

2016

Small Group  
Multiplication

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Newburgh, IN

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY METHOD





# defining a disciple

## Biblical Foundation for Relationship:

### JESUS MODEL

Following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, on mission with Jesus

- 1) Why is it important to have a clear unified definition of a disciple of Jesus?
- 2) What are some ramifications of not having a clear unified definition of a disciple of Jesus?

“And he said to them,  
‘Follow me, and I will  
make you fishers of people.’”

Matthew 4:19

The following is how we have defined what a disciple of Jesus is.

### **A DISCIPLE OF JESUS IS ONE WHO IS COMMITTED TO:**

- **Following Jesus.**
- **Being changed by Jesus.**
- **Being on Mission with Jesus.**

# what is relational discipleship?

## 6 Key Components of a Disciple Making Church

### EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER

Every significant multiplication movement of God is rooted in extraordinary prayer. From every leadership level to the home bible gathering, prayer is our greatest asset and the source of power.

### BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR RELATIONSHIP

We believe we are designed to be in relationship with God first and foremost, and secondly we are designed to be in relationship with others. The purpose of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus, who can make disciples of Jesus. We do this with the understanding that relationship is the key vehicle.

### INTENTIONAL LEADER

This leader understands that part of their role is to reach the lost, make disciples of Jesus and create Christ centered environments where disciple making can happen. They understand where a person is spiritually and what is needed to help them grow.

### RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

This is a group of 3-18 people, facilitated by a leader who is intentionally modeling spiritual fruit (love, joy, etc). The people involved are doing life together with a kingdom mindset. The relationships go beyond the small group time, they move from strangers to friendship. These relationships press into areas of privacy, transparency and vulnerability.

### REPRODUCIBLE DISCIPLE MAKING PROCESS

This is the process for developing people towards Christ-likeness. This includes three parts. "My Part" (the disciple maker), "Their Part" (the disciples) and "God's Part". The leader understands the MAWL (model, assist, watch, leave) cycle of growth and multiplication and consistently helps others mature to the next stage of discipleship.

### HEALTHY OBEDIENCE TO KNOWLEDGE RATIO

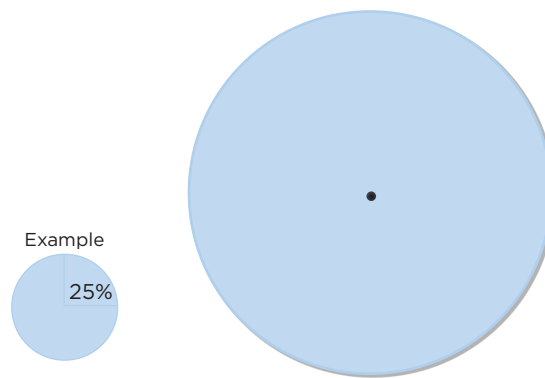
We grow as disciples when we put into practice what we learn from the Word of God. In Bible communities, maturity is expressed not in what you know, but in how you obey.

$$\text{Maturity} = \frac{\text{Obedience}}{\text{Knowledge}}$$

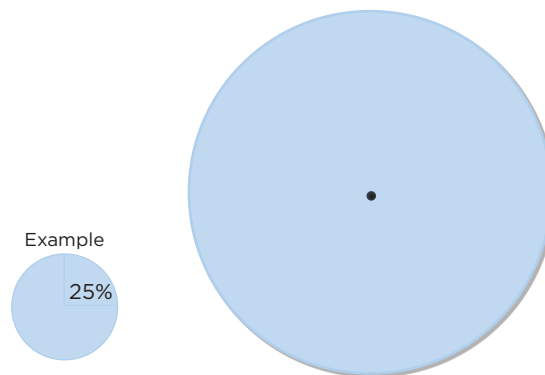
# modeling a disciple in a small group

On average, if we put Jesus' time in a pie chart, what portion of His time did he spend with His disciples?

On average, what percentage of time does your church intentionally spend on making disciples of Jesus?



Reflecting on your world, on average, what percentage of time do you intentionally spend on making disciples of Jesus?



**Tell the group about a time when someone intentionally invested in you.**

How are things different in your life as a result of someone intentionally investing in you?

How has this impacted your relationships...

**...with God?**

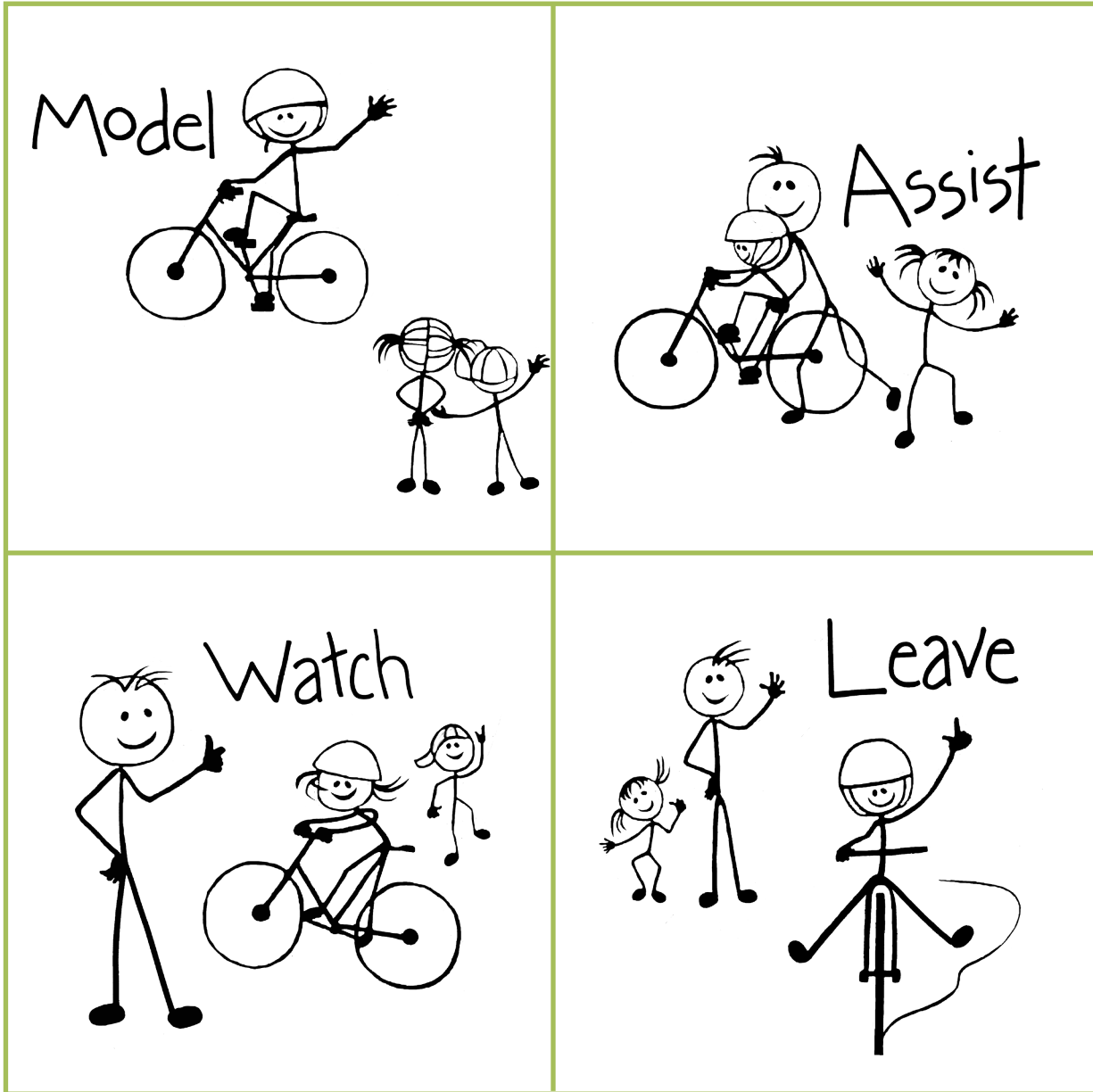
**...with your spouse?**

**...with your children?**

**...with your co-workers/staff/volunteers?**

# multiplication

a model for Disciples making Disciples



Where have you experienced the process of watching, learning and doing?

# M A W L

model, assist, watch, leave

## MODEL

The small group leader models Disciples making Disciples, small group leadership and group multiplication and quickly begins to hand over part of the process to group members. The best time to begin this process is day 1! During this process, the leader identifies future leaders based on a demonstrated heart ownership of the group and capacity for effective leadership.

“These twelve Jesus sent out,  
instructing them...”  
Matthew 10:5

“Paul wanted Timothy  
to accompany him...”  
Acts 16:3

## WATCH

During this phase, the new leader is facilitating the group on his or her own. The watching leader role is to encourage and give guidance only as needed or requested. The new leader is modeling and even assisting another emerging leader. Watching may be 2 or more years.

“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...’”  
Matthew 28:18-19

“And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”  
Acts 20:32

“Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray...’”  
Luke 11:1

“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things...”  
Philippians 4:9

## ASSIST

The small group leader assists a new group leader in leading a new group. The assisting leader keeps the beginning leader focused on the DBS process of looking back, looking up and looking ahead. If the group strays from this, the assisting leader gently helps bring the group back into alignment. The assisting period lasts about four months.

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ John 21:15

“O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you.”  
1 Timothy 6:20a

## LEAVE

The new leader is now released into a network of other leaders who are following the same process. These leaders may have several “generations” of new leaders and groups that they are assisting or watching.



# multiplication

## a model for Disciples making Disciples

What is the danger if the leader models week after week after week and does not quickly begin to release leadership to the group?

What may be the result, if the leader does not assist and equip the emerging leader?

What is the potential problem if the leader fails to watch and revisit the new leader and group periodically? What may happen if the group grows large rather than branching into new groups?

If the leader never leaves, what is the likely result in the lives of the growing leaders?

# implications

## of a reproducible discipleship model in your small group

- 1) In what ways is your small group already in alignment with a reproducible model?
- 2) What parts might your group need to come into alignment?
- 3) What might your group need to stop or start doing in order to do this more effectively?
- 4) What resources would you need? What barriers hold you back?

# Discovery Bible Study model

**CARE** – just a few minutes

**Establish a warm, engaging atmosphere by...**

- Welcoming new people
- Praying to invite God's Holy Spirit into the gathering and ask Him to prepare your hearts to hear and respond to God
- Highlighting one or two of the ground rules (see page 11).

**LOOK BACK** – 1/3 of your time

**Since our last time together...**

- How have you experienced God? What have you learned from God, whether difficult or encouraging?
- How have you obeyed what you learned?
- Who have you trained in what you have learned?
- With whom have you shared your story or God's story?
- Cast vision by sharing some aspect of Disciples making Disciples

**LOOK UP** – 1/3 of your time

**Read and discuss the passage...**

- Ask God to teach you what he wants you to learn from the passage
- Tell the story of the passage in your own words or set up the context of the passage. Read the passage together. "Rebuild" the passage together as a group.
- Ask: What did you like or what did you find challenging about this passage?
- Read this week's passage again
- Ask: What does this say about ourselves and what does it say about God?

**LOOK AHEAD** – 1/3 of your time

**Obey, Train, Share...**

- Pray (aloud or silently, together or individually) for God to show each person in the group how to obey what they have learned
- How will you obey this passage?
- Who will you train with this passage
- With whom will you share your story or the story of God?
- Practice – In small groups role play a conversation or facing a temptation; practice teaching today's passage or sharing your testimony or sharing the Gospel
- Pray – Together or in smaller groups of 2 or 3 for each other individually - that God will give you strength to obey what you have learned

# ground rules

## for small group discussions

**SAFE GROUP:** We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open and honest with their struggles and victories.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** What is said in the group stays in the group.

**LISTEN:** Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond or what you are going to say next.

**PAUSE:** Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares to give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

**SILENCE:** It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

**NO "CROSS TALK":** Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

**NO FIXING:** We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement, speak truth and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

**NO RESCUING:** When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

**SHARING:** Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

**BE SELF-AWARE:** Be self-aware of how you are personally effecting the environment through your words, actions and non-verbal communications.

**USE "I" STATEMENTS:** It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", etc.

**CONFLICT:** We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues.

## 8 Keys to small group multiplication

1. Every member of CCC is a disciple-maker
2. Every member of CCC is in a small group
3. Every member can define what a disciple is
4. Every small group is an open group
5. Every small group multiplies (2 years)
6. Every small group does Discovery Bible Study
7. Every small group does strategic outreach, connecting locally & globally
8. Small groups are 1) the primary growth “engine” and 2) the primary care providers for our church

# your spiritual lineage



# notes

