SHIFT YOUR CHURCH TO BECOME A DISCIPLE MAKING CHURCH

presented by:

RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP network
### Monday - APRIL 22 - Schedule: day 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>What is Winning? - <em>Jim Putman</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45 pm</td>
<td>Biblical View of Relationship - <em>Aaron Couch</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Biblical View of An Intentional Leader - <em>Richie Shaw</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Biblical View of an Intentional Leader: Q &amp; A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Biblical View of Relational Environment - <em>Keith Strasburger &amp; Luke Yetter</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biblical View of Relational Environment: Q &amp; A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tuesday - APRIL 23 - Schedule: day 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Biblical View of A Disciple Making Process - <em>Bobby Harrington &amp; Jim Harris</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biblical View of A Disciple Making Process Q &amp; A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Biblical View of Church Alignment - <em>Brandon Guindon</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biblical View of Church Alignment Q &amp; A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can also get this workbook along with more Exponential resources by visiting www.rlmctd.com/expo2013

Table of Content...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00. Group Speaker Bio's</td>
<td>04-05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01. What is Winning?</td>
<td>06-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02. Biblical View of Relationship</td>
<td>14-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03. Biblical View of an Intentional Leader</td>
<td>18-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04. Biblical View of Relational Environments</td>
<td>24-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05. Biblical View of a Disciple Making Process</td>
<td>28-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06. Biblical View of Church Alignment</td>
<td>38-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources: Books</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Steps</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

presented by:

RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP
network
Bobby Harrington is the founding and lead pastor of Harpeth Community Church, just beside the Harpeth River, south of Nashville, Tennessee. Bobby holds many theological degrees, including the doctor of ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological seminary. Bobby is one of the founders of the new Relational Discipleship Network. Bobby served as the director of Research, Development, and Missional Leadership for Stadia, a national church planting organization. He was Stadia’s lead trainer of church planters, where he trained hundreds of church planters from 2003 through 2011 and helped pioneer their national church planting network system. He was also the president of Church Coaching Solutions from 2005 through 2010. He is the author of Together: Network and Church Planting (with Marcus Bigelow). Bobby is married to Cindy, with two children, Ashley and Chad.

Jim R Harris is the Discipleship Minister at Harpeth Community Church in Franklin, Tennessee. He also is helping to train and develop a network of churches that are committed to Discipleship. He has Bachelors in Biblical Studies from Cincinnati Christian University, and a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Gonzaga University. In 1998 Jim and his wife Cassi helped to plant a church in Post Falls Idaho that grew from 20 to 7000 in 13 years. After serving there for the last 13 years he decided to join the Harpeth Staff in the fall of 2011. His passion is to see the local Church return to the method, message and person of Jesus. He and his wife Cassi have two boys, Grayson and Fischer.

Brandon is an Executive Pastor at Real Life Ministries in Post Falls, Idaho, named one of the fastest growing churches in America. His passion and privilege for the past 13 years has been to teach and train leaders, from both the local and global churches, in how to make biblical disciples through small groups. Along with his duties at Real Life Ministries, he co-authored the Real Life Discipleship Training Manual and is currently finishing a second Manual on Leading Change for church ministry leaders. He is passionate about helping the American church become healthy and effective in making disciples. Brandon holds an MA in Church Leadership from Hope International University. He lives in beautiful North Idaho with his wife Amber of 15 years and their 4 children.

Keith Strasburger is on staff at Real Life Ministries on the Church Training and Development Team. He currently oversees the training of churches and church leaders locally, regionally and nationally. Keith came up through the small group system at Real Life Ministries before becoming a staff member. Prior to serving on the Church Training and Development Team, Keith served as Men’s Pastor at Real Life Ministries. Keith has lived in the Northwest for more than 9 years with his wife Kristine, and their two sons Tim and Ben, who are 18 and 15. Keith served in the U.S. Army for 4 years as a Combat Engineer. Keith enjoys fishing, riding motorcycles and roasting coffee. He can also occasionally be found volunteering in the church coffee shop.
Richie is the lead pastor of Real Life Ministries Spokane in Spokane, WA. Prior to moving his family to Spokane and planting RLM Spokane in 2010, Richie served as a Community Pastor at Real Life Ministries in Post Falls, ID. He has a degree from Northwest University. Before planting RLM Spokane, Richie never thought he wanted to be a church planter; now there is nothing else he would rather be part of than planting churches to reach people for Jesus! Richie’s passion is to multiply disciples and churches in real relationship. He and his wife, Katie, live with their two daughters, Faith and Ruby, in Spokane, WA.

Richie Shaw - Lead Pastor
Real Life Spokane
Spokane, WA

Luke Yetter is the Executive Team Leader of the Church Training and Development Team at Real Life Ministries and is the CEO of the Relational Discipleship Network. He oversees the RLM Church Planters, and provides training on local, regional, national and international levels. He has been with Real Life Ministries for the past 11 years, initially serving as a coach for the executive team and on staff for the past 7 years. He attended both North Idaho College and Eastern Washington University where he majored in blliards and ping pong. He was the founder and CEO of a national corporation, Critical Power. He sold the company after 11 years to go into full-time ministry. Luke is married to his wife Casey and they have 3 children. He loves spending time with his family, especially teaching his kids to fish and enjoy the outdoors. He can often be found snowmobiling or biking through the woods of North Idaho.

Luke Yetter
Executive Pastor
Real Life Ministries
Post Falls, ID

Aaron is the co-planter of Real Life Ministries in Post Falls, Idaho. In 2007, Aaron branched out with a team and is a co-planter of Real Life Ministries on the Palouse in Moscow, Idaho as well. In the 4 years that RLM has been “On the Palouse,” it has grown to over 1,000 in attendance on a Sunday morning. Aaron’s passion is seeing people become everything that God has wired them to be. Discipleship is a core value for him and he has discipled people of all different age groups. Aaron believes that everyday is a blessing from God to experience His love and grace and to express that to as many people as God allows.

Aaron Couch - Lead Coach
Real Life on the Palouse
Moscow, ID

Jim is the co-planter and Senior Pastor of Real Life Ministries in Post Falls, Idaho. Prior to his role as senior pastor, he served as a youth minister in two small churches. In college, Jim won three All American titles in wrestling and went on to become a successful wrestling coach. Jim holds degrees from Boise State University and Boise Bible College. His voice reaches hundreds of thousands across the nation through speaking conferences, the web, radio, and weekend services. He is the author of three books; Church is a Team Sport, Real Life Discipleship and DiscipleShift. Jim’s passion is discipleship through small groups. With his background in sports and coaching, he believes in the value of strong coaching as a means to disciple others. He lives with his wife and three sons in scenic northern Idaho.

Jim Putman - Senior Pastor
Real Life Ministries
Post Falls, ID

Jim Putman - Senior Pastor
Real Life Ministries
Post Falls, ID
part 1
DiscipleShift:
What is Winning?

presented by:
Jim Putman - Real Life Ministries: Post Falls, ID

The amount of effort and energy that church leaders put into their churches is substantial, to say the least. How do we know if that effort and energy is worthwhile? How can we determine whether or not churches are actually winning? In this session, Jim Putman will talk about the ultimate biblical bottom line for measuring your church for true success, and some changes you may need to make to move towards that goal.
Part 1

What is Winning?
presented by: Jim Putman - Senior Pastor- Real Life Ministries: Post Falls, ID

IMPORTANT CONCEPTS TO UNDERSTAND BEFORE WE START

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father, which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- Matthew 16:17-18 (KJV)

1. The Church is God’s idea - there is order to it. (1 Corinthians 12:28)
2. We have an opponent - We are in the middle of a battle. (Ephesians 6:10)
3. We are on the attack - the gates of hell seek to prevent our progress. (2 Timothy 2:26)
4. We win - The enemy cannot stop Christ’s church.
5. Winning is making disciples, not converts. (Matthew 28:19ff)
6. We, as leaders and pastors, are coaches. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

HOW IS THE TEAM (THE CHURCH) DOING? WHAT’S THE SCORE?

George Barna, Revolution, Chapter 4, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2005

“Every human being was created by God primarily to know Him, love Him and serve Him. All other activity is superfluous. But that being the case raises some tough questions. One of them is simple: if the local church is God’s answer to our spiritual needs, then why are most churched Christians so spiritually immature and desperate.”

“One of the greatest frustrations of my life has been the disconnection between what our research consistently shows about the churched Christians and what the Bible calls us to be. Granted, we are sinful creatures and will never achieve perfection on this planet; only when we are reunited with God in heaven will we experience a fully restored state. However, if the local church is comprised of people who have been transformed by the grace of God through our redemption in Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit, then their lives should be noticeably and compellingly different from the norm.”

Barna Research Group Statistics:

- 8 out of every 10 believers do not feel they have entered into the presence of God, or experienced a connection with Him, during the worship service.
- The typical churched believer will die without leading a single person to a life-saving knowledge of and relationship with Jesus Christ.

(cont.)
Part 1 (continued)

What is Winning?

presented by: Jim Putman - Senior Pastor - Real Life Ministries: Post Falls, ID

- Only 9% of all born-again adults have a biblical worldview – meaning that less than 1 out of every 10 Christians, age 18 or older, believes that absolute moral truth exists, believes that such truth is contained in the Bible, and possesses a handful of core beliefs that reflect such truth. These truths consist of; there is a real heaven and hell, there is a real devil, a person is saved by grace through faith in Christ alone, and it is the responsibility of every Christian to share their faith in Christ with unbelievers.

- Churched Christians give away an average of 3% of their income in a typical year and feel pleased at their “sacrificial” generosity.

- Christians attend 1.6 times a month to a weekend service of any kind.

- Less than 1 out of every 6 churched believers has a relationship with another believer through which spiritual accountability is provided.

- The most significant influence on the choices of churched believers is neither teachings from the pulpit nor advice gleaned from fellow congregants; it is messages absorbed from the media, the law, and family members.


“You would probably not be surprised to learn that 85% of youth from Christian homes that attend public schools do not embrace a biblical worldview. But what of students in Christians schools? While these students scored slightly higher than their counterparts attending public school, only 6% of students embraces a Biblical Theism Worldview. It is clear that we have all but lost our young people to a godless culture. “God is still important to me, they say, but I just believe some different things from you.”

THE DIFFERENCES:

- 63% don’t believe Jesus is the Son of the one true God;
- 58% believe all faiths teach equally valid truths;
- 51% don’t believe Jesus rose from the dead;
- 65% don’t believe Satan is a real entity;
- 68% don’t believe the Holy Spirit is a real entity.

(cont.)
A LOOK AT AMERICAN CHURCHES:

- Only 14% of churches in America are growing at all

According to the Southern Baptist:

- 2% of that growth is new conversion
- 12% of that growth is transfer growth

SOME MAY SAY THAT THE NUMBER OF CHURCH START-UPS ARE IMPRESSIVE.

- Some are successful but…
  - It depends on your definition of success.
  - Does it matter if people are going to church if they look no different from the people in the world?

MEANWHILE THE CULTS ARE GROWING AT A STAGGERING RATE:

- The U.S. has the largest Buddhist Temple, located in Boulder, CO
- The U.S. has the world’s largest Muslim Training Center, New York.
- The U.S. has the world’s largest Jewish population
- The U.S. has the 8th largest Hindu population
- 411 Americans converted to Islam in the last 24 hours
- 872 people converted to Mormonism in the last 24 hours

A LOOK BACK AT MATTHEW 16:18

It leaves us with three options:

1. He’s wrong
2. Jesus is ignorant or a liar. (Not possible!)
3. The church isn’t His church anymore (Which is true in many places.)

EVERY GENERATION FINDS THEMSELVES IN A PARTICULAR PLACE

- Josiah
- 2 Kings 22-23
- They had a form of religion that Israel had accepted.
- Make people happy or restore it to the original intent.
- If you want the Lord’s blessing, read the word and follow what it says.
"A Song of Ascents, of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late, To eat the bread of painful labors; For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep. - Psalm 127:1-2 NASB95

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

There are several possible answers….

1. The Bible is no longer the guide for many churches faith and practice
   - Have we have lost the Lords blessing?
   - Have we redefined words for the modern culture and lost their meaning?

2. We are in the end times –some are not listening anymore
   - The secular world has been inoculated so they won’t catch the truth.

   Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.
   - 2 Timothy 4:2-5 (NIV)

3. Some pastors have lost the Biblical understanding of their purpose
   - They have become players instead of coaches—see Ephesians 4:11
   - Showmen instead of shepherds –see Ezekiel 34
   - They have decided to make converts instead of disciples

4. Some do not know what the target is, what a mature disciple looks like.
   - The Head, Heart, and Hands
   - A people in relationship —John 13:35

5. We have forgotten the Biblical method for making disciples
   - The new age hits the church –“There are many ways to make disciples”
THE ANSWER:

It starts with the leaders—Become Christ’s church again.

1. Repentance.
2. Go back to scripture for our definitions and methods.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit for His heart—His leading.
4. Do what The Word tells us to do.
5. Give Jesus credit for what He does in our churches again.

THE RESULTS:

Disciple Making Churches

THE 5 COMPONENTS OF A DISCIPLE MAKING CHURCH

1. Biblical Foundation
2. Intentional Leader
3. Relational Environments
4. Reproducible Discipleship Process
5. Alignment
Part 1
What is Winning?

NOTES
Part 1
What is Winning?

NOTES
DiscipleShift: Biblical View of Relationship

presented by:
Aaron Couch - Real Life on the Palouse: Moscow, ID

Aaron Couch will give an overview of the Biblical View of Relationship. He will illustrate how the thread of relationship carries from the Old Testament into the New. Aaron will demonstrate how important relationships are to God, and why they should also be important to us, both individually and as a church body.
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.

**OLD TESTAMENT FOUNDATION FOR RELATIONSHIP**

“Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. 6 And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.” - Exodus 19:3-6 NLT

- God wanted them to have a commitment to community.
- His people were a representation to who God is.
- The first human crisis was that we were alone.

“The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’”
- Genesis 2:18 NIV84

**NEW TESTAMENT FOUNDATION FOR RELATIONSHIP**

The Greatest Commandment:

“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. ‘ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”
- Matthew 22:36-40 NLT
**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT CAN ONLY BE EXHIBITED THROUGH RELATIONSHIP**

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” - Galatians 5:22-23 NLT

**EVIDENCE OF CHRIST TODAY IS ONLY SEEN THROUGH RELATIONSHIP**

“This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.” - 1 John 1:5-7 NLT

**THE RELATIONSHIP IS THE MISSION**

“My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.” - John 17:9-12 NLT

- How does relationship impact you?
- How does relationship impact your ministry?
- How does relationship fit with becoming a disciple making church?
part 3
DiscipleShift:
Biblical View of an Intentional Leader

presented by:
Richie Shaw – Real Life Spokane: Spokane, WA

This session will look at the leadership history of Jesus. Richie Shaw will talk about our roles and responsibilities as church leaders, and how that plays out with the people we lead. We will look at how we currently invest our time and energy as leaders, and see how it compares to Jesus’ model of Intentional Leadership.
The intentional leader understands that part of their role is to reach the lost, make disciples of Jesus, and create Christ centered environments where discipleship can happen. They understand where a person is spiritually, and what is needed to help them grow.

**AN INTENTIONAL LEADER**

- That which is un-intentional is un-reproducible. Accurate copies take intentionality.
- Part of the discipleship process can be fulfilled in a variety of settings.
  - Personal quiet time
  - Sunday morning
  - A coffee shop
- Part of the process can also be fulfilled by people who are not disciple making leaders.

**A COACH UNDERSTANDS THE GAME AND THEIR ROLE IN IT.**

- The rules
- The positions
- A winning philosophy
- The right goals

**A COACH CAN IDENTIFY WHERE EACH PLAYER IS IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT.**

- He can watch and listen and know where they are in the process of maturity.
- He can see their abilities and knows what position they should play on the team.
- *Rookies to All-Stars...*He can identify both because he knows the game.

**A COACH CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH.**

- He knows what the player and the team needs, and so he is able to determine a way to get it to them.
- He creates a system for the development of every player, and some great players emerge.
- He knows what to do with every player—all-star to position player.
A COACH CREATES A “TEAM” ENVIRONMENT

- He creates a system that gets everyone going the same direction with the same language, goal, and philosophy.
- He creates multiple coaches within a system. He teaches them the same thing.
- He creates a system; by organization or program.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- A high school system works with the players they have been given.
- A college coach recruits players.

WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

- He creates relational buy-in; promotes teamwork, discourages pride and encourages caring for one another.

- What did I learn today about Jesus being an Intentional Leader?

- I am convicted in my own ministry to…?

AN INTENTIONAL LEADER IS KEY TO BECOMING A DISCIPLE MAKING CHURCH.

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” - I Corinthians 11:1

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” - Ephesians 4: 11-13

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” - John 13:34

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!” - Phillipians 2:3-8
“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you” - Phillipians 3:12-15

**CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS: WORKSHEET**

If making disciples of Jesus is the goal, then we would expect that a mature disciple is someone who is growing and submitting to Jesus. This should be reflected in all aspects of their life. With that in mind, we are going to look at Jesus and the characteristics He portrayed, and where we find them in scripture.

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<tr>
<th>WHAT (Characteristic)</th>
<th>WHERE (Biblical Story)</th>
</tr>
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</table>

(cont.)
If Jesus' entire ministry was placed in a pie chart…

**What percentage of His time did He spend with His disciples?**

Using your best estimate, fill out the pie chart below and shade in that percentage.

(Each slice = 5%)
part 4

DiscipleShift:

Biblical View of Relational Environments

presented by:
Luke Yetter - Real Life Ministries: Post Falls, ID
Keith Strasburger - Real Life Ministries: Post Falls, ID

The impact and power of relational environments is crucial to the spiritual health of your people. Luke Yetter and Keith Strasburger will go over the rules of engagement for forming and maintaining healthy relational environments.
Part 4

Biblical View of Relational Environments

presented by:
Keith Strasburger – Real Life Ministries: Post Falls, ID

HOW A RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENT DRAWS PEOPLE

THE COMPONENTS OF A RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENT:

1. THE HEART BEHIND IT
   • Loving, caring, shepherding, investing, encouraging
   • A place where accountability, pastoring, modeling and teaching happen.

2. THERE IS A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION
   • People are discussing how God’s story and their own story are being walked out.
   • People are learning God’s Word and how to apply it to their lives.

3. THERE IS AN INTENTIONAL LEADER WHO UNDERSTANDS HIS/HER OWN ROLE, AND THE OVERALL VISION FOR THE GROUP.
   • To make disciples of Jesus-helping people grow and mature spiritually by doing life together

4. A NEW PERSON TO THE GROUP WOULD DESCRIBE THE GROUP AS:
   • Real
   • Authentic
   • Transparent
   • Fun
   • Life-giving
   • Kingdom-centered
   • They can’t wait to come back

5. THE GROUP CONSIST OF 3-18 PEOPLE THAT MEET REGULARLY (WEEKLY)

(cont.)
“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.”
- Acts 2:42-43 NIV84

“But if we walk in the light, as He Himself is in the light. We have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- 1 John 1:7 HCSB

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil: Cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”
- Romans 12:9-10 NIV84

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you might be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”
- James 5:16 ESV

“I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- John 13:13-35 HCSB

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”
- Deuteronomy 6: 6-9 NIV84
Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples. Sometimes it can be difficult to know what that actually looks like, or how to teach someone else to do it. Bobby Harrington and Jim Harris will go over the Spiritual Stages of Growth in discipleship, and how we can use them to make disciples of Jesus who make disciples of Jesus.
UNDERSTANDING THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

REPRODUCIBLE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS:
There is an understandable reproducible discipleship process. The leader (discipler) has a clear understanding of the discipleship process (His part). Also the leader understands where the person (disciple) is spiritually and helps provide what is needed from a human perspective for them to grow spiritually through the stages of discipleship (their part) and understand only GOD can do his part.

STAGES OF PHYSICAL GROWTH:
- DEAD
- INFANT (0-2 yrs. old)
- CHILD (3-12 yrs. old)
- YOUNG ADULT (13-25 yrs. old)
- PARENT (26 yrs. old)
STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

DEAD:
People in this stage have not yet accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. They may completely reject God, they may be seeking God, they may be “spiritual”, they may even claim to know God or be a Christian, when in reality, they are their own god.

INFANT:
People in this stage have accepted Christ, but haven’t moved much past that point. They can be new believers or they might be stagnant, long-time Christians. Life is generally all about them and their needs.

CHILD:
People in this stage are growing in their relationship with the Lord and are also beginning to grow in their relationship with other Christians. They are applying God’s Word in their life and allowing others to walk beside them in their journey following Christ. However, it’s still mostly about them - their needs, comfort, etc.

YOUNG ADULT:
People in this stage are making a big shift from being self-centered to more others-centered. They’re beginning to understand their role as a giver, rather than a taker – ministering to others, putting others first – being doers of the Word.

PARENT:
People in this stage have a solid understanding of God’s Word and a deep, abiding relationship with the Father. They are living out God’s Word daily in their own life. They are others-centered and God-dependent. They are able to reproduce mature disciples of Jesus by inviting others to follow them as they follow Christ.

* SEE THE DIAGRAMS AND CHARTS ON PAGES 31-34 TO FURTHER HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH.
Part 5: Biblical View of a Disciple Making Process

The 5 Stages of Spiritual Growth

DEFINITIONS, TRAITS & PHRASES

(SPIRITUALLY DEAD: People in this stage have not yet accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. They may completely reject God, they may be seeking God, they may be “spiritual,” they may even claim to know God or be a Christian, when in reality, they are their own god.

(SPIRITUAL INFANT: In this stage, people have accepted Christ, but haven’t moved much past that point. They can be new believers or they might be stagnant, long-time Christians. Life is generally all about them and their needs.

(SPIRITUAL CHILD: In this stage, people are growing in their relationship with God and are also beginning to grow in their relationship with other Christians. They are applying God’s Word in their life and allowing others to walk beside them in their journey following Christ. However, it’s still mostly about them — their needs, comfort, etc.

(SPIRITUAL YOUNG ADULT: In this stage, people are making a big shift from being self-centered to more others-centered. They’re beginning to understand their role as a giver, rather than a taker – ministering to others, putting others first — being doers of the Word.

(SPIRITUAL PARENT: In this stage, the Parent has a solid understanding of God’s Word and a deep, abiding relationship with the Father. They are living out God’s Word in their lives daily. They are others-centered and God-dependent. They are able to reproduce mature disciples of Christ by inviting others to follow them as they follow Christ.

DEAD

TRAITS THEY ARE...
...broken. (aware or unaware)
...lost and unaware of it.
...living out their feelings.

PHRASES THEY MIGHT SAY...
"I believe there are many ways to Heaven."
"I’m a good person."
"I think there may be a higher power."
"I’m too busy for a small group."

(31)
Part 5: Biblical View of a Disciple Making Process

**What is "God’s Part" with the PARENT?**

**What does the PARENT (Co-Laborer) need from me?**
- Law
- Grace
- Authority
- Love
- Accountability
- Connection
- To be listened to
- Blessing
- Approval

**What does the YOUNG ADULT need from me?**
- • Mercy
- • Submissiveness
- • Priorities
- • Transparency

**What do I model for the PARENT?**
- • "God’s Part"

**What do I model for the PARENT (Co-Laborer)?**
- • "Mercy"
- • Submissiveness
- • Priorities
- • Transparency

**What "Relational Environments" should I create for the PARENT?**
- • Love
- • Serving
- • Relational risk
- • Prayer
- • Equipping

**What "Relational Environments" should I create for the DEPENDENT?**
- • Love
- • Serving
- • Relational risk
- • Prayer
- • Equipping

**What "Relational Environments" should I create for the BORN AGAIN?**
- • Love
- • Serving
- • Relational risk
- • Prayer
- • Equipping

**What "Relational Environments" should I create for the INFANT?**
- • Love
- • Serving
- • Relational risk
- • Prayer
- • Equipping

**What "Relational Environments" should I create for the MINISTER?**
- • Love
- • Serving
- • Relational risk
- • Prayer
- • Equipping

**What "Relational Environments" should I create for the CO-LEADER?**
- • Love
- • Serving
- • Relational risk
- • Prayer
- • Equipping

**What "Relational Environments" should I create for the CHILD?**
- • Love
- • Serving
- • Relational risk
- • Prayer
- • Equipping

**What are the spiritual characteristics of the YOUNG ADULT?**
- • "God’s Part"

**What are the spiritual characteristics of the PARENT?**
- • "God’s Part"

**What are the spiritual characteristics of the DEPENDENT?**
- • "God’s Part"

**What are the spiritual characteristics of the BORN AGAIN?**
- • "God’s Part"

**What are the spiritual characteristics of the INFANT?**
- • "God’s Part"

**What are the spiritual characteristics of the CO-LEADER?**
- • "God’s Part"

**What are the spiritual characteristics of the MINISTER?**
- • "God’s Part"

**What are the spiritual characteristics of the CHILD?**
- • "God’s Part"

**What are some phrases that the PARENT (Co-Laborer) may say?**
- "This guy at work related to me to explain the Bible to his kid. Pray for me."
- "We get to baptize someone from our small group tonight. Who is the next kid class? I want to get her plugged into ministry somehow."
- "Our small group is going on a mission trip, and I have given each person a different responsibility."
- "I notice discipleship happens at home, too. Will you help me encourage to spend time discipling my kids?"
- "I have a person in my small group who is passionate about children. Can you have the children’s ministry people call me?"

**What are some phrases that the YOUNG ADULT may say?**
- "I realize discipleship happens at home, too. Will you have given each person a different responsibility?"
- "I have a person in my small group who is passionate about children. Can you have the children’s ministry people call me?"
- "We get to baptize someone from our small group tonight. Who is the next kid class? I want to get her plugged into ministry somehow."
- "Our small group is going on a mission trip, and I have given each person a different responsibility."
- "I notice discipleship happens at home, too. Will you help me encourage to spend time discipling my kids?"
- "I have a person in my small group who is passionate about children. Can you have the children’s ministry people call me?"
As the "Intentional Leader" within "Relational Environments"...

What "Relational Environments" should I create for the DEAD?
What "Relational Environments" should I create for the INFANT?
What "Relational Environments" should I create for the CHILD?

My Part

What does the DEAD need from me?
What does the INFANT need from me?
What does the CHILD need from me?

God's Part

What is "God's Part" with the DEAD?
What is "God's Part" with the INFANT?
What is "God's Part" with the CHILD?

Their Part

What are the beliefs, behaviors and attitudes of the DEAD?
What are the beliefs, behaviors and attitudes of the INFANT?
What are the beliefs, behaviors and attitudes of the CHILD?

Relationships

What are some phrases that the DEAD may say?
What are some phrases that the INFANT may say?
What are some phrases that the CHILD may say?

Mission-minded

Dependable
Self-seeking
Self-absorbed

Dependent on others
Unaware
Ignorant
Confused
Unbelieving
Rebellious

Athletic
Excited
Idealistic

Energetic
Idealistic
Self-centered/Self-absorbed

Other-centered
God-centered

Strategic
Dependable
Self-feeding

Time with God
A church family
Co-Laborer

Mission-minded
Reproduction-minded
Action/Service-oriented

What are the spiritual characteristics of the DEAD?
What are the spiritual characteristics of the INFANT?
What are the spiritual characteristics of the CHILD?

What are some phrases that the INFANT may say?
What are some phrases that the CHILD may say?

What does the DEAD need from me?
What does the INFANT need from me?
What does the CHILD need from me?

My Part

What do I model for the DEAD?
What do I model for the INFANT?
What do I model for the CHILD?

Other-centered
God-centered

Strategic
Dependable
Self-feeding

Time with God
A church family
Co-Laborer

Mission-minded
Reproduction-minded
Action/Service-oriented

God’s Part

What is "God’s Part" with the DEAD?
What is "God’s Part" with the INFANT?
What is "God’s Part" with the CHILD?

Their Part

What are the beliefs, behaviors and attitudes of the DEAD?
What are the beliefs, behaviors and attitudes of the INFANT?
What are the beliefs, behaviors and attitudes of the CHILD?

Relationships

What are some phrases that the DEAD may say?
What are some phrases that the INFANT may say?
What are some phrases that the CHILD may say?

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Dependable
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Time with God
A church family
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Mission-minded
Reproduction-minded
Action/Service-oriented

What are the spiritual characteristics of the DEAD?
What are the spiritual characteristics of the INFANT?
What are the spiritual characteristics of the CHILD?

What are some phrases that the INFANT may say?
What are some phrases that the CHILD may say?

What does the DEAD need from me?
What does the INFANT need from me?
What does the CHILD need from me?

My Part

What do I model for the DEAD?
What do I model for the INFANT?
What do I model for the CHILD?

Other-centered
God-centered

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Dependable
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Time with God
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God’s Part

What is "God’s Part" with the DEAD?
What is "God’s Part" with the INFANT?
What is "God’s Part" with the CHILD?

Their Part

What are the beliefs, behaviors and attitudes of the DEAD?
What are the beliefs, behaviors and attitudes of the INFANT?
What are the beliefs, behaviors and attitudes of the CHILD?

Relationships

What are some phrases that the DEAD may say?
What are some phrases that the INFANT may say?
What are some phrases that the CHILD may say?

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Time with God
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Co-Laborer

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Reproduction-minded
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What are the spiritual characteristics of the DEAD?
What are the spiritual characteristics of the INFANT?
What are the spiritual characteristics of the CHILD?

What are some phrases that the INFANT may say?
What are some phrases that the CHILD may say?

What does the DEAD need from me?
What does the INFANT need from me?
What does the CHILD need from me?

My Part

What do I model for the DEAD?
What do I model for the INFANT?
What do I model for the CHILD?
Part 5: Biblical View of a Disciple Making Process

[Diagram showing the disciple-making process with various stages and roles, such as Parent, Infant, Child, Young Adult, and Connect to God. Each stage has corresponding language and behaviors.]
Part 5
Biblical View of a Disciple Making Process

NOTES
Part 5
Biblical View of a Disciple Making Process

NOTES
The apostle Paul wrote about the need to fight for Alignment within the churches he planted. In this session, Brandon Guindon will go over the impact that Alignment still plays in your church today. He will discuss the need for alignment in four key areas; Relational, Theological, Philosophical and Organizational.
"But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin." - 1 John 1:7 NLT

There are 4 key areas of alignment to equip the church for its purpose of making disciples of Jesus.

**RELATIONAL ALIGNMENT:**

Relational Alignment means valuing relationships in the same priority that God does. God desires deeply that his creation be reconciled back to him and to be reconciled to each other. It means to be known as lover of God and others, and to be willing to fight for relationship. Knowing that each person has a willingness to be known in a more intimate way.

How does your culture relate to each other? How do the people celebrate and care for each other? Most of these interpersonal interactions are non-verbal and understood from a collective frame of reference. A previous shared experience, or many generations of shared experiences. Sometimes as a leader it is hard to see the forest through the trees especially if leadership has been together in one place a long time.

Relational alignment is getting the entire group aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the culture. moving together towards the culture and being able to disciple each other and whoever might join in the future. Changing directions in this area are hard and feel very awkward at first but small changes towards relational health can make a huge impact.

**ORGANIZATIONAL ALIGNMENT:**

The time in meetings, the dollars being spent in the budget, the energy/focus inside the church building and outside the community… All three of these areas are very intentionally focused on keeping the purpose of the Church in the forefront.

If you’re a church that is dedicated to making disciples above all else, then your church should have the budget, staffing and calendar to support making disciples. We are not suggesting that you decide not to pay the heating bill because it doesn’t directly impact making disciples. We are suggesting that leadership take a careful assessment of individual administrative processes, making sure they align with making disciples.
THEOLOGICAL ALIGNMENT:
From elders to staff, key volunteers to key influencers, all understand what the church believes and can explain the church’s position and beliefs to whomever asks.

Getting people to align on their theology is crucial to growing as a disciple making church. For the purpose of unity in the future, new people must fully understand the church’s stance on theological issues. The church needs to agree on what are issues it is willing to draw a line in the sand on. Also, it is just as important that the church members are clear on what issues are not worth fighting over.

Not being aligned on theology can easily strain relationships and hurt spiritual infants. It is up to church leadership to bring clarity to these topics to bring unity.

PHILOSOPHICAL ALIGNMENT:
The vision, mission and process work together to accomplish the purpose of His Church – Being a disciple-making church.

The statement that your church may have on the wall in the foyer is called many things. Some churches call it a mission statement, vision statement, unity statement, etc. Regardless of what you call it, it must be aligned with making disciples of Jesus. This is important in many ways. Ministry leaders and volunteers will make decisions and focus their collective energy towards that one statement.

How are you fighting for Alignment in your ministry?

What role does “Alignment” play in becoming a disciple making church?
Real-Life Discipleship: Building Churches That Make Disciples
by Jim Putman

Real-Life Discipleship explains what should happen in the life of every Christian and in every small group so that the church becomes an army of believers dedicated to seeing the world saved. With the overriding goal to train disciples who know how to make more disciples, this book offers proven tools and strategies from Real Life Ministries, one of America’s fastest-growing churches. Discover what the Bible says about true and effective discipleship with these strategies and practices. This book can be purchased at rlmctd-resources.com

by Jim Putman, Avery T. Willis Jr., Brandon Guindon, and Bill Krause

This companion training manual to Real-Life Discipleship provides unique guidance and insight to pastors, church leaders, and their disciples as they work to create an effective discipleship program. With a thorough, results-oriented process that can be applied in other contexts and cultures, this manual explains the necessary components of disciple-making so that every church member can play a part in reaching others for Christ. This leader’s resource shows you how to cultivate new leaders for the future and equip them to make disciples. This book can be purchased at rlmctd-resources.com

Church Is a Team Sport: A Championship Strategy for Doing Ministry Together
by Jim Putman

It’s not a simple three-step plan. Being on a winning team is never easy—but it’s always worth it. Being on God’s winning team has great benefits, both now and for eternity. Whether you’re a burned-out leader, a leader who wants your team to do even better, or a team member ready to tackle an active role in your congregation, Church Is a Team Sport will lead you. This book can be purchased at rlmctd-resources.com

Together: Networks and Church Planting
by Bobby Harrington and Marcus Bigelow

This book addresses the question, “Why is it important that churches network together?” It’s vital at this point in the history of the Church to plant more churches. This book makes the case that networks of church-planting churches can transform the way this happens. This book should be required reading for those who want to understand church planting in the contemporary context. www.harpethcc.com
next steps

DiscipleShift1:
During this two day training, you will be experiencing, learning and applying the Relational Discipleship Process. This will be an opportunity for you to rediscover Jesus’ message of discipleship, and to be involved in and experience His method of making disciples. We will also explore the 5 Key Components of making and growing disciples of Jesus…that make disciples of Jesus. Our hope is that rediscovering Jesus’ method for discipleship will help you lay a strong foundation for becoming a disciple making church. DiscipleShift1 is a prerequisite for most of our other trainings and resources. For more information call Ann Cone with Real Life Ministries 208.777.7325 or visit us at rlmctd.com

Church Planter Boot Camp:
This eight-day training incorporates both DiscipleShift1 and DiscipleShift2 plus adds specific information and training developed just for church planters. This Boot Camp will get your entire team moving in the same direction and help you effectively and efficiently build a disciple-making church that will radically change your community for Christ. For more information call Ann Cone with Real Life Ministries 208.777.7325 or visit us at rlmctd.com

We look forward to working with you!

RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP NETWORK

relationaldiscipleshipnetwork.com
DiscipleShift
presented by:
The Relational Discipleship Network