

Multiply

2011 MAKING DISCIPLES CONFERENCE

“And the Word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem...”

Acts 6:7

share | show | teach | serve

2011 Making Disciples Conference Agenda

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| 5:45 | Dinner is served |
| 6:15 | Welcome / Prayer / Table Talk |
| 6:30 | <i>A Church That Turns The World Upside Down</i> |
| 7:20 | Break |
| 7:30 | <i>Small Group Development Stages</i> |
| 8:00 | Table Talk |
| 8:15 | <i>Transformational Disciple-Making</i> |
| 8:45 | Global Disciple-Making Updates |
| 8:50 | Local Disciple-Making Birmingham Initiatives Updates |
| 9:20 | Prayer Time |
| 9:30 | Dismiss |

A Church That Turns The World Upside Down

Acts 17:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

- We exist to exalt the glory of God.
 - The Gospel is our foundation.
 - › We have been chosen by the Father.
 - › We have been crucified with the Son.
 - › We have been changed by the Spirit.
 - The Gospel is our motivation.
 - › Our faith is producing work.
 - We have been saved from work...
 - Fueled by the flesh that does not honor God.
 - We have been saved to work...
 - Fueled by faith that brings great glory to God.
 - › Our love is producing labor.
 - › Our hope is producing endurance.
 - 2010...The Radical Experiment
 - 2011 and beyond...The New Normal
 - The Gospel is our ambition.
 - › We want this gospel to be known all over this globe.
 - › We want our Savior to come back for His people.
 - The bottom line...
 - › We are self-less followers of a self-centered God.
- We are a fellowship of disciple-makers, not an audience of spectators.
 - We need to stop making disciples and start making disciple-makers.
 - Biblically, to be a disciple is to be a disciple-maker.
 - We all share the Word with others so that they will receive it.
 - We all show the Word to others so that they will follow it.
 - We all teach the Word to others so that they will spread it.
 - We all serve the world with others so that together, we will impact the world.

In A Church Of Spectators...

- Leaders are directors.
- Leaders oversee ministry for people.
- Leaders manage mission.
- The primary focus of leaders is on designing programs.
- Leaders are known for the decisions they make.
- Leadership development is accidental.
- Especially gifted members make disciples.
- Growth happens by addition of disciples.
- Complexity is normal.
- Prayer is supplemental.

- The bottom line...
 - We will build the right church when we start using all the wrong people.
- We die to multiply churches.
 - Sending everywhere...
 - Sending people to unreached areas overseas.
 - Sending people to under-reached areas in North America.
 - Sending people throughout metro-Birmingham.
 - Involving everyone...
 - Are we willing to die to multiply?
- We live to multiply leaders.
 - How are you equipping every member of your group to make disciple-makers?
 - How are you empowering certain members of your group to lead disciple-makers?

In A Church Of Disciple-Makers...

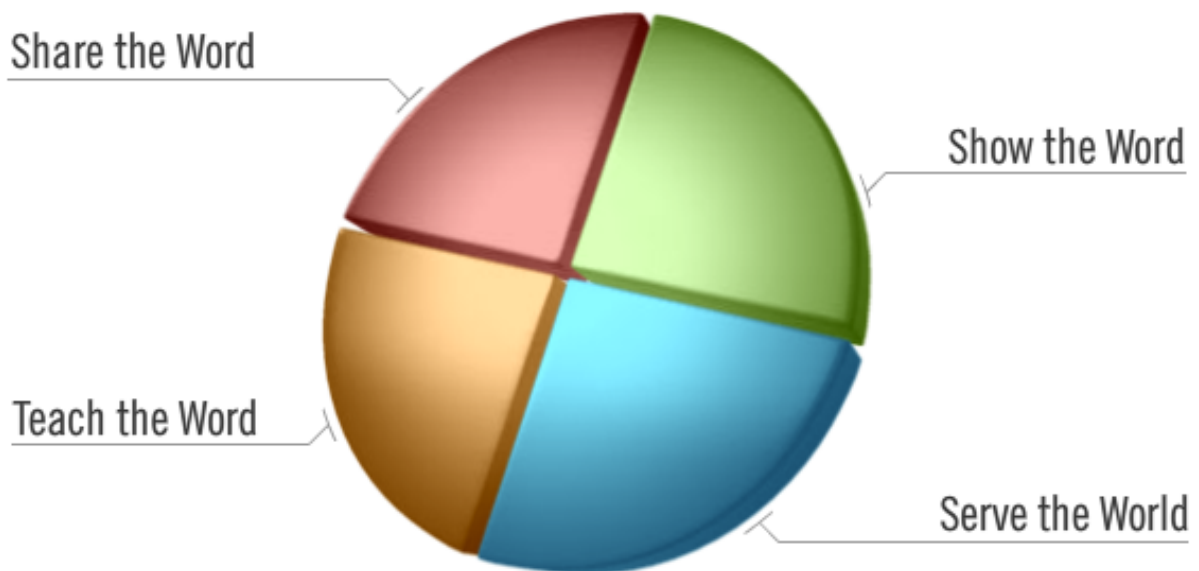
- Leaders are equippers.
- Leaders mobilize people for ministry.
- Leaders unleash missionaries.
- The primary focus of leaders is on developing people.
- Leaders are known for the disciple-makers they make.
- Leadership development is intentional.
- Every single member makes disciple-makers.
- Growth happens by multiplication of disciple-makers.
- Simplicity is critical.
- Prayer is fundamental.

Robert Coleman - *"How can we be the church of the Great Commission today? My conviction is that if making disciples of all nations is not the heartbeat of our life, something is wrong, either with our understanding of Christ's church or our willingness to walk in His way."*

Local Disciple-Making

Our mission is to mobilize the church to effectively make disciples locally and ultimately globally. We believe that small groups provide the best avenue to make disciples so we seek to connect every worship attendee to a small group community in their age appropriate season of life. We want all small groups to actively seek to Share the Word, Show the Word, Teach the Word, and Serve the World together. We also seek to help equip parents to do the same with the children that God has entrusted to them to disciple.

Teaching on Local Disciple-Making



Share the Word



The first component of disciple-making is 'Sharing the Word', the gospel, with others. Jesus' strategy of disciple-making with His small group was focused on preparing His disciples to effectively Share the Word after He left them. From the beginning of His ministry, He told them to follow Him and He would make them fishers of men. He then shared the Word (the gospel) with clarity to his group, modeled sharing the gospel everywhere they went, and equipped and involved them in sharing the gospel alongside Him so that He could eventually 'Share the Word' through them. Disciple-makers likewise should clearly Share the Word to their small group, model sharing the Word in front of them, involve and equip them to share with others, and eventually 'Share the Word' through them as they multiply their group and begin new groups.

Show the Word



The second component of disciple-making is 'Showing the Word'. Jesus' strategy of disciple-making did not revolve around a class where He just told His followers how to live, instead His life and the Word was the curriculum. In the context of spiritual community, He sought daily to demonstrate to His group how to live in obedience to the Father as they did life together. Jesus, the Living Word, showed them how to live, and then encouraged them and equipped them with His Spirit to demonstrate to one another and the lost world how to live a life that pleases the Father. Disciple-makers likewise should seek to demonstrate to their small group how to live a life that pleases God by his/her own lifestyle, and should encourage and equip their group to 'Show the Word' to one another as they do life together in spiritual community and as they seek to fulfill the mission of Christ making disciples locally and globally.

Teach the Word



The third component of disciple-making is 'Teaching the Word'. Jesus' strategy of disciple-making involved helping His group understand the Word of God so that they could 'Show the Word' by their lives and so they could teach the Word to one another and to others. The Word was always central in their fellowship with one another and was the supreme authority for understanding everything about God and life. Disciple-makers likewise should make studying, understanding, and applying the Word central to the fellowship of their group. They should encourage their group to study the Word in a way that they can teach it and demonstrate it to others as they engage in making disciples locally and globally.

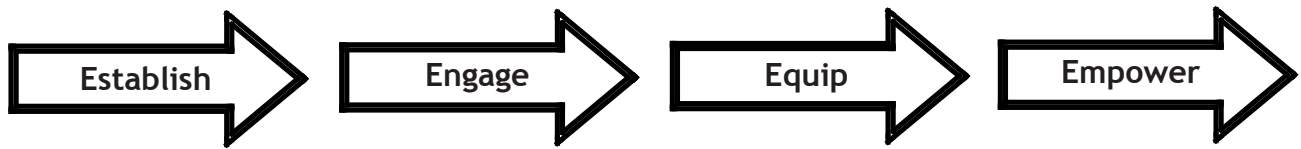
Serve the World



The fourth component of disciple-making is 'Serving the World'. Jesus' strategy of disciple-making was not to hold classes in a building and invite lost people to come to Him, but to go where the people were and demonstrate God's love to them up close by His actions (Showing the Word) so He could Share the Word, the gospel, with them. He did not go alone to serve the world, but took His group with Him so He could show them how to serve the world, involve them in serving the world with Him, and equip and send them into all the world to make disciples in His Name as He sought to reach the world through them. Disciple-makers likewise should seek to lead their group to serve the world locally and globally so that together they can 'Share the Word' and make disciple for the glory of Christ.

Small Group Development Plan

Leading Your Group Toward Multiplication



“And the Word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples **multiplied** greatly in Jerusalem...” Acts 6:7 (ESV)

The number of disciples began to multiply in Jerusalem when additional spiritual leaders were enlisted, engaged, equipped, and empowered to do ministry. The apostles had more time to devote to prayer and the teaching of the Word, and additional spiritual leaders were developed into disciple-makers. The resulting impact was an exponential growth of disciples. Philip, one of the seven original deacons chosen, was responsible for the gospel advancing to Samaria, Ethiopia, and Caesarea (Acts 6, 8).

In *Transforming Discipleship*, Greg Ogden points out that Jesus seemed to have an intentional development plan for His disciples to become disciple-makers. He appeared to take His disciples through four intentional stages in order to multiply the gospel through their lives as He ascended into heaven. The Small Group Development Plan below for Brook Hill’s Small Groups is adapted from the stages identified by Ogden:

Stage 1: Establish Your Group- “I do, You watch”

Jesus enlisted His group members and established His group’s purpose from the very beginning of their ministry together. He called them apostles (“sent ones”) and told them that if they followed Him, He would make them into “fishers of men.” As He established the group, He took them with Him wherever He went and modeled to them what it meant to be a disciple-maker.

- *Establish the purpose of your group-* As you begin your group, you’ll want to be sure that all members know your goal is equip them to become disciple-makers advancing the gospel through their lives. If you don’t establish your purpose, someone else will.
- *Establish your group’s commitment to one another-* This can be done informally or formally as you commit to meet regularly, do life together, and engage in disciple-making together.

- *Establish the spiritual condition of each group member-* As you identify where your group members are spiritually, you will be able to develop an intentional development plan for your group.
- *Establish spiritual community-* Modeling transparency, facilitating discussion-based Bible studies, helping everyone ‘tell their story’, and serving Christ together can help build a sense of spiritual community within your group.
- *Establish a mutual understanding of the gospel-* A mutual understanding of the gospel will be foundational to everything you do to develop your group members into disciple-makers. Our website has a good summary statement under “New to Brook Hills?”, “What We Believe”. Also, spreadtruth.com and David’s LifeBlood teaching series are great resources to utilize.

Stage 2: Engage Your Group - “I do, You do”

In stage two, Jesus began to engage His group in deeper discussions about what He was teaching seeking to facilitate their own understanding and transformation. He also began to engage His group in helping with ministry to others and led them to publicly identify themselves with Him.

- *Engage your group in spiritual disciplines for personal growth-* Help your participants develop intimacy with Christ and have them share what God is personally teaching them.
- *Engage your group in ministry to one another-* Lead your group to practice the “one another’s” in Scripture. Look for opportunities for them to serve each other.
- *Engage your group in regular prayer for one another-* Pray with and for each other regularly.
- *Engage your group in making disciples locally-* Contact our Community Outreach Coordinator to help find opportunities to begin to make disciples together locally.
- *Engage your group in a global focus for your group-* Begin to establish an area of the world that your group can start praying for together. Consider going there together.
- *Engage your group in sharing leadership responsibilities-* Identify the spiritual gifts of those in your group and allow members to begin to use those gifts.
- *Engage your group in praying for the lost together-* Make praying for lost family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. a regular part of your group time.

Stage 3: Equip Your Group- “You do, I coach”

In stage three, Jesus seemed to be very focused on equipping His disciples to become disciple-makers. He pulls away more and more from a public ministry to invest time in helping them understand the Kingdom of God, their role in the Kingdom, their source of strength, and even sends them out on two occasions to do ministry in His Name without Him. He debriefs and coaches them about these ministry experiences. He also begins to spend more individual time with Peter, James, and John preparing them for their future leadership roles in the Church.

- *Equip your group to effectively share the gospel-* During this stage you'll want to help equip your group members to be able to effectively share the gospel in different ways.
- *Equip your group to use their gifts to advance the gospel-* Help each group member understand how God can use their unique gifts and personality to advance the gospel.
- *Equip your group to effectively teach and encourage one another-* Help group participants understand the importance of "instructing one another" and re-teaching what they are learning. Provide regular opportunities for both.
- *Equip your group members to develop their own personal disciple-making plan-* Lead your group to develop an intentional disciple-making plan for their life. Model one to them. Suggest classes taught in our Institute for Disciple Making that can help them develop as a disciple-maker. Consider using *Discipleship Essentials* by Greg Ogden to help equip them.
- *Equip your group to effectively make disciples cross-culturally-* Schedule a Birmingham Initiatives Training for your group to help them minister better cross-culturally locally. Consider reading books together to help sharpen their cross-cultural understanding.
- *Equip your group to make disciples in another context outside of Birmingham-* Take members of your group to assist in making disciples in a context outside of Birmingham. Involve everyone in prayer, study, and raising support for the trip.
- *Equip some of your disciple-makers to lead a small group-* Spend more and more time with those whom you think are ready to lead a small group giving them leadership opportunities whenever you can.

Stage Four: Empower Your Group-

"You do, Others watch"

- *Empower your group to multiply for the sake of the gospel-* Set a date to multiply and work toward that date continually. Keep the vision of multiplying the gospel through their lives continually in front of them. Realize that groups who do not multiply in the first two or three years, seldom will.
- *Empower your group to make disciples apart from you as you serve as a leader of a new small group-* Groups multiply best when the leader leaves to start a new group and when they form at least three new groups.
- *Empower your new disciple-makers to lead small groups by serving as a coach as needed in their life-* Stay connected to your disciple-makers as a coach as they begin to lead new groups. Consider joint local and global disciple-making opportunities together.
- *Empowered by the Spirit-* Remember that all advancing of the gospel is dependent upon the work and power of the Spirit of God (Acts 1:8).

Transformational Disciple-Making

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.”
(Matthew 28:18-20 ESV)

Typical Small Groups...

- Focus: Geared toward Information-Based Discipleship
 - › Directed primarily toward the head
 - › Leader is an instructor
 - › Attendees are only hearers of the Word
 - › Success is measured by information that is transferred and numbers
- Time: Spend an hour a week together
 - › Attention is given to the weekly gathering of the group
 - › Members decide “if they have time for community”
 - › Aim is to be effective for 1-2 hours per week
- Involvement: Inconsistent level of participation among members
 - › Little is expected from members
 - › Prayer tends to be supplemental
 - › Sacrificial Care is rarely needed
- Impact: Little is accomplished in the Mission of Christ
 - › Growth through addition
 - › Evangelism is rarely emphasized
 - › Few are sent out
 - › Disconnected from Church-Multiplication

Consider your Small Group...

- Is your group intentionally and effectively making-disciples?
- Do you see the difference between a weekly bible study and a disciple-making small group?
Does each person in your group understand the difference?
- Do you see an unhealthy leaning toward some of the above traits in your small groups?
- Are there some necessary adjustments you need to make as a leader to ensure your group is continually staying on mission with Christ?

Disciple-Making Small Groups...

- Focus: Geared toward Obedience-Based discipleship
 - › Directed toward the head, heart, and hands
 - › Leader is a trainer
 - › Attendees are reproducers of the Word
 - › Success is measured by life transformation and Gospel impact
- Time: Spend life together
 - › Attention is given to gathering and scattering of group
 - › Members see they “must make time for community”
 - › Aim is to be effective 7 days a week
- Involvement: High level of participation among members
 - › Much is expected from members
 - › Prayer is fundamental
 - › Sacrificial Care is continually needed
- Impact: Much is accomplished in the Mission of Christ
 - › Growth through multiplication
 - › Evangelism is continually emphasized
 - › Many are sent out
 - › Deeply rooted in Church-Multiplication

Disciple-Making Small Groups focus on Head, Heart and Hands:

1. Knowledge Element (Head):

- What does God want His people to know?
 - › Biblical and theological content communicated in every gathering
 - › Biblical and theological illiteracy is rampant in churches today
 - › We should always strive to teach people what God’s Word says
- Our Small Groups should continually encourage one-another toward right thinking!

2. Conviction Element (Heart):

- What does God want His people to desire?
 - › We come face to face with our own limitations as leaders when addressing the hearts of people
 - › The Gospel is the only power that can bring about heart change
 - › The truth of Scripture should greatly influence our values
- Our Small Groups should continually encourage one-another toward right desires!

3. Action element (Hands):

- What does God want His people to do?
 - We should not simply be hearers of the Word
 - Doing must follow knowing
 - *Shepherding is incomplete until there is an action plan that paves a clearly marked road for obedience (Danny Akin)*
- Our Small Groups should continually encourage one-another toward right actions

The outline above was heavily influenced by Danny Akin's teaching, "Preaching The Gospel: A Theological and Practical Guide For Our Sacred Assignment (Acts 29 Boot Camp)"

Three-Phase Training Module		
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
(Entire Group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Transition</u>... shift from work and life to hearing and responding to God's Word in biblical-community. Share any announcements for entire group at this time as well. • <u>Review/Share</u>...review last week's central truths and have time to discuss how these truths impacted lives in the previous week. • <u>Pastoral</u>...Out of the sharing and accountability, there will be opportunity for shepherding/one-another ministry to take place. Leaders should point brothers/sisters toward grace, not guilt, during this time. • <u>Vision Casting</u>...The group is reminded of the big picture of their Small Group. Continually put forth the values and practices that are necessary to reach the goal... Also this gives time for shaping and troubleshooting. 	(Entire Group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Study of the Word</u>... This is the teaching component of the training - the communication of biblical and theological content. Three elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Instruction</i> - Truth presented in the most suitable manner. - <i>Clarification</i> - understanding increased through interaction - <i>Summarization</i> - Content packaged for ready memorization • <u>Assignments</u>...Members are given homework for next session. • <u>Prayer</u>... What has entered the head has to become a matter of the heart. -<i>Praying</i> - how our hearts need to be shaped by God's Truth. 	(Break out groups - same gender) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Practice</u>...Trainees practice in pairs what has been presented in the group - <i>First</i>, take turns reproducing the Word to one-another. - <i>Second</i>, share current convictions, desires, motivations, and/or feelings in relation to the Truth of Scripture. -<i>Third</i>, discuss needed steps of obedience. • <u>Goals</u>...Members should identify whom they will reproduce the Word to and also steps of obedience that they intend to take in light of what they have been trained to do this session. • <u>Prayer</u>...Desperate prayer is lifted for God's intervention & grace for one-another!

The above training module is adapted from an IMB Church Planter in Southeast Asia.

Community Outreach Notes

East Lake/Gate City 2010

This past year God lead us to East Lake/Gate City to begin pouring our time and our resources for the advancement of the Gospel. We began many new partnerships that God has allowed and developed for us to work together in making disciples. Listen to hear more about the new partners on the Brook Hills website under Local.

Community Outreach Booklet

We have updated our community outreach booklet with the Birmingham Initiatives and our new partners for your Small Group and individual to serve alongside as you make disciples in Birmingham. To access a copy of the booklet, please visit the Serve the World area in the adult section on the Brook Hills Website.

Divine Faith Baptist Church

Chris Stewart, who pastors Divine Faith, has asked our faith family for individuals or families to partner with them as they seek to advance the Gospel in Gate City for at least a year. This would allow a family or individual to serve alongside them assisting with leading small groups for adults, youth, and children. Also, if you are musically talented they need help with the choir and piano/organ

Serve Birmingham Grants

We are continuing to offer Serve Birmingham Small Group Grants to help support small groups in building disciple-making relationships with the lost and poor in our community. In order to give more groups the opportunity to apply, we have set the grant limit for 2011 at \$1,000. Visit www.brookhills.org/local/adults/serve.html to download an application.

Global Update

Small Group leaders are encouraged to lead their group on a trip outside of the Birmingham area to assist our global partners in making disciples. There are many scheduled trips still needing leaders to lead. You can visit the global page of our website to see the list of short-term trips and information about leading.