

Disciple

DISCIPLE05

Making a Discipleship System in the Small Church

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Description: The “what” of the Church’s mission couldn’t be more straight forward. Jesus said, “Go, therefore, and make disciples...” But how exactly do we do that? In this session, we’ll look at the importance of creating a system of discipleship that seeks to develop committed and mature followers of Jesus through four vital elements: Clarity, Movement, Alignment, and Focus. With a special emphasis on smaller congregations with limited resources, we’ll consider what small steps can make a big impact in helping church members deepen their discipleship.

#### Making a Discipleship System in the Small Church Outline

“Go, therefore, and make disciples...”

- But how?

The Discipleship Pitfall

- “Where this is no **system**, the people perish...”
- A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Epidemic: Settling for a faith that’s a mile-wide and an inch-deep
  - Too many Christians who attend church faithfully but show little signs of fruitfulness or transformation

The Jesus System of Discipleship: “Follow Me”

- Not “Follow my teachings” or “Follow my words”
- Jesus said, “Follow *me*”
  - Would-be disciples may not have fully realized what they were getting themselves into by following Jesus, but at the very they understand what to do, where to go, and how to do it because there was clarity, movement, alignment, and focus.

Creating a 22<sup>nd</sup> Century Culture of Discipleship in a Small Church

- Clarity
  - Developing a blueprint: Clearly defining the process for spiritual growth and discipleship
  - Defining how each weekly program is part of the process
  - Help others visualize the process
  - Measure progress
- Movement
  - Moving people to where they need to go – placing them on the path of discipleship
  - Defining the next steps
  - Creating short-terms steps
  - Capitalizing on relationships
- Alignment
  - Aligning ministries for discipleship
  - Creating new ministry opportunities that aid discipleship
  - Getting rid of ineffective ministries that stifle discipleship
  - Accountability
- Focus
  - Back to the blueprint: Remembering what we’re aiming to build
  - Learning to Say No to Almost Everything
  - Keeping it Simple
  - Less is More