

Preserving the Harvest

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Lesson 2: Creating A Strategy For Discipleship

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” — Ephesians 4:11-16

As a pastor or Christian leader, you have likely spent a lot of time planning and promoting your evangelistic work. That is good! How much time have you spent planning for the preservation of the harvest - discipleship?

Disciple-making should be in the DNA of every believer.

- Cows give birth to cows. Birds give birth to birds. In the same way, disciples should give birth to disciples.
- The goal of discipleship is that as a believer grows in Christ, he or she will not only begin to live their lives by Christ's example, but will begin reaching out and discipling others as well
 - We must move past the day where ministry is the pastor's job, and everyone else simply supports them.
 - We must be equipping every believer to become disciple-makers.

A successful disciple-making strategy must include all of the following items:

1. The mindset of a disciple-maker.
2. A mature disciple to be the leader or mentor.
 - This person must have been discipled himself/herself, and demonstrate themselves to be a mature believer.
 - This person must have the authority of the church leadership to facilitate and teach.
3. A time and place to meet regularly, outside of normal church meetings.
 - Consider a location outside of the church facilities. Meeting in homes may be more preferable. The environment in which you lead discussions will determine how personal people will be willing to get.
4. A bible-based lesson plan for teaching the basic truths of the Christian life.
5. Outside opportunities for real-life application.
 - The book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, says Christians must be involved in five areas of spirituality: Discipleship, Worship, Fellowship, Service, and Mission.
 - A mature disciple will begin demonstrating these things on their own, outside of officially scheduled events and programs.
6. Ongoing accountability and counseling for disciples, continuing long into their maturity in Christ.