

An Intro to Disciple Making Movements

Launch new churches by making disciples that make disciples.

What Are Disciple Making Movements?

A disciple making movement (DMM) is a strategy and approach that sees disciples reproducing disciples, leaders reproducing leaders, churches reproducing churches, and movements reproducing movements.

The goal is to help people live out their love for God, love for others, and commitment to disciple making in their every day lives. DMMs start small but can grow to include hundreds or thousands of people.

A Worldwide Move of God

As these movements multiple disciples who make disciples they are fueling evangelism and church planting across the globe. The disciple making movement involves several key principles that echo the values that gave birth to the Vineyard movement.

- Meeting people in places where they live, work, learn and play.
- Using spiritual gifts and servant evangelism as a means to access social networks.
- Helping people rediscover a missional mindset.
- Launching groups that are focused on obeying God's word.
- Establishing churches that multiply.

The Five Steps

1. Start with Extravagant Prayer

At the heart of the disciple making movement is intimacy with Jesus and prayer for those who don't know Jesus. Igniting a movement in your community begins with modeling a life of prayer and inviting others to connect more deeply with Christ and to bring your community to God in prayer.

2. Find People of Peace

When Jesus empowered and sent out his disciples to do what he had been doing, he told them to look for a “worthy person” (Matthew 10:11), a “person of peace” (Luke 10:6). This person was an entry point into the community.

Disciple making movements look for key people who are doorways into relational networks. The principle can be seen in different passages in the Gospels and the Book of Acts. Jesus brought the good news to the woman at the well and she brought many in her village to him (John 4:39). Peter went to speak with Cornelius but he gathered many others to hear the message of Jesus (Acts 10:24).

In the same way, disciple making movements invest in key people who then reach their families, friends, and communities. The goal is not to pull people out of their contexts, but to get into relational networks, letting the good news of Jesus transform them in their diverse settings.

3. Launch Discovery Groups

At the heart of disciple making movements is a new way to interact with scriptures. Disciples are made when people who are spiritually hungry are invited to experience God through encountering scripture together in a small group setting. These small groups are called Discovery Groups.

Each person in the group is challenged to hear and obey God as they interact together with Bible stories or short scripture passages. Those in the group do not yet have to be followers of Jesus. In fact, it is best to begin to disciple people before they fully surrender their lives to Christ. This is a very biblical concept. Notice that disciples like Peter, Andrew, James, and John began to follow and obey Jesus long before they recognized him as their Messiah (Mark 1:16-20; 8:27-29).

At the core of a Discovery Group are three elements: reading scripture aloud, retelling the story or ideas of the passage to one another, and deciding how to immediately obey it. Unlike traditional Bible study groups, the goal is not to learn about the Bible. It is to obey it. This recalls Jesus command to make disciples teaching them to *obey* what he commanded (Matthew 28:20).

Because the authority in a Discovery Group is scripture not the leader or a Bible scholar, groups can be easily multiplied and led by anyone. In fact, someone who is not yet a committed follower of Christ can begin a group with their own family members or friends.

4. Empower Ordinary People to Do Extraordinary Things

Disciple making movements empower ordinary people to do extraordinary things for God. The world will only be changed if we equip and release everyone to do the ministry of Jesus. It is not about finding highly gifted or extremely trained individuals. It is about seeing the incredible potential of each person to experience and share the love and power of Jesus in their everyday lives and relationships.

5. Coach and Mentor

As disciples, groups, and new churches are multiplied in a disciple making movements, new leaders are formed through coaching and mentoring. From beginning to end, these movements are very relational. The disciples and leaders are shaped through relationship. Throughout their growth, emerging leaders are pointed to scripture and the Holy Spirit as their ultimate authority. The goal is disciples, leaders, and churches continually shaped and directed by God himself.

Expect Miracles, Signs, and Wonders

Disciple making movements accelerate as those reading scripture and learning to pray begin to see Jesus do amazing miracles. When people see that Jesus is alive and still doing healing work, they experience his compassion and often surrender their lives to him. This moves people who are far from God into relationships with Christ and makes them eager to share his love with others.

Key Principles

There are a few key principles that are a part of every disciple-making movement:

1. **Focus on a few to reach many.** Just as Jesus laid the groundwork for a worldwide movement by focusing his attention on a handful of his closest followers. Disciple

making movements start small, but because multiplication is built into their DNA, in time they can grow to be very large.

2. **Go slow to go fast.** Disciple making movements' goal is to reach many people over the period of years. Because of this, they are not in a hurry. They go deep with the initial, key people to lay the ground work for years of quality growth.
3. **Experiment and be patient.** It is important that those starting a new movement are willing to experiment and fail. It takes time to unlearn old patterns and learn new, more effective ones.

Resources to Learn More

[Miraculous Movements by Jerry Trousdale](#)

[Spent Matches by Roy Moran](#)

[Contagious Disciple-Making by David and Paul Watson](#)

[The Kingdom Unleashed by Jerry Trousdale and Glenn S. Sunshine](#)

[Mark Fields Disciple Making Movements Around the World Video](#)

[Ten Points of Intersection: Commonalities between the Vineyard Movement and church multiplication worldwide](#)

[Younoussa Djao's Talks from the 2017 Missional Leaders Meeting](#)

Want more info?

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