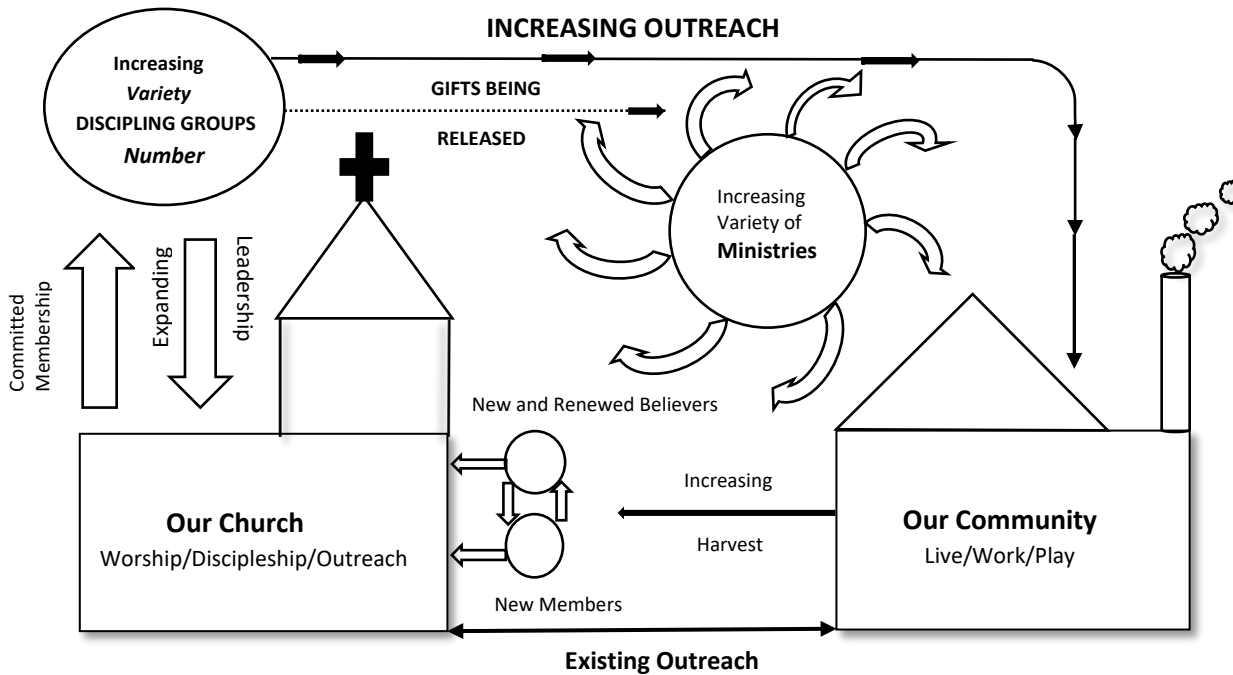


Lesson 10

What Might a Mature Disciple-Making Church Look Like?

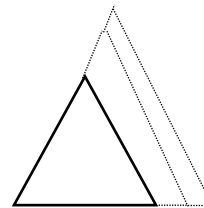
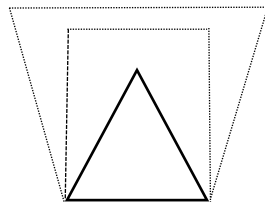


What Are Some Common Major Obstacles?

- **Paralysis:**
 - How does it start?
 - Convoy mentality among leaders
 - What makes it continue?
 - The non-movers get all the attention because leaders think they can't succeed until everyone is on the move!
 - What are the results?
 - The church's way of life is determined more by the disobedient than those who are willing to obey.

- **Polarization:**
 - What usually triggers it?
 - Trying to force progress and change on the reluctant or fearful.
 - What makes it take form?
 - People oppose what threatens their security.
 - What is the usual result?
 - Return to paralysis because at least it was peaceful.
- **Leadership shortage:**
 - The inverted pyramid syndrome!
 - If we continually expand the ministry load and neglect extending the leadership base, we develop a lifestyle of a few overloaded leaders, and many under- involved spectators.

**BEFORE YOU BUILD THE TOWER,
COUNT THE COST.**



**THE ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR
CONTINUING HEALTH GROWTH IS
QUALIFIED LEADERSHIP**

- **How has professional baseball demonstrated the potential of discipleship principles faithfully applied?**
 - They are committed to discipling (mentoring) baseball players through their "farm system" by coaching and scouting caliber players that are selected based on *proven* skills.

- **Leadership resistance:**
 - Why are there so many problems connected with change?
 - Because we tend to love progress and hate change.
 - What are the critical problems in relation to existing leaders?
 - Leaders, who are overloaded or underdeveloped, will resist anything new because it obligates their involvement in it.
 - Seek *permission* from leaders but don't force personal involvement.
 - What is the secret to effective change in established churches?
 - Find the ones who are "willing "and their "hearts are moved," by God, to make the personal commitment as leaders and/or members.

- **Counseling at the expense of discipling and equipping.**
 - Why are the ones doing the most counseling usually the most discouraged?
 - Because the enemy deceives us into treating repentance as the finish line. As a result, we see the majority, who seem to have repented, revert into what they said they repented of.
 - What are the key factors in changing those needing counseling into maturing disciples?
 - Treat repentance as the starting line. Recognize that repentant people need to change --**need help to change**-- and will resist the help they need to change. But if they don't receive the help, they will regress into that of which they repented. They need to be disciplined, **which is the reason for the church's existence in the first place.**
 - How is counseling the opposite sex frequently a tragic trap for church leaders?
 - Because to be helpful we must manifest **caring, warmth, and acceptance**-- the very qualities they wish their spouse or former spouse would express to them, and the dynamics are dangerous. If we make disciples as Christ defined and commanded, we'll have multitudes of **men** and **women** who can provide effective godly counsel and remove that dangerous burden from our top leaders.

On the Way Life Plan Principles

- ❖ **Leaders are accountable to God for their stewardship.**
 - Hebrews 13:7; Matthew 25:14-30

- ❖ **Discipling and evangelizing are not an option.**
 - Matthew 28:18-20

- ❖ **Equipping people for ministry requires leaders who are gifted, committed, and enabled by God.**
 - Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:4-8

- ❖ **God enables what He requires of us.**
 - Philippians 2:13; 4:13,19; Psalms 127:1

- ❖ **Unity from abiding allows God-given diversity to flow.**
 - John 15; Ephesians 4:11-16

- ❖ **The Lord ministers through His disciples.**
 - Galatians 2:20; 5:22-24; Ephesians 5:18

- ❖ **Christians were redeemed to serve.**
 - Ephesians 2:20; Hebrews 10:24; I Corinthians 15:58.

- ❖ **Disciples (not programs) make disciples.**
 - II Timothy 2:2; Luke 6:40.

- ❖ **The heart of discipleship is the denial of self, that results in submission to Christ and dependence upon Him as Lord.**
 - Luke 9:23; I Corinthians 9:24-27

- ❖ **Concentrate on those who are responsive to your ministry.**
 - Luke 8:4-15; Matthew 13:1-23

- ❖ **Select leaders carefully and prayerfully.**
 - I Timothy 5:22

- ❖ **Start with a manageable size.**
 - Luke 14:28

- ❖ **Develop effectiveness first.**

- ❖ **Expand at the rate you have qualified, committed leaders available.**

- ❖ **Disciples are those willing to be *taught to obey*.**
 - Matthew 28:18-20; II Timothy 3:16,17; Hebrews 13:17.

- ❖ **All honor and praise for achievements belong to God.**
 - I Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 16:18; Psalm 127:1.

Expect Some Results Like These

When Our Lord's Great Commission is Becoming Your Church's Way of LIFE!

Internal

- ❖ Church leadership is functioning in submission to the Lord and one another. Ephesians 5:21.
- ❖ Leaders are perceiving their people as wanting to grow.
- ❖ The governing body is demonstrating ownership of the vision for operating and perpetuating their ministry of discipleship and evangelism.
- ❖ The leadership base is expanding to accommodate the future.
- ❖ Middle management is in place; meaning each major area of ministry is led by a qualified person who is committed to it.
- ❖ Disciple making principles are permeating the education/training ministries of the church. II Timothy 3:16, 17; John 14 & 15.
- ❖ Outreach, including evangelism, is incorporated in all areas of discipling ministry in order to help people focus less on self and more on the needs of others.
- ❖ There is a flow of new believers into the church.
- ❖ Increasing variety of ministries flowing out of spiritual gifts as they are released in maturing believers.

External

- ❖ The church is intentional in helping other churches disciple and evangelize.
- ❖ People are recognizing their own "daily-life-mission-field."
 - Expanding missions budget for extending the Kingdom.

Perpetuating God's Vision for our Church

Keeping our Lord's unchanging vision for the church a **Way of Life** for the leaders and members of our church.

Discovering, implementing and perpetuating our Lord's vision for our church is essential for a stable fruitful future that will result in spiritual and numerical growth, thereby receiving our Lord's, "well done good and faithful servants."

The following are suggestions to help the staff and lay leadership develop a strategy for perpetuating the biblical vision for our church. These and other creative steps should be translated into **scheduled actions** to accomplish the objectives.

- ❖ A **Mission Statement** developed by our church's governing body, communicated to the membership and functioning.
- ❖ Educate members about the biblical mandate to make disciples and evangelize everyone.
- ❖ Periodic review of discipling/evangelism principles.
- ❖ Frequently reaffirm the importance of our discipling/evangelism ministry in light of the Lord's Great Commission.
- ❖ Brief talks and testimonies of discipling/evangelism experiences should be shared at regular church services.
- ❖ Include discussion of discipling/evangelism concepts and principles at staff and board retreats.
- ❖ Regular schedule for establishing the vision in all **new members of the governing body** to ensure they will perpetuate our church's vision.
- ❖ Establish eventual goal of having governing body members who are experienced in new believer follow-up and discipleship groups.
- ❖ Integrate discipling/evangelism responsibilities and activities into job descriptions for church leaders.
- ❖ Use biblical principles of leadership in screening candidates for leadership positions.

- ❖ Send leaders and potential leaders to leadership development conferences on a continuing basis.
- ❖ Host and train pastors from other nations and other parts of the U.S. in how they can also develop an effective discipling/evangelism movement in their churches.