

Disciple-making Roadmap for The Mission Church

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OUR MISSION

(our purpose for existing)

The Mission Church exists to love God by loving others; leading them to become fully functioning followers of Christ Jesus.

WHY?

This is our mission because we believe this was Jesus' mission and is God's "Plan A" for seeing a broken world redeemed and His gospel advanced to the ends of the earth. Therefore, every disciple must be willing to surrender any and all things for the sake of following Jesus.

Matthew 28:18-20 - This is our mandate from our King Jesus

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you**. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Romans 10:12-15 - We're sent. We speak. They hear. Some repent and believe.

“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. **How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?** As it is written, “**How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!**”

Acts 1:8 - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

WHO IS CALLED TO MAKE DISCIPLES?

You are! Every disciple of Jesus is designed by God, commanded and commissioned by Jesus, and empowered by the Spirit to be a disciple-maker. Every disciple is a disciple-maker.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 - This is our new identity in Christ: “new” and “ambassadors”

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation**. **Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us**. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - This is a lifetime commitment to disciple the next generation

“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and **what you have heard from me** in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also**.”

“You are either a missionary or a mission field. There is no third option.” - J.D. Greear

OUR STRATEGY

(Right Definitions & Right Actions)

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

A disciple is a person who loves God and loves people. A disciple must be a disciple before making disciples.

Matthew 22:34-40 - “But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall **love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself. **On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.**”

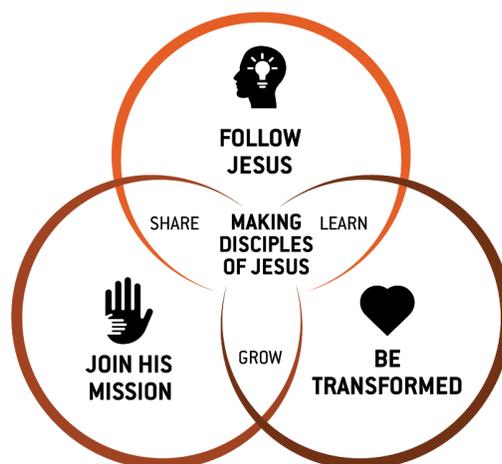
A disciple is a person who is following Jesus, being transformed by Jesus, and joining Jesus in His mission.

*This is where our **Pathway** model (below) came from:*

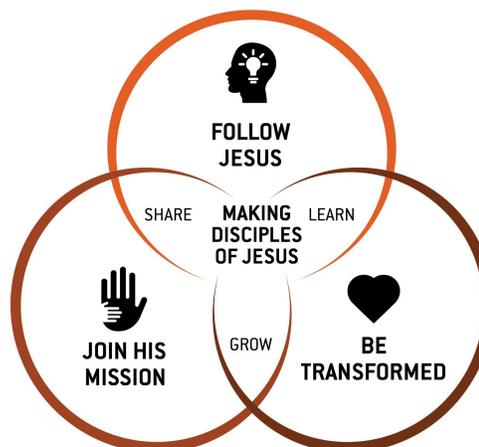
Matthew 4:19 - “And he said to them **follow me** (*following Jesus*) **and I will make you** (*being transformed by Jesus*) **fishers of men** (*joining Jesus in His mission*)

OUR PATHWAY

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, MAKE DISCIPLES



We use the words “learn, grow, share” to encapsulate the idea that a healthy disciple is being holistically transformed in terms of cognitive (knowledge), affective (emotions and attitude), and competency (skills) development.



1. Following Jesus (Learn - Cognitive Development)

- a. Submission and obedience to Jesus in all areas of life, no matter the cost
- b. Jesus is Lord; Jesus calls all the shots in all areas of our life (Luke 9:23-25)

2. Being transformed by Jesus (Grow - Affective Development)

- a. Experiencing emotional and spiritual renewal in Christ
- b. Growing in maturity from:
self-centeredness → Others-centeredness → Kingdom building focus
- c. Daily abiding in Jesus
- d. Daily personal intake of God’s Word and prayer (John 15:1-17)

3. Joining Jesus in His mission (Share - Competency Development)

- a. Every disciple is a disciple-maker (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-49, John 20:21, Acts 1:8)
 - i. Engaging Lostness
 - ii. Sharing the Gospel (Personal Evangelism)
 - iii. Making Disciples
 1. One on one
 2. Small groups
 - iv. Gather & Be the Church (healthy church)
 - v. Multiply (disciples, leaders, churches)

HOW DO WE MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS?

We make disciples of Jesus by emulating the methods of Jesus. We do this primarily through inviting people into our lives, relationally investing in them, and teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded.

1 Corinthians 11:1 - “**Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ**”

1 Corinthians 4:15-17 - “For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, **be imitators of me**. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, **to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.**”

INVITE IN - “Come and See” - John 1:35-51

GO OUT - “Go and Tell” - Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-49, John 20:21

One on One / Group Discipleship Tools:

1. Commands of Christ Handout
2. The 411 of Disciple-Making
3. Read and study one of the gospels using the Bible Study Essentials bookmark (available at The Mission Church or from Pastor Brett)

HOW SHOULD WE ENGAGE LOST PEOPLE?

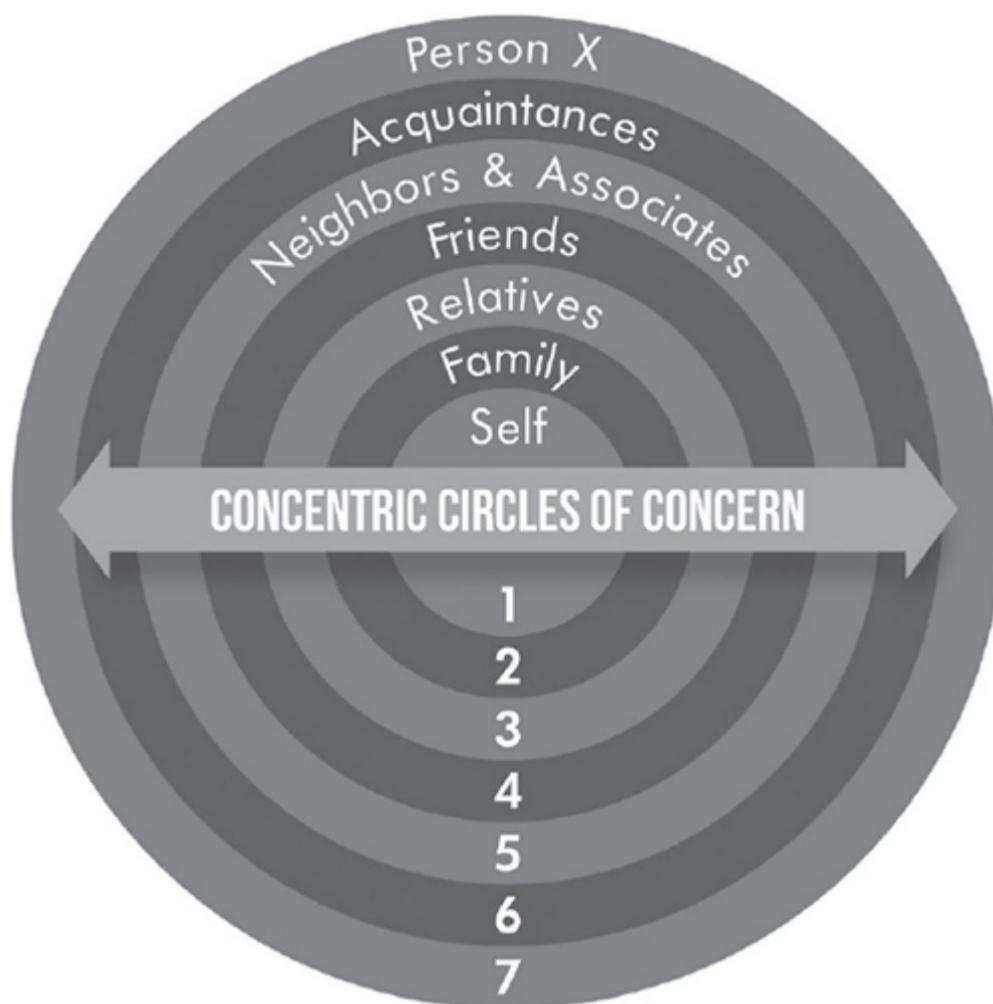
Incarnate (John 1:14)

- We enter into a lost world as ministers of the gospel and ambassadors for Jesus
- Ask God: “How do you want me to enter into the lives of these people and show them Your love?”
- Discipleship begins at “hello”

Identify

- **CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF CONCERN** (excerpt from Alvin Reid, *Sharing Jesus without Freaking out: Evangelism the Way You Were Born to Do It* (Nashville: B&H, 2017)

“Many years ago, W. Oscar Thompson Jr. published a book called *Concentric Circles of Concern*. A chart in the book helps us to see those around us with gospel eyes. Grab a pen and paper and take a look at the chart below. Take a few minutes to write down the names of people in each circle. Start at the most inward circle just outside yourself.



Do you have close **family** members who need to know Jesus? Other relatives, you see on occasion?

What about **friends**? Jesus was criticized for being a friend of sinners (not a friend of sin!). Do you have friends who are more than evangelism projects, who are real friends who need Jesus? I have a fishing buddy who to this point has not come to Christ. I love this friend. I hope he meets Jesus.

How about your **neighbors**? Do you actually know your neighbors? When speaking, I often ask people in the audience to raise their hands if they grew up in a Christian home. It's usually around 80 to 90 percent. I then ask those people to raise their hands if their families ever talked about reaching their unsaved neighbors. It's usually no more than 10 percent. We Christian families raise our children as if we were atheists in our neighborhoods. Our neighbors who don't know Jesus are a heartbeat away from eternity without God! I'm not trying to shame you but to get you to think. Look at the next circle.

Do you have **acquaintances**, people who aren't necessarily friends, but people you know? Another question I like to ask people is to think about their list of contacts on their phones. Think about yours. Can you identify at least three people in your contact list who don't know Jesus but with whom you have enough of a relationship that you could invite them to a meal or to have a cup of coffee and they would join you?

The final circle represents **person X**, or that person you don't know you may encounter. This could be someone sitting next to you in an airplane or at a coffee shop. It could be a server in a restaurant or someone at the bank. I'll be honest: 90 percent of the witness training I received in my young adult years focused on witnessing to strangers door-to-door or those we encounter whom we do not know. I'm grateful for that, but I hope you see the importance of sharing Jesus with the very people God puts in our lives. These dear souls are neither incidental nor accidental in your life.

If we're honest, one of the greatest hindrances to our sharing Jesus is simply this: most of us don't know enough people who don't know Jesus. When we don't spend time with actual people who don't know Christ we can easily create stereotypes. The longer we hold to them, the less and less like the reality they look. Once we have gospel fluency and understand the story of Jesus, the best way to learn to share Jesus with people is to share Jesus with people. It's that basic."

Ask God: *"Who have You placed in my life that is receptive to Jesus, the gospel, faith, etc.?"* Be prayerful and watchful!

Constantly be looking for people that are favorable to you and the fact that you're a Christian. Often times it is these people who God is drawing to Himself through their relationship with you. Pray for them and watch for opportunities to demonstrate and proclaim the gospel to them in real tangible ways.

Invest

- Intentionally and consistently find ways to spend time with those in your concentric circles. Seek to demonstrate and declare the gospel. Build relationships with Jesus being at the center.
- Use your time, talents, treasures, abilities, and resources to advance Jesus' fame and mission. Invest in things that will have an eternal reward.

Invite

- Invite them into your life, into your home for a meal, etc. As the Lord leads, invite them to a Sunday worship service, a prayer meeting, a fellowship group/bible study, etc.
- Eventually, be so bold as to invite them to follow you as you follow Jesus. (1 Cor. 11:1)

HOW DO WE FIND THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO DISCIPLE?**Invest your best time in F.A.T. people.**

Ask: are they **F**aithful? **A**vailable? **T**eachable? If the answer is yes, these people should be at the top of your priority list in terms of investment of time and energy.

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY DISCIPLE?

1. Study the Commands of Christ (teach and equip to obey Jesus above all else)
2. Train in the 411
3. Study the gospels together then some epistles using Bible Study Essentials bookmark
4. Use Leroy Eims' Training Objectives from "The Lost Art of Disciple-Making"

SHARE

- Share your life; invite them to imitate you as you imitate Jesus
- Share biblical truth with them weekly (one-on-one or group Bible study)
- Share new habits (prayer, fasting, worship, service, fellowship, etc.)

CONNECT

- Connect them to Jesus and His Word
- Connect them to His people (fellowship group, bible study, etc.)
- Connect them to their biblical purpose

MINISTER

- Equip them to do ministry by showing them the “how to’s” of ministry
 - Prayer, bible study, leading a group, doing evangelism, teaching/preaching, etc.
- Provide and participate in ministry opportunities together

RELEASE

- Explain the “why” and the “how’s” of this discipleship process
- Encourage them to begin discipling someone with your help
- Release them to disciple someone on their own
- Meet with them regularly for prayer, encouragement, and equipping

EMULATE JESUS’ DISCIPLE-MAKING METHOD = Model - Assist - Watch - Launch

1. I do. You watch. We talk. (**MODEL**)
2. I do. You help. We talk. (**ASSIST**)
3. You do. I help. We talk. (**WATCH**)
4. You do. I watch. We talk. (**LAUNCH**)
5. You do. Someone else watches. We talk. (You begin “MAWLing” someone)

Recap: Look for F.A.T. people to M.A.W.L. :)

OUR MEASURE OF SUCCESS

(evaluating our obedience to Jesus in fulfilling the Great Commission)

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE ACTUALLY MADE A DISCIPLE?

You’ll know you’ve made a disciple when that person demonstrates healthy fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5) and effectively begin to make disciples themselves. In addition, their disciples will then begin to disciple other people as well.

2 Timothy 2:2 - “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and **what you have heard from me** in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.**”

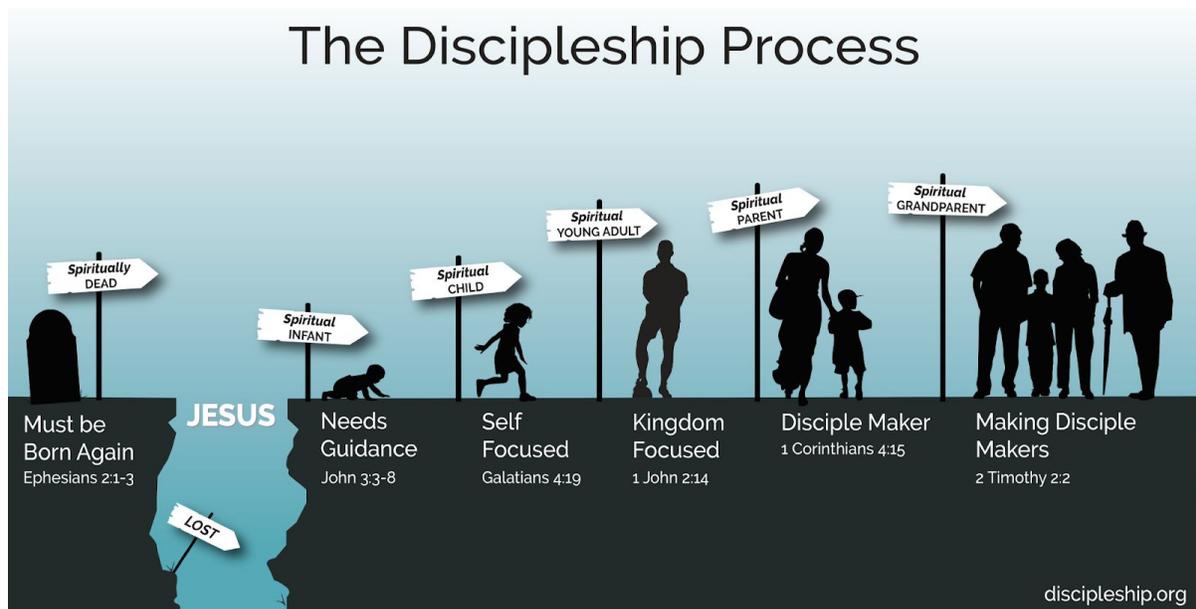
HOW DO WE KNOW IF OUR CHURCH IS SUCCESSFULLY MAKING DISCIPLES?

- We will know we are successful in accomplishing our mission to make disciples when we see healthy disciples using simple tools and reproducible processes to make disciples who then go on to make disciples as well. This should naturally produce new converts, more baptisms, and an excitement for sharing the gospel and training new believers to follow Jesus passionately.
- We will know we are successful when we see multiple generations of disciple-making taking place in a healthy and holistic way.
 - **5 Generations of Discipleship** from 2 Timothy 2:2
Paul → Timothy → Faithful Men → Others → Those being taught by the “others”
- We will know we are successful when we begin to see a church-wide culture and “DNA” of disciple-making take root that transcends being another program or church initiative. Believers meeting one on one for Bible study, discipleship, prayer, and accountability will become “the norm”. Believers engaging the lost and sharing the gospel will be “the norm”.
- In addition, we can measure tangible things within each category of following Jesus, being transformed by Jesus, and joining Jesus in His mission by asking intentional and specific questions:
 - **Following Jesus**
 - Are they demonstrating submission and obedience to Jesus in all areas of life, especially the areas of time, talent, and treasure?
 - Are they spending time daily in God’s Word to hear from Him and do what He says?
 - **Being transformed by Jesus**
 - Are the fruits of the Spirit evident in their life?
 - Are they growing in love for God and love for people as demonstrated in tangible ways?
 - Are they serving somewhere in the church?
 - Are they worshipping and fellowshiping with other believers?

- **Joining Jesus in His mission**
 - Are they engaging lost people where they live, work, play, and do business?
 - Are they making new friendships with lost people?
 - Are they practicing biblical hospitality?
 - Are they intentionally sharing the gospel with lost people?
 - Are they trained and prepared with reproducible gospel-sharing methods?
 - Are they engaged in disciple-making?
 - One on one
 - Small groups
 - Are they gathered in a healthy church?
 - Are they practicing the “one another’s” of Scripture?
 - Are they intentionally multiplying and reproducing themselves?

Every disciple must be intentionally pursuing spiritual maturity that leads to real-life transformation. Therefore, we must have a process to regularly evaluate spiritual maturity. The graphic below helps us to be keenly aware of specific Spiritual Growth Stages (*see image below*)

- **Dead** (What they need: *Evangelism*)
- **Infant** (What they need: *Establishing*)
- **Child** (What they need: *Establishing*)
- **Young Adult** (What they need: *Equipping*)
- **Parent** (What they need: *Equipping*)
- **Grandparent** (What they need: *Multiplication*)



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Book Recommendations

What is the Great Commission? by R.C. Sproul
 Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God by J.I. Packer
 Unscripted: Sharing the Gospel as Life Happens by Dr. Jeff Iorg
 Life on Mission by Dustin Willis
 The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman
 4 Chair Discipling by Dann Spader
 Making Disciples by Ralph Moore
 Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples by Francis Chan and David Platt
 Discipleship Uncomplicated by Warren Haynes
 Among Wolves: Disciple-Making in the City by Dhati Lewis
 A Long Obedience in the Same Direction by Eugene Peterson
 Jesus Christ Disciple-Maker by Bill Hull
 The Disciple-Makers Handbook by Bobby Harrington and Josh Patrick
 The Lost Art of Making Disciples by Leroy Eims
 Radical by David Platt
 Follow Me: A Call to Die. A Call to Live. by David Platt
 Counter Culture: Following Christ in an Anti-Christian Age by David Platt
 Crazy Love by Francis Chan
 Family on Mission by Mike Breen
 The Tangible Kingdom: Creating Incarnational Community by Hugh Halter

Disciple-Making in the Home

www.RisenMotherhood.com
 Parenting: 14 Gospels Principles that Can Radically Change Your Family by Paul Tripp
 New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional by Paul Tripp
 The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sallie Lloyd-Jones
 New City Catechism (Children & Adults)
 A Gospel Primer for Christians by Milton Vincent
 The Cross Centered Life: Keeping the Gospel the Main Thing by C.J. Mahaney

Podcasts

The Real Life Discipleship Podcast with Jim Putman
 The Disciple-Maker's Podcast with Bobby Harrington and Discipleship.org
 Making Disciples Podcast with Robby Gallaty
 Look at the Book, Solid Joys or any podcast from DesiringGod.org