

Creating a Disciple-Making Strategy: A Template for Your Church

Effective disciple-making is a process rooted in clear purpose, structure, and ongoing growth. This strategy will guide your church in developing a sustainable disciple-making pathway that can be adapted to your unique context. Below are the key components to build a solid strategy that will help you shape and grow spiritually transformed individuals.

1. The Center of Disciple Making: The 'Why'

- **What Drives Us:** Why do we make disciples? Disciple-making is rooted in the mission of Jesus Christ to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). It is our responsibility to not only evangelize but also to guide believers into a deeper relationship with Christ. This purpose is the foundation of our efforts, providing direction, motivation, and focus.
- **Defining Discipleship:** Discipleship is a continuous journey of spiritual growth, where individuals learn to follow Christ, grow in faith, and live out His teachings in their daily lives. A disciple is not merely a believer but one who actively learns, practices, and teaches the ways of Jesus.

2. Our Structure: The Stages of Discipleship

- **Identifying the Path:** Disciple-making occurs in stages that reflect growth and maturity in faith. Each church will have a unique progression depending on their context, but common stages often include:
 - **Discovery** (initial outreach and introduction to Christ)
 - **Engagement** (growing in community and knowledge)
 - **Transformation** (deepening commitment and obedience)
 - **Multiplication** (discipling others to become disciple-makers)
- **Knowing Your Next Step:** Each individual’s journey is different, but the structure provides a roadmap for where they are and where they need to go next. Clear stages help to assess the growth of disciples and ensure that no one gets stuck.

3. Our System: The Discipleship Process

- **How Disciples Move:** The system is the intentional process through which individuals progress from one stage to the next. This includes clear steps, ministry touchpoints, and engagement strategies such as:
 - Small groups for relationship-building
 - Studies for growth in knowledge
 - Serving opportunities for applying faith
 - Leadership development to empower others
- **Facilitating Growth:** Each stage should have clear entry points and transitions. For example, an individual may start in an introductory class and then move on to a mentorship program or group Bible study.

4. Our Content: What We Teach

- **The Foundation for Spiritual Growth:** Discipleship is not just about teaching knowledge; it's about fostering a life-altering encounter with Christ. The content is the foundational teaching that guides the spiritual growth of disciples. This includes:
 - Biblical teachings on salvation, the Kingdom of God, and Christian living
 - Practical teachings on spiritual disciplines (prayer, scripture reading, service, etc.)
 - Theological foundations to understand the nature of God and His will for humanity
- **Holistic Development:** It's important that content addresses the mind, heart, and actions of disciples. This ensures spiritual growth that results in transformed lives.

5. Our People: The Disciple-Making Community

- **Who Makes Disciples:** Discipleship is not limited to pastors or small group leaders. Every member of the church is called to make disciples. The body of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the agent through which multiplication occurs.
- **Creating a Discipleship Movement:** The key to a successful discipleship strategy is mobilizing the congregation. This means empowering every believer, regardless of age or spiritual maturity, to be active participants in the process of disciple-making.

6. Our Scorecard: Measuring Success

- **Assessing Progress:** A clear and measurable scorecard helps evaluate the effectiveness of your disciple-making efforts. Key metrics might include:
 - Spiritual growth indicators (e.g., prayer life, engagement with Scripture, service involvement)
 - Participation in group discipleship (e.g., small groups, classes, ministry teams)
 - New leaders raised up and empowered to disciple others
- **Tracking Transformation:** Success isn't simply about numbers—it's about spiritual transformation. Regular assessments (e.g., surveys, feedback, one-on-one check-ins) can help ensure that individuals are progressing in their walk with Christ.

Customizing Your Strategy

Every church has a unique context. Customize this framework by adjusting the language, stages, and methods to fit your congregation's size, culture, and resources. Remember, the goal is not perfection but ongoing faithfulness in making disciples who make disciples.
