not know well, knowing our country better allows us to love it better.”

- Wolfgang Simson, *Houses that Change the World*

Exegete the Culture

Many church planters arrive in a new community to plant a church with a plan already in place. Not so fast.

Plant a church in your mission field, not in your head!

Before you are able to start planning what your church will look like, you must submerge yourself deeply into the context where you want to serve. Of course, the best way to do this is to live with the people: learn their idioms, study their humor, enjoy their food, listen to their stories, and sing their songs. This takes time.

A short-cut is to learn to observe with spiritually sensitive eyes, like Paul when he visited Athens.

Read Acts 17 – What did he see? What did he feel? What can we learn from his example?

Living & Learning Among Them

The KEY to being effective in understanding the people you are trying to reach is **living within the community** and within the people you seek to reach for Christ. We cannot emphasize this enough! Loving them, respecting them, and learning from them is a continual process of identification. You will become one with your people not only during the initial stages of your church plant, but more so throughout your ministry.

As you focus specifically on your Circle of Accountability, ask these two questions:

- 1. Who are the people?** (demographic research)
- 2. What are they like?** (ethnographic research)

Avoid surveys or standardized questionnaires. Instead, build a set of questions in your mind that naturally flows from social context (jobs, education, housing) to interior life (hopes and fears) to religious life (church, religion) to world-view (what aspects of Biblical truth/gospel do they grasp or deny). (see Worksheet 3.4: Write People Profiles)

In a typical conversation with someone in your neighborhood, you may only get through one or two of these topics. But don't rush. Your purpose is to listen and learn, not to cover an agenda.

Types of Research

“Research is the gathering of information for use in decision making.” James Engle

In church planting, research is of utmost importance in gaining understanding of the community we seek to reach with the gospel. As a result, decisions will be made regarding communication, leadership, phrasing of the gospel, and many other connections to the culture.

There are two types of research: (*adapted from Tim Keller*)

1. Demographic - Sociological

- It is *detached* from the group being studied. Normally done on the internet or in the library.
- It is *quantitative* giving raw numbers answering questions such as: how many people live here? Who’s moving into the area? How many two-parent families are there? How many single parents? How educated are the adults? What is their economic base?
- It uses strict protocols in *questionnaires* so that the information is both specific and accurate.

2. Ethnographic - Anthropological

- It gives you a vision for your neighborhood, people and city, not just for your church. By knowing your community in depth, you can begin to develop a concrete vision of what your people group/community would look like if changed by the gospel.
- It reinforces a conviction that you and the gospel are needed by the city and its people. You must believe that you can make a great contribution to the city.
- It removes blindness and gives a conviction that you need the city and its people to teach you much. It is not enough to simply pity the city and the people you are trying to serve, you must expect to learn and be taught by it.

The most important and least practiced form of research by church planters is ethnographic inquiry. It takes more work to really seek to understand the community and your Circle of Accountability in depth.

My Circle of Accountability

Objective: Identify the strategic geographic area where your church plant will repeatedly give every man, woman and child the opportunity to hear and understand the gospel and be reconciled to God.

Circle

“Circle” is a generic term to indicate the specific focus area of your church plant. In very few cases with this focus area be exactly circular in shape, but the use of the term “circle” will help you to describe the specific geographic space where you will commit to reach every man, woman and child with the gospel message.

Defining and embracing your “circle” will enable your church plant to stay externally focused – forcing you to look outward.

Accountability

Embracing your circle will produce a sense of *responsibility before God* to bring the gospel to every man, woman and child within this focused area. This will act as a weight on your conscience reminding you of the responsibility you’ve shouldered to reach those within your circle with the gospel. It focuses your hearts and minds outside the church into the culture around you.

As a result, you will find yourselves praying for the people in your circle with a new perspective and intensity. You will be eager to know more about the people living around you in order to share the gospel in relevant ways. It will also keep your church plant from the peril of inward focus and self-absorption. It will focus your mission beyond the needs of your members on the needs of those who need the gospel.

Circle of Accountability

The phrase “Circle of Accountability” expresses...

...the specific focused area for which your church plant will take responsibility before God to bring the gospel to every man, woman and child.

Reference: adapted from Dwight Smith, *Finding God's Purpose for the Church*

ACTION STEP 3.1

DRAW a Map of Our Community

Include major highways, streets, businesses, schools, parks, natural boundaries, landmarks and where people connect.

Plot your “Circle of Accountability.”

Add details – residential areas, other churches, where you and your launch team members live, etc.

Pray:

- Thank God for this area where He has called you to plant a church
- Ask God to reveal His love through your team to your circle of accountability

Identifying the Harvest Force

Unless your Circle of Accountability is very small, there are other churches of different backgrounds, denominations, styles, and sizes in your Circle. Your relationship with them, and the possibility of partnership for the sake of the gospel is critical. Don't behave as if your church plant is the only church in the Circle.

Look at Possibilities

The task of saturating your Circle with the gospel is both great and challenging. It is much more likely that the vision can be attained more comprehensively, effectively and rapidly if more than one church is working towards its fulfillment. By partnering together with other churches, more people could be impacted with the gospel.

Respect Priorities

Differences between local churches can be many and various. Such challenges cannot be dismissed as unreal or unimportant. Differences and difficulties have to be acknowledged and faced. However, the priority of bringing the gospel to every man, woman and child demands that partnerships must be pursued.

Build Relationships Around Purpose

For local partnerships to work, relationships must be built around purpose. Relationships between church leaders take time to develop and require an investment of energy and resources. Wherever possible, local church leaders and churches should seek to partner together for the sake of the impact of the gospel on your Circle.

Examine the existing churches within your Circle of Accountability (see Worksheet 3.1).

Reference: *Finding God's Purpose for the Church*, Dwight Smith

ACTION STEP 3.2

Know Your Mission Field

► **Discuss with another person:** What is your ministry context?

- Describe the context where you live/work/ minister.

- How did you come to live here?

- What is distinctive about your ministry context?
 - What institutions are important? (commercial/governmental/non-profit/educational/entertainment)

 - What major employers are based here?

 - Local festivals, community events held here?

- What different kinds of people live in your area?

- What attracts people to your area as opposed to other nearby options?

- What is different about your area compared to those surrounding/nearby?

ACTION STEP 3.3

DRAW Focus Group on Poster

1. Outline the body of a Man, Woman and Child on your poster paper. Using your creativity, include the unique sociological and anthropological characteristics of those within your Circle. You may choose to include:

- Interests and Free Time Activities
- Values & Beliefs
- Hopes and Dreams
- Careers & Jobs
- Personal & Community Interests

2. Circle three indicators that show that they are “not far from God.”

3. List 5 Prominent Characteristics:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

ACTION STEP 3.4

Who Are We Called To Serve?

Write a **one paragraph** description of those you are called to serve:

Worksheet 3.1: Church Survey

1. Assess the following information about the churches in your Circle of Accountability:

- Name, Address, Pastor(s), Denomination, Doctrinal emphasis
- Attendance, seating capacity and location of churches
- Spiritual condition of the churches
- Growth/Decline rates of the churches in the last ten years
- Evangelistic programs
- Impact on groups within your Circle

2. Create a priority list of pastors to visit and arrange to meet them one by one.

- Thank God for their ministry in the community
- Learn from them about the needs in the community
- Seek to identify potential ways to partner together
- Share with them what God is saying to you
- Pray for them and their church's ministry

Worksheet 3.2: Identify the Harvest Field

Population Trends:

_____ 10 years ago

_____ Present

_____ 10 years projected

Age Distribution:

_____ % 0-5

_____ % 16-20

_____ % 41-50

_____ % 6-10

_____ % 21-30

_____ % 51-60

_____ % 11-15

_____ % 31-40

_____ % 60+

Median Income: \$ _____ per year

Marital Status: _____ % married _____ % single

Personal Observations from driving and/or walking around:

Learnings from personal interviews with those in the community:

What kinds of churches are needed in this community?

To the best of your ability, write down the following facts about the area you are called to reach:

- Predominant race(s)

- Ethnic minority(ies)

- Predominant religion(s)

- Minority religion(s) and creed(s)

- Predominant language(s)

- Other language(s)

- Predominant industry(ies)

- Place(s) of education

- Major social need(s)

- Other noteworthy fact(s)

Worksheet 3.3: Research Questions

- What is the worldview of those we are trying to reach?

- What is the culture's decision-making pattern?

- What does it cost a person in this culture to become a Christian?

- What redemptive analogy is best for this culture?

- How does this culture view Christianity?

- What does this culture understand about the basic components of the gospel story?

- Is this culture based on shame or guilt?

- How will this culture understand Christian rituals?

- What is the best delivery system for exposing people of this culture to the gospel?

Reference: Tom Steffen, *Reconnecting God's Story to Ministry*

Worksheet 3.4: Write People Profiles

In order to be effective in connecting the gospel message to specific people, there are four profiles that you need to understand:

- Interior Life
What are their hopes, aspirations, fears and problems?

- World-view
What aspects of Biblical truth/gospel do they grasp?
What aspects do they deny?
What symbols/myths function deeply?
Where are there tensions/pressure points in view?
What is the people's story?

- Social Context
What is the economic level?
Educational level?
Power relations to other groups?
Social structure within?

- Religious Institutions
How are the religious bodies and churches within this people group doing?
How are they organized?
What ministry models seem to be effective?

Discovering the answers to these questions requires “hanging out” with people and enjoying them, while at the same time being very intentional in using specific questions to probe these four areas. After conducting multiple “informal interviews,” you will be able to summarize and analyze the data, providing some implications of the type of church you should plant. Using this data – write a profile of who you are trying to reach.

Reference: Redeemer Church Planting Center

Worksheet 3.5: Take a Walking Tour of Your Neighborhood

This should be a walking tour of your Circle of Accountability. Take notes on the area as you walk. Depending on the size, this may take several hours or several trips. Some of the information you may gather should include:

- What are the size of the yards? Note whether they are fenced and how well they are cared for.
- What decorations do people use? Are there flags or other signs of patriotism in evidence?
- What values do people seem to place on personal possessions? What possessions seem to be most important to the people (e.g., cars, houses, yards, etc.)?
- What kinds of cars do people drive? Expensive, new, or old?
- Visit a neighborhood grocery store and compare the costs of some common food items with those in chain grocery stores. Note ethnic foods and other distinctive items in local shops.
- Observe what kinds of events or political issues are promoted on fliers, posters or wall graffiti in the area?
- What can you learn about the churches from their bulletin boards and general appearance of the buildings?
- Are there any social service agencies in or near the area?
- What recreation facilities do the children have in the area?
- Are there any vacant lots in the area? If so, how are they used?
- What tends to bring people together?

After making your notes, write a short 5-page report presenting the data and your analysis and conclusions. Look especially for the underlying order and causes that have formed the area. These may be economic forces, social pressures, political actions, and religious beliefs. They may also reflect the American worldview. Go below the surface of things to see the *dynamics* at work in creating your neighborhood.

Reference: Redeemer Church Planting Center

Worksheet 3.6: Ethnographic Interview

Use this format as a guide to prepare for an interview with a leader of the community. However, seek to know the areas you want to cover without using a formal questionnaire like this one. After the interview, write down your impressions and insights.

Situation: Meeting with a school principal

Purpose: “I am new to this community and would like to start a church that meets the needs of the area. Is this a convenient time for you to give me some advice?”

1. As you deal with young people from this neighborhood, tell me what you sense are their hopes, aspirations and pleasures. To what degree are these realistic dreams?
2. What appears to be their greatest fears and problems? Can you give me some examples?
3. What kind of church if any would people come to? Describe a church that would meet this area's needs.
4. In your opinion, what views of right and wrong do these young people hold? How are these values formed or nurtured? How are they destroyed?
5. What are the major religions represented by your student body? Would you say that most students are religious? How are the religious bodies in the community doing? Which ones seem to be the most effective?
6. Finally, could you give me some idea on how the material/economic aspect of the society in this area is affecting the fulfillment of aspirations and dreams? How could a new church help?

Thank you for your time and valuable information. Who else would it be profitable for me to talk to?

Reference: Redeemer Church Planting Center



Session 4: INCARNATE THE GOSPEL

- How will we bless our community?
 - How will we reach them?

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”

— 1 Thes 2:8

Incarnating the Gospel

“When we got here we noticed that the majority of ministers and leaders did not live in the communities where their churches or parishioners were. Ministers of churches in poorer neighborhoods commuted from safer and more comfortable ones; ministers of churches in Manhattan commuted from more affordable ones. They did so because to move in with the people they were trying to reach entailed great sacrifices (whether moving economically ‘up’ or ‘down.’) We learned that it just doesn’t work. In a myriad of subtle ways, the leaders were unaware of issues their people really faced, and their ministries didn’t ‘connect.’ Fortunately, Jesus didn’t commute from heaven and the spirit world, but moved in with us (John 1:14).”

—Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church

Embodying the Mission and Message of Jesus

It is imperative that Christians be like Jesus, by living freely within the culture as missionaries who are as faithful to the Father and his gospel as Jesus was in his own time and place.

Mark Driscoll, *The Radical Reformation*

Instead of drawing people *out* of community and robbing what community already existed, Jesus’ plan is to inject the gospel into an existing community. Like a virus, the peace of the Good News infects and transforms the community as you live it out!

Proximity and Presence – being with people and close to people

- Live within the culture you are reaching.
- Learn the language.
- Adopt cultural ways.

The late Dr. William Lane said, “When God gives a gift, He wraps it in a person.” The incarnation is best understood as the “Gift of Presence.” That is God’s gift to His lost creation, revealing the very nature of God Himself (Heb. 3:1). The “Gift of Presence” is God “pitching his tent” among us, and revealing Himself to us.

Posture and Position – how we slot ourselves in social structure

- Posture = Servant (John 13)
- Position = Humility (Philippians 2)

The early church grew because its people loved and served ... As we have entered into the life of the city through service, we have had the opportunity to engage with people from whom we normally would be isolated. We are seeing relationships formed and people taking steps toward God and his church as never before. Good deeds form a great bridge over which the good news can travel.

Rusaw and Swanson, *The Externally Focused Church*

The heart of God is to serve a broken world. When Jesus wrapped a towel around his waist, he reminded us that only he could wash away our sin. The church cannot live when the heart of God is not beating within her. God's heartbeat is to seek and save that which is lost. The church exists to serve as the body of Christ, and it is through this commitment to serve that we are forced to engage the culture.

Erwin McManus, *An Unstoppable Force*

Practice

- Imitate Jesus.
- Do what Jesus did.
- Be Jesus...

"We need to get back to Jesus. Jesus will teach about mission more than anyone else."
-- Alan Hirsch

What Did Jesus Do?

- Serve like Jesus
- Love like Jesus
- Sacrifice like Jesus
- Preach like Jesus
- Endure like Jesus
- Care like Jesus
- Pray like Jesus
- Bless like Jesus
- Give like Jesus

Proclamation

- Luke 4:18 – The Spirit of God anointed Jesus...
“to preach...to proclaim...to set free...to proclaim.”
- Col 1: 28-29 – “We proclaim Him admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me”
- Rom 10:14–15 – “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Power and Powerlessness

- Empty yourself of power.
- Come empty-handed.

“For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in Him, yet by God's power we will live with Him to serve you” 2 Cor 13:4

How can you let God's light shine? Matt 5:16

“It is so much more fun to be light in the darkness than to be light in the light.”

-- Dana Cole

When we shine God's light in the darkness it allows people to see Jesus in us.

- Let people see how God has changed your marriage!
- Let people see that Christ has altered your vocabulary!
- Let them see that you have peace now—instead of worrying all the time!
- Let them see how you have experienced God's forgiveness and it has brought you incredible joy!
- Show them your life has a sense of purpose and meaning!
- Show them how you are increasingly being delivered from frustrating and sometimes destructive habits.
-
-
-

Cultivate Relationships

Identify your *OIKOS* – “household.” An *oikos* is the fundamental unit of society involving families, friends, neighbors and associates. The New Testament describes churches meeting in the *oikos*, and it teaches that believers belong to the “household” of God. The spread of the gospel happens most effectively through close relationships. Therefore, it is vital to explore and expand *oikos evangelism*.

Biblical Examples of OIKOS

- Acts 10:22 – _____
- Acts 16:15 – _____
- Acts 16:31-36 – _____
- Acts 18:7-9 – _____

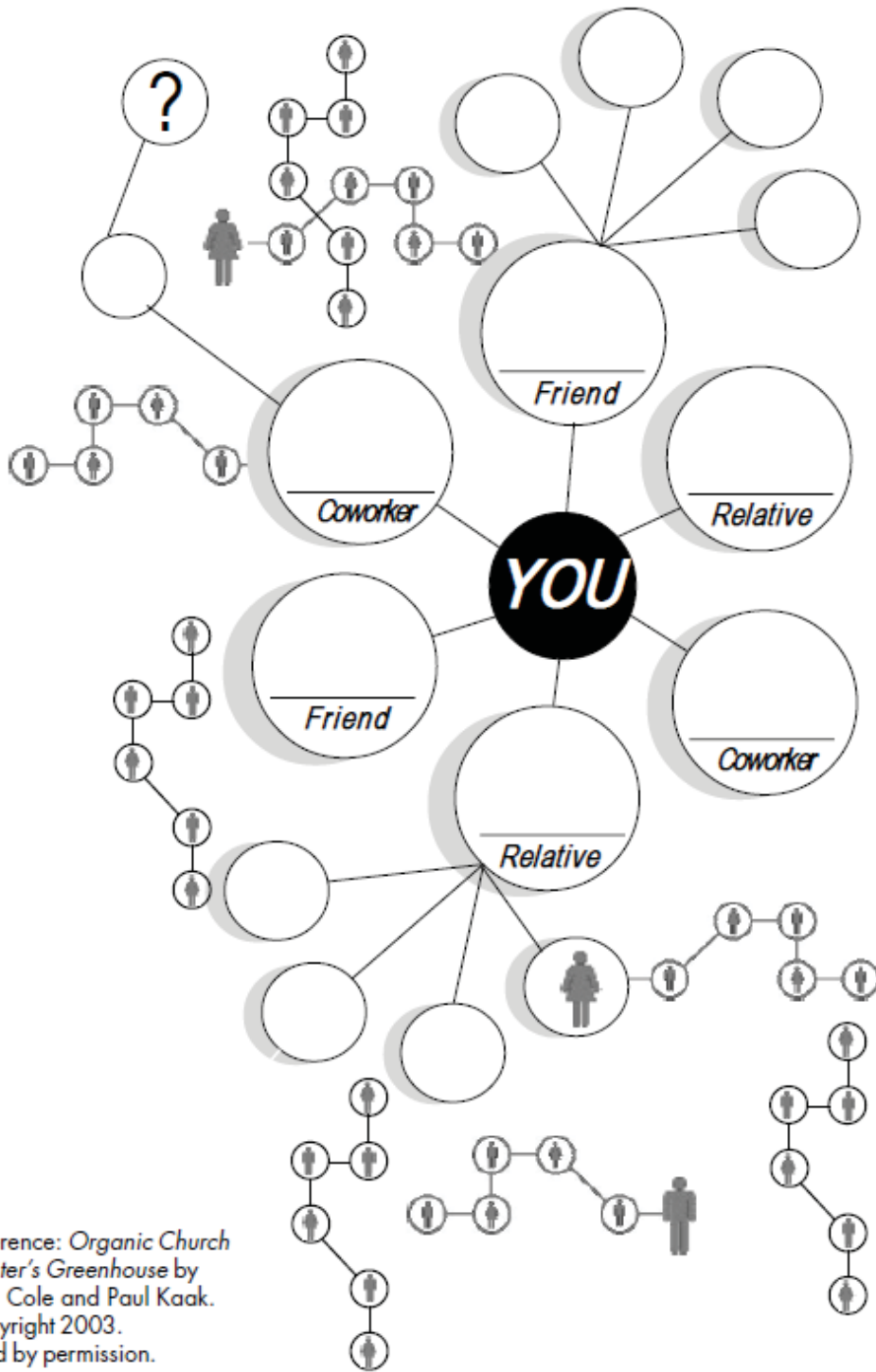
Keys:

- _____ – relationships that are significant take time.
- _____ – changed lives and kingdom values are best seen in everyday living
- _____ – listen carefully to others and the Holy Spirit
- _____ – people are drawn to those who give freely and cheerfully
- _____ – new life in Christ is contagious.

Reference: Neil Cole and Bob Logan, *Beyond Church Planting*

Can you Identify Your *Oikos* Relationships?

Oikos Diagram



Reference: *Organic Church Planter's Greenhouse* by Neil Cole and Paul Kaak. Copyright 2003. Used by permission.

ACTION STEP 4.1 - Identify MY OIKOS

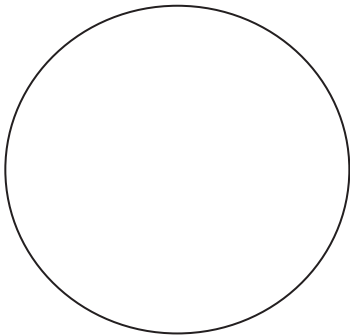
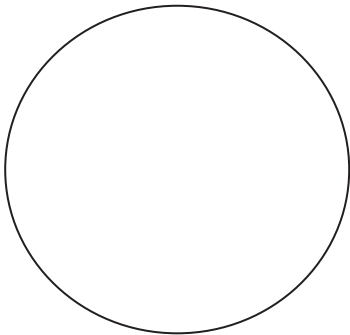
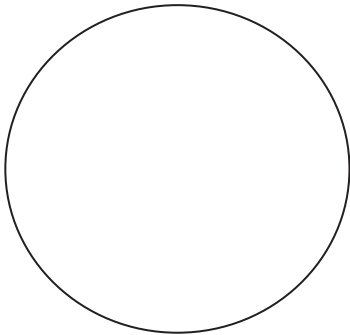
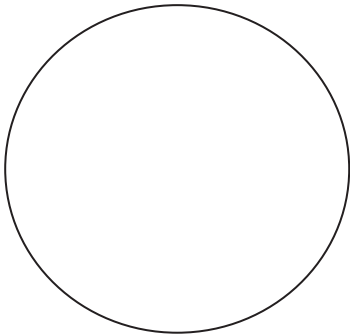
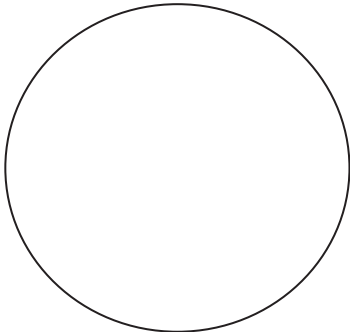
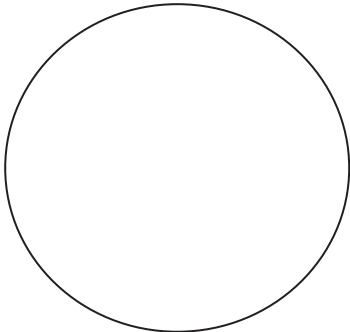
Who Do I Know That Needs Jesus?

1. Identify your *Oikos*. List your natural circles of influence in each box below.

Note: A natural circle of influence includes people who you are currently connected to relationally in areas of your life.

2. Write the first names of unbelievers in each circle who know you by name.

3. Total up the number of names: _____

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<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>

Reference: Adapted from Steve Ogne, steveogne.org.

ACTION STEP 4.2

Brainstorm Ways To Connect

Standing in groups, discuss: *“What is one way you might likely connect with others that is unique to your context?”*

Examples of Relational Fishing Pools:

Soccer, baseball, basketball, hockey, football, and other community sports programs	
Music, band, choir, private lessons, recitals, etc.	Home Owners Association
PTA and volunteering in public schools	Service Clubs
Neighborhood Watch programs	School Athletic Boosters
Chamber of Commerce	Pre-school moms groups
Car pools	Golf or Country Club
Health Club	Block Parties
Babysitting	MeetUp.com
Daily walking or jogging groups	City Government

ACTION STEP 4.3

What Have We Got To Say?

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15

Before I met Jesus, my life was...

I realized I needed Jesus when...

I committed my life to Jesus when...

Since I met Jesus my life is...

I really experienced God when...

A verse I would like to share is...

Starting Missional Conversations

Every person has a story – a unique story of their life history, including their spiritual journey. To understand their journey, you need to know where they have been, where they are and where they are going. By understanding their story, you can be prepared to share your story in a way that they can relate to – and ultimately tell God’s story of grace and forgiveness.

Asking good questions – and really listening to their answers can build a bridge to sharing about your faith. You can take almost any element of a conversation and utilize it to turn the conversation toward spiritual matters. (Note: That’s what Jesus did with the woman at the well in John 4). There’s almost no limit to the ways this can be done. With a little planning and practice, almost anyone can master this.

Here are a few illustrations:

- *Business* – Those in the marketplace commonly ask each other, “How’s your year going?” Rather than give a standard reply, why not answer with something like this: “Well, financially, okay; family-wise, pretty well; and spiritually, things are great. Which one do you want to talk about?”
- *Relocations* – When someone moves into a new home, it’s natural to discuss whether they’ve found good places to shop, dine out, or get their car repaired. Why not add a query concerning whether they’ve found a good church? Even if they tell you that they weren’t looking, it’s a natural lead-in to talking about faith-related topics.
- *Hobbies and Spare Time* – When you talk to someone about your hobbies and spare time, it’s easy to include some ministry-related activity that you enjoy. For example, if you work with the sound system at your church, you could say, “Well, on the weekends I like mountain biking and working with sound equipment.” The automatic response of many people will be to ask for details. Similar approaches could be used in almost any area.
- *Music* – If you listen to the lyrics of songs, you’ll discover many songs raise spiritual issues, even if it might have been written or performed by a non-believer. Talking about the lyrics can lead into talking about the answers you’ve found to the important questions they raise.
- *Sports* – There are incredible opportunities to talk about many well-known athletes that are Christians. If you follow sports, it’s pretty easy to refer to a recent game or event and tell friends about a particular athlete on the team who’s a believer. This will often expand into a wider discussion about what that means.

Reference: *Becoming a Contagious Christian*

- *Shared Struggles* – When you find you have areas of difficulty in common with someone, it's the most natural thing in the world to tell that person how you've been helped by wisdom from the Bible, caring Christian friends, or prayer. This can be effective whether it's a major crisis or relatively minor problem. It could be a lack of communication in your marriage, questions about disciplining your children, or a need to manage food, time or finances.
- *Causes* – Many people are committed to a particular cause (homelessness, breast cancer, political movements, human rights, school reform, etc.) which often are consistent with the Kingdom of God, even though they may be supporting that cause for an entirely different motivation. Showing interest in or knowledge of causes may lead to an opportunity to discuss your spiritual motivation for your cause.

This list could go on and on. Just take the topics that you frequently talk with people about and, like the examples above, figure out creative ways to ease into conversations about your faith and your grace story.

Asking Questions

Asking questions is a great way to redirect conversations toward spiritual things. Asking questions can directly introduce God, Jesus, faith or the gospel into your conversation. *Instead of waiting for opportunities, by asking an appropriate question, you create them.* The way it works is simple. You straightforwardly raise a spiritual topic and then see if the person is interested in talking about it. While you don't force anyone to discuss matters of faith, you do open wide the doorway to doing so.

It's amazing how simple questions can begin a process that ultimately revolutionizes the life of the other person.

ACTION STEP 4.4 – Practice in Pairs

Using the picture of your Man, Woman, or Child – write three questions that may lead to a spiritual conversation.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Listen to Their Story

Discover how God has already been working in drawing others to Himself. After hearing their story we are better able to communicate His story in ways that help them to understand the grace of God.

- Hear Their Story!
- Share Your Story!
- Share His Story!

ACTION STEP 4.5 **How will they know you care?**

- Who is God prompting you to spend time with?

- How can you build relationships?
H _____
H _____
H _____
H _____
H _____
- What Christian friends would they enjoy, and how can you connect them?

- When and how will you begin?

- How will you ensure that your team is focused on building relationships and not simply starting worship services?

ACTION STEP 4.6

How will we Serve our Community?

► DISCUSS:

- What are social and civic needs in your context? (consider all dimensions: physical, economic, social, emotional, relational, spiritual)

- What would your ministry context look like if the Kingdom of God became more manifest there? (problems alleviated, context changed?)

- **What one issue in your context would you most like to impact over the next 5-10 years?**

► ACTION:

1. Pray for those without Christ in your Circle.

2. **List four needs you believe God is calling you to serve in your Circle.**
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

3. What approach could you use to meet these needs in your Circle?

Worksheet 4.1: How could we bless/serve...?

- Single Parents
- The long-term sick
- The unemployed
- The homeless
- The bereaved
- Those in the hospital
- Those in prison
- Drug addicts
- Alcoholics
- Ethnic minorities
- Other groups

Which of the above groups show signs of greater receptivity to the gospel?

How could we best reach out to any of these signs of potential harvest?



Session 5: MULTIPLY DISCIPLEMAKERS

- How will we make disciples?
- When and where will we start?

“True, you will find few scholars or leaders in Christian circles who deny that we are supposed to make disciples or apprentices to Jesus and teach them to do all things that Jesus said ... Jesus’ instructions on this matter are, after all, starkly clear. We just don’t do what he said. We don’t seriously attempt it. And

apparently we don’t know how to do it.”

--Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

Multiply Disciplemakers

“Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed Him. Matthew 4:19-20

Christ exemplified discipleship. Through His life and His words, He commanded us to reach out to others with love and compassion. He also commissioned us to share the gospel.

An ongoing relationship with Jesus is essential for developing and growing as a disciple. Every disciple lives and ministers to his or her community. There is no distinction between “discipleship” and “evangelism.” To be a disciple you must be committed to making more disciples.

“Don’t call it multiplication until you get to the fourth generation. Addition is very seductive; multiplication is slow. We must understand that the power for spreading the movement is in each follower of Christ. A multiplication movement is a chain reaction that has its own momentum.”
- Neil Cole

- If you can’t reproduce _____, you’ll never reproduce _____.
- If you can’t reproduce _____, you’ll never reproduce _____.
- If you can’t reproduce _____, you’ll never see _____.

If you start at the macro level, it will not reproduce. Reproduction starts at the micro level. Discipleship does not begin with conversion – it begins before. If discipling doesn’t start with the lost, you are starting in the wrong place.

“How do you make a disciple? You go to somebody who isn’t one. You win them to Jesus Christ and you teach them all things ‘whatsoever I have commanded.’ You build them in the Word. That’s the job all of us have.”

- John MacArthur

From the Harvest...

Non-disciple

Disciple

Disciplemaker

Disciplemaking leader

Disciplemaking coach/mentor

Pastor, church planter, missionary

Leader of church multiplication movements

...for the harvest!

Christ's Strategy – Obedient Disciplemakers

The time which Jesus invested in these few disciples was so much more by comparison to that given to others that it can only be regarded as a deliberate strategy. He actually spent more time with His disciples than with everybody else in the world put together. He ate with them, slept with them, and talked with them for the most part of His entire active ministry. Robert Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

Disciplemaking starts with non-disciples!

Since Jesus sent us to make disciples who would obey all that He commanded - our focus must not be on preaching for "decisions" but aimed at making obedient disciples.

Make obedient disciples. Then you will see churches multiply. If you just get intellectual decisions, they may believe right, they may know all the dispensations and the covenants, and they may know this and that, but what do you have? Are they multiplying churches? Are they fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ? Are they actually doing what Christ ordered?

George Patterson, *The Spontaneous Multiplication of Churches*

Christ's main commands:

1. _____ (Mark 1:15)
2. _____ (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38)
3. _____ (John 13:34)
4. _____ (Luke 22:17-20)
5. _____ (John 16:24)
6. _____ (Matthew 6:19-21)
7. _____ (Matthew 28:19-20)

"If the heart of discipleship is to become like Jesus, then...we see that Jesus' strategy is to get a whole lot of little versions of him infiltrating every nook and cranny of society by reproducing himself in and through his people in ever place throughout the world."

— Alan Hirsch, *The Forgotten Ways*

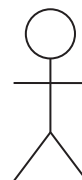
Make Disciples Who Make Disciples

“It is the nature of a disciple to make more disciples. They can’t help themselves—this is who they are.”
--David Watson

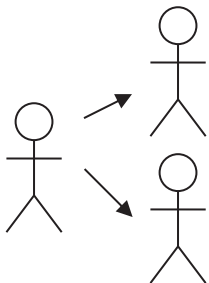
3 Simple Skills

Every believer must develop personal discipling skills. In order to multiply disciplers, you must first be a discipler. Jesus was a discipler. He launched a movement of disciplers.

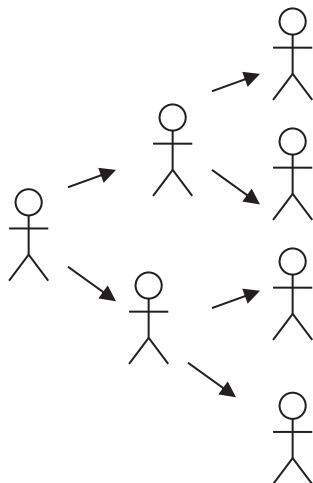
Skill #1: _____



Skill #2: _____



Skill #3: _____



GO! → Sent!

Jesus sends His disciples into the *OIKOS* in Luke 10 and again in Matthew 10. He tells them to preach a message that the kingdom of heaven is near.

“When you enter a house (oikos), first say ‘Peace to this house (oikos).’ If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house (oikos), eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house (oikos) to house (oikos).” Luke 10:5-7

- **P** _____ of **P** _____ : beg for laborers

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest.” Matt. 9:37-38

- **P** _____ of **P** _____ : seek out places where non-believers socialize

“The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them out two and two ahead of Him to every city and place where He was about to come.” Luke 10:1

- **P** _____ of **P** _____ : bring the presence and rule of Christ’s kingdom

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons; freely you received, freely give.” Matt. 10:7-8

- **P**_____ of **P**_____: seek out a responsive person

“And if a man of peace is there your peace will rest upon him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house (oikos), eating and drinking what they give you...do not keep moving from house to house.” Luke 10:6-7

1. _____: they are interested in the gospel
2. _____: they are well connected and quickly refer Christ to others in their pocket of people (oikos)
3. _____: they are persons of well known character (good or bad)

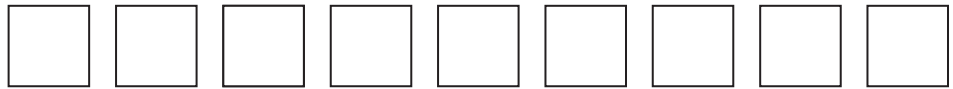
Examples: Matthew (Mt 9), Lydia (Acts 16), Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8), Cornelius (Acts 10), Woman at the well (Jn 4), Gerasene Demoniac (Mk 5)

- **P**_____ of **P**_____: they become the church

“And into whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it; and abide there until you go away. And as you enter the house (oikos), give it your greeting. And if the house is worthy let your greeting of peace come upon it.”
Matt. 10:11-13

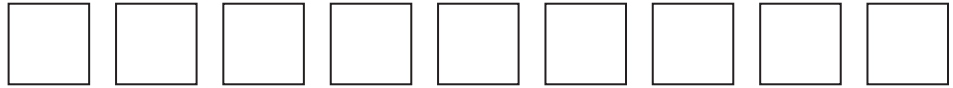
Most people setting out to start new churches automatically think of starting in their own home, but Jesus' idea of starting in the home of new converts is a small shift with global implications. It may take a little longer to find an open home, but it is worth the wait rather than starting in your own home.

Institutional
Approach



Elm Street

Incarnational
Approach



Key:

- Never stop doing the things that cause growth! (Proverbs 28:19)
 - Continue to depend on God for prayer.
 - Continue to build relationships with lost people.
 - Focus on reaching whole networks.

► **STOP AND THINK:** Consider the implications for your Circle of Accountability

Reference: Beyond Church Planting, Neil Cole and Robert Logan.

Adopt Disciplemaking Principles

- Hold your leaders accountable to be making disciples.
- A disciple is not a disciple until one makes another disciple.
- Focus on the few to win many. Jesus did.
- It's about discovery, not preaching or teaching.
- Obedience is more important than knowledge.
- Disciple to conversion, not converts to make disciples.
- The discipling process begins with lost people.
- Expect the hardest places to yield the greatest results.
- Prayer is the starting point for all disciplemaking.
- Keep all things reproducible.
- Following Jesus is about obeying God regardless if anyone else obeys God.
- You have to be intentional about the end product: disciplemakers.
- Accountability and intentionality are critical.
- Making disciples is not a knowledge process – it is a relationship process.

Reference: David Watson, City Team Ministries

Disciplemaking Engine #1: T4T (Training For Trainers)

As believers were faithfully following Jesus as obedient disciples and passing on the gospel and discipleship to others they led to faith, a discipleship revolution emerged in a densely populated corner of Asia. At last count, more than 1.7 million people had been baptized and more than 150,000 churches started. It's called *Training for Trainers (T4T)* because every disciple is expected to train others.

T4T is an all-inclusive process of training believers over the course of 12-18 months to witness to the lost and train new believers to form reproducing discipleship communities generation by generation.

T4T Goal: Multiplying generations of trainers and churches – at least four generations and beyond.

Disciples of Jesus are learning to live out the twin call to **1) follow Jesus, and 2) fish for men** (Mark 1:17). They see people in one of two categories: **lost and saved**. If someone is lost, witness to them. If someone is saved, offer to train them to make disciples.

- + Look for Persons of Peace – spiritually prepared people.
 - Presence – lovingly bring the presence of God to them
 - Power – cry out to God to miraculously reveal Himself to them
 - Proclamation – give clear message of salvation (Gospel + Call to Commitment)
- + Witness to five people every week. Sow the gospel broadly to find Persons of Peace.
 - Get to the Point. (Don't ask, just tell.)
 - Get them to Lostness.
 - Get to the Gospel.
- + Do whatever it takes to fill your weekly (or bi-weekly) schedule with as many training groups as possible.

Session One: WHY – WHOM – HOW

A new believer needs to walk through this WHY-WHOM-HOW session within minutes or hours of salvation

- Why? Cast Vision – Why has God saved you? To reach you and your household
- Whom? Make a name list of their *oikos* and prayerfully prioritize it
- How? Give them a gospel bridge (e.g. testimony) and a gospel presentation
 - Provide adequate time to practice it and set goals with prayer

Session Two and Beyond: Training Trainers

These three parts (or three thirds) are integral to developing trainers

First Third: (Looking Back)

The goal of this time is to evaluate how the trainers did while apart, celebrate together and encourage them that God can build a movement through them.

- Pastoral Care
- Worship
- Loving Accountability
- Vision Casting

Second Third: (Looking Up)

The goal of this time is to look up to God for new direction by studying a new lesson or Bible study.

- New Lesson (give enough Biblical content to obey and pass on)
"SOS"
 - **Say:** What is the passage saying?
 - **Obey:** What should we obey from this passage
 - **Share:** Who is someone we can share this message with?

Final Third: (Looking Ahead)

The goal of this time is to prepare the trainers to implement the things God has been teaching them – evangelism, discipleship, training others, starting a group, etc.

- Practice the Lesson
- Set Goals and Pray for One Another

REPRODUCTION – Some parts are more important to build multiplying generations of disciplemakers. These are most critical:

- Loving Accountability
- Vision Casting
- Practice the Lesson
- Set Goals and Pray for One Another

If pressed for time – don't leave out these parts, or you will end up with a traditional Bible Study and no reproduction. Cut down the content before cutting anything else. You only need to give enough content to obey and pass on!

“If you want real obedience-based discipleship, avoid one of the chief traps: **Never give an assignment or goal unless you plan to ask about it at the next meeting.** Failing to ask about it is the fastest way to kill obedience-based discipleship.”

You may introduce a short discipleship curriculum (6-10 lessons) but long-term disciplemaking must focus on inductive Bible study – ask questions of the text and learn together from the Holy Spirit.

Disciplemaking Engine #2: 3DM/Huddles and LifeShapes

“If you know how to actually make disciples, you will reach people who don’t know Jesus. Because that’s simply what disciples do. That was Jesus’ whole plan. If you disciple people, as these people do mission in their everyday comings and goings, with the work and shaping of the Spirit, the future of the church will emerge.”

- Mike Breen and Steve Cockram, Building a Discipling Culture

Three Ingredients to Build a Discipling Culture:

1. A discipleship vehicle (or engine): **Huddle**
2. People need access to your life. Discipleship can’t be done at a distance.
3. A discipling language: **LifeShapes**

Definition of a Huddle:

A Huddle is a group of four to ten people God has called you to specifically invest in, and you will meet with them regularly (at least every other week) to intentionally disciple them in a group setting. The best discipling relationships always have an intentional, “organized” component to them as well as a less formal, “organic” component. Having a regular Huddle meeting is the “organized” component.

A Discipling Language: LifeShapes^[1] (examples)

1. Learning Circle: *Seeing Spiritual Breakthrough*

- Repent
Observe - Reflect - Discuss
- Believe
Plan – Account - Act

2. Triangle: *Deeper and Balanced Relationships*

- UP: *Connecting with God*
- IN: *Connecting with Others*
- OUT: *Connecting with the Community*

3. Semi-Circle: *Rhythms of Life*

- REST
Abiding - Pruning
- WORK
Growing - Fruitfulness

Disciplemaking Engine #3: Real Life/Bible Storying

When a church spends most of its time and energy putting on a weekly show, the pastor is too busy to create a system by which people are being disciple...If making biblical disciples is the business of the church, and business is good, every need of the church will be met.

– Jim Putman, Real-Life Discipleship

Definition of a Disciple (Matthew 4:19)

- **“Come, follow me”**: a disciple knows and follows Christ (head).
- **“And I will make you”**: a disciple is being changed by Christ (heart).
- **“Fishers of men”**: a disciple is committed to the mission of Christ (hands).

Method of Discipleship

- Jesus was an intentional leader.
- Jesus did His disciple-making in a relational environment.
- Jesus followed a process that can be learned and repeated.

***An Intentional Leader + A Relational Environment +
A Reproducible Process = An Infinite Number of Disciples.***

Five Stages of a Disciple’s Growth

- Spiritually dead (*unbelief*)
- Spiritual infant (*ignorance*)
- Spiritual child (*self-centeredness*)
- Spiritual young adult (*service, God-centeredness, other-centeredness*)
- Spiritual parent (*intentionality, reproducibility, strategy*)

Moving Disciples Forward

- *Spiritually Dead*: share the gospel
- *Spiritual infant*: share your life, share new truth, share new habits
- *Spiritual child*: connect to God, connect to small group, connect to God’s purpose
- *Spiritual young adult*: equip for ministry, provide ministry opportunities, release to do ministry
- *Spiritual parent*: explain discipleship process, release to disciple another with your help, release to disciple alone

Description of a Discipled Person

- Personal Bible study
- Meeting together as part of a church
- Serve others
- Pray
- Give to others
- Be in relationship
- Humble
- Share faith to those who will listen

Mastering the Discipleship Process (SCMD)

- Moving the spiritually dead toward life: *Share*
- Nurturing spiritual infants: *Share*
- Guiding spiritual children: *Connect*
- Training spiritual young adults: *Minister*
- Releasing spiritual parents: *Disciple*

Curriculum: Bible Storying

"We believe that the Bible is the best curriculum available, but we also believe that having trained leaders with the Bible in their hands is God's best way of making disciples." – Jim Putman, Real-Life Discipleship

1. Choose a story set from the Bible that is relevant
(OT to the Cross, The Gospels, Book of Acts, etc.)
2. The group leader learns one of the stories or assigns someone to learn the story.
(Learn so the story is told without reading it, but not word for word.)
3. While the storyteller tells the story, the group reads along to see if the storyteller has missed anything.
4. When finished, the storyteller or leader will rebuild the story, pointing out anything that was missed.
5. The leader often asks someone to tell the story back to everyone without reading. (No one knows who will be asked, so everyone pays attention.)
6. Once the story has been told, rebuilt, and told again, the group leader asks questions to draw out the important truths in the story. For example:
 - a. What new things did you discover in the story that you did not know before?
 - b. What did you learn about God?
 - c. What did you learn about people?
 - d. Which person is most like you in the story?
 - e. What will you take away from this discussion?
 - f. What will you do with what you have learned?
7. Each person identifies application points for their own life.

8 Benefits of Storying

1. It helps people know the Bible.
2. It helps recruit leaders. (Storytelling is part of the human experience.)
3. It is better for real learning.
4. It better arms people for service.
5. It helps people disciple their kids.
6. It helps leaders assess where people are spiritually.
7. It keeps small groups from being boring.
8. People get to know each other.

Reference: Real-Life Discipleship, Jim Putman

Disciplemaking Engine #4: Discovery Bible Study

1. Start with a Person of Peace (Luke 10:6)
2. Seek to lead a person/family/group to discover God and His salvation.
3. The Scripture is the authority. Lead a simple inductive Bible Study each week.

- ◆ Group Interaction

Ask: What are you thankful for this week? (prayer)

Ask: What needs do you or others have? (intercession)

Ask: How can we help meet the needs expressed? (ministry)

- ◆ Accountability

Ask: With whom did you share last week's lesson? (evangelism)

Ask: How did you apply what you learned last week? (obedience)

- ◆ Bible Study

Read the Scripture Text

Others take turns restating the Text.

Ask: What does this passage teach us about God?

Ask: If this is true, how would we have to obey?

Ask: With whom do you plan to share what you just learned?

For pre-believers you will start with Creation and work through the Bible to Christ, focusing on the attributes of God

For new believers you will start with commands of Christ

Focus is on the Scripture, not human opinion

Reference: Discovery Bible Study, David Watson.

ACTION STEP 5.1

Discovery Bible Study: Deuteronomy 6:1-15

1. Chose someone to facilitate the Discovery Bible Study.

(Note: You are not the teacher, you are the facilitator. You ask the questions.)

2. Follow the Process

- ◆ Group Interaction (15 minutes)

Ask: What are you thankful for this week? (prayer)

Ask: What needs do you or others have? (intercession)

Ask: How can we help meet the needs expressed? (ministry)

- ◆ Accountability (SKIP this part)

Ask: With whom did you share last week's lesson? (evangelism)

Ask: How did you apply what you learned last week? (obedience)

- ◆ Bible Study (15 minutes)

Read Deut 6:1-15

Ask others to take turns restating the Text.

Ask: What does this passage teach us about God?

Ask: If this is true, how would we have to obey? I will...

Ask: With whom do you plan to share what you just learned?

3. Discuss insights from this strategy.

I Will

My Words

Scripture

Disciplemaking Engine #5: S.O.A.P. Journaling

Journaling is an excellent way to both record and process what God has spoken to us. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time, to reflect on and review some of the 'gems' that you have received. Without writing them down, you may forget those blessings and some very important lessons! And while journaling is a very personal time with the Lord, you may want to share some of your daily journaling with your small group or mentors. Through discussion, you may be able to look deeper into what God is speaking to you, gain new insight and even encourage others.

S = _____

Open your Bible to the reading found under today's date of your Bible bookmark. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

O = _____

What do you think God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Paraphrase and write this scripture down in your own words, in your journal.

A = _____

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this Scripture can apply to you today.

P = _____

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

Reference: Wayne Cordeiro, New Hope Christian Fellowship.

ACTION STEP 5.2

SOAP Journaling: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Date: _____ Title: _____ Page #: _____

S

O

A

P

Disciplemaking Engine #6: Life Transformation Groups

The LTG system is a grass roots tool for growth. Through this simple system the most essential elements of vital spiritual ministry are released to common Christians without the need for specialized training. It taps the disciple's internal motivation and provides the support needed to grow in the essentials of a spiritual life. The LTG empowers the common Christian to do the uncommon work of reproductive discipling.

Here is a simple overview of what an LTG is:

1. LTGs meet once a week for approximately an hour.
2. LTGs are groups of two or three (the 4th person is the beginning of the second group and multiplication is imminent).
3. The groups are not co-ed, but gender specific.
4. There is no curriculum, workbook or training involved.
5. There is no leader needed in the group.
6. Only three tasks are to be accomplished:
 - a. Sin is confessed to one another in mutual accountability.
 - b. Scripture is read repetitively, in entire context, and in community.
 - c. Souls are prayed for strategically, specifically, and continuously.

What are the strengths of Life Transformation Groups?

1. _____ — Life change does not happen in a vacuum; it happens in relationship with others (Eccl 4:12).
2. _____ — Few things would get done in life without some degree of accountability (Matt 18:15–17).
3. _____ — It is easier to maintain confidentiality in a group of two or three rather than a larger group of ten or twelve (Prov 25:9-10).
4. _____ — It is much easier to coordinate the calendars of only two or three than a typical small group of fifteen (Matt 18:20).
5. _____ — It is easier to reproduce a smaller, simpler group than a larger and more complex entity (2 Timothy 2:2).

Reference: Cultivating a Life for God, Neil Cole.

LTG: Character Conversation Questions

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

These questions are to be asked of one another in a weekly Life Transformation Group. They are to stimulate conversations of character and confession of sin in a safe environment that values honesty, vulnerability, confidentiality, and grace. Choose someone you can trust and will keep confidences. These questions can be asked in a small group if you trust the group or with just one other person.

1. How have you experienced God in your life this week?
2. Did you hear from God this week by regularly spending time in the Bible and praying?
3. As a result of your time with God this past week, how have you determined you can better obey God?
4. Did your life reflect verbal integrity this week?
5. Did you express a forgiving attitude toward others this week?
6. Did you practice any undisciplined or addictive behavior this week?
7. Were you honorable in your financial dealings?
8. Did you pray for your pre-Christian friends this week?
9. Were you able to talk with someone about Christ this week? If not, how will you better determine to do this?
10. Have you damaged another person by your words, either behind their back or face-to face?
11. Have you been a testimony this week to the greatness of Jesus Christ with both your words and your actions?
12. To whom have you shown God's love this past week?

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another,
and pray for one another so that you may be healed.*
James 5:16

LTG: Strategic Prayer Focus

Identify two or three people whose salvation you feel led to pray for.
Weekly pray for these people using these sample prayers.

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.
Romans 10:1.

Names:

1. I pray, Lord, that you draw _____ to yourself (*John 6:44*).
2. I pray that _____ will seek to know you (*Acts 17:27*).
3. I pray that _____ will hear and believe the Word of God (*1 Thessalonians 2:13*).
4. I ask you to prevent Satan from blinding _____ to the truth (*2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Timothy 2:25-26*).
5. Holy Spirit, I ask you to convict _____ of his/her sin and his/her need for Christ's redemption (*John 16:7-11*).
6. I ask you to send someone who will share the gospel with _____ (*Matthew 9:37-38*).
7. I also ask that you give me the opportunity, the courage, and the right words to share with _____ (*Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:3-6*).
8. Lord, I pray that _____ will turn from his/her sin (*Acts 17:30-31; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10*).
9. Lord, I pray that _____ would put all his/her trust in Christ (*John 1:12; 5:24*).
10. Lord, I pray that _____ will confess Christ as Lord of his/her life, that his/her faith would take root and grow, and he/she would bear much fruit for your glory (*Luke 8:15; Romans 10:9-10; Colossians 2:6-7*).

Adapted from Search & Rescue. Neil Cole.

Disciplemaking Engine #7: Sharing Scripture/5 Questions

Simply walk through books of the Bible together in community. Here's a simple habit your community can use around Scripture that proves to be meaningful to both believers and non-believers.

Stretch out your right hand as far as you can. Next, measure the distance between your thumb and pinky. Read that much Scripture only. Preferably a contained story or idea—like the second chapter of James, or a parable, or one of the Psalms like chapter 23.

After you read the Scripture, ask these five questions and let people answer as they feel led:

1. What did you like about what we just read?
2. What didn't you like?
3. Was there anything you didn't understand?
4. What did you learn about God?
5. Regardless of where your faith is at right now, if you were to apply what we learned about God to something in your life this week, what would that look like?

Reference: The Tangible Kingdom, Hugh Halter and Matt Smay

Our Disciplemaking Pathway

Visualizing your process for spiritual reproduction and the next steps toward making disciples will help you focus your church planting activities.

What is the goal of discipling?

“A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.” Luke 6:40

- A church is only as good as its disciples. The overall goal must be a church of disciples who are motivated to live and die for Jesus. Every disciple is commissioned by God to reproduce.
- Each healthy disciple should become more and more like his/her Master – Jesus.
- Reproduction can only occur if the disciples are each healthy, growing and connected to the Master.

► Consider:

1. How are you connecting with those in your *oikos* to build relationships?
2. How are new Christians being drawn into the discipling process?
3. What is your current process to raise and multiply disciples? How reproducible is it? What needs to change?

ACTION STEP 5.3

Disciplemaking Engine

How will we as a church make disciples who make disciples who make disciples?

Our Primary Disciplemaking Engine: (brief description)

Options to Consider:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> #1. T4T (Training for Trainers) | <input type="checkbox"/> #6. Life Transformation Groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #2. Real Life/Bible Storying | <input type="checkbox"/> #7. Sharing Scripture/ 5 Questions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #3. 3DM/Huddles and LifeShapes | <input type="checkbox"/> #8. Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #4. Discovery Bible Study | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #5. Soap Journaling/Study | |

ACTION STEP 5.4

Disciplemaking Flow-Chart

Our Core Values: (copy from pp 39-40)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

5 Prominent Characteristics of the Culture: (copy from p 49)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Our Primary Means of Serving Others: (choose one way to start – p 69)

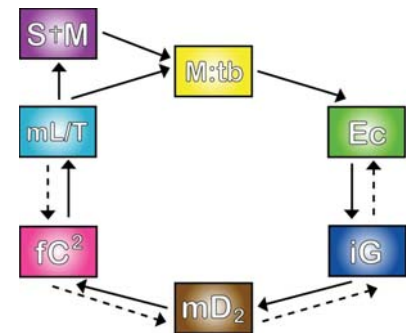
Objective: Identify your primary method for Making Disciplemakers and then create a diagram showing how your major ministry activities contribute to multiplying disciples and disciplemakers.

- Show each ministry activity in relationship to our primary Disciplemaking Engine
- Show the logical sequence by which a person is introduced to faith in Jesus and their next steps in following Jesus.
- Include the intended result of each step.
- Identify any essential steps that are missing.
- Determine what is required to move people toward becoming disciplemakers.

Action:

- **ON TOP OF PAGE:** Write your church name
- **MIDDLE OF PAGE:** Write your Disciplemaking Engine on Post-It®

1. List each major step in your disciplemaking pathway on a Post-It® Note.
2. Organize each ministry/activity in a logical order on a poster. In what sequence do people typically progress as disciples?
 - Spiritually Dead
 - Spiritual Infant
 - Spiritual Child
 - Spiritual Young Adult
 - Spiritual Parent



3. Identify any missing essential steps.

How will we seize the mission? act like missionaries? exegete the culture? incarnate the gospel? meet needs? find Persons of Peace? present the Good News? baptize? teach to obey? train to make disciples? form communities? celebrate? mobilize teams? develop leaders?
4. Identify any unnecessary ministry activities.
5. Consider what level of commitment is required for involvement at each step.
6. Determine the communication and relationships required to move people to the next level of commitment and involvement.
7. Use arrows to connect your ministries, steps, and activities to create “flow” to move people to toward spiritual reproduction.

Reference: Adapted from *Church Planter's Toolkit*, Page 3-23

How do we connect people to God and to each other?

Evaluation: Does our pathway...

- Reflect our core values and habits?
- Identify a clear path to connection / community?
- Include spiritual reproduction?
- Factor in the importance of obedience?
- Align with the mission of Jesus?

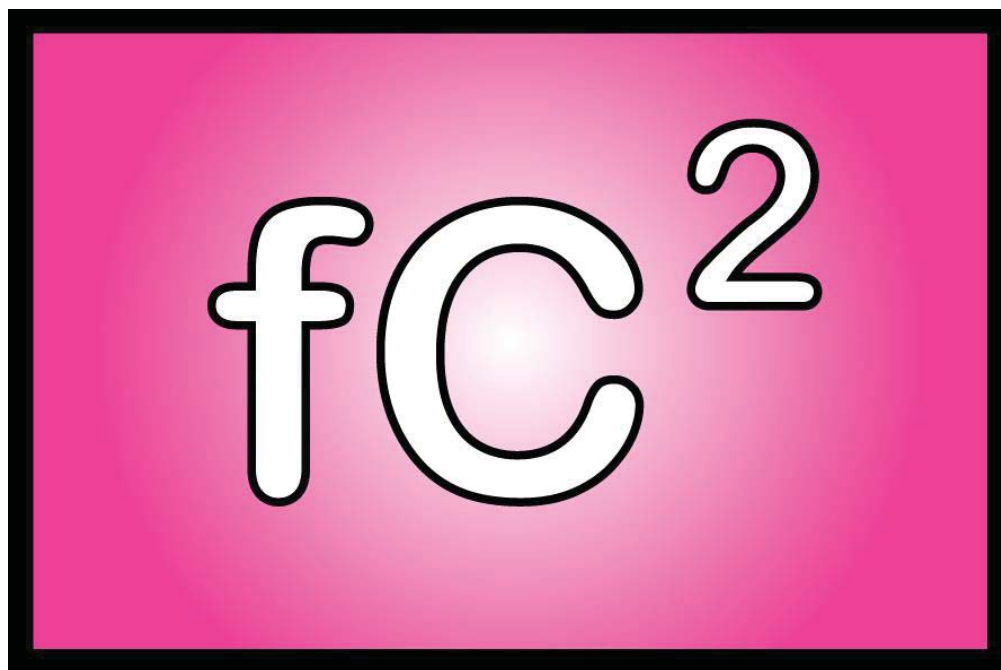
Warning:

Church planting with a predetermined model presents significant limitations. It is like reusing a box to package something. The box may be too big, too small or not the right shape to adequately enclose the item. A box and associated packaging designed and built for a specific item serves to contain the item in the best possible fashion. Jesus used the idea of a wineskin. Not only does a church plant require a new wineskin. But EVERY church plant requires a new unique wineskin.

No two batches of wine produced by the Holy Spirit are exactly the same. Culture, location, geography and local customs should all affect what that wineskin looks like. Even in the New Testament, the four Gospels each contain the same message, but present a different portrait of Jesus. Each and every church plant is a unique incarnation of Jesus in a given context.

The mission is the same – making disciples who make disciples who make disciples!

The forms and pathway for discipling must be unique to your context.



Session 6: FORM MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES →CHURCHES!

- How will we build community?
 - How will we gather publicly?

“For Paul, faithfulness to the Great Commission meant more than preaching evangelistic messages here and there. It meant completing a sequence of activities that would result in mature churches. We could say without overstating the case that, for Paul, to “make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:19) *required* planting churches.”

--Jon Haley, *Toward a Biblical Theology of Church Multiplication*

Plant the Gospel

“When the gospel is planted, as Paul puts it, it is God who ‘makes it grow’ (see 1 Cor. 3:6–7). When one focuses on planting the gospel among unreached people he becomes open to God’s process for building His church. On the other hand, when we focus on the planting of a church over the planting of the gospel, our focus can become organizational, programmatic, and institutional. Therefore, we must focus on the planting of the gospel.”

--Tom Cheyney, *Seven Steps for Planting Churches*

The pattern of Paul...

- Making Disciples
- Starting Churches

Starting churches is the natural outflow of missional activity!

“The heart of Paul’s strategy was the church ... Paul’s ministry resulted in churches. He left behind congregations equipped to care for their own needs and to join him in missionary outreach as well.”

--Roger Hedlund, *The Mission of the Church in the World*

How Will We Build Community?

Loving relationships are at the heart of a healthy, growing church. Jesus said that people will know that we are His disciples by our love. Practical demonstration of love builds authentic Christian community and brings others into God's kingdom. The heart of Christianity can be summed up in one word: love.

- Jesus said, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." -- Matthew 22:37-40
- "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." -- John 13:35

ACTION STEP 6.1 **Understanding Biblical Community**

READ Acts 2:41-47

What makes "community" biblical?

What are the primary functions of biblical "community"?

What opportunities will we provide to help people develop personal relationships with other people in our church?

How will we care for people who have specific needs or challenges in their lives?

When and where will we encourage people to share deeply about joys and heartaches?

Community is a little like sourdough bread. The way to start a new batch is to get a "starter" from a previous batch. If one has never experienced true Christian community, it will be difficult to lead a group into community.

Characteristics of Christian Community

- Christian community is similar to the extended family. It is a network of people who create a place where:
 - one can belong and feel a part
 - one can be vulnerable without fear
 - needs are addressed
 - interpersonal relationships are nurtured
 - there is a basis for outreach
 - it is safe to grow spiritually and emotionally
 - one is challenged to use gifts for the benefit of others
 - one can find support in troubling times
- The challenge for Christian communities is to not only provide for existing members but also to be an open community which continually makes room for and invites others to be a part.

Insights:

- With the disintegration of the extended family and of the neighborhood community, people are looking for a place to belong. Christian community will draw in those who are hungry and thirsty for connection, relevance and acceptance.
- Missional Communities are the best environment for people to experience community.
- Authentic Christian community is inclusive.
- Christian community and loving relationship will enable disciplemakers to be more effective.

What is a Missional Community?

A missional community is a family of missionary servants who make disciples who make disciples.

Family (John 1:11-13; Romans 12:10-16; Ephesians 5:1-2)

Missionaries (Matthew 3:16-4:1; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 13:2)

Servants (Matthew 20:25-28; John 13:1-17; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Peter 2:16)

Disciples (Matthew 28:19-20)

The Missional Community is the best context in which this can happen. Disciples are made and developed:

1. **through life on life**, where there is visibility and accessibility
2. **in community**, where they can practice the one anothers
3. **on mission** where they learn how to proclaim the gospel and make disciples.

Adapted from Jeff Vanderstelt, *Soma Communities*.

ACTION STEP 6.2

Forming *Community* in Missional Communities

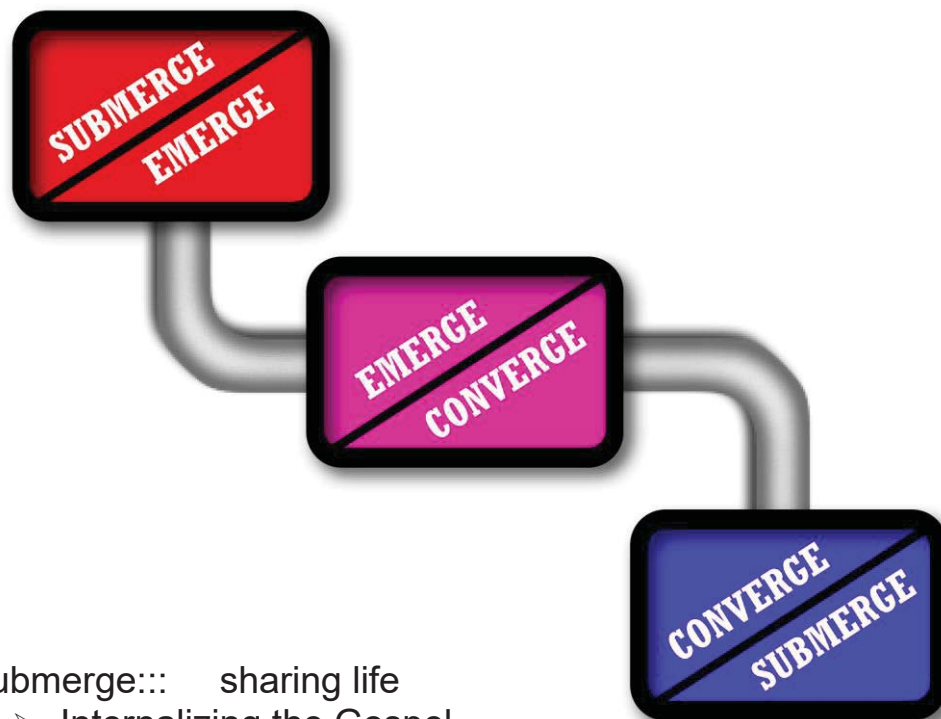
Discuss in groups of 3-4 participants:

(Write your responses - they will be turned into action items for your strategic timeline)

1. What opportunities will our church provide for people to go beyond the "Hi, how are you?" stage of relationship?
2. How will we consistently and systematically invite newcomers to be part of Missional Communities? How will we start new Missional Communities?
3. How will we train leaders to develop community?
4. When and how will we celebrate community?
5. What will ensure the quality of relationships among people? How will we strengthen those relationships?
6. What structures are we putting in place that will nurture community?

The ministry of a local church is often judged on the relationships of its people. While preaching and programs may draw people to church, it will be supportive relationships that provide the glue for attenders to stay and engage in greater spiritual growth.

Preparing to Multiply Communities



1. Submerge::: sharing life
 - Internalizing the Gospel
 - Building Relationships
 - Establishing Your Circle of Accountability
 - Loving your Neighbor as Yourself
2. Emerge::: blessing the neighborhood
 - Incarnating the Gospel
 - Strengthening Relationships
 - Being “Jesus” through acts of service
 - Becoming Known
 - Finding Persons of Peace
3. Converge::: thriving together
 - Inhabiting the Gospel
 - A Recognized Presence
 - Disciples are Making Disciples
 - The Light is Shining

This may lead some to submerge again!

Reference: Neil Tibbott, Church Resource Ministries

Starting Churches by Making Disciples!

It's about cookies, not cookie jars!

The goal is not starting church services. The goal is making disciples who make disciples who make disciples!

Warning: Beware of Premature Birth! (gathering publicly too soon)

- requires Life Support
- prevents networking and relationship building

Key: Healthy Birth Weight

A major reason that church plants fail, or remain “flawed,” is premature birth—the church is too underdeveloped to survive.

Don't start gathering for public worship services until you've baptized new believers!

➤ Submerge



1. Seize Jesus' Mission

- Recognize that you've been commissioned to make disciples who make disciples.
- Commission every new believer to make disciples who make disciples.



2. Adopt Missionary Thinking and Behaviors

- Embrace missional living.
- Train every new believer to embrace missional living



3. Exegete the Culture

- Discover the people and sub-cultures around you in your Circle of Accountability.
- Train every new believer to discover the people and sub-cultures around you in your Circle of Accountability.

➤ Emerge



4. Incarnate the Gospel

- Be Jesus to everyone everywhere - embody Christ's message.
- Train every new believer to “Be Jesus” to everyone everywhere and to embody Christ's message.



5. Multiply Disciplemakers

- Follow Jesus and fish for men, training others to follow Jesus and to fish for men.
- Train every new believer to follow Jesus and to fish for men, training others to follow Jesus and to fish for men.

➤ Converge



6. Form Communities -> Churches

- Form Missional Communities with followers and potential followers of Jesus, and then start churches as they multiply.
- Train every new believer to form Missional Communities with followers and potential followers of Jesus, and then start churches as they multiply.



7. Mobilize Leaders and Teams

- Mentor leaders and teams to reproduce discipling leaders and teams.
- Train every new believer to mentor leaders and teams to reproduce discipling leaders and teams.

This Submerge-Emerge-Converge Process is Continuous!

Submerge: [Months 1-6 + ongoing]

Align with Jesus' mission and adopt a missionary lifestyle in the community!
Begin formation of your Missional Team.

Priorities:

1. Personally commit to making disciples who make disciples
2. Embrace missional living
3. Study the subcultures around you
4. Pray for harvest workers
5. Find Persons of Peace
6. Keep building relationships – this is critical!
7. Discover ways to bless others
8. Prepare for servant evangelism activities
9. Gather together as a Missional Team
10. Anticipate starting Missional Communities

Sample Anticipated Submerge Outcomes:

1. Over 50% of available time is spent with unbelievers.
2. People profiles are written for primary subcultures in area.
3. Persons of Peace identified.
4. Disciplemaking process determined.
5. New believers baptized.
6. Missional Communities model clarified.
7. Missional Team prayer/planning meetings initiated.

Warning: Launch Team members may express the desire to start formal worship celebrations right away. Resist the temptation to rush into weekly worship gatherings or “public worship” too quickly. Building momentum while continuing to focus on missional activities and disciplemaking will ensure a healthier DNA when you do start services!

► DISCUSSION:

What are the pressures to start formal worship celebrations immediately?

My Anticipated SUBMERGE ACTIVITIES:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Warning: Do not move on to Emerge until your Submerge Outcomes are achieved!

My Anticipated SUBMERGE OUTCOMES:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

EMERGE: [Months 3-12 + ongoing]

The period of time during which the new church begins to surface in the mission field to be a blessing and serve others around them. These activities must express the DNA of your church while engaging with those who don't yet follow Christ.

Note: The Emerge phase requires a consistent presence. This phase is not focused on gathering to worship – but on scattering to serve! The Submerge activities continue.

Priorities:

1. Keep building relationships and networking – this is critical!
2. Missional Team strengthening friendships
3. Keep finding Persons of Peace
4. Focus must be on making disciples who make disciples
5. Continue Missional Team gatherings
6. Host multiple “taste and see” events that serve others!
7. Improve follow-up systems and intentionally follow-up all newcomers
8. Potentially start new Missional Communities

Sample Anticipated Emerge Outcomes:

1. Persons of Peace are identified
2. Disciplemaking is happening!
3. Lives are being changed
4. Relationships are being formed and strengthened
5. New believers baptized
6. Surrounding community is blessed!

Potential “Taste and See” Events that could bless others...

Month 1 _____

Month 2 _____

Month 3 _____

Month 4 _____

Month 5 _____

Month 6 _____

My Anticipated EMERGE ACTIVITIES:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Warning: Do not move on to Converge until your Emerge Outcomes are achieved!

My Anticipated EMERGE OUTCOMES:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Converge: [Months 9-18 + ongoing]

The period of time where Missional Communities begin to gather for worship together and during which the new church is being a blessing in the mission field. This marks the public convergence of the church plant.

► STOP AND THINK:

Calculate your projected “Convergence” Month

Today’s date: _____

On-site prep time: # of weeks: _____

- Family issues
- Planning
- Networking

Submerge: # of months: _____

Emerge: # of weeks: _____

Converge: # of weeks: _____

Convergence: Month: _____

► DISCUSSION:

Explain and defend your calculations for determining your Convergence month.

1. If you are part of a team, work first within your team.
2. Share your calculations with another team or person.

Sample Anticipated Converge Outcomes:

1. "Word of Mouth" presence created in your mission field.
2. Baptisms are frequent.
3. Lives are being changed.
4. New disciplemakers are being equipped.
5. More Missional Communities are launched.
6. Leaders are being reproduced.

My Anticipated CONVERGE ACTIVITIES:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

My Anticipated CONVERGE OUTCOMES:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Ministry Obstacles and Opportunities

Calendar Considerations that may impact the phases of development:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

► **ACTION TIME:**

Which obstacles do I need to avoid?

Which opportunities do I need to leverage?

Note: Identify times when people may be receptive to relationship with believers –

-
-
-
-

ACTION STEP 6.3

Developing Our Strategic Timeline


Use Post-It® Notes and a large sheet of poster paper or white board to develop a specific plan for implementing your ministry.

1. Write Submerge – Emerge – Converge on left side of page.
2. Brainstorm important milestones/activities that must be accomplished in each phase (Submerge/Emerge/Converge) and write on individual Post-It® notes (include your thoughts from Action Step 5.3 and 6.2)
 - a. 2-3 Words Only (noun and verb)
 - b. Past Tense
3. Arrange Post-It® notes in a logical sequence on your poster paper.

SUBMERGE
EMERGE
EMERGE
CONVERGE

2-3 Words Only
Noun and Verb
Use only Past Tense

Place post-it notes randomly.
Then arrange sequentially.
Determine needed resources.



SAMPLE...

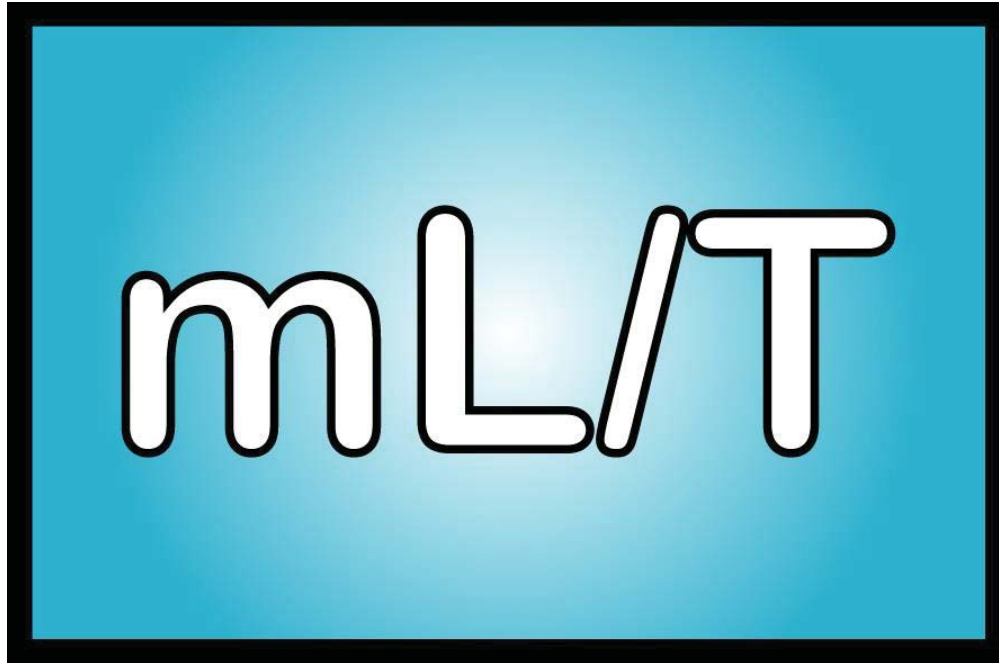
*“Person of
Peace
Identified”*

4. Identify critical milestones – highlight or switch color of Post-It® note.
5. Determine resources necessary to accomplish these tasks.

6. Write your Converge Month on a Post-It® note and place it on the upper right hand corner of your poster paper.
7. Write each month on a Post-It® note that precedes your Converge Month until you reach today's month – and place across top of poster paper.
8. Verify that each activity has sufficient lead-time for accomplishment.
9. Place asterisks by those tasks that can be delegated. Write in the names of responsible people.
10. Complete reality checks
 - a. Is it consistent with our values/practices and disciplinemaking pathway? (Action Step 5.3)
 - b. Is it relevant to our mission field? (Action Steps 3.2, 3.3 & 3.4)
 - c. Are our projections realistic? Is it doable?
 - d. Do we have adequate personnel?
 - e. Are there sufficient resources?
 - f. Are there any gaps?
11. Delegate tasks that others need to complete.

When your project is completed –

- Attach to the wall around the room.
- Evaluate one another's strategic timelines.
 - Ask another team or person to explain their timeline.
 - Offer suggestions for improvement.
- List specific implications of this exercise for you personally.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.



Session 7: MOBILIZE LEADERS & TEAMS

- What teams do we need?
 - How will we build them?
- How will we raise up leaders?

“The number one limiting factor in reaching the harvest is leadership. The future of the church is in its leaders. Any church multiplication movement that wants to multiply churches must also find a way to multiply leaders, for it will quickly run out of existing, ready-to-go leaders. Creating solid, reproducible methods for raising up indigenous leaders from the harvest will feed and sustain a church multiplication movement.”

--Bob Logan, *Be Fruitful and Multiply*

My Missional Team

The Missional Team includes the church planter, ministry partners and team members who have joined to help the launch and development of a new church.

The Church Planter:

- Spiritual leadership and vision casting
- Team building and supervision
- Disciplemaking and leadership development
- Primary communication of Biblical truth
-
-

Ministry Partners:

- Called as much as the church planter is called
- Committed to the task
- Shares the vision and values
- Active disciplemakers
- Committed to the church planter personally
-
-

Team Members:

- Capable
- Disciplemakers
- Available
- Responsible
- Responsive
- Enthusiastic
- Teachable
-

ACTION STEP 7.1

What TEAMS Do We Need? [Goal: 50/50]

Mission



Ministry

How Will We Build Teams?

Ministry Community (vhs)

v. = _____

h. = _____

s. = _____

Reference: Carl George, *Prepare Your Church for the Future*

How Will We Raise Leaders?

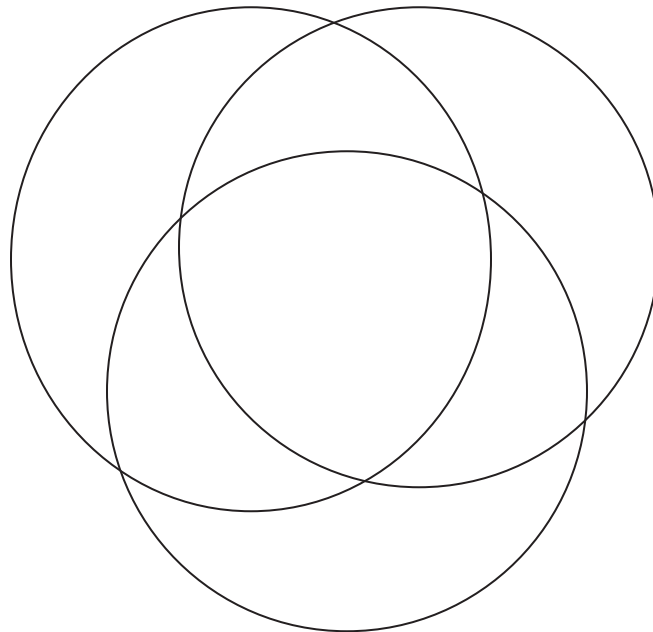
“Everything Rises and Falls on Leadership.”

Key Questions

- Where do pastors and churches find spiritual leaders?
- How are emerging leaders developed?
- What is the process for raising up spiritual leaders in your church?
- Who is responsible for the ongoing training and development of leaders?

Leadership Culture: Three Spheres

1. Spiritual Formation
 - Being = who a leader is...
2. Biblical Study
 - Knowing = what a leader understands...
3. Practical Ministry Skills
 - Doing = what a leader does...



What does an Enduring Leadership Culture look like?

Culture describes "...the behavior patterns, style, and practices that veteran members automatically encourage new members to follow."

Henry Klopp, *The Ministry Playbook*

A commitment to....

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Leadership Development

Speed of the Leader = Speed of the Team!

It starts with the Lead Pastor!

It cannot simply be delegated!

It cannot rely on recruitment!

Initiating a Leadership Development Pathway

“And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”
2 Tim. 2:2

- All leaders must embrace the responsibility for leadership multiplication!
- Just as all disciples of Jesus ought to be disciple-makers, so all leaders ought to be mentoring leaders.
- Spiritual Leaders are developed over a lifetime!
- Learning to lead doesn't happen in the classroom, but in the context of ministry.

Jesus' Pattern of Leadership Development

1. Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9 – Jesus started with people _____.
2. Matthew 4:23; 9:35-36 – Jesus gave His followers _____.
3. Matthew 10:1-5ff – Jesus trained leaders through _____
_____.
4. Matthew 28:18-20 – Jesus commissioned them to _____
_____.
5. Acts (and church history) – Jesus released the _____
_____.

Reference: Neil Cole

7 Phases of Leadership Development

Commit yourself to invest in the ongoing development of leaders!

1. _____

- Are they passionate about spiritual growth?
- What marks of obedience are evident?
- What growth areas need to be addressed?
- Do they spend time alone with God?
- Are they experiencing answers to prayer?
- Is their evidence of spiritual character?
- Are they influencing others to grow spiritually?
- Have they lead anyone to faith in Christ?

2. _____

- Encourage them to...
 - Identify their Circle of Accountability.
 - Start praying for friends who don't know Christ.
 - Serve the needs of others within their Circle.
 - Be a blessing!
 - Be Jesus to everyone everywhere.

3. _____

- Commission them as a Disciplemaker.
- Start helping them to help others to follow Jesus.
- Avoid involving them in ministry activities that will hinder them from making disciples.
- Expose them to those you are discipling and how you are discipling them.
- Celebrate when their disciples start making disciples!

4. _____

- Identify key leadership skills that are most needed in their life
- Model these skills in your own behavior
(*"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I'll understand."*)

- Develop training lessons to teach skills
- Assign a particular skill to be practiced
- Evaluate and give feedback on improvement
- Supplement learning with additional resources
- Repeat this process over and over again
- Think “on-the-job” and “just-in-time.”

5. _____

- Help emerging leaders to identify potential future leaders
- Don't wait too long to start this process
- Act like a COACH
 - Relate. Reflect. Refocus. Resource. Review.
 - Live a life worth emulating
 - Ask good questions

6. _____

- Show emerging leaders:
 - how to build a team
 - how to empower others
 - how to resolve conflicts
 - how to encourage and care
 - how to evaluate progress
 - how to strategize and plan
- Give them responsibility to lead
- Delegate effectively
- Praise and celebrate progress
- Challenge specifically
- Care personally

7. _____

- Encourage the ongoing develop of emerging leaders
- Continue to provide coaching
- Cast vision for the multiplication of leaders
- Model a leadership development lifestyle
- Ask God for a multiplication movement

What is Personal Development?

How are you growing? What are you learning?

1. You have a unique calling

God uniquely created you to become someone special and to do something special. This is calling. Calling is not just for certain people. Every Believer has a calling in at least three areas of his or her life: calling to character or personal holiness (Eph 1:4), calling to relationship with God (Eph 1:5), and calling to ministry—a unique contribution to God’s Kingdom (Eph 2:10).

2. You are responsible for your own development

You, not others, are responsible for your development, your learning. You must not wait to be taught. You must find ways to learn and grow. Opportunities are everywhere. Confucius made an interesting observation when he said, “Put me in the company of any two people at random—they will invariably have something to teach me. I can take their qualities as a model and their defects as a warning” (7.22).

3. You must develop holistically

Many people focus only on growing their skills or the areas of life that come easily to them. They can become unbalanced, with the weaker areas causing trouble in their life. Jesus developed in a holistic way. Luke wrote, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). Four areas of personal development are mentioned in this verse: intellect, physical, spiritual, and social. Mark 12:28-31 says we are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor. These two examples teach us about holistic development.

4. Others can help you

The Body of Christ is essential for your growth. The Apostle Paul wrote that we become mature through the service of the Body of Christ (Eph 4:12-13). The writer of Hebrews instructs us to keep meeting together to encourage one another (Heb 10:24-25). You cannot grow and mature all on your own. You need other people to help you, think with you, ask you hard questions, and to encourage you. That’s the way God made humans.

5. Be learning focused, not teacher focused

Adults learn better through dialogue and discovery rather than someone teaching them. The learner should be active in choosing the learning topic, reflecting, asking questions, searching for answers and applying the learning. Coaching facilitates this kind of learning.

Reference: Keith Webb, Creative Results Management

ACTION STEP 7.3

My Personal Development Needs

Fill in your growth needs. Focus on your desires for growth, not someone else's expectations for you. Don't worry if you don't know how you are going to achieve this growth. That will come later. First, identify in what ways you want to grow.

	Relational
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	Professional / Career
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	Leadership
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	Intellectual
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	Physical Health
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	Spiritual
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	Character
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	Emotional Intelligence
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	Community Connection
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	Hobbies / Recreation
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	Marriage / Family
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

	Other Growth
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Reference: Keith Webb, Creative Results Management

The Practice of Coaching

“Coaching is the hands-on process of helping people succeed.”
Steve Ogne

“Coaching is an incarnational relationship between one leader and another intended to empower their lives and ministry.”
Steve Ogne and Tim Roehl, *Transformisisonal Coaching*

“Coaching is the process of coming alongside a person or team to help them discover God’s agenda for their life and ministry, and then cooperating with the Holy Spirit to see that agenda become a reality.”
Bob Logan and Gary Reinecke, *Coaching 101 Handbook*

“Coaching is unlocking a person’s potential to maximize their own performance. It is helping them to learn rather than teaching them.”
Timothy Galloway, *The Inner Game of Tennis*

“Coaching is the purposeful ministry of facilitating meaningful change *in the life of a leader.*”
Tom Clegg, *CoachNet*

“Christian coaching is a focused Christ-centered relationship that cultivates a person’s sustained growth and action.”
Linda Miller and Chad Hall, *Coaching for Christian Leaders*

“Coaching is an on-going intentional conversation that empowers a person or group to fully live out God’s calling.”
Keith Webb, *Creative Results Management*

The Value of Coaching

- Provides encouragement for the journey
- Cultivates wisdom and strategic insights
- Discovers breakthrough opportunities
- Maintains focus on the truly important
- Transforms vision into reality

Reference: Bob Logan

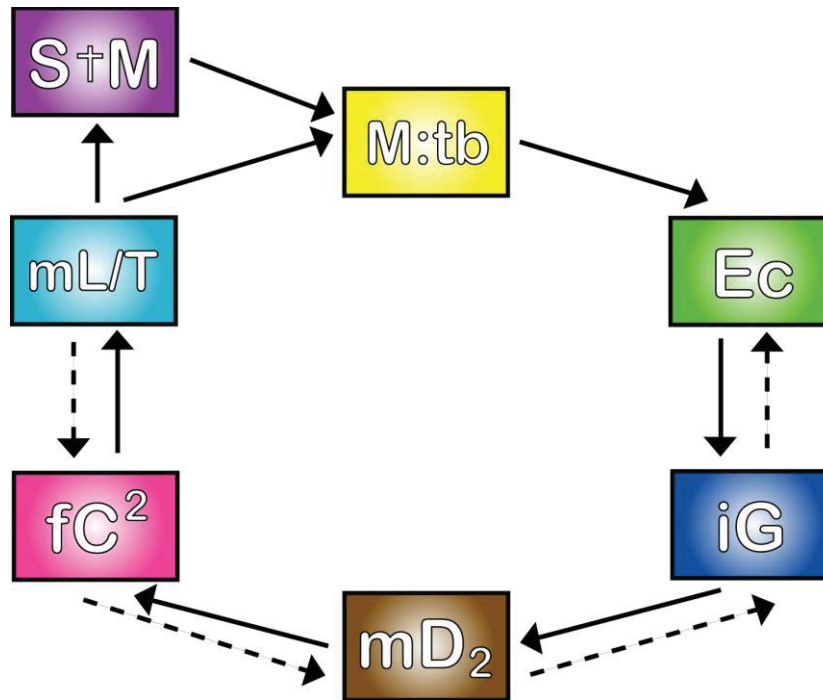
ACTION STEP 7.4

Coaching Plans

Discuss in pairs:

1. What is my personal development plan?
2. How often will I meet with a coach?
3. How will I utilize coaching to develop leaders around me?
4. How will I develop my coaching skills?

For more on coaching, see Recommended Reading



Session 8: CLARIFY VISION

- How will we pray?
- What will God do?

“Vision requires the commitment of a parachutist. You don’t ‘sort of’ parachute. You are either in the plane or in the air. You either do it or you don’t.”

- Andy Stanley, *Visioneering*

“To fulfill the Great Commission, we need to stop doing ministry by addition and start doing ministry by multiplication...planting churches that plant churches that plant churches that plant churches.

- Wilbert R. Shenk, *Write the Vision*

Luke 10:2b Virus



"Jesus told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Luke 10:2 NIV

Any church planting movement must be preceded and then surrounded by a prayer movement. Prayer is essential to any move of God. We need many prayer warriors who will spend hours on their faces before God crying out to Him that He move across our land. In Korea, which has seen a remarkable movement of God over the past 100 years, prayer has been the key. Dr. David Yonggi Cho, perhaps the best known leader there, says that when he first started his church, he needed to pray for four to five hours a day in order to see God move. Now that so much has happened, he has been able to cut down to three hours a day!

But prayer is not just for a few who have the time and the gifting to pray. Everyone needs to be involved. Back in 2002, two friends, Kenny and John, were discussing how to see a church planting movement start across their state. They realized that Jesus had given the key in Luke 10:2—"The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest that He will send out laborers into His harvest." They settled on an experiment. Each day they would this prayer together for a few minutes.

As their praying continued, they realized they didn't know how to pray the prayer day after day, so they asked the Lord to teach them. He showed them from the story in the Bible of the widow and the unjust judge that they needed to be persistent in their praying. He also led them to be very specific in what they asked for.

Things started to happen. Kenny is responsible for church planting for his church group in his state. Before they started praying, about one person in a month contacted him about church planting. It has now become a daily occurrence. And over the last eight months, he has seen over 120 churches start as a direct result of this praying.

"Praying like this is now my only strategy for church planting," he says. Kenny and John call this prayer the 10:2b virus (Luke chapter 10 verse 2 and the second part of the verse.) Just like a virus spreads rapidly, they want to see people everywhere praying this prayer. They are seeking to infect everyone they come across. Across the world, people are partnering up to pray the 10:2b prayer daily, and everywhere they are seeing remarkable answers to prayer.

This is a good virus...not like most. The reason for dubbing it a "virus" is the hope that it will spread virally...to everyone it touches. Now you are being exposed to it!!!!

The virus is spreading....have you caught it?

Reference: Felicity Dale

ACTION STEP 8.1

How Will We Pray for Our New Church?

➤ Brainstorm 10 ways to involve your team in praying...

➤ Brainstorm 10 things to pray together for...

“Prayer establishes DNA faster and better than any other exercise you can do as a team.” – Jeff Getz

Mobilize Your Intercessor Team

1. Pray and ask God to raise up intercessors for you, your family, and ministry.
2. Make a list of any people:
 - Who have said they will pray for you
 - Who call and ask you for prayer requests
 - Who ask if you have had any answers to their prayers
 - Who you know to be people of prayer
3. Invite them to join your intercession team
4. Clarify and agree upon mutual commitments:
 - Confidentiality
 - Communication – how often?
 - Expectations
5. Give your intercessors lots of feedback
 - Communicate at least monthly
 - Share answers to prayer
 - Flag special needs
6. Pray for your intercessors at least weekly. Ask God to put a hedge of protection around them and to bring them into wholeness. Follow the examples of Paul's prayers in Colossians, Philippians and Ephesians.
7. Personally contact intercessors annually to see if they are active or not, if they need to be released, or if they need a different kind of "reward" to stay motivated (usually more frequent contact). Use this information to upgrade your prayer support.

ACTION STEP 8.2

Recruiting Prayer Partners [Goal: 20 or more]

1. Who will I invite? How many?

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

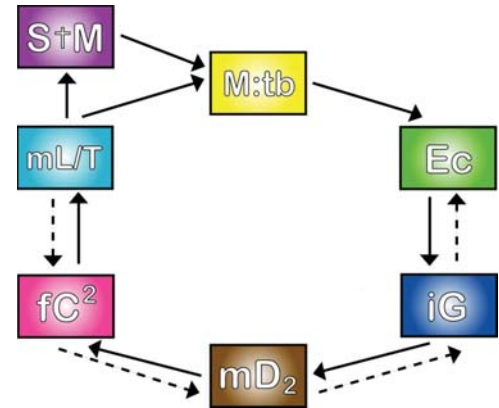
2. How will I invite them?

3. What promises and commitments will I make to them?

4. How will I communicate with them?

5. What materials do I need to create?

Q/A: Questions and Answers



ACTION STEP 8.3

Focusing Your Vision

Identify your critical success indicators. How will you measure your effectiveness?



Write a newspaper article describing your church ten years in the future. Include size, people being reached, how lives are changing, number of new churches established, target ministries, etc.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write a newspaper article describing their church ten years in the future.

ACTION STEP 8.4

Putting it All Together

Condense your thoughts for each of the following into no more than 2 sentences:

- **What is our part in God's mission?** (Session One)



- **What habits will we practice in community?** (Session Two)



- **Where is our Circle of Accountability?** (Session Three)



- **What is unique about our community?** (Session Three)



- **What are our primary missional activities?** (Session Four)



➤ **How will we make disciples?** (Session Five)



➤ **How will we build community?** (Session Six)



➤ **How will we gather publicly?** (Session Six)



➤ **How will we mobilize people to serve?** (Session Seven)



➤ **How will we raise up leaders?** (Session Seven)



➤ **How will we pray?** (Session Eight)

➤ **What will God do? If we live out our values, serve our city, and accomplish these plans, what will God do in 5 years?**

ACTION STEP 8.5

Affirmation: I see God working through you...