



Disciple Makers Pathway

Participate in the mission of God with a cohort of like minded disciples!

It starts with having a Great Commission heart: Making disciples who make disciples. This pathway will equip you in discovery and obedience based discipleship as you're coached to plant the gospel in your area and advance God's Kingdom.

"The great Christian revolutions came not by the discovery of something that was not known before. They happen when someone takes radically something that was always there." - H. Richard Niebuhr

"The spontaneous expansion of the Church reduced to its elements is a very simple thing. It asks for no elaborate organization, no large finances, no great numbers of paid missionaries. In its beginning it may be the work of one man, and that a man neither learned in the things of this world, nor rich in the wealth of this world. . . . What is necessary is faith. What is needed is the kind of faith which uniting a man to Christ, sets him on fire." - Roland Allen

Week 1: Becoming Missional

You are invited to participate in the mission of God! It starts with having a Great Commission heart: making disciples who make disciples.

This pathway is in a transformational learning style, or a 10 / 20 / 70 model with 10% training, 20% connecting and discussing, and 70% putting it into practice. In disciple making movements they refer to this principle as "learn one thing; do one thing".

TUTORIAL - Watch this video to learn about the [Disciple Makers App](#). **We recommend using the app for the pathway if you're on mobile.** Please watch this if you have any technical

issues completing the sections and steps or navigating the pathway. [Click here](#) to download the “Wix spaces” app through your App Store to access the disciple makers pathway.

We want you to experience God, not just learn about Him. We suggest planning to spend about 15 to 20 minutes a day on this or using the pathway as your daily quiet time, posturing your heart to interact with God. As with any spiritual formation, we encourage you take it seriously. Take time to get in a quiet space, then invite God to speak. Read every section slowly and resist the temptation to move too quickly. Every paragraph, tool, and resource has a purpose. Every scripture is the breath of God. If you ask God to direct your mind and learning, HE WILL. If you just speed through it, you'll miss Him.

“Paths and processes should work but not if they are devoid of the power of God. Only the Spirit Walk (An unpredictable path paved with predictable steps) enables good strategies—whether in personal life transformation or in plans to change the world... while Paul had a clear path of ministry and strong discipleship processes, he was led by the Spirit. Paul knew what to do but the Spirit showed him where to do it, with whom, and in whose strength.” - Steve Smith

Weekly Meeting format:

Everything is better in community!

After reviewing the resources throughout the week, you will huddle together with others (either in-person or an online video chat) to discuss what it looks like to implement these practices and concepts in your life. Each participant should engage with all of the training content **before** they step into these connection huddles or "disciple making communities" ([DMC](#)). These huddle sessions are not designed to teach the material, but rather to help you process what you have already learned and are experiencing. As a participant walking through the pathway, these DMCs will not only help you learn how to live missionally, plant the gospel, and make disciples, but they will also teach you how to walk someone else through the Disciple Makers Pathway.

- **Before the [DMC](#) meeting:** finish the online preparation work during the week, including the:
 1. Personal Discovery Bible Study
 2. Training video/reading
 3. Practical tool to implement
- **During the [DMC](#) meeting:** meet together to review and troubleshoot the content/tools of the week, discover critical principles from Scripture, and create personal obedience goals called “I Wills”.
- **After the [DMC](#) meeting:** live it out. Apply what you’re learning and experiment in your context.
- **Attendance:** Meetings may be face to face. Virtual meetings will be recorded on zoom and made available on the cloud for the rest of that week so you can catch up. It's permissible to miss a couple meetings, but more than that you may consider doing the pathway at a different time when you are more available.

"Men are looking for better methods and God is looking for better men" - EM Bounds.

The first step

"The truth is that the twenty-first century is turning out to be a highly complex phenomenon where terrorism, disruptive technological innovation, environmental crisis, rampant consumerism, discontinuous change, and perilous ideologies confront us at every point. In the face of this upheaval, even the most confident among us would have to admit, in our more honest moments, that the church as we know it faces a very significant adaptive challenge" - Alan Hirsch

"A great deal more failure is the result of an excess of caution than of bold experimentation with new ideas. The frontiers of the kingdom of God were never advanced by men and women of caution." - J. Oswald Sanders

Every pathway begins with the first step. During the next few weeks you will be immersed in resources, equipping, teamwork, and mobilization to make disciples who make disciples. You will learn new models, principles, and paradigms from other revivals and movements of God around the world. You will discover ways of doing "church" that you've never even imagined before. You will be introduced to viral, reproducible discipleship that has equipped high school students, prisoners, retirees, even blind persons to make disciples and plant churches. The first step begins with the heart.

Some topics covered during this pathway:

- Prayer and fasting
- BLESS Rhythms
- Intentional Spiritual Conversations
- Context mapping & the Oikos principle
- Discovery Bible study
- Disciple Making Movements
- Prayer Walking
- Simple Church

Week by week, you will be given the curriculum of this training as you complete the training yourself so that you can facilitate others through these principles. Why not just release the curriculum all at once? We want people to become something and not just know something, following the *"learn one thing; do one thing"* principle. We want to make disciples of Jesus and not a curriculum or Bible study. Curriculum is OK if it is a step in the process of radically centering on Jesus, rather than itself becoming the center. It is not about knowing the pathway curriculum by heart. It is about knowing The Way and heart of God. It is discovering who is in the heart of God and what is in the heart of God as you listen to his voice in light of His word presented in the pathway.

The heart of the matter

Do you remember the first time you met Jesus and just experienced His presence? Can you see that moment? Before the events, before the discipleship, the groups and projects and programs, before the church, before the serving and "doing" ministry, before any spiritual scorecard - What was it like to know him and for everything to change? Don't forget your first love.

Is this just church stuff you're doing or first and foremost about your love for Jesus?

This is not the next church fad, program, or shiny new thing to copy from the church down the road. You will realize that most of the lessons in this pathway are simple Bible passages that can easily fit on one page. These are Biblical principles that when looked at with a fresh pair of eyes can lead to deep lifestyle transformation before the presence of God. You can do disciple making because others tell you to, or because it seems to be a great growth tactic, but these motivations will not last. The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart. In order to experience the heart change of this disciple makers pathway, you must do it out of simple faithful response to King Jesus, moving from unbelief to true belief in Jesus in every area of life. This obedience to our King, taking his yoke upon us, following, learning, and apprenticing under the Authority of His Word is referred to as **Lordship, Surrender, or Discipleship**. Lordship is a prerequisite to any covenantal community, and a prerequisite to successful disciple making. The first century Christians didn't invite people to a show; they invited people to come and die with them. Lordship is also a prerequisite to fully experience the pathway with your in person cohort, or your virtual disciple making community [DMC]. Are you all in for Jesus? As you start this pathway, you may need to stop doing some other activities in order to covenant with Jesus and recenter on him in this season of life.

What will you stop doing in order to make time to respond to Jesus in this pathway?

"Christ is either Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all" - Hudson Taylor

This pathway is a ruthless centering on Christ. With Christology comes the realization that we do not know what we're talking about, but we do know who we are talking about. We are obsessed with Jesus, not movements or growth. We don't need a new church model. We need God to move among us, humbling ourselves before him. Don't seek to become a professional church planter, seek to remain an amateur for His love. Jesus must have dominion.

Is your obedience sourced by fascination with Jesus or by the next trend?

Are you doing ministry to manage a system or are you doing ministry to discover and obey Jesus?

Do you come to Jesus to give up something or to get something?

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. It was a priority to Him. When describing the heart of God, Jesus said that heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents. We want to live lives that heaven rejoices over, not ones that heaven is silent on. The first step in imitating this heart is

prayer. You can't make God move, but you can prepare for him to move by remaining in his presence, and so please pray the following prayers.

Prayers before pathway:

- Jesus has a heart for the world. He promises that if you engage in disciple making he "will be with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Pray: *"God I want to want to make disciples, but I don't know how yet. Help me with my unbelief in your commission for me. I need to learn from you. Please transform my heart. God I'm afraid and don't know how or where, but if you go with me and take my hand I will follow. I pray as often as we meet that we might perfectly love you."*
- Jesus has a heart for the lost. If we truly believed that others were facing an eternity of separation from God, would our actions reflect those beliefs? Pray for Jesus to enter this space and use it to speak to people. Pray: *"God break my heart for the things that break yours. Renew a steadfast Spirit within me. Open the eyes of my heart to see where you are at work and how I can join you"*
- Jesus has a heart for you to be brought to maturity in him and then reproduce yourself in others. You are blessed to be a blessing and good news to those around you who can replicate what they see of Christ in your life. Through this pathway you are being trained and poured into so that you can pour into others. Pray: *"God, would you enable me to find a person of peace, to disciple them until they come to Christ, get to baptize them, then get out of the way and watch them baptize someone else this year?"*

If your prayers and strategies don't seem to line up, you may want to consider changing your strategies, because your prayers are probably more in sync with the heart of God.

What is it going to take?

"Following the rebirth of the church in China, we can conclude that the seed of the future does indeed lie in the womb of the present, that every church claiming the name of Jesus has all the selfsame dormant potentials so evident in the New Testament ecclesia, the early church, the Chinese movement, and every other movement in between. All we need to do is to retrieve that seed, nurture the conditions for its healthy growth, very deliberately remove whatever hinders it, and let the Holy Spirit yet again connect us with our Messiah Jesus and empower us in his redemptive cause." - Alan Hirsch

If your vision is to see gospel saturation throughout your area, then what is it going to take?

Begin with the end in mind. You are perfectly organized to get the results you're currently getting. Can your budget, church building, staff, and resources support or contain a movement of God, or is there a better way? The truth is that addition growth, high costs per conversion (currently averaging 1.2 million per baptism in the US), professionalized clergy, and systems that aren't reproducible will never get the job done. The prevailing legacy model of church in the

West is in decline and cannot keep up with world population growth, except through the present phenomenon of emerging disciple making movements. We must look to Jesus for democratized, cheap, reproducible, and exponentially multiplicative forms of disciple making. It's the only way to see Jesus' vision for making disciples of the nations accomplished in our time. What is your end vision and what is it going to take? This disciple makers pathway seeks to be a launching pad to bridge the gap between where we are and the end vision of making disciples who make disciples.

What did it take for the apostles to saturate their world?

Jesus fully equipped them with everything they needed. The new testament church with unschooled ordinary men grew from as few as 25,000 to over 20,000,000 within just two centuries without Bibles, youth groups, seeker sensitive services, buildings, paid staff, commentaries, or worship bands. How did they do it? By the end of John Wesley's lifetime 1 in 30 English citizens had become methodists, and between 1776 and 1850, Methodists went from being fewer than 2% of the US population to 30%. How did they do it? Against incredible persecution, the church in China grew from around 2 million to around 120 million in seventy years! By 2030, China will have more Christians living in it than any other nation on earth. How did they do it? There are 3.7 times as many Protestants in Africa as in North America. Today in Sierra Leone, more Muslims have converted to Christianity in the past 15 years than in the past 15 centuries times 10. How did they do it? Jesus has given you everything you need to get the job done, including a third of heaven's resources i.e. The Holy Spirit! Instead of asking "What can I do?" ask "What will it take?"

Do you see anyone in the Bible who had to come up with the how of God's vision?

Moses knew the promised land, not the plan. Disciples knew the 5,000 hungry people, not how to multiply bread or how to get the gospel around the world, aside from what Jesus had modeled for them. Recognize the thumbprint of God and what he can do. The number one hunger of a disciple making movement catalyst is God. The overflow of seeking God is disciple making. Don't miss God in the process.

"I urge you to ponder these things long, hard, and deep, because the destiny of the Jesus movement in the West hangs somewhat in the balance. Choices matter, and to do nothing is to choose to do nothing. Let's be clear about that." - Alan Hirsch
In a time of drastic change it is the learners who inherit the future. The learned usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists. —Eric Hoffer

"We cannot add disciple making and church planting to what we're already doing. It has to be what we're doing. And we have to stay with it and not move on... It's about getting onboard the global train that's already left the station... planting continues only as prayer continues. And the vigor of one reflects the other... Saying it won't work here ensures that it won't work here." - Jerry Trousedale

What is a disciple makers pathway?

The tools in this pathway will connect you to Christ, reactivating His forgotten ways. The Pathway is a powerful online training that equips everyday disciples to plant the gospel and make disciples in the places they live, work, learn, and play.

"Methods are many, principles are few. Methods always change, but principles never do." - Josh Howard

"The man who grasps principles can successfully handle his own methods. The man who tries methods, ignoring principles, is sure to have trouble." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

This pathway is a reverse-engineered descriptive process of Disciple Making Movements worldwide. The goal is to equip ordinary people to become trainers and missionaries themselves in order to advance God's Kingdom. Take some time to read the [pathway primer blog](#), which will unpack some of the key principles of how to live on mission and plant the Gospel in our everyday contexts. The blog also contains details on how your disciple making community [DMC] will function as a team for the next 7 weeks. Whether you're a Bible talk, family group, ministry, or group of strangers, you will huddle together to help encourage and hold one another accountable as you discover Jesus style disciple making.

Read Blog "Disciple Making Pathways"

<https://www.bendchurch.org/post/disciple-making-pathways>

Disciple Making Movements (Church Planting Movements)

For the next 7 weeks, we will focus on the practical steps of planting the gospel where you live, work, learn, and play. All of that is contained within a great commission vision: we intend to see multiplicative movements of disciples saturate our cities. The good news is that God is doing similar things all around the world! Christianity is spreading faster now than it has at any time in human history. Check out this video by *Beyond* that unpacks Disciple Making Movements (resulting in Church Planting Movements) and the characteristics present:

Watch Video "Beyond: church planting movements"

<https://youtu.be/s-lUraCyByU>

Some Movement Terms:

Contextualization: presenting the Gospel in culturally relevant terms.

Catalyst: in the context of Movements, a person who trains, coaches, and mentors others to discover Christ in Scripture, learn obedience, and to lead and start Discovery Groups and plant churches, without taking part directly.

Discovery Bible Study (DBS): an inductive approach to discovering God in Scripture and learning to obey Him. It has four basic steps: read/hear the text; restate it accurately from collective memory; decide what must be done in light of the text, in the form of "I will . . ." statements; and consider who needs to hear the lessons from the text and determine when to share it with them.

Discovery Group: a group of unbelievers, gathered by a person of peace who meet together to discover and obey God via a Discovery Bible Study using a set of Scriptures appropriate for the group. The leader is coached by a Movement Catalyst with an expectation that the group will become a church over time. "self-discovery of truth" and "self-actuated obedience to truth" are emphasized.

Disciple Making Movement: a process of disciples making disciples, and churches planting at least 100 churches, with four or more generations of replication [typically with more than 1,000 believers]

Prayer Walking: an intentional process of walking or driving through a community, praying for neighborhoods, leaders, and people of peace. The intent is to invite God to prepare the hearts of leaders and ordinary people to welcome the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Disciple Making Community (DMC): A cohort of missional Christians who practice Great Commission and Greatest Commandment rhythms in their everyday life, intentionally loving their neighbors to help them discover God for themselves through His Word. The DMC commits to action focused learning, extraordinary prayer, engaging the lost, meeting needs, accountability, and celebration.

“the mistake here is to forget that these movements are taking place in largely premodern, pre-Christian societies. Little or no attempt is made at a missional translation of movemental phenomenology into a form that speaks to postmodern, post-Christian, post-Christendom, individualistic, middle-class, market-based, consumerist democracies” Alan Hirsch

[optional] Read Blog "Church Networks and Movements"

<https://www.bendchurch.org/post/church-networks-and-movements>

Still confused on church planting movements? Check out this blog further defining movements and explaining how church networks can work together to fuel movement.

DMC Gathering: Facilitator's Guide

After reviewing the resources throughout the week, you will gather together with others (either in person or virtually) to discuss what it looks like to implement these practices and principles in your life. Make sure you communicate with your facilitator about your meeting time.

Self-paced learning is great for helping students to remember and understand information. However, cohort learning goes a few steps further; when students learn the same syllabus together, they can go from remembering and understanding information to applying, analyzing, evaluating, and creating with it. **The community offers an essential feedback loop as we experiment together and discover how Jesus is calling us into His mission.**

This cohort meeting time is referred to as your DMC, or **Disciple Making Community** as you huddle together with your team! DMC's are simply people living on mission together. After previewing them in this pathway you may even decide to start your own or combine with others to live on mission.

Video: Why do you need a DMC?

<https://youtu.be/wiRDtiPcqyl>

If you are a new participant, skip over the guide below and proceed to the next pathway step to finish this week's content.

If you are facilitating the conversation, below are questions that could guide your meeting time. This is a simple template you can use to lead your group through the content they learned throughout the week. This is a chance to connect, build relationships, pray for one another, and learn how to be on mission together in the unique contexts in which God has placed your group. These times are designed to be 1 hour long to connect and process.

"What starts out as a weekly meeting will grow into a lifestyle"

Facilitator Guide:

1. Spend time on introductions.

As people introduce themselves ask:

why do you want to participate in this disciple making community?

OR

What are you most excited to learn and implement during this DMC?

2. Depending on time, ask one or both of the following questions:

"What stood out to you in your reading on the Disciple Making Pathways [blog](#) and watching the [video](#) on Church Planting Movements?"

"In the blog, there are 9 paradigm shifts listed that many Westerners have to make. Which ones stood out/were the most challenging/most intriguing?" (see the list below)

3. Great Commission Exercise:

Read Matthew 28:18-20 together. (see passage below)

Ask: What specifically does Jesus tell us to do? What do we in the church usually do instead?

4. CREATE I WILL STATEMENTS (encourage participants to input their statement on the next section if they haven't already):

Ask: "In light of what God is showing you, what will you specifically do between now and next week?"

*(Help participants to make a specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable, and time bound "I will" statement. These can be inspired by Matthew 28, the pathway tools and resources, or the participants own Bible study [it's convicting when it comes most directly from the Holy Spirit].

However **each weeks "I will" statement should reflect the principle of that section**, for example "becoming missional" for week one.)

*When people follow through on their I wills it's a time of celebration! Even if they tried and didn't fully make it happen. If they missed it troubleshoot how they can do better next week. Disciple making focuses on becoming. Accountability focuses on behaving.

*If someone is struggling to think of an I will you might encourage their spouse or roommate to help them in a "we will". Those who are already doing life together typically know how one another can take their next step of obedience into Jesus and encourage them along the way.

Paradigm Shifts:

1. Think: EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER as the power.

Don't Think: Human Strategy as the power.

2. Think: PLANTING the Gospel in existing networks of relationships. Don't Think: Extracting people so we can "disciple" them in church.

3. Think: OBEDIENCE-BASED DISCIPLESHIP.

Don't Think: Knowledge-based discipleship.

4 Think: DISCOVERY BASED LEARNING.

Don't Think: Lecture-based teaching.

5. Think: SEND the ORDINARY & WILLING.

Don't Think: Send the gifted experts.

6. Think: DISCIPLE GROUPS of people.

Don't Think: Discipleship only means one on one.*

7. Think: DISCIPLE TO & THROUGH CONVERSION.

Don't Think: Evangelism THEN discipleship.

8. Think: VIRAL MULTIPLICATION.

Don't Think: Addition.

9. Think: "SPIRITUAL FAMILIES", "MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES", & "SIMPLE CHURCH".

Don't Think: "Traditional or Legacy Church."

*Of the thirty gospel encounters in Acts, only three are with individuals

*Many of these paradigm shifts are leaning away from the attractional/proclamational/evangelism approach that we've mastered in the West to an incarnational missional lifestyle approach by which the first century churches and disciple making movements succeed. We need to make the mindset shift to learn about the latter, but this doesn't mean the former is wrong. This just helps complete a holistic picture of what has been neglected previously in Western contexts. It is okay to have a "mixed economy" of approaches, but don't keep "skipping leg day" on the neglected approaches this pathway will emphasize.

Matthew 28:18-20:

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

*At the end of each session, participants will create a missional next step specific to his/her context. Following all materials, practices, and conversations, please input your I WILL statement in the form on the next page.

* [TUTORIAL](#) for those needing technical help with pathway.

I Will Statement

In the following questionnaire, form your "I will statement" after this week's reading and share it with your DMC.

In the Spirit of "Learn one thing; do one thing", be prepared each week to have a new "I will Statement" in light of that week's section, to share with your DMC. For example, week one is "becoming missional", so your I will should have a missional focus.

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What is the spirit prompting you to do this week to become missional? How can we help you by our prayers and support?

"I will...."

Sharing our "I wills" together is a time of encouragement and celebration, not correction.

Accountability is not about being punitive or bringing up arbitrary consequences. It's also not about passively just moving on when we don't have an "I will". We want to move with a team that models the high trust/accountability and low control of Jesus' ministry.

*If you are a married couple or a team your group could create a "we will"



"Surrender in the transformational presence of Jesus moves us from "I could" to "I will"

Additional Resources 1

These resources, while encouraged and beneficial to your pathway learning, are not required for your DMC meeting or for completing the pathway overall. They're highly recommended if you would like to facilitate and coach others through the pathway.

Blog "What is WIGTake?":

<https://www.experiencelifenow.com/blog/whatiswigtake>

The article is a personal reflection by Chris Galanos, the Lead Pastor of Experience Life church. He recounts how his church started with a small group and grew to over 13,000 commitments to Christ and 6,756 baptisms in 10 years. Inspired by missionary stories from a book, he introduces the concept of "WIGTake," which means "What's It Going to Take to Reach Everyone in the People Group?" This idea led to a transformative change in his church's vision and strategy to reach their entire people group with the gospel through Disciple Making Movements.

Blog "A Sense of Urgency"

<https://www.bendchurch.org/post/a-sense-of-urgency>

This article by Joey Hungerford addresses the astonishing financial cost of evangelism in traditional churches and the need for urgency in making disciples in innovative ways. Joey invites you to embrace innovation, and revolutionize disciple-making for a brighter future.

Short Video "500,000 disciples multiplied in 20 years!":

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Wu4uL6o_Xlg

This video highlights the Disciple Making Movement strategy of Shadonkeh Johnson, catalyzing ordinary people to become simple church planters.

Short Video: "Disciple Making Movement Principles for the North American Church"

<https://youtube.com/shorts/CZkVVfypM3I?feature=share>

This video summarizes Paul Huyghebaert's eight Disciple Making Movement principles for the North American church to embrace. See his [article](#) for more details.

Video "Introduction to Disciple Making Movement Discipleship"

<https://youtu.be/DIxW8MVzdfo>

The video introduces the concept of making disciples of Jesus Christ and emphasizes the role of belief, following, learning, and obeying His teachings. Disciple-making is not limited to a select few but is a call for all individuals, regardless of gender, age, or background.

Obedience-based discipleship is emphasized, focusing on putting teachings into practice rather than just acquiring knowledge. The video outlines six essential steps in the disciple-making process, including prayer, engaging with the community, finding a person of peace, starting a discovery group, transitioning to a church, and developing leaders to sustain the movement.

Video: defining movements

<https://youtu.be/xjyPNg1-HBo>

The video from Bobby Harrington of "discipleship.org" discusses Disciple Making Movements, where at least one percent of the world's population is involved. The interviewee, Harry Brown, works with "New Generations" across 59 countries with over 850 distinct people groups. 40% of the shepherded movements have 10 to 30 generations of churches planting churches. There is currently no recognized disciple-making movement in North America.

Video: Live by faith Ft. David Young from the Renew Network Conference.

<https://youtu.be/SqNIVEMonjs>

David leads the North Boulevard Church of Christ, which has embraced Disciple Making Movement principles, partnering with Jerry Trousdale, Shadonkeh Johnson and other Disciple Making Movement Catalysts. David is also a cofounder of the Renew Network.

Video "Disciple Making Movements with CityTeam":

<https://youtu.be/29b-KIAFr28>

The video discusses Disciple Making Movements inspired by the early disciples of Jesus. Despite lacking resources and societal acceptance, these disciples made a significant impact through obedience, the power of the Holy Spirit, and social networking. The modern Disciple Making Movement approach involves Discovery Bible studies, where a leader forms a group to interact with God's Word, fostering personal discovery, immediate obedience, and replication. The goal is to multiply disciples through individual networks, ultimately fulfilling the Great Commission.

Video "Worldwide Disciple Making Movement Statistics":

<https://youtu.be/xotlZtCeECo>

This video discusses worldwide disciple-making movement statistics, citing the escalating costs of baptisms in the U.S. and its impact on church planting. He highlights the challenges, such as the Evangelical recession, declining faith-sharing rates, and pastor resignations. Despite this, there's hope as he explores successful movements in China, Africa, and other regions, emphasizing their rapid growth and lower baptism costs. Justin Long adds insight, presenting data on disciple-making movements' progression and global distribution, projecting significant growth and potential saturation points. The overall message underscores the transformative power of disciple-making movements on a global scale.

Week 2: Extraordinary Prayer & Fasting

"[prayer] is where the victory is won and then when you go on the field you see the results!" - Younoussa Diao

Disciple-making begins with this foundational truth: **all fruitfulness comes from abiding in Jesus**. Disciple-making begins with knowing the heart of God, recognizing his voice, and obeying his Word. **Prayer is the beginning, middle, and end of movements.**

Gospel movements don't begin with creative strategies and methods. They begin from a place of extraordinary prayer. As we engage this section we will walk through why prayer is a vital part of mission and simple but powerful tools you can use for prayer.

As a Jewish rabbi, Jesus prayed at least three times per day using standard prayers, often spending the whole night praying. Jesus' top priorities in prayer were that the Father's name would be glorified in the world around us, that His Kingdom would be ushered in with power, and that His followers would obey the Word and will of the Father. Jesus taught more about prayer than about any other subject except the Kingdom of God.

The bible has over 600 prayers, with 450 associated answers to those prayers. The Psalms contain over 150 prayers, yet in our culture today for some Christians the word "prayer meeting" can muster as much enthusiasm as the word "chore". When we do pray, our priorities tend to not be the same as God's priorities.

"Simple, reproducible methodologies that new believers can live out is critical to personal godliness and a movement of God around us, but methods are mere mechanics without the Spirit of God... At the core is not a method (though simple, biblical methods are important). At the center is not a discipleship process (though life-on-life interaction is critical). What is driving and sustaining the explosive growth of God's kingdom is the age-old Spirit walk God designed us for... [in His last days] Jesus could have focused on the methods and processes He had modeled for His disciples. He could have made lists and gone over action items. Instead, He described for them the utter importance of relying on the coming Spirit and the fruit that would emerge from this relationship." - Steve Smith

REGARDING PRAYER OF MOVEMENT LEADERS:

"...on the median a leader spends 14 hours a week in prayer. The least time spent in prayer by some Leaders is 7 hours a week and the highest is 35 hours. The survey figures also clearly reveal that time spent in prayer by leaders is directly proportional to the effectiveness of their church planting ministry." - from an investigation into a movement in India.

David Watson, the man leading the team of people who helped launch this movement, actually challenges this investigation and clarifies that on average a leader would spend 3 hours a day in personal prayer, and then another 3 in team prayer with their co-laborers. So it's actually more like 6 hours a day.

In Sierra Leone, Africa a movement has a three day monthly fast accompanied by a full night of prayer, a twenty one day fast at the start of the year, and a weekly one day fast.

We don't live these rhythms because movements live these rhythms. We live these rhythms because Jesus lived these rhythms. Where was Jesus if you couldn't find him? He was off praying somewhere.

"You don't decide your future. You decide your habits and your habits decide your future. They are your lifestyle."

Prayer Movements Precede Disciple Making Movements

The Moravian prayer movement began when 48 men and women agreed to spend an hour a day in prayer, covering all 24 hours in the day, for seven days a week. This 24/7 prayer watch in hourly prayers was called the Moravian Pentecost. The continual prayer practice went on non-stop for more than one hundred years. Starting from 300 people in 1727, within 65 years they had sent 300 missionaries around the globe, including the Caribbean and the Arctic. They were the first to make disciples of slaves. Some even became slaves themselves to gain access to slave communities. They were also the first to send ordinary people or "lay leaders" on mission. This global missions movement of ordinary people placed hundreds of disciple makers into diaspora communities. This had a profound impact on John Wesley, who eventually became a disciple at one of the Moravian meetings in England.

"The most persistent prayerwalkers are the ones who seek always to grow in the basic foundations of praying according to the Word of God and with the Spirit of God" - Steve Hawthorne

Personal Discovery Bible Study

Personal Discovery Bible Study

Each session will start with a personal Discovery Bible Study (DBS). A Discovery Bible Study is an effective way to read the Bible and discover what God has to say to you using simple

questions. Begin each DBS by asking the Holy Spirit to illuminate the passage. Then, read the passage and reflect on what God is saying to you using each of the questions.

This first passage looks at the principle of hearing from the Holy Spirit and joining Him where He is already at work.

Read and meditate on the passage below.

Spend time discovering and reflecting upon Acts 10:1-48

Acts 10:1-48

"At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven. Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them." And Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?" And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say." So he invited them in to be his guests. The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man." And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. So when I was sent for, I

came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.” And Cornelius said, “Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.” So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.”

Journal Prompt:

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate these passages, and write down what stands out for you.

- What does this tell you about God?
- What does this tell you about people/you?
- How do prayer and mission go together in this passage?
- How can you specifically live out this passage?
- (Create an 'I WILL' statement)

Training: prayer walking

Begin with Prayer

Prayer always precedes movement. Prayer is not about discovering the strategy, it is the strategy.

“If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been

withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.” - A. W. Tozer

Strategies and ministry plans have their place, but when we begin with strategies we are putting the emphasis on what we are capable of. The heart of mission is not something that we do, but something that God does through us. That is why our beginning can't be great strategies or programs, but on a dependence on the Spirit and His power. **Dependence begins with prayer and fasting.**

Watch this video by Praxeis discussing the role of prayer in Disciple Making Movements:

Video :“PRAXEIS” <https://vimeo.com/371550348>

There are three things that every disciple must do when prayer walking:

1. Listen.
2. Listen.
3. Listen.

Read this quick blog post by C. Anderson, a movement leader overseas, discussing her cultivated heart for the lost:

Blog: “When God's Heart for the Lost Grips Yours”
<https://www.dmmsfrontiermissions.com/gods-heart-for-lost-dmm-motivation-2/>

“You find God when you walk down your neighborhood street”

Unable to prayer walk? Believe it or not, disciples have actually been fruitful going on prayer drives and getting out into the community! If you are new to prayer, you may need a baby step to form this missional rhythm. You could begin by Praying for Harvest Workers — [“The 10:02 Prayer”](#). This is totally optional, but it can be a way for your disciple making community to connect in prayer daily if you are unable to meet to prayer walk together.

In Luke 10:02, Jesus tells his disciples that, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few,” and then he bids them to **pray** that the Lord of the harvest would send workers into the harvest field **before** sending them out two by two. If we are going to be on mission with Jesus, then we must begin in the way that Jesus tells us to begin, with prayer. It is a simple, yet powerful, way to establish a rhythm of praying for harvest workers by setting a daily alarm for 10:02, and then praying that the Lord would send harvest workers into his harvest fields. You can also text prayer to your partners to encourage them at this time.

Training: Fasting

"You will always reproduce the environment around you that you cultivate within you."

If we function according to our ability alone, we get the glory; if we function according to the power of the Spirit within us, God gets the glory. He wants to reveal Himself to a watching world." - Henry T. Blackaby

Fasting

The Bible talks a lot about fasting, and its importance as a spiritual discipline that helps us connect with God. While the Bible talks a lot about fasting there is surprisingly little written about it. In fact, if you google fasting you will find more about fasting for fitness than for faith. In this [video](#) Dr. Donald Whitney does an incredible job sharing the why and how behind fasting.

After you watch this video, take some time to try a fast. Be specific about what you are praying for, and how you want to fast. Take some time after you are done to reflect on the experience.

Video: what is the purpose of fasting?

<https://youtu.be/Szq34U6tWIM>

Optional:

You do not need to watch more fasting videos to begin fasting! Nor do you need to know more about fasting in order to move on to the next step of the pathway, however here are two more videos for why and how to fast if you struggle with this discipline:

[How to fast in 10 steps](#)

[10 reasons to fast](#)

[These videos are also included in the "additional resources" at the end of this section]

Tool: relational mapping & listening prayer

Making disciples of the lost is not theoretical. If we don't know to whom God has called us, then everything in your disciple making community becomes mere information. Boiling the whole ocean is rarely successful. Biblically, we see the gospel move quickly along specific relational lines called households (Greek word Oikos). By focusing on and accessing these groups, multiplication became possible. Think sniper not shotgun, when it comes to focusing on a few key gatekeepers in your context.

So where will you go?

How will you focus your resources?

Who will you go with?

Remember, you are the expert of your local context, more so than somebody who wrote a book halfway across the world. It's time to focus on a few and be intentional.

Spend time mapping out your current relationships and contexts of life. These exercises will help you see with whom you already rub shoulders in life and with whom you can potentially begin your prayer and discipleship journey. Remember God could have sent anyone into your time and place, but he chose to send you. He established the times and places and placed you at the center of a community. Complete the [relational prayer and mapping](#) exercises below.

DMC Gathering: Facilitator's Guide

The following questions can be used for your DMC gathering. It is often beneficial to break off into smaller groups for some of the questions in order to get through all of them with depth and brevity.

"What starts out as a weekly meeting will grow into a lifestyle"

Group Facilitator Guide:

Spend time in prayer and circle back to your I WILL Statements (either in large or smaller breakout groups).

*When people follow through on their I wills it's a time of celebration! Even if they tried and didn't fully make it happen. If they missed it troubleshoot how they can do better next week. Disciple making focuses on becoming. Accountability focuses on behaving.

Read John 15:1-8* together. Ask some or all of the following questions:

What stands out to you?

How do prayer and mission relate to one another?

As disciple-makers, do you find this passage encouraging? Challenging? Why?

*This passage is chosen because Abiding in Christ = Being filled with the Spirit = Letting the word of Christ richly dwell within you. Living in Christ and His Word living in us is the essence of letting the Holy Spirit fill and guide us. Abiding in Him as the Vine of John 15 becomes reality through abiding in Him as the Helper (Holy Spirit) of John 14 and 16. Guide others to discover this truth and encounter Jesus.

What stood out to you in the [video](#) about prayer preceding Disciple Making Movements?

What stood out to you from the [blog](#) post about having a heart for the lost?

Break off into small groups and go over your Relational Mapping Exercises

Did anything stand out? Do you have a feel of to whom or where God is calling you?

Create I WILL statements. In light of what God is showing you, what will you do this week?

*(Help participants to make specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable, and time bound "I will" statement. These can be inspired by John 15, the pathway tools and resources, or the participants own Bible study [it's convicting when it comes most directly from the Holy Spirit]. However **each weeks "I will" statement should reflect the principle of that section**, for example "becoming missional" for week one.)

*If someone is struggling to think of an I will you might encourage their spouse or roommate to help them in a "we will". Those who are already doing life together typically know how one another can take their next baby step of obedience into Jesus and encourage them along the way.

At the end of each session, participants will create a missional next step specific to his/her context. Following all materials, practices, and conversations, please input your I WILL statement in the form on the next page.

I Will Statement

In the following questionnaire, form your "I will statement" after this week's reading and share it with your DMC.

In the Spirit of "Learn one thing; do one thing", be prepared each week to have a new "I will Statement" in light of that week's section, to share with your DMC. For example, week two is "Extraordinary prayer and fasting".

What is the spirit prompting you to do this week in extraordinary prayer and fasting? How can we help you by our prayers and support?

"I will...."

Sharing our "I wills" together is a time of encouragement and celebration, not correction. Accountability is not about being punitive or bringing up arbitrary consequences. It's also not about passive aggressively just moving on when we don't have an "I will". We want to move with a team that models the high trust/accountability and low control of Jesus' ministry.

*If you are a married couple or a team your group could create a "we will"



"Surrender in the transformational presence of Jesus moves us from "I could" to "I will"

Additional Resources 2

Discover extraordinary prayer and fasting within movements by checking out these additional resources:

Video: Prayer and Fasting, highlighting key leaders in Africa

<https://youtu.be/NOJQRKf0d8I>

This video series discusses the growth of disciple-making movements in Africa, asserting that disciple-making movements aren't a program but a movement of God. Prayer and fasting are foundational, aligning individuals with God's will, enabling them to overcome spiritual challenges, and receiving divine guidance. The videos highlight the importance of prayer in Jesus' life and or own lifestyle, the need for creativity in prayer engagement, and real-life examples of communities transformed through prayer-led movements.

Video: Movement Prayer Rhythms

<https://youtu.be/30uAXFvTPE>

Shadonkeh Johnson discusses the significance of prayer rhythms in their movement. They emphasize the importance of disciples being intercessors, and training them to pray from day one. The focus is on shifting from mere talking prayer to genuine praying, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide strategies and foster a transformative spiritual movement.

Video: Prayer in Disciple Making Movements

<https://youtu.be/Zchf6Ndjy4w>

This episode underscores how prayer is the starting point as well as one of the most critical elements that fuels a disciple making movement. Prayer gives us a direct connection to God and we are given some hints of what may happen when we let prayer be the foundation of our Kingdom work.

Video: Start small to end big

<https://youtu.be/zXsRsFWSFe4>

Shadonkeh discusses how gradually building habits and incorporating them into one's lifestyle leads to a cultural shift. For instance, in the context of prayer, people are encouraged to begin with short durations, like 10 minutes, and then gradually increase the time they spend in prayer. The content also highlights the importance of writing down goals and praying with specific intentions, which fosters confidence, faith, and a sense of accomplishment.

Video: Extraordinary modeled becomes ordinary

<https://youtu.be/YcVsSMFYEUc>

The video speaker emphasizes the transformative power of prayer and fasting, considering them as essential practices to connect with God and empower individuals. The goal is to shift these practices from being perceived as extraordinary to becoming a norm in Christianity, both in terms of disciples' actions and their modeling for others. A comparison is drawn between the

Western Christian culture's view of these practices as extraordinary and their normalized status in movements.

Video: Miraculous Movements | The Importance of Prayer

<https://youtu.be/Te45aRuJzzs>

Jerry Trousdale, the author of "Miraculous Movements," discusses the significance of prayer in disciple-making movements. He emphasizes that prayer is the cornerstone of these movements, recounting how prayer played a pivotal role in his own journey of engaging unreached people groups. He underscores the transformative power of prayer for Muslims who find new meaning in their faith by realizing that God hears and responds to their prayers. Trousdale urges individuals to begin their disciple-making journey with prayer, seeking guidance, open doors, and compassionate outreach in their community.

Video: Extraordinary Prayer in Movements

<https://youtu.be/uNOjzcfwBPU>

In this YouTube talk about mobilizing and multiplying extraordinary prayer, the Stan Parks emphasizes the importance of personal prayer as a foundation for mobilizing prayer movements. They mention a team in Turkey that incrementally increased their team prayer time to develop extraordinary prayer habits. The importance of qualitative prayer is discussed, with an example of a team in China realizing they had shifted towards selfish prayers, focusing on logistics rather than God's vision. The talk emphasizes examining motivations for involvement in prayer movements and reconnecting with the purpose of glorifying God. The role of listening prayer is highlighted, and the significance of both quality and quantity in prayer is mentioned. Additionally, the practice of prayer rhythms, such as month-long prayer and fasting periods, is explored as a way to deepen prayer engagement and connection with God's will. **You can't activate prayer in others if you're not active in prayer yourself.**

Video: Oikos Principle Ft. Chris Schwartz

<https://youtu.be/5fp1EZ7HE3Y>

In this YouTube video, Chris from Spokane discusses the concept of "oikos" and its application in daily life and evangelism. Oikos is a Greek word meaning household or community, and Chris emphasizes its relevance in modern relationships. He talks about how to identify and engage with the people within one's personal sphere of influence, such as classmates, co-workers, and neighbors. Chris outlines a five-step process involving listing, praying, investing, inviting, and preparing to foster authentic connections and spiritual growth. The importance of genuine interactions and shared experiences, similar to Jesus' approach around tables, is emphasized for effective evangelism.

Resource Page: Fasting in Disciple Making

<https://www.disciplemakers.online/fastingindisciplinemade>

This page includes PDF guides and video resources on 10 reasons to fast and how to fast in 10 easy steps. Fasting is shown to strengthen prayers, aid in repentance, spiritually prepare for ministry, and receive power for ministry. It can also help in discerning God's will, mourning the loss of loved ones, protecting from danger, mourning losses, praising and worshiping God, and calling people into ministry or leadership positions. It emphasizes the importance of discerning the Holy Spirit's influence and having a specific, time-bound commitment for the fast. It recommends informing those who need to know, choosing a clear goal, deciding the duration, and determining the nature of the fast, including whether to include liquids. Starting the fast with confession, consuming the Word of God, and praying with quantity and quality are key components.

Blog and Video: Celebration and Fasting

<https://www.disciplemakers.online/post/celebration-and-fasting>

In this blog, we explore the importance of celebrating fasting, sharing examples, practical insights, and reasons why this spiritual discipline should be an integral part of our faith journey. The focus is on viewing fasting as a celebration of what God is doing rather than a mere self-discipline. We keep this focus by coaching and celebrating progress, avoiding legalism, and fostering a culture where failures are embraced and learned from.

“there are many times when our King invites us to stretch our faith... Restraint and human limitations are not the currency of the Kingdom of God.” - Jerry Trousdale

Week 3: Extraordinary Prayer & Fasting part 2

Personal Discovery Bible Study

Session three continues on the first step of the disciple makers pathway: Extraordinary Prayer. This week we'll focus on the 3 things needed as you begin your discipleship journey:

- Mission-focused prayer
- Identifying your context
- Finding teammates

We will also explore an authoritative prayer practice called "BLESSING PRAYER"

“I pray and I obey” - David Yonggi Cho, pastor of the world's largest church in South Korea with 750,000 members, when asked how he achieved such success.

"Disciples are learning to keep in step with the Spirit of the Almighty God who knows no boundaries, opens every closed door, and produces fruit that lasts for eternity." - Steve Smith

"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts." - Zechariah 4:6

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will remember the name of our God." - Psalm 20:7

Personal Discovery Bible Study: Luke 5:1-11

Spend time discovering and reflecting upon Luke 5:1-11:

"One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,[a] the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him."

Journal Prompt:

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate these passages, and jot down what stands out for you.

- What does this tell you about God?
- What does this tell you about people/you?
- How can you specifically live out this passage? (Create an "I WILL" statement)

Training: Where to Begin

Where to Begin on your Disciple Making Journey

Reaching entire cities and people groups and seeing Disciple Making Movements emerge is an inspiring vision, but it can be hard to practically wrap our minds around what this new paradigm looks like. In fact, much of this pathway is about unlearning rather than learning.

Watch this video (and/or read the article below) that unpacks the 3 things needed as you begin your disciple-making journey:

- Identifying your Context
- Mission-Focused Prayer
- Finding [Teammates](#)

Watch Video: Where do I begin?

<https://vimeo.com/425594200>

And/OR Read [Blog](#): Where to begin in your disciple making journey

<http://www.coryozbun.com/2020/06/16/a-great-commission-vision-where-to-begin-in-your-disciple-making-journey/>

Training: Praying with Authority

Praying with Authority

Watch these two videos below highlighting the importance of truly relying on prayer in our disciple making lifestyle.

1. TESTIMONY:

Laura's story is one of prayer and simple obedience. Check out her testimony where she unpacks the beginning of a miraculous story of how a Discovery Bible Study and eventual ongoing microchurch emerged out of mission focused prayer.

Watch Video: Boston Movement Story (Laura's Testimony)

<https://vimeo.com/257243726>

2. AUTHORITY PRAYER:

Effective movement missionaries understand that prayer is not just asking God for things, but it's actually an exercise in authority. As missionaries, we understand that the vast majority of the work is done in the heavenly realms. Understanding our authority as children of the Most High God is essential as we live on mission. One practical way of praying with authority is to bless others in the name of Jesus. Watch this video explaining the posture of authority and the role of blessing in our missional prayer lives

Watch Video: Authority Prayer in Mission

https://youtu.be/tBlx_8Jzozs

Tool: Mission Focused Prayer Practices

TOOL: BLESS 5 & PRAYER WALKING

Heart check: *Are you doing mission out of strategy, or are you doing mission out of responding to His voice?*

This week we will practice two mission-focused prayer practices. Pull out your context map exercise from last week. Now, prayerfully choose five people and begin to pray with an authoritative posture using the BLESS 5 Tool (click the link below).

THE PRACTICE OF BLESSING

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12A--fO7s9VFCr1MUHsFIOlhCd8KvaRbG/view>

Prayer walking is a key activity for missionaries all over the world. Using the guide on the link above, prayer walk your missional space!

Be curious and let others teach you about your community

Take a moment to think about your community, prayer walk and listen.

Who are the people in your community?

What do they care about?

What are their dreams?

What are their struggles?

What do they need?

What is their worldview?

What barrier keeps them from believing in God?

You might know some of the answers, but your perspective will be limited unless you intentionally adopt a posture of listening, and engage with the people in your community. Below are some questions to guide your listening. These questions can also be great conversation starters as you ask to bless others in prayer. **Listen! Listen! Listen!** Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal opportunities.

- **Who** are the people in your community? (demographics)
- **What** is their situation like? (gifting and needs)
- **When** has significant change occurred? (history)
- **Where** do people in your community connect and interact? (key places)
- **Why** do people do what they do? (culture, values, beliefs)
- **How** is this community impacted by social, economic, and political issues? (social context)

DMC Gathering: Facilitator's Guide

The following questions can be used for your in-person DMC gathering. It is often beneficial to break off into smaller groups for some of the questions/exercises.

DMC Group Facilitator Guide:

Spend time in prayer and circle back to your I WILL Statements (either in large or smaller breakout groups).

Read **Matthew 9:35-38** together.

"35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

Ask:

- What stands out to you in this passage, particularly in terms of spreading the Good News of Jesus?
- What did you learn from the Luke 5 passage this week?
- What did you learn from the [Blog](#) this week discussing the 3 things needed as you begin your journey: Mission-Focused Prayer, Identifying your Context, and Forming a Team?
- What stood out to you about [Laura's testimony](#)?
- What stood out to you regarding [Authority prayer and blessing prayer](#)? Is this new to you?

This week, instead of an I Will Statement, have everyone commit to praying over their BLESS 5's, with particular focus on blessing people on their list (as well as challenging them to go on a prayer walk using the suggested guide).

*By this week, if someone is consistently not making an I WILL or living obediently, then they will need some extra encouragement outside of the group. You may have to explain what the DMC is about and ask if they really want to continue. Giving a clear on ramp and off ramp is better

than someone creating a culture of disobedience. Once the DNA of the DMC is set it is difficult to alter.

*At the end of each session, participants will create a missional next step specific to his/her context. Following all materials, practices, and conversations, please input your I WILL statement in the form on the next page.

I Will Statement

In the following questionnaire, form your "I will statement" after this week's reading and share it with your DMC.

In the Spirit of "Learn one thing; do one thing", be prepared each week to have a new "I will Statement" in light of that week's section, to share with your DMC. For example, week three is "extraordinary prayer and fasting pt. 2".

What is the spirit prompting you to do this week in extraordinary prayer and fasting? How can we help you by our prayers and support?

"I will...."

Sharing our "I wills" together is a time of encouragement and celebration, not correction. Accountability is not about being punitive or bringing up arbitrary consequences. It's also not about passive aggressively just moving on when we don't have an "I will". We want to move with a team that models the high trust/accountability and low control of Jesus' ministry.



"Surrender in the transformational presence of Jesus moves us from "I could" to "I will"

Additional Resources 3

Dive deeper into movemental and authoritative prayer practices:

Blog "The Blessing Prayer by Novo"

http://media.novo.org/pdf/general/Blessing_Guide_2019.pdf

Drawing from the Bible, this guide emphasizes that blessing is a powerful act that involves invoking God's goodness and spiritual power for the benefit of others. The text also provides practical advice on how to incorporate blessing into relationships, prayer, and even blessings for a place.

Read "David Watson's chapter on prayer in his book, "Contagious Disciple Making"

<https://import.cdn.thinkific.com/358440/videos/ContagiousDiscipleMakingch12-211117-143024.pdf>

In a meeting of top disciple-makers, they found that a commitment to prayer was the common factor among high-producing leaders who started numerous churches. These leaders dedicated around three hours daily to personal prayer and an additional three hours in prayer with their teams. They also fasted one day per week and spent one weekend per month in fasting and prayer. This highlights the importance of prayer in catalyzing disciple-making movements. The chapter also emphasizes becoming people of prayer, listening to God, and mobilizing others to pray effectively. Additionally, it discusses the significance of prayer networks and teaching people to pray for their communities.

Video "Prayer Walking Tips"

https://youtu.be/Oeo04U_Zmh4

This YouTube video discusses the practice of prayer walking, emphasizing its significance in discipleship and spiritual growth. Joey provides seven basic steps for effective prayer walking, including partnering with others, setting aside dedicated time, choosing specific areas, focusing on God's promises, praying for people and places encountered, regathering to share experiences, and mobilizing more prayer efforts. The video encourages curiosity, simplicity, specificity in prayer, and alignment with God's will in the prayer walk. The ultimate goal is to join God's mission and open one's eyes to the spiritual harvest in the community.

Video: How do you pray with authority?

<https://youtu.be/i3h9mhA4cAU>

This YouTube video discusses authoritative prayer, emphasizing that prayer should be an exercise of authority for missional disciples. It explores how Jesus authorized his followers to pray with authority, highlighting the importance of obedience and dependence on Him. It's important to have a heart of compassion and responsibility in authority. Six steps for authoritative prayer include declaring responsibility, obeying God's instructions, binding the enemy, speaking God's truths, personal cleansing, and focusing on disciple making.

Video: outreach prayer in evangelism

<https://youtu.be/OHPiuWqMtSY>

In this YouTube conversation, Joey discusses a unique approach to outreach through prayer with Cody Dowdy, who has been using this strategy in the Lynchburg, Virginia church. Cody's approach involves initiating conversations with people by offering to pray with them, assuming the best about their faith in God. Through these interactions, they not only pray together but also share their faith journeys, offer support, and help each other grow spiritually. This non-threatening approach has led to positive outcomes, including church growth and making new friends.

Video: Prayer culture without legalism

https://youtu.be/OQwwxo4C_wk

The discussion revolves around establishing a genuine culture of prayer and fasting without succumbing to hypocrisy or legalism. It emphasizes the importance of discipleship, coaching, and mentoring to foster this culture. The speaker highlights that prayer and fasting are disciplines, not laws, aimed at humbling individuals and allowing them to experience God's blessings. They stress that this practice should be voluntary and driven by obedience, not manipulation. The conversation also touches on the role of holiness, emphasizing a Holiness rooted in the love and grace of Jesus, guiding people to abstain from ungodly things with compassion and without judgment.

Video: building a team

<https://vimeo.com/371549959>

This video emphasizes that you need a team to be on the field, running the race, using various gifts, and praying for the harvest. Jesus sent disciples out in teams, two by two. Do you have others praying on your team?

Video: Transitioning to Spirit leadership

<https://youtu.be/kKKfMUM53Fg>

The video discusses the transition to spirit-led leadership within a religious context, emphasizing the importance of prayer and reliance on the Holy Spirit for effective disciple-making efforts. It mentions the adoption of fasting and prayer practices, including specific prayer guides and times for different types of prayers. The shift towards more prayer-centered meetings has resulted in positive outcomes and strengthened mission focus.

Blog "How to increase your prayer life"

<https://www.bendchurch.org/post/how-to-pray-tools-to-increase-your-devotional-life>

This blog emphasizes the importance of prayer in the life of a believer, drawing examples from the teachings and practices of Jesus and early disciples. It highlights that prayer is not just a religious ritual but a way to build a relationship with God. The text encourages starting with small steps in prayer, provides prompts for forming prayers, and suggests various prayer strategies and resources. Overall, it emphasizes the transformative power of prayer in one's spiritual journey and encourages readers to make prayer a lifestyle.

Week 4: Live as Missionaries

To live as a missionary is to join God in his Kingdom work. Just like Jesus, missionaries proclaim the Gospel both with words and acts of service. This is sometimes referred to as an access ministry, compassion ministry, or BLESS rhythm. As we do so, the Holy Spirit highlights certain people who he has already prepared to receive the Good News. In evangelism and disciple making, God is the one who does the heavy lifting.

"I don't want the world to define God for me. I want the Holy Spirit to reveal God to me. When the Holy Spirit is in full control of our lives, He will expect our obedience

to the written Word of God. But it is part of our human problem that we would like to be full of the Spirit and yet go on and do as we please!" - A. W. Tozer

Personal Discovery Bible Study

"the Kingdom of God- recognizing and obeying God's authority in every area of life- was breaking into the world, and we need to change the fundamental orientation of our lives in response to its presence." - Jerry Trousdale

Personal Discovery Bible Study: Luke 10:1-12

To live as a missionary is to join God in his work. Missionaries share the Gospel of Jesus through both words and acts of service. As we do this, the Holy Spirit brings certain people along the way who he has already prepared to receive the Good News. God is the one who does the heavy lifting, we are just joining God in what he is already doing.

Throughout the world, missionaries read Luke 10 as direct instructions in how to spread the Gospel and make new disciples. As you read Luke 10:1-12, pay particular attention to the instructions Jesus gives his disciples, including the key role of the **Person of Peace** (vS 6):

Luke 10:1-12

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He 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. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. 5 "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' 6 If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. 8 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.' 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town."

Journal Prompt:

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate these passages, and jot down what stands out for you.

- What does this tell you about God?
- What does this tell you about people/you?
- Do you match the description of a harvest worker in this passage?
- How can you specifically live out this passage? (Create an "I WILL" statement)

Training: Person of Peace

“He loves to use you when you surrender to His Spirit within you. His Spirit is also moving all around you to open the hearts of people. Your job is not to prepare their hearts. Your job is to find the people God has opened and then to disciple them, revealing paths they can walk in and lead other new disciples down. Just as you have the Teacher living in your heart, tutoring you in Christlikeness, so do they. It is your duty to trust the Spirit of God in them and help them respond to Him.” - Steve Smith

Remember Luke 10:1-12? It introduces the concept of the Person of Peace. Persons of peace are generally defined as those who are both spiritually interested and who act as relationship gateways to new networks of people (Luke 10:5-7). Generally, persons of peace are identified through some sort of tangible expression of God's love and compassion, which in turn opens the door for new groups of people to discover and respond to the Good News of Jesus. As we engage with our community, we are always praying for the Holy Spirit to reveal persons of peace. Often, when the harvest is prayerfully infiltrated, people of peace find disciple makers rather than the other way around.

Do you match the description of a harvest worker in Luke 10?

In Luke 10 Jesus instructed the disciples that the resources were in the harvest. This pattern continues as person of peace are found throughout the New Testament. Remember during this time a single household (oikos) could incorporate an entire family business or an entire village community. People were also dependent on one another in an agrarian society and greeted each other often as they walked along the road.

Persons of peace being relational gateways gets a little tricky when we're thinking about our own network of relationships in a North American context. If you are engaging with your community and having spiritual conversations, but you are struggling to find the person of peace, then chances are that YOU are the person of peace in that community.

Biblical examples of the person of peace:

Aeneas, Acts 9:32-35

Cornelius, Acts 10, esp. vs. 24, 44 (Note "all.")

Lydia, Acts 16:14-15 (Note "household.")

Philippian jailer, Acts 16:32-33 (Note "all his family.")

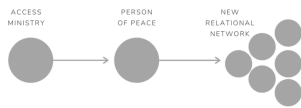
Titius Justus, Acts 16:7 (Note that Paul stayed with him.)

Crispus, Acts 16:8 (Note "entire household.")

Watch this video describing a key part in spreading the Gospel by the vehicle of relationships.

Watch Video: Person of Peace

<https://vimeo.com/371548220>

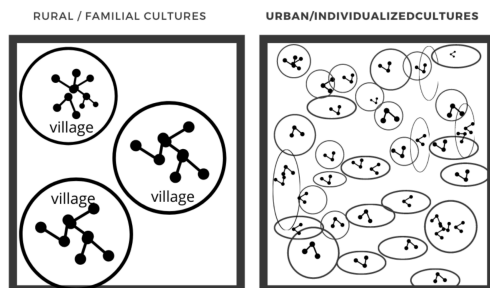


"We create an extra step by getting people to church and a paid minister before they get to God. Anytime you pull somebody out of their current culture in order to get to God who are you making the missionary?"

Do persons of peace actually exist where I live, work, learn, and play? Read the blog below to see how you might see this principle in your real life context.

Read Blog Missionaries in an American Context

<http://www.coryozbun.com/2020/07/23/scratch-the-itch-in-the-name-of-jesus-how-to-find-spiritually-interested-people-in-an-american-setting/>



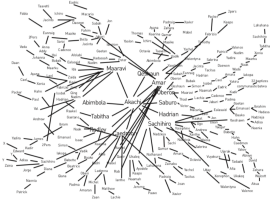
We can meet people of peace in different ways:

- 1. Engaging those we know relationally
- 2. Spending time in promising settings
- 3. Encounters where they find us
- 4. Entry through another person saying "you should talk to..."
- 5. Expeditions with a team or prayer walking partner
- 6. Embedding within an affinity group
- 7. Empowering other leaders to reach those in their networks

One last example from disciple making movements:

See the below image which represents the social network map of a person of peace (Akachi) who spread the gospel to hundreds of people and made multiple generations of disciples in dozens of streams. Akachi began sharing with Oberon and His entire oikos. Oberon began to share with Qeshaun and his entire oikos. Qeshaun met Jesus and began to share with Simon, who began to share with Isabel, who began to share with Cael, who began to share with another Amara, who began to share with Wade, who began to share with Naak, who began to share with Maarku, who began to share with Xenia, who began to share with Tabitha, who began to share with Sachihiro, who began to share with Lahahana. In that one stream alone 13 generations were impacted! Akachi got excited about Disciple Making Movement principles and initially failed in implementing it. He didn't give up, started over again, and now has reached up

to 17 generations in East Africa! Remember to give yourself grace if your network doesn't match the network of others, while also remaining optimistic to the speed that the gospel can travel along relational lines.



Tool: Bless Rhythms

"Access or compassion ministries are us answering the prayers of lost people"

"if Muslims were doing as many good things for our own people as these Christians are doing, we would not have the problem of Muslims becoming Christians. My recommendation is that we Muslims learn how to be better servants from these Christians!" -an Eman who later converted to christianity after witnessing a disciple making movement's compassion

"For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves." LUKE 22:27

BLESS Rhythms

Living on mission is more about postures and rhythms than activities and programs. But sometimes it's hard to practically wrap our minds around HOW to live on mission, to find persons of peace, and to plant the Gospel with hungry and open people. One tool missionary leaders and trainers use is the acronym B.L.E.S.S.

BLESS is five simple missionary rhythms that Jesus and the early church embodied for us. This "rule of life" isn't really about adding more tasks, it's more about infusing everyday activities we are already doing with new gospel intentionality. These rhythms are simple enough for a five-year-old to understand, but robust enough to create effective and engaged missionaries.

B- Begin in Prayer

Pray with and for people to whom God has called you

L- Listen and Engage

Prioritize asking questions over talking, and create spaces to intentionally engage with those whom God has called you

E- Eat

Spend time eating meals with people, grabbing coffee, or enjoying happy hour with those to whom God has called you

S- Serve

Meet needs, be selfless, practically serve others

S- Story

Share stories of Jesus, point to Kingdom truths, and be ready to invite others to Discover Jesus more (DBS settings)

Watch this short video by Dave Ferguson describing what happens when we seek to bless rather than convert others.

Watch Video: 5 ways to bless your neighbors

<https://youtu.be/BMpUSDKPU4s>

Do we love the poor? Do we love our neighbor? Do we know their names and needs? If your church wasn't here, what would your community look like? If the community wasn't here what would your church look like? Is there a reciprocation of blessing shaping your church to your community? Would what you do on a Sunday change if your greater community all of a sudden didn't exist? If your church all of a sudden didn't exist, would your community notice?

DMC Gathering: Facilitator's Guide

The following questions can be used for your in-person huddle gathering. It is often beneficial to break off into smaller groups for some of the questions/exercises.

Group Facilitator Guide:

Spend time in prayer and discuss your experience praying from a place of authority using the BLESS 5 practice. Share stories - What is God up to?
(either in large or smaller breakout groups)

Read **Mark 2:13-17** together.

"Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. 14 As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. 15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

- What do we learn about how Jesus reaches people?
- Who is the "Person of Peace" in this passage?
- What did you learn from the Luke 10 passage and the video this week?
- Why do you think the "Person of Peace" is such a significant piece of Gospel Movement?

- What stood out to you in the blog post discussing elements of mission and movement within an American context?
- How can utilizing the BLESS RHYTHMS help you be a better missionary in your context?

Create I WILL statements. In light of what God is showing you, what will you do this week?

*At the end of each session, participants will create a missional next step specific to his/her context. Following all materials, practices, and conversations, please input your I WILL statement in the form on the next page.

I Will Statement

In the following questionnaire, form your "I will statement" after this week's reading and share it with your DMC.

In the Spirit of "Learn one thing; do one thing", be prepared each week to have a new "I will Statement" in light of that week's section, to share with your DMC. For example, week one is "live as missionaries".

What is the spirit prompting you to do this week to live missionally? Or **is there anyone to whom you will BLESS this week?** How can we help you by our prayers and support?

"I will...."

Sharing our "I wills" together is a time of encouragement and celebration, not correction. Accountability is not about being punitive or bringing up arbitrary consequences. It's also not about passive aggressively just moving on when we don't have an "I will". We want to move with a team that models the high trust/accountability and low control of Jesus' ministry.



"Surrender in the transformational presence of Jesus moves us from "I could" to "I will"

Additional Resources 4

Dive deeper into how to live as missionaries, check out the further resources below:

Video "BLESS rhythms in more detail [14 min]"

<https://vimeo.com/301745491>

Video finding Households of Peace

<https://youtu.be/oCCS2BZy8UU>

The Luke 10 House of Peace strategy involves reaching out to communities where you have no connections. Jesus instructs believers to pray for laborers when implementing this strategy. When a "person of peace" is found, it's crucial to stay with them and invest in the relationship. Hospitality is an important aspect of this strategy, with believers encouraged to accept the food and drink provided.

Video: Tenacity in Disciple Making

<https://youtu.be/OByuVKI8j3o>

The video discusses the importance of tenacity and persistence in disciple-making efforts, emphasizing the need to keep reaching out to others even when initial attempts may not yield results. It highlights the example of missionaries in Thailand who faced challenges in converting locals and mentions that it often took numerous encounters before someone seriously considered Christianity. The key message is that tenacity and love for the lost are essential qualities for successful disciple making, regardless of the location or approach used.

Video: Eagerness to Hear the Truth

<https://youtu.be/p5-ERXR-Qdw>

The video references Peter, Cornelius, and the eagerness to hear the truth.

Sermon "Prayer in Luke 10"

<https://anchor.fm/bendicoc/episodes/Extraordinary-Prayer--Acts-4--Luke-10-e1r2kkl/a-a5jr9su>

Sermon "Posture of Blessing"

<https://anchor.fm/bendicoc/episodes/BLESS-Rhythm--Posture-before-Proclaiming-e1rodgc/a-a5jr9su>

Video "Access Ministries Amongst Movements in Africa"

<https://youtu.be/EslwamdvxCI?si=H52fZt9bOp9mFMpF>

<https://youtu.be/g2MzcCWT17c>

The videos emphasize the importance of meeting the needs of a community as a means to build relationships and share the message of faith. Access Ministries, also known as compassion ministries, aim to reach various people groups and communities through acts of compassion, such as providing clean water, food, and education. It also highlights the idea of a "tent-making strategy" where believers are empowered to spread the gospel in their professions. The content underscores that access ministry is a way to demonstrate God's love and connect with people on a deep level, ultimately fulfilling the Great Commission.

Note the need to understand and address the practical needs of people within communities to establish a connection and demonstrate God's love. Various access ministry approaches are highlighted, including medical camps, providing clean water, offering counseling, and establishing schools. The story of Salim, who used his skill in making shoes as an access

ministry, is shared as an example. Compassion ministries are seen as a vital component of disciple-making movements, fostering spiritual transformation alongside meeting physical needs.

Video "Persons of Peace amongst movements in Africa"

<https://youtu.be/4NHcZxK0m14?si=eh3zifyXLM-QgJzQ>

https://youtu.be/2MFg0cN_QUQ

The video explains A Person of Peace is someone prepared by God within a community who serves as a gateway to introducing the gospel to that community. The strategy is rooted in Jesus' teachings in Luke 10 and Matthew 10. These individuals are spiritually open, have questions, and can facilitate the spread of the gospel to their families and communities. Their influence is crucial in reaching entire communities, and rather than replacing their leadership, the goal is to empower them to lead their communities toward Christ.

The narrator shares a personal story of a lady who, despite her troubled past, displayed a hunger for the word of God, making her a potential person of peace. Building a relationship with her led to the formation of discovery Bible studies and the transformation of her community. The video emphasizes that identifying and nurturing persons of peace is crucial for initiating disciple-making movements and mentions biblical examples like Cornelius and Lydia who played similar roles.

Reading: "Holistic Kingdom Ministry" from Jerry Trousdale's book, "The Kingdom Unleashed"

https://80d3780f-76d4-450a-8fd2-3d1f496cc9b8.usrfiles.com/ugd/80d378_9ac31500060948668ca9998add234b04.pdf

The chapter highlights how Jesus' compassion for the suffering drove His ministry, and how modern Christians should emulate this by praying for the sick, addressing spiritual warfare, and engaging in compassionate ministries. It also touches on the importance of building relationships in local communities and how churches in the Global North can adopt a holistic approach to ministry. Additionally, it presents real-life examples of how this approach has led to transformative experiences in various regions, demonstrating the power of prayer and faith.

Week 5: Gospel Conversations

In general, the church has socially distanced itself for so long that there is no viral spread of the gospel in the West. In this section, we will dig into the concept of contextualization and how we will walk through applying the gospel in the unique communities we live, work, learn, and play.

The gospel is simple, but the gospel is not simplistic. That was said by Tim Keller, and probably many other theologians before him, but the truth cuts to the heart of the importance of contextualization. The gospel is more than a simple metaphor. When we take time to listen to the communities around us, seek to understand the good, the broken, and the redeemable we

are given deep insights into how the gospel can be specifically applied to the malady of the community.

Is it possible to embody and contextualize the gospel to redeem people in more places than a church building?

Can we go to the people and share the gospel contextually rather than just inviting someone to a church service?

Personal Discovery Bible Study

Evangelism can be a scary concept for many Christians. The word itself carries a lot of baggage, including perceived pressure to convince people to move from unbelief to belief through your carefully crafted presentations. But what if evangelism had more to do with highlighting aspects of the Kingdom, asking good questions, and inviting them to discover more about Jesus than it does convincing someone to believe something they don't yet believe?

This session will focus on practical ways to engage people in spiritual discussion. First, let's look at an example of the way Jesus engaged people in conversation.

Personal Discovery Bible Study: John 4:4-42

John 4:4-42

And He had to pass through Samaria. 5 So He *came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, tired from His journey, was just sitting by the well. It was about [a]the sixth hour.

The Woman of Samaria

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away to the city to buy food. 9 So the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, though You are a Jew, are asking me for a drink, though I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus replied to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water? 12 You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, and his sons and his cattle?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water so that I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw water." 16 He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." 17 The woman answered and said to Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly

said, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this which you have said is true." 19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and yet you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one must worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Believe Me, woman, that a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. 23 But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is [i]spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." 26 Jesus *said to her, "I am He, the One speaking to you."

27 And at this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What are You seeking?" or, "Why are You speaking with her?" 28 So the woman left her waterpot and went into the city, and *said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is He?" 30 They left the city and were coming to Him.

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat something." 32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" 34 Jesus *said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work. 35 Do you not say, 'There are still four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that the one who sows and the one who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this case the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have come into their labor."

The Samaritans

39 Now from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 Many more believed because of His word; 42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One truly is the Savior of the world."

Journal Prompt:

What parts of this conversation were CASUAL in nature?

What were MEANINGFUL? What were SPIRITUAL?

Who is Jesus asking me to love in gospel intentionality this week? [intentional conversations]

Moving from Casual to Meaningful, to Spiritual conversation

Look at John 4:4-42, the story of Jesus interacting with the Samaritan woman at the well. As you read, see if you can fill aspects of their conversation into the four quadrants below. Intentional conversation quadrants can help us engage how aggressive or passive we need to be in relation in with particular individuals.

How was Jesus engaged in casual, meaningful, and spiritual conversation?

Where are people in your Oikos or bless 5 along these four quadrants?

TRAINING: Spiritual Conversations

"Give others the gift of curiosity"

Biblical example

Too often we enter into a community with our own plans and strategies. We are tempted to take a program or strategy that worked somewhere else, rebrand it, and place it into a community without considering whether or not it's what they want or need. Instead, we need to begin by entering into a relationship with our community where we genuinely listen to them. When you adopt a posture of listening, you get to know who the people are: What do they want? What do they need? What do they struggle with? And you build trust. As you listen, the Holy Spirit will start to reveal the ways that you can engage with your community to make a gospel impact that meet their needs. Remember, **Jesus asked 307 questions and answered about 7 questions.**

In addition to the woman at the well in John 4, we also see Paul in Acts 17:16-34 addressing the Areopagus in Athens with spiritual conversations, contextualized so as to become all things to all men (1 Cor. 9:19-23). What is it that Paul observes that provokes his spirit, and how does he use those things as a bridge to share the gospel? In light of how Paul worked in Athens, how do you hear his words in 1 Corinthians, and what do they tell you about contextualization? What is one example of how you can use something prevalent in the culture of your community to share the gospel?

Paul observes what is:

1. **Good** - These people are intellectual and love beautiful things.
2. **Broken** - They are steeped in idols and still feel they are missing something.
3. **Redeemable** - He can present Christ as an intellectual idea in a way that is consistent with their culture that addresses the brokenness and offers healing.

3 Questions You Can Ask of Your Culture: Good, Broken, & Redeemable

1. What is **good** in the culture around me?
2. What is **broken** in the culture around me?
3. How can I **redeem** a part of the culture and present Christ in such a way that people see how his gospel addresses the brokenness in the culture and offers healing?

Additional questions: What do you see as the greatest need in the community? What can our church do to help the community? What can we do to help you? After discerning these needs and conversing about them with people who live there, open the door to a Discovery Group using Scriptures that address the person's or community's needs. Meet them at their pain point or felt need.

Spiritual Conversations Podcast

Listen to this short podcast by the Global City Mission team. Seth discusses key components of having spiritual conversations, including the art of listening, not having an agenda, and making spiritual statements.

https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/globalcitymission/episodes/2017-08-22T10_21_56-07_00

[Optional] additional video on spiritual conversations

<https://vimeo.com/371549210>

TOOLS: Red to Green & Invitation into Discovery

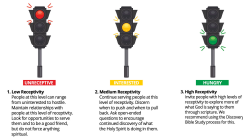
Red, Yellow, Green & Invitation into Discovery

Meet people where they are; not where you want them to be. Not everyone is ready to receive an invitation to discover more about God. How do you know who to pursue? There is significant nuance to the levels of receptivity people have towards the Holy Spirit's invitations. Not everyone is either "ready or not" to have a spiritual conversation, and it is the disciple maker's role to discern and lovingly attend to each person appropriately.

Check out these two simple tools that can help you in your journey to have Gospel conversations, as well as help you to know how and when you should invite someone into a Discovery Bible Study environment.

1.Red, Yellow, Green: Navigating the receptivity of potential persons of peace

2. Invite to Discovery: How do I invite someone into a discovery group (DBS)?



DMC Gathering: Facilitator's Guide

Facilitator's Guide

The following questions can be used for your cohort gathering. It is often beneficial to break off into smaller groups for some of the questions/exercises.

Spend time in prayer and circle back to your I WILL Statements. Share stories of how God is showing up in the lives of those on your BLESS 5 list.

Go over your personal DBS of John 4 together. Ask: What do we learn about spiritual conversations by looking at the example of Jesus?

Spend time discussing the video and the podcast:

- What was your biggest takeaway?
- What was different/encouraging about this way of going about spiritual conversations?
- Discuss the tools (Red, Yellow, Green & Invitation into discovery): Are there any yellow and greens on your BLESS 5 prayer list?
- Is there anyone you can invite into a Discovery Group soon?
- If not, Who is Jesus asking you to love in gospel intentionality this week?

Create I WILL statements. Encourage people to be intentional about having meaningful and spiritual conversations with people on their BLESS 5 list

I Will Statement

In the following questionnaire, form your "I will statement" after this week's reading and share it with your DMC.

In the Spirit of "Learn one thing; do one thing", be prepared each week to have a new "I will Statement" in light of that week's section, to share with your DMC. For example, week one is "Gospel conversations".

What is the spirit prompting you to do this week to have your Gospel conversations? How can we help you by our prayers and support?

"I will...."

Sharing our "I wills" together is a time of encouragement and celebration, not correction.

Accountability is not about being punitive or bringing up arbitrary consequences. It's also not about passive aggressively just moving on when we don't have an "I will". We want to move with a team that models the high trust/accountability and low control of Jesus' ministry.



"Surrender in the transformational presence of Jesus moves us from "I could" to "I will"

Additional Resources 5

Dive deeper into stories and resources regarding living as missionaries. Check out the links below:

Video: A Posture of Listening. (Michael Frost)

<https://youtu.be/v2TtylQ3ous><https://youtu.be/v2TtylQ3ous>

In this video Michael Frost emphasizes the importance of adopting a posture of listening when engaging with a neighborhood or community for ministry. He criticizes the tendency among church planters to impose preconceived ideas and programs on communities without genuinely understanding their needs. Frost shares the story of Jesus as an example of attentive listening and urges individuals to connect with their communities, listen actively, and tailor their approach to meet the specific needs of their neighborhood. He encourages a missional incarnation approach, where individuals engage intimately with their communities and adapt their ministry accordingly. Frost stresses the importance of connecting with local leaders and residents, understanding their culture, and truly embracing the needs of the neighborhood.

Video: Great Questions for Spiritual Conversation

<https://youtu.be/mz6Lr4mwVrc>

In this video from SeanMcDowell.org, he emphasizes the importance of asking open-ended questions and listening actively to understand the other person's beliefs and worldview. By doing so, he suggests that it becomes easier to guide the conversation towards a deeper exploration of spirituality and potentially help individuals on their spiritual journeys. Start by asking fundamental questions about the person's beliefs, such as their thoughts on God, the

afterlife, human nature, and purpose. Actively listen to their responses and follow up with "why" questions to understand how they formed their beliefs. Ask personal questions about the influences, books, and experiences that have shaped their spiritual perspective. Encourage individuals to share their understanding of God or the concept they do not believe in and listen attentively. Explore potential barriers to their spiritual journey and address them through conversation and thoughtful answers.

Video: How to share your faith with gospel conversations

<https://youtu.be/xtCXH8QvhUo>

This video discusses effective ways to engage in gospel conversations using a discovery approach and a mosaic approach. It emphasizes the importance of moving conversations from casual to spiritual, and it highlights the need to relate the gospel to everyday life topics. The video suggests asking discovery questions, being authentic in your faith, and following up with individuals to build relationships and share the gospel gradually.

Video: The Art of Spiritual Conversations

<https://youtu.be/fzSAozJG6bA>

In this video, the speaker emphasizes the importance of approaching conversations with humility, avoiding the pressure to provide perfect Christian answers. Instead, they advocate for active listening, asking questions, and showing genuine care for others. By focusing on people's stories and beliefs, discussing spiritual matters can become more natural and meaningful. Such conversations can offer hope to those who are searching for answers and call for living a life that reflects one's beliefs.

Reading: chapter Engage Lost People from David Watson's book "Contagious Disciple Making"

https://s3.amazonaws.com/thinkific/file_uploads/358440/attachments/576/424/2d0/Contagious_Disciple-Making_Ch_13.pdf

Video: How Disciple Makers Engage

<https://vimeo.com/156868573>

Week 6: Discovery Based Discipleship

Our words must meet our actions in order to have a clear picture of Jesus. This is Lordship. This is the "Shema lifestyle"*. We cannot do this on our own, but by God's grace and mercy we can yield our self to him again and again. Today, our learning style has conformed to the pattern of the world with the "PhDing of America". We are the most educated Christians in all of history, while the 1st century didn't have Bibles, or commentaries. You could read the great commission and leave out a four letter word [obey] and most would not know the difference. If you aren't living out the teachings of Jesus in obedience, then are you creating a discipleship culture on the sand of foolish building or the rock of wisdom?

Any form of "discipleship" that is not based upon obedience is no form of discipleship at all [Matthew 28:20]. The power of non-legalistic, self-discovered obedience to God is the power of transformation. Biblical transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit, bringing our lives into alignment with Jesus' teaching. If you are weary to obey, remember the confidence we have because of Jesus and surrender your fear. Take action; baby steps are fine; avoidance is not. It's about small wins, not big vows. In the early church, the credibility of their gospel rested on the integrity of their lives. Same today, you will help people see the Kingdom [Jesus's reign in your life] or you will block their view. The concern here is not how high one scores on an obedience test, but how eagerly one desires to obey with a hunger and thirst for righteousness; to say "despite my feelings, not my will but yours be done."



*Shema Lifestyle—Intentional statements and actions that give a glimpse of the reality of who God is and how He desires to draw us to Him. Around the world, the top way disciple makers find those interested in God is by serving them (with prayer, kind deeds and community service) while consistently pointing to God in culturally appropriate ways.

Personal Discovery Bible Study

"give your servant a listening heart." 1 Kings 3:9

"listen to my son" - Matthew 17:5

"I have been faithful to the heavenly vision" - Acts 26:19

"I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do" - Acts 13:22

"I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure." - Psalm 119:162

"My food is to do what my Father sent me to do. My food is to finish his work." - John 4:34, Hearing and obeying God, recognizing and acknowledging His authority, was more important to Jesus than food, even after fasting for forty days. Jesus

became perfect, living up to His intended design, as He surrendered to every word the Father spoke.

"Jesus tells us there is no blessedness equal to the blessing of obedience [Luke 11:27-28]. It's more blessed to live in obedience than to be the mother of the messiah."

Personal Discovery Bible Study: Acts 16:6-34

The question for this week is: "NOW WHAT?" You've identified the context to whom God has called you, you've lived on mission, and began having spiritual conversations with people to whom you've been sent. Maybe you think you've identified those spiritually interested persons of peace... now what? In traditional western church paradigms, that's when you invite people to an attractional church service where they can hear proclamation from a professional speaker (after all, sometimes God is a little more manageable if we keep him in a box that we visit once a week to hear about Him through one person).

Now, in a post-Christian world where most unbelievers would never think about stepping foot in a church building, how do you begin making disciples right where people are at? Not only that, how can you make mature disciples who also know how to multiply? It is in that moment that we again turn to our brothers and sisters around the world who are seeing incredible Disciple Making Movements in cultures spanning the globe. In essentially every movement we see a discipleship method that is DISCOVERY based (so little proclamation teaching) and OBEDIENCE based (a focus on immediate response to the words in the Bible over knowledge). Spiritually interested people are invited to do a Discovery Group right where they're at (Luke 19:5).

Remember, rather than extracting unreached people to the Synagogue [where they did not want to go], Jesus infiltrated the people. Of His 132 public appearances in the NT all but 10 of them were in the marketplace. 45 of 52 parables had a workplace context. Of the 40 divine miracles in Acts, 39 occurred in the workplace. This week will focus on the Discovery Bible Study method, and how anyone can begin to make disciples right where you're at, no matter how "equipped" you may or may not feel.

"Enough people already know enough of their Bible that if they just set it down and obeyed what they knew they would shake the nation."

"The reality of adult learning is that the average adult listening to us only retains about 5 to 10% of the content we've worked so hard to prepare. The sermon is not the center of disciple making. Adults learn primarily through sensory experience, not cognitive downloads." - Hugh Halter

Personal DBS (Journal): Acts 16:6-34

They passed through the [a]Phrygian and Galatian region, after being forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; 7 and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; 8 and passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and

pleading with him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 When he had seen the vision, we immediately sought to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

11 So after setting sail from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the following day to Neapolis; 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were spending some days in this city. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were thinking that there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

First Convert in Europe

14 A woman named Lydia was listening; she was a seller of purple fabrics from the city of Thyatira, and a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. 15 Now when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

16 It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave woman who had a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing great profit to her masters by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us and cried out repeatedly, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you a way of salvation." 18 Now she continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and he turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was suddenly gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities, 20 and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men, Jews as they are, are causing our city trouble, 21 and they are proclaiming customs that are not lawful for us to accept or to practice, since we are Romans."

Paul and Silas Imprisoned

22 The crowd joined in an attack against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. 23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; 24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 Now about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened. 27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul called out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" 29 And the jailer asked for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas; 30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

The Jailer Converted

31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of God to him together with all who were in his house. 33 And he took

them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. 34 And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and was overjoyed, since he had become a believer in God together with his whole household.

Journal Prompt:

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate these passages, and jot down what stands out for you.

- What does this tell you about God?
- What does this tell you about people/you?
- How can you specifically live out this passage? (Create an "I WILL" statement)

TRAINING: Discovery Bible Study videos

"Meditation without the outcome of application is like chewing without swallowing"

"Adam's original sin was wanting to know the things that God knows without actually obeying him."

"At the point of obedience theological truth becomes a fact of life" - A. W. Tozer

Disciple-making must be both lightweight and deep-rooted: Light enough for anyone, anywhere, to replicate with their friends and family. Deep enough to make surrendered and transformed disciples of Jesus. Discovery Bible Studies are simple, easily reproducible, and train new disciples to obey Jesus in everything. Not everyone is a gifted orator or an expert small group speaker, especially if they are encountering Christ for the first time. Reproducible discovery groups put the ministry back into the hands of everyday people. They foster obedient "Shema lifestyles" through discovery learning.

A Discovery Bible Study (DBS) is a disciple-making tool that functions as the practical strategic engine of Disciple Making Movements all around the world. It's a great way to share the good news of Jesus and form new disciples in an interactive, Holy Spirit-led format. In a DBS group, spiritually interested people read a Bible story together, discover what it says, and then are challenged to immediately live out what they learned and share it with someone else. DBS groups are often the DNA building blocks of new faith families (microchurches or other simple expressions of church) that emerge out of new disciples.

A discovery group is a group of unbelievers, gathered by a person of peace who meet together to discover and obey God via a Discovery Bible Study using a set of Scriptures appropriate for the group. The leader is coached by a Movement Catalyst with an expectation that the group will become a church over time. When acting as a catalyst to a group, it can't happen without you but it must not depend on you "self-discovery of truth" and "self-actuated obedience to truth" are emphasized. In the US, the majority of DBS ends up being with individuals due to independence and isolationism, but generational multiplication typically occurs amongst groups rather than individuals even in US contexts.

Watch these two videos which describe the Discovery process in more detail:

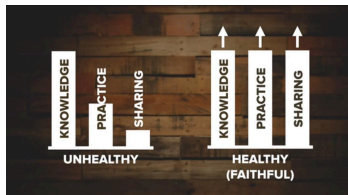
Watch Video: What is a Discovery Bible Study?

<https://youtu.be/zJ7d1FcX25I>

Watch Video: How to Lead DBS

<https://youtu.be/C7TwZx0pb2o>

Think of knowledge, practice, and sharing as a three legged stool - how balanced are you?



In the spiritual economy, we breathe in what God has given us and then we share it with others. We forgive because he's forgiven us and we bless because he blesses us, but if we don't pay these things forward we become stagnant. Like aerobics, if we eat too much but don't exercise we become too unhealthy with an imbalanced intake and outtake of carbohydrates. Truth can't aid us until we become participators in it. We must work out what God has worked within us [Philippians 2:12-13]. If we are faithful in obeying the truth that God has revealed to us, he will reveal more.

Cooperation with the Holy Spirit is essential to sanctification. Such obedience is not legalistic; it is a response of love and trust to Jesus, not a matter of conformity to external rules. Legalism is applying a list of rules that someone else gives us. Obedience is being responsive to God's directions. In the ancient Near East, loving one of the pagan gods meant obeying that god. If you did not obey the god, you did not love the god. Jesus tells us that if we love Him, we will obey His commands; conversely, if we obey His commands, we are demonstrating that we love Him (John 14:15, 21). He also says that if we obey Him, we will remain in His love and are His friends (John 15:10, 14). When we disobey we are saying either that He doesn't love us and want what's best, or that we know better than He does about what we should do and how we should live. Just as our faith is demonstrated by our works, so is our unbelief demonstrated by our disobedience.

"Because he did not serve the Lord your God with a glad heart you will serve your enemies [Deuteronomy 28:47]"

"Hey, when I know enough, then I'll go obey it." The better path is: "Let me obey God in all things, and as I obey I will grow in knowledge and insight." [see John 8:31-32]

"I venture to suggest that the one vital quality which they had in common was spiritual receptivity. Something in them was open to heaven, something which urged them Godward. Without attempting anything like a profound analysis I shall say simply that they had spiritual awareness and that they went on to cultivate it until it

became the biggest thing in their lives. They differed from the average person in that when they felt the inward longing they did something about it. They acquired the lifelong habit of spiritual response. They were not disobedient to the heavenly vision. As David put it neatly, "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek" - A. W. Tozer

Tool: DBS Passage Lists

"Beyond that, I believe that obedience is also a sign; it should be a pointer that indeed, the Kingdom of God is reigning in this person's life, in this family, the Kingdom of God is reigning in this community. It's when people submit to His lordship and obey His commands" - Jerry Trousdale

The Discovery Process is the primary method of discipleship in movements around the world. Discovery Bible Studies are simple and reproducible groups that consist of spiritually interested people who read a Bible story together, discover what it says, and then are challenged to immediately live out what they learned and to share it with someone else.

DBS Facilitation Tips

.pdf

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DBS Principles and Advice

Discovery Passage Lists

DBS Bookmark

"DBS Sequences" [PDF](#)

This pdf is a topical index of discovery passages that can be used in discipleship times to meet felt needs for demographics: men, women, singles, marriage, parenting, youth, marketplace, special needs, recovery. Topics include: masculinity, accountability, attitude, performance anxiety, real beauty, coping with change, loneliness, sexuality, how to find a partner, getting along at home, balancing work and home, communication conflict, intimacy, miscarriage, family time, strong willed children, identity, finding friends, hot issues, business ethics, coworking relationships, finding the right job, bored and burned out, self esteem, caregiving, growing older, empty nesting, healthy habits, grief and loss, abuse, 12 steps. These passages can help you to be competent to disciple in any situation!

The topical sequences can also be used to meet felt needs of those you're reaching out to. By spending a few weeks serving their need [healing, parenting, forgiveness, etc.] you can begin a discipling relationship that leads ot them discovering God.

The "Creation to Christ" sequence in this packet is the primary sequence used around the world to help others discover God and then discover new life in Christ.

"Love the Lord Discovery Series" [PDF](#)

This series is a combination of Discovery and the First Principles Bible study series used for conversion. It helps people discover God, while also using pointed "I will" challenges to respond to discipleship, the authority of the Word, the Church, etc.

"Americans love commitment because they are still in control. But the key [Biblical] word is surrender... Commitment can be self-centered and cause-centered.

Commitment is fundamentally about "me". How strongly am I devoted to someone or something? Surrender is all about the other person. I relinquish my rights and give up control to someone or something else." - Steve Smith

"Dallas Willard quips, we are educated beyond our capacity to obey. The academy demands passivity in the student, whereas discipleship requires activity. If discipleship primarily involves becoming like Jesus, then it cannot be achieved by the mere transfer of information divorced from the context of ordinary, lived life. We cannot continue to try to think our way into a new way of acting, but rather we need to act our way into a new way of thinking." - Alan Hirsch

DMC Gathering: Practice a DBS together

The following questions can be used for your in-person huddle gathering. It is often beneficial to break off into smaller groups for some of the questions/exercises.

Group Facilitator Guide:

Spend time in prayer and circle back to your I WILL Statements. Share stories of how God is showing up in the lives of those on your BLESS 5 list.

Ask: Why do you think some form of Discovery Bible Study is present in every Disciple Making Movement we can track around the word?

Practice a Full DBS together as a group: LUKE 18:9-14

Pick a facilitator (someone else in the group).

Using the questions from the training this week, have the facilitator go through the entire process (the questions are also below). Afterwards de-brief on the DBS process. You will probably need at least 30 minutes to work through the questions with a small group.

- What stood out to you about DBS?
- Could you see yourself discipling people using this simple method?
 - [optional questions if time] - [] In your experience of disciple making, how have others helped you to discover God? Are you helping others discover or are you telling them what they should know, informing or forming them? In your discipleship, are you getting others to encounter Jesus in scripture?

DBS Questions:

1. *What are you thankful for this week?*
2. *What's stressing you out or challenging in your life, family, world?*
3. *How did you obey, share, or meet the needs from last week? (This can be skipped for your practice DBS)*
4. *What does this say about God?*
5. *What does this say about people?*
6. *If this is God speaking, how will you obey it this week? [I will...]*
7. *Who do you know who needs to hear this? How can you share what you've learned with them?*
8. *How can we bless and serve our community this week?*

*At the end of each session, participants will create a missional next step specific to his/her context. Following all materials, practices, and conversations, please input your I WILL statement in the form on the next page.

I Will Statement

In the following questionnaire, form your "I will statement" after this week's reading and share it with your DMC.

In the Spirit of "Learn one thing; do one thing", be prepared each week to have a new "I will Statement" in light of that week's section, to share with your DMC. For example, week one is "discovery based discipleship".

What is the spirit prompting you to do this week to practice discovery based discipleship? How can we help you by our prayers and support?

"I will...."

Sharing our "I wills" together is a time of encouragement and celebration, not correction.

Accountability is not about being punitive or bringing up arbitrary consequences. It's also not about passive aggressively just moving on when we don't have an "I will". We want to move with a team that models the high trust/accountability and low control of Jesus' ministry.



"Surrender in the transformational presence of Jesus moves us from "I could" to "I will"

Additional Resources 6

Dive deeper into what it looks like to plant the Gospel and start Discovery Bible Studies-check out these resources:

Video: Jerry Trousdale discusses Obedience Based Discipleship

<https://youtu.be/nRQ6EUCjg84>

This video highlights the distinction between knowing and obeying, stressing that obedience to God's word is akin to building one's foundation on solid rock, while disobedience is like building on sand. The text underscores that despite the abundance of knowledge about scripture and resources available in modern churches, the focus should be on discovering truth and collectively committing to obey it, as this obedience-based discipleship has transformative potential. Obedience leads to the presence of God among believers.

Video: Simon Says by Francis Chan

<https://youtu.be/t96P5Xf0rPk>

In this video, Francis Chan reflects on the simplicity of the childhood game "Simon Says" and draws a humorous parallel to how people approach the teachings of Jesus in church. He emphasizes the importance of action and making disciples rather than just memorizing and quoting scriptures.

Video: multiplying DBS groups in the US

https://youtu.be/wet13Mnj_6E

In this video, DBS involves reading scripture without external curriculum, relying on the Holy Spirit and community as teachers. Participants engage in scripture, identify God's character, their own character, and how to follow and obey. They then create "I will" statements and share them, fostering accountability. DBS is a crucial part of a larger strategy that includes missionary work, gospel fluency, and micro-church multiplication, primarily effective in reaching non-believers. The KC Underground has started over 150 discovery groups within a three year period, leading to baptisms and churches. However, it may face challenges when used within established church settings without prior theological deconstruction.

Video: SHEMA obedience from the Bible Project

<https://youtu.be/6KQLOulKaRA>

This video explores the concept of "Shema" in the Bible, a word that means "listen" in Hebrew but goes beyond mere auditory perception. It signifies paying attention, responding, and obeying. In the Bible, listening to God is intertwined with obeying His commands, emphasizing the importance of action alongside hearing. The word "Shema" reflects respect and the willingness to do what is spoken. Many cries for help in the Book of Psalms begin with a call for God to "listen" (Shema) and act. In ancient Hebrew, there is no separate word for "obey," so "Shema" encompasses both listening and obeying. Listening in the Bible involves giving respect to the speaker and taking action, emphasizing that true listening requires effort and action.

Video: Leading Discovery in Africa

<https://youtu.be/SCOQiYjGKVM>

This video on "Discovery Groups" discusses the power of ordinary people hearing God's Word, practicing it, and experiencing joy through the priesthood of believers. Discovery groups play a crucial role in this movement, using questions to open individuals to God's Word and enabling them to share their learning with others. These groups connect disciple makers with their families and friends, leading to the multiplication of new discovery groups. The approach focuses on simplicity, allowing people to discover truths for themselves and fostering a sense of community. The process involves asking specific questions, discussing challenges, and encouraging practical help, all rooted in Scripture. It ultimately aims to transform knowledge into obedient action and multiplication within communities. Discovery Bible Study is a versatile tool used in various contexts, from families to university campuses, facilitating group discussions and accountability.

Video: scripture is the curriculum

<https://youtu.be/2Gd6bO7Dulq>

In disciple making movements, the central focus is on using Scripture as the curriculum, emphasizing a direct engagement with the Bible rather than relying on secondary texts or theological teachings. This approach aims to anchor individuals in the Word of God, recognizing that everyone may have some degree of theological error. The goal is to nurture a deep connection with Scripture, fostering a habit of seeking and responding to God through His Word while acknowledging the value of teaching and preaching as complementary tools for spiritual growth. The ultimate goal is to embed a lifestyle of engaging with God's Word and responding to Him as followers of Jesus.

“Obedience doesn’t lack knowledge”

<https://youtu.be/VwWEUL2u7Uw>

This video emphasizes the importance of putting knowledge into practice as a way of demonstrating love for God, as opposed to merely accumulating knowledge without application. The message is that true wisdom lies in obeying the teachings of Jesus rather than just knowing them. The Great Commission includes teaching obedience to Jesus' commands.

Video: “The word of God in Movements ft. Shadonke Johnson and Curtis Sergeant”

<https://youtu.be/kwjY1MMwzXE>

This content features a conversation between Shadonke Johnson and Curtis Sergeant about disciple-making movements and their impact on spreading Christianity. They discuss impressive statistics, such as 26.5 million baptisms and 2.3 million simple churches worldwide since 2013. Curtis Sergeant highlights the remarkable growth of Christianity in Hainan, China, from a few hundred to over a million believers. Both emphasize the importance of equipping everyday disciples and the intensive use of Scripture [25-30 chapters weekly, even for illiterate individuals] in these movements. Highly educated scholars participate, but they must first be disciples.

Video: more DBS facilitator advice

<https://youtu.be/GLlmdumTbso>

This video provides advice for facilitators of Discovery Bible Study (DBS). It emphasizes the importance of not becoming the primary teacher but allowing participants to read and obey

God's word. Facilitators are encouraged to be question-driven rather than answer-oriented, ensuring the group engages in discussion and self-correction. The video highlights the need to avoid codependency and promote self-sufficiency among group members. It also discusses the importance of feedback, setting personal goals (I will statements), and sharing the Bible's teachings with others in the community. The video addresses potential concerns about heresy, advocating for group-based Bible interpretation and correction.

Video: what is our part in evangelism?

<https://youtu.be/xAUDZQtTzzQ>

In this video, Joey explores the roles of God, seekers, and Jesus followers in evangelism, focusing on John 6:44-45. The passage highlights that God draws people to Jesus, Jesus obediently fulfills his mission, and seekers must hear and learn from God to come to Jesus. The evangelist's role isn't explicitly mentioned, emphasizing that drawing others to God is the Holy Spirit's responsibility. Instead, Jesus followers are urged to help seekers connect with God, guiding them to read the Bible, listen to God's voice, and obey His teachings.

Video: Wholistic Learning in Movements

<https://youtu.be/Av6wFGpmM10>

Holistic learning in Disciple Making Movements explains that simply listening results in retaining only 5% of information, but note-taking, discussion, application, and teaching others can increase retention significantly, up to 80-90%. Movement training and church activities encompass all these aspects, emphasizing the value of education through a combination of knowledge and practical application.

Reading: From Ministry to Movement from Roy Moran's book "Spent Matches"

https://import.cdn.thinkific.com/358440/videos/SpentMatches_ch4_MinistryToMovement-211117-143155.pdf

Reading: Obedience and Transformation from the book "Kingdom Unleashed"

https://s3.amazonaws.com/thinkific/file_uploads/358440/attachments/058/270/c35/TKU_ch_15.pdf

Reading: Chris Galanos' chapter called "Focus on God's Word"

<https://import.cdn.thinkific.com/358440/videos/M2MCh12FocusonGodsWord-211117-143155.pdf>

Week 7: Disciples Make Disciples

"If you can't reproduce disciples, you can't reproduce leaders. If you can't reproduce leaders, you can't reproduce churches. If you can't reproduce churches, you can't reproduce movements. - Neil Cole

Disciple makers make disciples. When people believe they can and should make disciples growth becomes exponential. Many do the right things for the wrong reasons [growth, people

pleasing, etc.] , but mature disciples will try to do the right thing for the right reasons [loving your neighbor, responding to the missional heart of God, etc.]. It's more than a strategy; it's a way of being. **It's a lifestyle.** It's more than a priority; it's the priority. No. Matter. What.

"You have one business on earth – to save souls." - John Wesley

What will it take for God to accomplish His purposes?

We look at professionalized clergy on stage and think, "I wish I could be like them" or "I could never be like them", and we admire their skills, abilities, talents, knowledge, whatever it is that we see as their effectiveness in ministry. But God does not need talented men and women to accomplish His purposes; He just needs disciples faithful enough to imagine that He can use anybody to do anything. Jesus chose four fishermen, a tax-collecting Roman, and a zealot rebel against Rome - not the candidates that a rabbi would have taken for disciples, and not who most of us would pick to start a church. He did not choose the seminary graduates, the popular, or well off. Instead, He chose ordinary people to be His first disciples, who would become a movement to change the world

"If we're honest, it's pretty easy to see the functional Great Commission in North America: Go into all the world and make more worship attenders, baptizing them in the name of small groups, and teaching them to volunteer a few times a month." - Will Mancini

"If the Church is not doing this [making disciples of Jesus], then all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible, are a waste of time" - C. S. Lewis

"I believed for too long that we seminary-trained ministers were the class that had to do it for them and on behalf of them, instead of recognizing that, in the Kingdom of God, it's about them. It's about them being the ministers that God has called them to be and they will be, if we just let them." - Jerry Trousdale

"almost all expressions of church in the West are implicitly vulnerable to nondiscipleship, professionalized ministry, spiritual passivity, and consumerism" - Alan Hirsch

The last command that Jesus gives in the Gospel of Matthew is to make disciples of all people (Matt. 28:18-20). This is what we call the Great Commission, and it's the reason why the church exists as fire exists for burning. Jesus also tells us how to make disciples, by Baptizing and teaching to obey. Yet, if we're going to make something, we need to know what that something is. So, if we want to make disciples of Jesus, we need to know what a disciple of Jesus is—we need to define it.

If you ask around, you would be amazed at how many different definitions there are of what a disciple is. There are many wonderful and effective definitions of a disciple, and if you have a definition that helps you to make disciples, praise God! But, for those who either don't have a working definition, or want to gain more insight into what a disciple is, the following presents a simple and effective framework for defining what a disciple of King Jesus is: be - become - do.

This is based on Mark 1:17 when Jesus calls his first disciples by saying, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of people." While it doesn't say everything that needs to be said about being a disciple, it's broad enough and simple enough to be supported by other Scriptures that show what the life of a maturing disciple looks like.

A disciple is someone following Jesus, being transformed by Jesus, and committed to Jesus' Kingdom mission.

when people believe they can and should make disciples growth becomes exponential. You must watch people in action and then listen to why they do what they do.

Personal Discovery Bible Study

Personal Discovery Bible Study: 2 Timothy 2:1-2

You have now spent weeks learning about and practicing key concepts that will help you find where God is at work and how you can join him. Hopefully, in that you have begun a journey of living on mission, finding persons of peace, and maybe even starting a Discovery Bible Study with spiritually interested people.

This DMC is designed to kickstart you into new habits and to hopefully set you on a trajectory of making disciples who make disciples. This final week will quickly look at the reality of multiplication and new forms of church emerging out of new disciple-making. As you spend time discovering the verses below, see if you can identify how many "generations" of disciple-making are present.

Personal DBS (Journal):

2 Timothy 2:2 "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

Journal Prompt:

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate these passages, and jot down what stands out for you.

- What does this tell you about God?
- What does this tell you about people/you?
- Do I know how to disciple people who can then disciple people who then disciple people, etc?
- Does our discipleship plan naturally lead all disciples to become missionaries?
- How can you specifically live out this passage? (Create an 'I WILL' statement)

TRAINING: Reimagining "CHURCH"

"When the church was in Jerusalem, it was a movement, then it went to Greece and became a philosophy, then it went to Rome and became an institution. Then it went to Europe and became a culture, and then it went to America and became a business."

What is the result of the Gospel being planted and new disciples made?

Answer: The Church

Heart Check: If you ask someone to come into a new unfamiliar place and culture with a new lingo and ways of doing things that are totally foreign, who are you making the missionary?

Alan Hirsch says that the way in which we structure church as a learning style [staffed hierarchy on stage, singing followed by a Ted Talk style presentation] really only appeals to 40% of the population. 40% of people will not connect with this form of church even if they tried. Churches end up simply competing with other churches for the same 40 percent of the decreasing population pie. This isn't surprising, as less than 40% of people even go to church currently. A recent Barna study says that only 37% of the US population has stepped foot into a "transcendent" or spiritual space, not just Christian buildings but spaces of all beliefs. 14% said they were unsure if they have stepped into these spaces and 55% were certain they haven't set foot into these spaces nor do they have any desire to. This means you will have to set foot in their space or enter a third space together [mutual ground like a park or cafe].

"A bad church is like an inoculation. So few are willing to step out of their comfort zone to see people come to know Jesus. Jesus became entirely uncomfortable to come and save us, but we want the Lost come to us on our terms. We are not willing to work hard, to change, just stuff out to see people come to know Jesus, we've missed the heart of God. The church loses because we do not share the Lord's heart." - Jim Putman

"What we have is . . . a pagan society whose public life is ruled by beliefs which are false. And because it is not a pre-Christian paganism, but a paganism born out of the rejection of Christianity, it is far tougher and more resistant to the Gospel than the pre-Christian paganisms with which foreign missionaries have been in contact during the past two hundred years. Here, without possibility of question, is the most challenging missionary frontier of our time." - Lesslie Newbigin

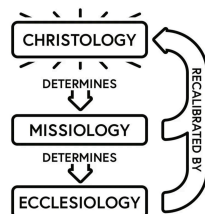
"if you were born between 1925 and 1945 there's a 60 percent chance you're in a church today. If you were born between 1946 and 1964 there's a 40 percent chance you're in a church today. If you were born between 1965 and 1983 there's a 20 percent chance you're in a church today. If you were born after 1984 there is less than a 10 percent chance you're in a church today." - Alan Roxburgh

Video: [Church Planting v Church Starting](#)

Remember last session's personal DBS on Acts 16? The Gospel was planted in Philippi with Lydia and her household, and the jailer and his household. The next thing we know about Philippi is the book of Philippians. One could make the argument that there's no such thing as church planting in the Bible. In the book of Acts we see the Gospel planted in new places, disciples made, and then suddenly we know that the Church is present and alive in a new place. This new testament norm may not be the practice of your current tradition. If you've inherited an automated church system, remember you're not responsible for the church you inherit, but for the one you leave behind.

Just like God didn't stay in heaven waiting for us to find him, God doesn't want us to stay in our church buildings waiting for the disconnected to find their way to our church on Sunday morning. Instead, Jesus has sent his followers — everyday disciples — to seek out the disconnected as they reflect the love of Christ in the everyday spaces where we live, work, learn, and play. It's in these spaces that Jesus uses everyday disciples to connect the disconnected as we imitate the incarnational way of life of Jesus and Paul.

If Jesus isn't our focus, we may just be bringing the dysfunction of a larger church into our living room. Christology followed by missiology followed by Ecclesiology results in us not necessarily knowing what church must look like or what we're doing, but we do discover who we're doing it for and to whom we're called to serve as a church. Don't calibrate to "the way we do things around here", calibrate to Jesus. According to John 20:21 and John 5:19 Jesus only did what he saw the Father doing and he has sent us just as the Father sent him. Focus on "movement" or "Kingdom" which sparks imagination rather than "church" which carries preconceived baggage. Before speaking to someone about re-working church, speak to them simply about Re-Jesusing and Re-sending. To whom have you been sent?



"The church does not have a mission, the mission of God has a church." - Alan Hirsch

"Those who start with the questions about the relationship to the existing Church have already made the most common and most dangerous mistake. Start with the Church and the mission will probably get lost. Start with mission and it is likely that the Church will be found... that church will take the shape of the cultural group it is trying to reach... the only way to ensure that the Christian community truly incarnates itself and is fully contextualized" - Alan Hirsch

New forms of church?

Around the world simple forms of church are exploding out of new disciple making. Church planting movements generally do not produce large and expensive forms of church, but rather local, intimate, and missionally potent forms that gather in homes and everyday spaces. Check out the video below of Rob Wegner, a leader in KC Underground, unpacking a simple

expression of church called "microchurches." Remember that "micro" is just one possible expression of a spiritual family and not the only model.

Video: Rob Wegner on Microchurches

<https://vimeo.com/453074310>

When does a Discovery Bible Study group mature into a Spiritual Family? Answer: When members live ever-increasing obedient lives to Jesus, and the group lives into the rhythms of Worship, Community, and Mission.

Reading: Moving From A discovery group to a Microchurch

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JW8yrSUDgDh3og-ZYcNRAEpixcsKFeCA/view?usp=sharing>

This DBS exercise can help a group mature into a fully functional expression of church.

Micro, simple, cell, house, mega, multi - we should be hesitant to brand our form of church with a prefix. Remember, form follows function. Function as a healthy spiritual family of disciple makers and an expression of church will emerge. Remember, God never called us to build his church; he called us to make disciples who make disciples.

Our obedience must always be sourced by fascination with Jesus and not by the next church trend.

"Lower the bar of what it means to be a church and raise the bar of what it means to be a disciple"

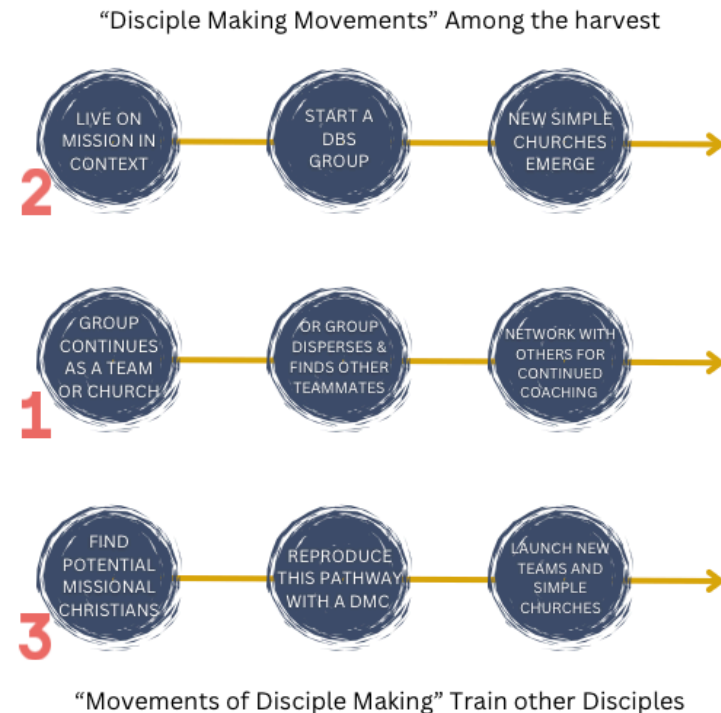
TOOL: What's Next?

Check out the image below discussing three possible directions and WHAT'S NEXT after this pathway. You may need to start in the harvest, finding persons of peace and beginning a discovery group; you may continue with a team for ongoing coaching and training; or you may be ready to launch your own missional community with like minded disciples.

At this point you have completed the pathway, and you can use it as a launchpad to your continued journey of making disciples who make disciples. For the past seven weeks you have been collaborating as a pseudo DMC, but this collaboration doesn't have to end. You can continue as a community to embody the principles and lifestyle of a disciple maker. You can always return to this content to view the resources and facilitator guides. You have been poured into so that you can now pour into others and replicate disciples. Whatever your next step may be, we hope that you will join us for follow up training opportunities so that we can continue to support your efforts.

Online Journaling Activity:

After looking over the image below, use the "I will" step of this section to reflect on the last few weeks, as well as to make tangible next steps for yourself.



Ongoing Coaching

“Movements live and die on good mentoring and coaching.” - Roy Moran

Now that you've graduated from this pathway, don't let your discipleship fade! Often Christians begin to embrace the Shema lifestyle of faithfully responding to Jesus and penetrating lostness with Gospel intentionality during the initial training, but without an ongoing team their persistence can waver. Some have gone through the pathway multiple times, learning something new each time as they continue to live into the principles.

After the initial seven week training, you need someone to guide you as you implement that training. You need someone you can ask questions to and someone that will help you troubleshoot tough situations. It's common in movements to meet weekly with a coach in your first 2-3 years of getting started. You will need that much input and support into what you're doing to be effective, just like the 3 years that Jesus spent doing life with his disciples.

Jesus simply sent them into the harvest. He gave them a short-term assignment with instructions. The sending of the twelve (Luke 9) and the sending of the seventy-two (Luke 10) share the same characteristics of a feedback loop. In both examples they were asked to go and try to heal, exorcise, and preach, and then to return. The return is vital to the nature of the discipling relationship. In this approach, there is no failure, only valuable feedback and

permission to experiment. In our experience, almost all disciple making efforts experience initial failure. People hit real walls and need help to process them as learning experiences.

We are always available to you for prayer, coaching, sharing resources, troubleshooting Disciple Making Movement principles, future virtual workshops for disciple making similar to the sections you just experienced, etc. We look forward to following up to see how your journey continues!

"The number one reason people don't continue in ministry when they graduate college is because they don't have a team... too many people graduate from ministry when they graduate college"

DMC Gathering: Facilitator's Guide

The following questions can be used for your in-person DMC gathering. It is often beneficial to break off into smaller groups for some of the questions/exercises.

Group Facilitator Guide:

Spend time in prayer and circle back to your I WILL Statements. Share stories of how God is showing up in the lives of those on your BLESS 5 list.

Remember this pathway is just a launching pad to disciple making, and ongoing learning and progress is needed for this lifestyle. If you're not dedicated to your disciplines; you'll be destroyed by your distractions.

Examples of ongoing learning: prayer hubs, DMCs, virtual coaching calls, etc.

Go over your personal DBS of 2 Timothy: 1-2

- How many generations of multiplication are represented in that passage?
- Did God reveal anything to you in terms of re-imagining the church?
- Could you see yourself being involved in new church expressions that emerge out of DBS groups and new disciples?
- What stood out to you about the testimonies?

Debrief:

- What were the biggest takeaways from this training?
- And, what are your specific next steps following this training?
- Discuss the next step of this pseudo DMC (could this group become an ongoing team, or mature into a church expression?)
- Pray as a group to conclude this DMC. Pray for each other and the next steps for this group.

End by mobilizing prayer:

"God, would you enable me to find a person of peace, to disciple them until they come to Christ, get to baptize them, then get out of the way and watch them baptize someone else this year." to pray daily and train others.

*At the end of each session, participants will create a missional next step specific to his/her context. Following all materials, practices, and conversations, please input your I WILL statement in the form on the next page.

I Will Statement

In the following questionnaire, form your "I will statement" after this week's reading and share it with your DMC.

In the Spirit of "Learn one thing; do one thing", be prepared each week to have a new "I will Statement" in light of that week's section, to share with your DMC. For example, week one is "disciples make disciples".

What is the spirit prompting you to do this week to make disciples who make disciples? How can we help you by our prayers and support?

"I will...."

This week is vitally important to create your next steps after the pathway, so that these principles remain your lifestyle rather than just another program.

Sharing our "I wills" together is a time of encouragement and celebration, not correction. Accountability is not about being punitive or bringing up arbitrary consequences. It's also not about passive aggressively just moving on when we don't have an "I will". We want to move with a team that models the high trust/accountability and low control of Jesus' ministry.



"Surrender in the transformational presence of Jesus moves us from "I could" to "I will"

Additional Resources 7

Dig deeper into multiplication and simple expressions of emerging churches. Check out the resources below:

"we made a mistake by calling the new churches "groups." That decision caused most new groups to only last about nine months. They must self identify as a church... We changed the name of the Sunday service to Celebration and Training. I changed the name because, if you get training, it is to help you carry out your mission more effectively out there, not in the Sunday service." - Jerry Trousdale

Video: From DBS to Gatherings

<https://vimeo.com/156946081>

Video: Missional Church... Simple

http://youtu.be/arxfLK_sd68

In this video, the missional church concept emphasizes empowering its members to be the church in their community, encouraging them to live out the good news among those who may not be familiar with traditional church practices. Unlike traditional churches that rely heavily on marketing and events, the missional church recognizes that each believer can embody the church's mission in their everyday lives, fostering compassionate and genuine relationships with their neighbors.

Video: Missional Community... Simple

<https://youtu.be/KJP35eFKGIs>

In this video Bob, the owner of a hobby shop and a member of a remote-control airplane club, becomes a Christian and joins a church. However, he struggles to balance his commitment to the church with his love for model airplanes. Eventually, he gives up the airplane club to focus on his church involvement, but his friends in the club miss him. Bob invites some of them to church, but not all join. Bob later becomes a church leader but takes a break from church gatherings to reconnect with his passion for model airplanes. The church decides to support him in building a compassionate and loving community within the airplane club, recognizing his potential to bring Jesus to that group.

Video: "church emerges"

<https://youtu.be/7WumLliUhD8>

This video discusses the fifth step in a certain disciple-making movement, which involves starting a gathering or church. This church emerges from a discovery group where believers come together to perform the functions of the church, emphasizing that the church belongs to Christ. The process is illustrated through a testimony of a lady who transformed from a drunkard into a believer, leading to the formation of a church. The transition from a discovery group to a church is not about numbers but about people gathering for worship, unity, love, and service.

Video: From online DBS to neighborhood microchurch

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2plOplJ_gg&ab_channel=CoryOzbun

This story features Austin and Christina Anderson, who share their experience of how God's presence and community-building have thrived during the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially, they hosted gatherings and events in their neighborhood but had to adapt due to the pandemic. They transitioned to online Disciple Bible Study (DBS) meetings on Zoom, which surprisingly

flourished. Through these online sessions, they connected with a previously unknown family and witnessed their transformation towards faith. The Andersons emphasize that they are merely vessels for God's work and highlight the organic nature of their meetings, including spontaneous worship sessions. Their story illustrates that God's presence transcends boundaries and continues to work amid challenging circumstances.

Video: DBS multiplying in a prison

<https://vimeo.com/332019780/adf1760ed4>

Video: What a Missional Community is not

<https://youtu.be/CXUIzDBkgho>

In this discussion, Jeff Vanderstelt and Caesar Kalinowski clarify what a missional community is not. They emphasize that it's not primarily a Bible study group, a support group, or a social activist organization. While studying the Bible is important, they stress that a missional community's focus should be on living out the teachings of the Bible in a mission-oriented context. They discourage using Bible studies as a means of self-justification and emphasize the need for action and application of biblical principles. They also caution against turning missional communities into mere support groups and highlight the importance of raising mature believers who can engage in the mission of making disciples.

Video: Churches and eldership in Movements

<https://youtu.be/Nf9u7WAVIIM>

In this discussion, the concept of church and eldership in Christian movements is explored. The speaker defines church in three ways: the universal church encompassing all believers, city or regional churches, and church meetings in homes, referred to as spiritual families. Notably, the discussion focuses on leadership roles like elders and deacons, which are primarily associated with city or regional churches. The importance of training and nurturing leaders from the outset of forming a church is emphasized, with an aspiration to establish elders and deacons as the church grows.

Reading: [Why the missional movement will fail](#) by Mike Breen

Reading: [Make Disciple Makers not just Disciples](#) by Matt Dabbs

Reading: [Micro church White Paper](#) by Asheville ICOC Church Network

Image: Changing Roles of Clergy and Laity by Jerry Trousdale

THE CHANGING ROLES OF LEADERS AND LAITY				
	Early Church	Post-Constantine	Protestantism	DMM
Leaders	Qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual maturity Character Giftedness Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipping Sacraments 	Qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training (sometimes) Ordination Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacraments Preaching (sometimes) 	Qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education (often) Call to Church Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preaching Administer Communion Teaching (sometimes) 	Qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character Giftedness Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator Catalyst Coaching Mentoring Training
Laity	Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compassion Evangelism 	Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive the Sacraments Give money Obey the Church 	Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fathers as family pastors Learn Bible Receive Communion Give money Do work "as to the Lord" 	Role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compassion Making Disciples Church Planting Communion

Podcast: [Jon Sherwood interviewed](#) about the growing network of Microchurches in the Asheville International Church of Christ

Podcast: [Matt Dabbs interviewed](#) on the house church model within Church of Christ

Podcast: [John Porter interviewed](#) on the house church model within the International Churches of Christ

Video: John Porter an old vision for new church

<https://youtu.be/o3aKcEopnfQ?si=Rxr3IH6SysUFrLvX>

John Porter, a former leader of a large church and mission society, shared his insights at the 2017 Unboxed Conference on the changing landscape of church attendance in the United States. He emphasized the decline in church participation and the challenges of modern culture, where people are increasingly distracted and disconnected. John advocated for a shift towards smaller, intimate, family-like gatherings or "Oikos" communities, where genuine love and care for one another can flourish. He believes this approach aligns with Jesus' teachings and can better engage today's society. Only 15% of Americans attend church on any given Sunday, making the U.S. the third largest mission field globally. Sociologist Josh Packard notes that one-third of American adults have left church and aren't returning. He sees a growing movement of house churches and small communities as a response to changing cultural dynamics. John encourages a shift towards a more family-oriented, love-centered model of church.

Next Steps: Ongoing Learning

Casting Vision

Check out the resources below for further inspiration on multiplying, applying movement principles and planting the gospel in the US:

Documentaries for casting vision

These videos can be used as inspiration for movements or the pathway. You may even want to show one of these videos to cast vision to someone to join a DMC or start the pathway!

Video: Documentary of the Tampa Underground microchurch network applying Disciple Making Movement Principles they learned from the Philippines

<https://vimeo.com/256315051/01cd255550>

Video: Documentary of the KC Underground microchurch network applying Disciple Making Movement principles they learned from India, and Africa

https://youtu.be/N_YgYbgnR8I

Video: Live by faith Ft. David Young from the Renew Network Conference.

David leads the North Boulevard Church of Christ, which has embraced Disciple Making Movement principles, partnering with Jerry Trousdale, Shadonkeh Johnson and other Disciple Making Movement Catalysts. David is also a cofounder of the Renew Network. (This video was included in “additional resources 1”)

<https://youtu.be/SqNIVEMonjs>

Video: Radical missional obedience to the spirit Ft. Chan, Clayton, and Putman

<https://youtu.be/DgsmVrr72Fw>

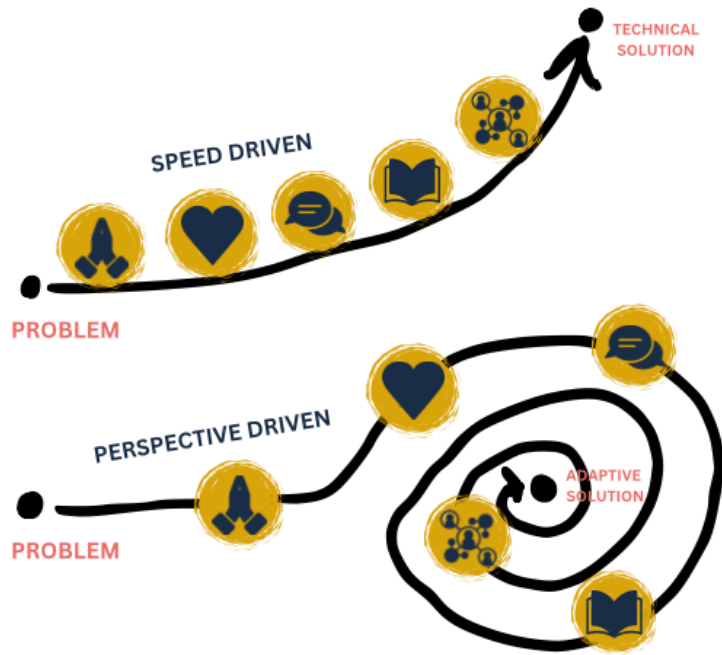
Perspectives

How can I become competent in this lifestyle? What if it doesn't work at first? Can church culture really shift? This step shares principles for the change process in internalizing the pathway principles in yourself and others.

How can I become competent in this lifestyle? What if it doesn't work at first?

“You don't rise to the level of your goals, you fall to the level of your systems...Too often we convince ourselves that massive success requires massive action. Improving by 1% isn't noticeable or notable, it's not earth shattering, but it can be far more meaningful in the long run.... If you can get one percent better each day for a whole year you'll be 37% better by the time that year is done. Conversely, if you get one percent worse for one year you will decline down to zero.” - James Clear

In the West, when confronted with a challenge we typically look for a speedy silver bullet or technical solution. The reality is that most of the complex problems we encounter in our time will require adaptive change. The technical approach is usually linear and driven by speed. This mindset is a “just git 'er dun fast” approach, running a high risk of creating an impartial solution (see the following diagram).

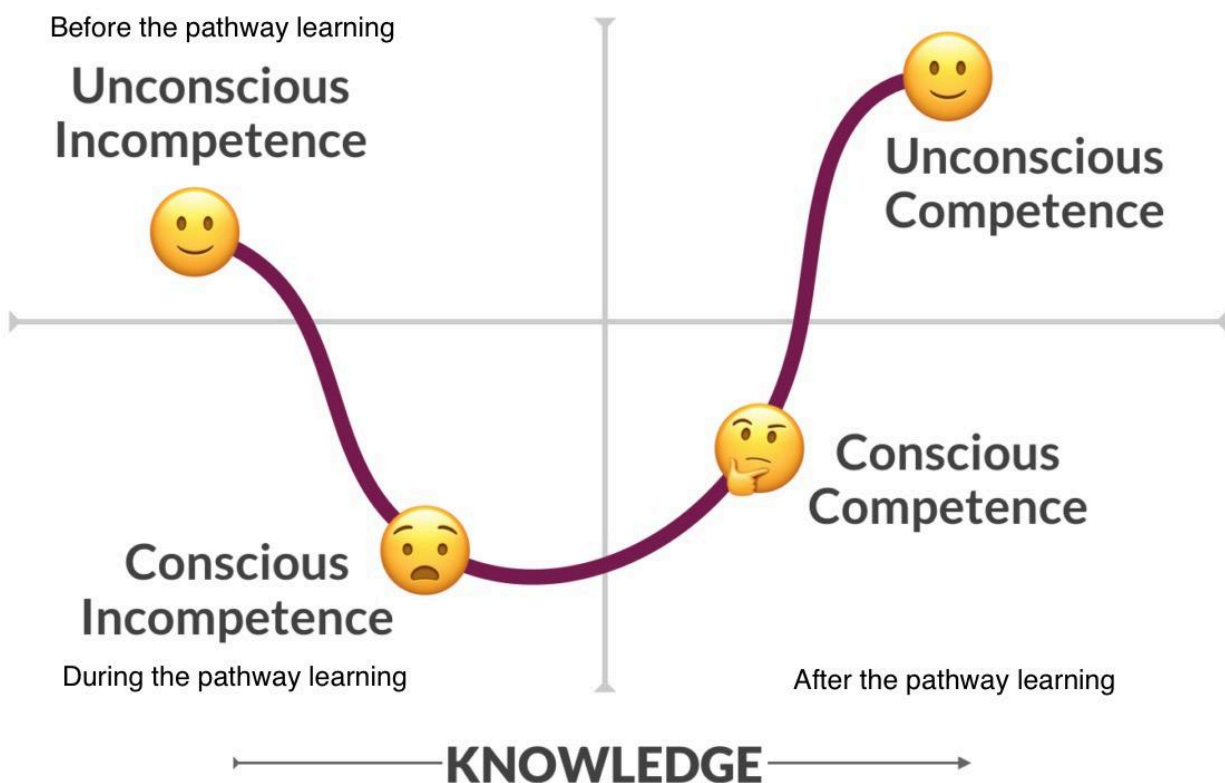


Now, consider a typical Chinese-eastern approach in the diagram. This is perspective driven and adaptive, circling a complex problem from multiple vantage points until all points of view are seen and understood.

If you flip this circular approach sideways for a three-dimensional view, it looks like this (see diagram below).



When we take the time to gain full perspective in a discovery process, we get clarity and “Aha!” breakthroughs. This approach is how we want to guide ourselves and others to clarity and learning. As guides, we must appropriately slow down the discovery process until we make visible the invisible. If we move too fast, we accelerate past the signposts of insight. We must continually cast vision and sharpen our tools. So, slow down and circle each principle until you have reached clarity. Sharpen the saw for greater effectiveness.



jessicasand.com

Over time, sharpening the saw and using it will lead to unconscious competence of these principles, executing them naturally. Unconscious incompetence is when you're completely ignorant of the skill and your inexperience, like not knowing how to make a disciple, bless others, have spiritual conversations, facilitate discovery, etc. Conscious incompetence comes during the pathway, when you've come to know the principles, but haven't mastered them yet. The challenge after the pathway is then conscious competence, where you can use these principles, but with a lot of effort and intentionality. This third stage can be a difficult hill to climb if you go at it alone or don't sharpen the saw. This is a process that takes time to bare fruit.

"I learn something new about discipleship every single day" - Robert Coleman

"In 1737 a defeated and depressed Anglican missionary to the American colonies returned home to England. He despaired, saying, "I went to America, to convert the Indians; but oh! who shall convert me?" The name of the missionary was John Wesley; he would go on to found the Methodist movement." - Steve Addison

"Fear of failure, fear of people's reactions, fear of reaching out to a new, unknown community, fear of losing one's reputation in ministry-all these can lead a believer to censor or ignore God's leading, and it can paralyze a leader, causing him to reject the guidance that God has given him and to seek another, easier one... Without courageous leadership, God's will is not obeyed, change does not occur, and movements simply do not happen." - Jerry Trousdale

"Most change initiatives fail. In a study about people who were told by their doctors that they needed to change or die 90% would rather risk death than change. 75% of Silicon Valley start ups fail. 70% of all organizational change efforts fail... Long term fruitfulness is people who grow in their adaptive capacity to become life long learners, navigate necessary losses with hope and courage." - Todd Bolsinger

Can church culture really shift? Innovating to a Disciple Making Culture

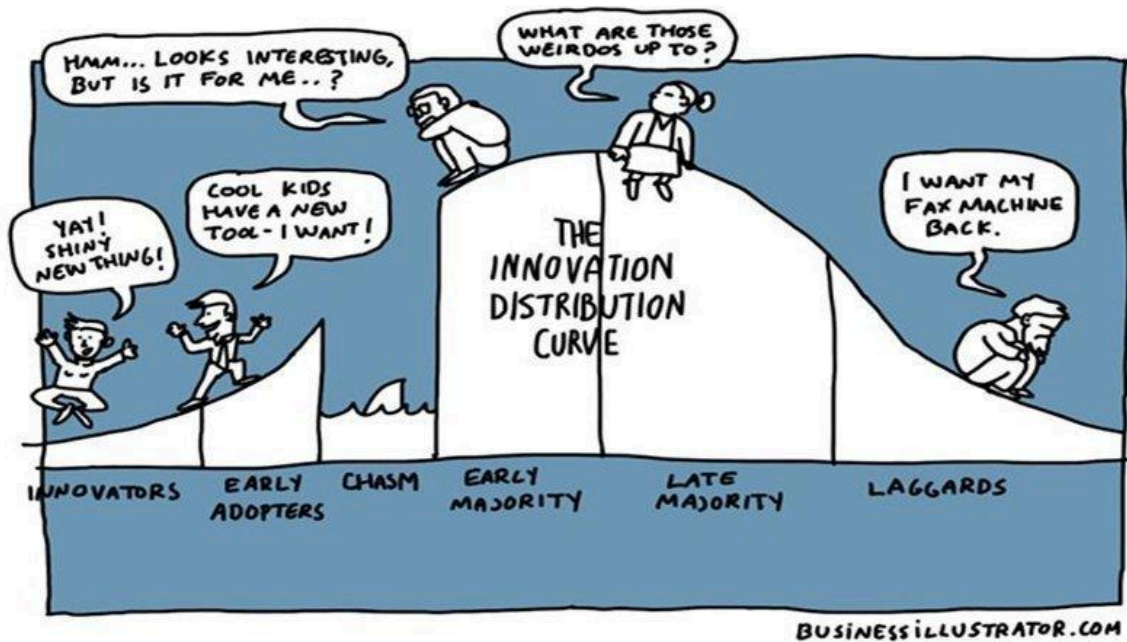
Don't try to change your church, rather change yourself. What is intentionally modeled becomes reproducible. If you were obedient and experiencing transformation before God's presence in each section of this pathway, then you are fully capable of discipling another community through the pathway. Your life is your message [1 these. 2:8-9]. You cannot lead where you have not gone. If you do not embody the principles of this pathway, do not be surprised if others don't. The pathway is designed to be reproducible, for you to pay forward as you see fit in your context, equipped with all of the public additional resources, discovery passages, tools, and facilitator guides. We also never fully graduate from these discipleship rhythms and missionary principles; you may benefit from going back through the pathway for deeper prayer, fasting, discovery, etc. Perhaps the greatest thing you can do to double down and fully embody these principles is to disciple another group through them who can hold you accountable [1 Timothy 4:15].

Regardless of your next step with the pathway, if you want to change your culture, your church, or your city, you will need ongoing coaching [discipleship] and a team [one another]. Get other disciples in your life who will continue to hold you accountable and celebrate your wins as you take next steps beyond the pathway. Once you have a team, you can influence a culture by your shared habits and lifestyle. The leader of that community must be personally committed to disciple making, and the core team must all be on the same page or the culture will never change.

"Before any great success there's a Valley of disappointment. Bamboo can barely be seen for the first five years as it extends its roots before shooting almost 100 feet within days. Habits often appear to make no difference until you cross a critical threshold. Many fail to see a tangible results with the small changes subsided to stop. Habits need to persist long enough to break through that plateau of latent potential. People will see it as a dramatic overnight success, but you know it's the work you did long ago and the progress that you made to make it possible. It is geological pressure mounting up to an earthquake. Big things have small beginnings" - James Clear

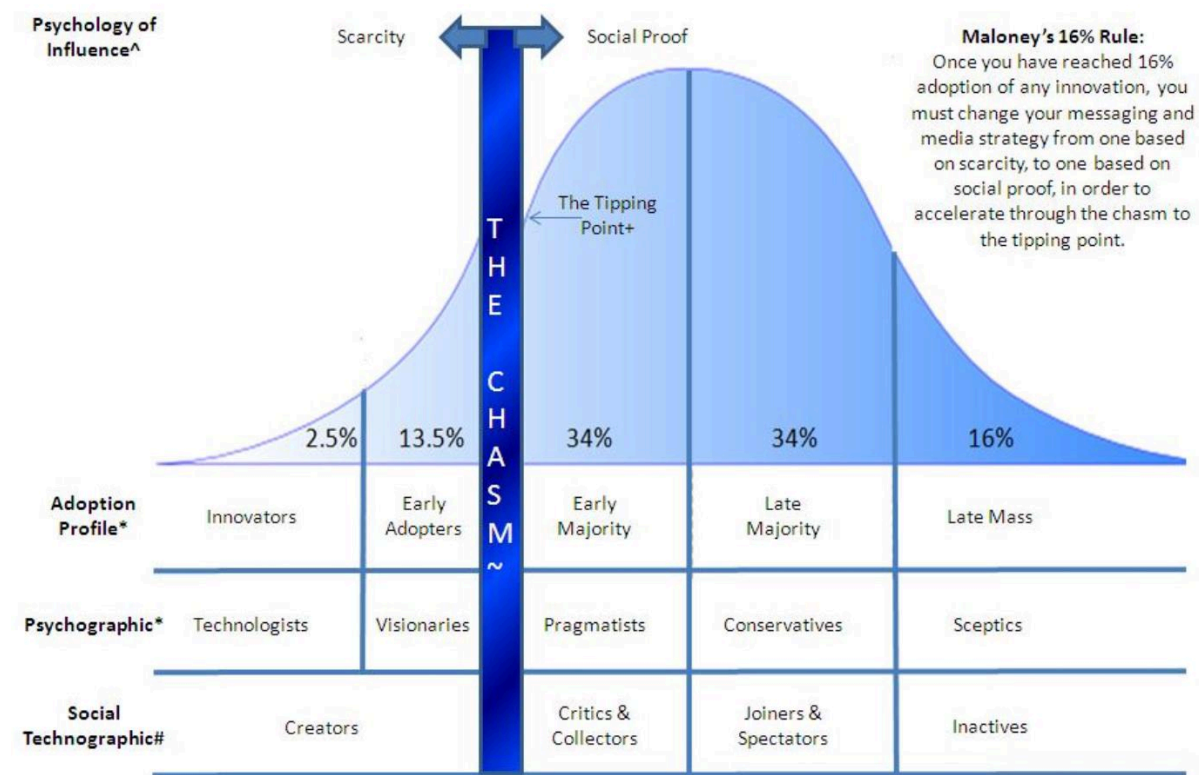
By focusing in on the persons of influence, the innovators, the early adopters, or your core team, the majority of the rest of the culture will follow what you have modeled. This is the scriptural principle of 1 Thessalonians 1: v4 Paul proves himself among them, v6 they become imitators of Paul, Silas, and Timothy, v7 they become a model or example to all of the believers

in the region. Move with the movers to overcome the chasm between innovation and majority adoption. There will always be some laggards and critics; the key is not focusing on them. (See below image)



According to Maloney's 16% rule you will need 2.5% of your culture to be a pilot group for the next 13.5%. That combined 16% must have proof of concept, or modeled experience and success in order to pass the tipping point and see the early and late majority adopt the innovation. (See below image)

Accelerating Diffusion of Innovation: Maloney's 16% Rule®



^ Robert Cialdini *Everett Rogers #Forresters ~Geoffrey Moore + Malcolm Gladwell

Further Reading

Recommended Books:

[Spent Matches by Roy Moran](#)

[Contagious Disciple Making by David Watson](#)

[From Megachurch to Multiplication by Chris Galanos](#)

[The Starfish and the Spirit by Greg Wagner and Allen Hirsch](#)

[Miraculous Movements by Jerry Trousdale](#)

[Letters to the Church by Francis Chan](#)

[The Kingdom Unleashed by Jerry Trousdale](#)

Recommended Articles:

Questionnaires

What did the Holy Spirit tell you during the teaching this week? What did you learn that was most helpful from this section?

In light of what God is showing you in this section, what will you specifically do between now and next week?

"I will..."

*try to make your "I will" SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time bound) rather than vague to ensure your success