

# Intro & Instructions

## Discipleship Strategy Template

Making disciples is the Church's God-given mandate. Devoted disciples attract people outside the church because of the change others see in their Christ-like lives. And they reproduce themselves in others, refusing to be the last link of the chain stretching all the way back to the first Disciples.

The purpose of this Discipleship Strategy is to imagine and implement a biblical process to empower Christians to be more like Christ as they intentionally develop relationships with not-yet-believers.

### Learn from Jesus

It's safe to say that Jesus was the best disciple maker of all time. The things we see him doing in the Gospel accounts should inspire how we approach discipleship and how we create environments and processes that multiply disciples.

Do the hard work of digging back into the scriptures with fresh eyes for Jesus' disciple-making genius.

### Other Suggested Reading

#### **DiscipleShift: Five Steps That Help Your Church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples**

Jim Putman, Bobby Harrington and R. Coleman. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.

*DiscipleShift walks you through five key "shifts" that churches must make to refocus on the biblical mission of discipleship. These intentional changes will attract the world and empower your church members to be salt and light in their communities.*

#### **Discipleship is the Core Mission of the Church: Helping People Trust and Follow Jesus**

Bobby Harrington. Centreville, VA: Exponential Resources, 2012.

*True disciples learn how to worship God, serve the poor, reach lost people, proclaim justice, support their members, etc. But if we try to "do all these things" without seeing them through our core focus of discipleship, people will lack direction and clarity.*

#### **New Research on the State of Discipleship**

The Barna Group. Ventura, CA: Barna Group, 2015.

*People are lonelier, more distracted and more tethered to their screens, and searching for meaningful lives. As Christians bring the unchanging message of the Gospel to the world, effective approaches to discipleship become more important, especially in a world that is increasingly polarized around spiritual issues.*

### To Teach is to Learn

Use the following worksheet to hammer out and jot down the various aspects of your Discipleship Strategy. But don't stop there – go through it a second time, rewriting it with the intent to use it as a handout or teaching tool to put in the hands of your people. Inspire them to be DNA carriers of the vision God has entrusted you with.

*church logo placeholder*

# **[Name of Church]**

## **Discipleship Strategy**

*How we help people follow Jesus and reproduce that in others*

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## Our Approach

[boil down your discipleship process into 3 or 4 easily-remembered steps or markers (ex: Win/Build/Send, Celebrate/Connect/Contribute); come back to this after you've completed the rest of the template]

## Discipleship in the Bible

Here's how we see the Bible's definition of discipleship:

[explain how the Bible defines discipleship; include scripture references]

Here's what a disciple looks like in the Bible:

[explain how the Bible describes a mature disciple; include scripture references]

Here's the discipleship process we see in scripture:

[describe the discipleship process happening in Scripture; include scripture references]

Here are the phases of discipleship we see:

[define the specific phases of discipleship as seen in the scriptural models; include scripture references]

## Discipleship at [Name of Church]

Here's how we'll work it into Our DNA:

[how everyone at our church will come to 'own' these phases and the overall process]

Here's how we connect it to our values:

Here's how we communicate about discipleship:

[how we'll emphasize the discipleship process at every church level]

Here's our approach to reproducing disciple-making leaders:

[the practical steps to raising up, reproducing and releasing disciple-making leaders]

## Discipleship in Our Community

We'll use both attractational and missional impulses to get people started in discipleship.

Here's how we'll get people from our gathered crowd started in discipleship:

Here's how we'll go to where the people are to get them started in discipleship: