

Making Disciples Near and Far

Foundations

“Disciple” Defined:

- ▶ A person who is a pupil or an adherent of the doctrines of another
- ▶ To teach or train another
- ▶ A disciple of Christ is one who (1) believes his doctrine, (2) rests on his sacrifice, (3) imbibes his spirit, and (4) imitates his example (Matt. 10:24; Luke 14:26, 27, 33)

Engage Your World



**In your “Going” make disciples
where you live, work, and play.**

- ▶ Goal: to create a disciple making movement that produces churches that are Biblically driven, culturally relevant, missional communities who seek to transform the lives of those around them.

Disciple making is about Reproduction

- ▶ Disciples – Leaders – Churches
- ▶ We want to make **Disciples** who become **Leaders** who help make more **Disciples**.
- ▶ This process eventually leads to **Establishing Churches** near and far as leaders are sent out to reproduce this disciple making process in other cities, contexts, and cultures.

A Disciple is someone who

- ▶ Loves God
- ▶ Loves People
- ▶ Serves the world



Love God:

- ▶ Include God in everything.
- ▶ Obey His commands.
- ▶ Study His words.
- ▶ Three aspects of the Christian life:
 - Live simply,
 - Work diligently,
 - Give generously.

Love People:

- ▶ Serve each other.
- ▶ Forgive each other.
- ▶ Build each other up.
- ▶ Teach each other.

Serve the World:

- ▶ Share God's love with our circle of influence.
- ▶ Help those in need – the poor and defenseless.
- ▶ Pray for others.
- ▶ Establish churches that love God, love people, and serve the world.

How Do We Do This?

- ▶ Be Equipped
- ▶ Desire
- ▶ Act



The Call to be Sent Out

- ▶ Expanding the boundaries of our Discipleship Making Movement by sending leaders out to preach the gospel and make disciples in other cities, among other cultures, and in other countries.
- ▶ Key elements of Matthew 28:

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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."

"Make Disciples"

- ▶ Enter into a relationship with others that permits us to demonstrate and teach the gospel message on a personal level
- ▶ Higher order of teaching than evangelism, requiring understanding of a wide range of doctrinal issues and the ability to begin to reproduce one's faith in others
- ▶ mature faith, capable of explanation and development of significant Biblical truth

“Baptize them”

- ▶ Baptism into a fellowship of believers in a church
- ▶ Establish a church into which one can be baptized so that accountability, growth and character development can be nurtured

“Teach them to observe...”

- ▶ Daily routine of life that allows Christ to be demonstrated in each aspect of living; including work, play, family, and worship

Recent Trends

- ▶ Short term missions
- ▶ Relief and aid
- ▶ While there may be some actions in each of these concepts that have value, it is best to focus on the more traditional Biblical mandate for missions stated in Matthew 28

Learn from the Experts

Main Goals Should Be:

- ▶ Establish churches nationally and internationally
- ▶ Teaching and equipping pastors and ministry leaders and families
- ▶ Providing care and training for orphans
- ▶ Conducting service trips and projects to help the needy.
- ▶ Providing support to missionary families and programs involved in Biblical missions.

How to Prepare a Person

► Within the Church

- Develop missional mindset
- Influence people in your circle
 - Who are your 12? 6 Relational, 3 Influence, 3 Mentor
 - Impact locally
 - Impact globally (giving to missions, sponsor a child)
- Training (classes, mentoring, work experience)

How to Prepare a Person

- ▶ Outside the Church
 - Training programs
 - Higher Education
 - Online programs
 - Other Church training
- ▶ The church sends or supports, NOT a third party organization

Considerations for Missional Thinking

► A. Where is God calling Me?

- Pray and trust God to give you clear direction
- Explore the areas your church is working in or towards in the world.
- Learn about the World and connect your passion to the needs in a particular place

Considerations for Missional Thinking

► B. What is my role?

- How has God uniquely gifted you? Spiritual Gifts, Strengths, Professional Experience.
- Think Team – Are you a Visionary Leader or a Support Leader (Paul and Timothy)
- What Ministries have you served well in?

Considerations for Missional Thinking

- ▶ C. What further Training would benefit me best?
 - Masters Mission or other Mission Training Course
 - Further Education/Seminary
 - Internship at a church or ministry
- ▶ Every Christian has a story. What is yours?

Personal Testimony

- ▶ What is a personal Testimony?
 - Story of salvation
 - Good news in a person's life
 - When and how a person trusted Christ as savior
 - The "journey"

Basic Testimony

- ▶ What was your life like before Christ?
- ▶ What happened to cause you to trust Christ?
- ▶ What has your life been like after trusting Christ?

Jailhouse vs Solid Family

- ▶ Proverbs is full of encouragement for godly parenting
- ▶ Paul was certainly a “Newsflash event”

Be Prepared

- ▶ Short or long (elevator testimonies)
- ▶ Written testimonies for jobs or Christian ministry applications
- ▶ Consider the experience of the audience (bikers, drinkers, sports, military, Christians...)
- ▶ How much detail is determined by audience and time
- ▶ Practice! Practice! Practice!

Practical Exercise

- ▶ Write it out
- ▶ Share it
- ▶ Homework: Practice it

