

Making Disciples Through Care Groups

Acknowledgements

Introduction

What This Book Is Intended to Do.

Provide A Resource Reference

For leaders who are equipping disciple-makers.

For overseers who are equipping leaders .

For the pastor desiring to use care groups.

Encourage disciples to keep on disciple-making.

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Section 1 Overview - Care Groups In The Church Program

Chapter 1 Our Goal Is "Disciples Making Disciples".

Disciple-making Is NOT optional.

It is Jesus' command to his "group" (as a group).

Chapter 2 Our Program Is "Disciples Making Disciples".

"I have not come to abolish the traditional church but to fulfill it!"

Love permeates the process.

The principle of equipping.

The concept of mixing. (vs. avoidance)

Chapter 3 Where Our Programs Can Go Astray.

Super Christians - Urging Without Enabling.

Super Pastors - Teaching Without Equipping.

Super Churches - Seeking Growth For The Sake Of Vanity.

Outreach motive illustration of the waterfall vs. the octopus.

Chapter 4 An Idealistic Example Of A Care Group Based Church

Spiritual View.

Jesus builds his group.

Individuals confess Jesus as Lord to be members.

Jesus gifts people to minister to the group and beyond.

Administrative View.

Organization brings order to decision making.

The pastor or church planter.

He is the key.

Maintains the vision.

Models pastoral care and disciple-making.

Transitions to managing multiplied pastoral care and disciple-making.

The members.

Fringe and Core. Jesus knows who are his.

Commitment is not the same as availability.

Members are fulfilled when they do their part of a vision, big or small.

The selected leadership.

Servant leaders must have an example to follow.

Selection process is secondary to spirituality.

The structure is based on amount of resources.

At first the church planter does everything.

The first team or core group.

A Care Group System that can multiply.

Three Things Needed To Make Disciples Through Care Groups.

Healthy Disciples.

Illustration of the gift of horses (some unhealthy).

Define healthy Christians vs. Super Christians.

Define healthy Christians vs. attenders of meetings.

Disciples-Makers .

Corporate disciple-making vs. individual style.

Mentor/mentee

Care Group System.

Advantages and limitations of care groups

Illustration of care group as a home.

Illustration of care group as a window for outsiders.

Illustration of care group as a launching pad.

Leader is the key to interaction vs. lecturing.

Some terms we will use.

Care group members

Care group leaders and interns.

The overseer provides help and coordination to the leaders.

The pastor gives help and coordination to the overseers .

Worship and Prayer Events

Worship in the care group.

Keep it simple as possible.

Worship in a celebration service.

Make it as professional as possible.

Disciple education options to coordinate.

One on one training materials.

The care group meeting lessons.

Sermons from trained pastor.

Sunday schools and church classes.

Seminars and modular classes from local Bible colleges.

Administration / Facilities

Simple structure to meet practical and legal requirements.

Officers with Integrity.

Board members with enthusiasm and commitment to sacrifice.

Legal View.

Who is really a member when things go wrong?

Local autonomy vs. denominational affiliation.

Government paperwork and bank accounts.

Ministerial licenses and accountability.

Chapter 5 Evaluate The Disciple-making In Your Church.

How many man-hours go into each activity?

How do activities help make healthy disciples?

Would changes improve the disciple-making?

Section 2 - The Disciples

Chapter 6 Who Me? A Disciple?

No super Christians.

Illustration of hesitancy in raising their hand to indicate being a disciple.

Trying to separate the voice of Jesus from well-meaning pastors and authors.

Who are the blessed?

Practical humility.

No sub Christians.

Illustration of the pig and the cat regarding sin.

The Holy spirit is never an unholy spirit.

Asking Jesus to open our blind eyes of hypocrisy.

Take a spiritual self-examination.

Four analogies of a healthy Christianity

Pulse of faith (sign of life)

Breathing as interaction with God (related to circumstances of rest and exercise)

Grip of applying what he shows us. (stay strong my friend)

Temperature of emotions to fit the situation. (cultural reasons for what emotions are appropriate)

Both fruit inspection and harvest joy.

Do it regularly.

Inner conviction is basis for disciple reproduction.

Choose this day. And the next day.

Who do you say that I am? Mind vs heart.

This foundation - the Lord knows who are his...and let those who name...

We want more, just like you. Yes, you!

Chapter 7 Do-able Disciple-making Activities.

A city set on a hill, a lamp on a stand.

Humility of not being the light, but a lampstand.

Are people looking more at the lampstand?

Honor of being placed by the hand of God.

Six do-able disciple-making activities.

Praying

Loving
Seeking
Goodnewsing
Challenging
Nurturing

Difference in personalities affects disciple-making.

God knows us and expects of us according to how he made us.

Group members know each other and do team work.

Chapter 8 Disciple-making Comes In Different Sizes.

Understanding this may save your pastor's sanity!

Commitment may come in small pieces.

Don't dream above your management skill.

Illustration of the terraced beach.

The sea level is where our individual light shines in our normal daily activities.

The next level is the extra work involved in small groups.

The next level is the even-more work involved in big events.

The airplane is a team going to start a new church cross culturally, the most work of all.

Examples of disciple-making at these different levels.

Chart of activities of individuals, care groups, and bigger events.

Building our love for other Christians.

Building our praise.

Building our faith.

Building our holiness.

Building our love for neighbors.

No church can do everything it wants to do.

One plan is to put your energy into a weekly big event like a morning worship and Sunday school.

A care group-based plan, focuses more resources on the small group.

In either plan, remember that our goal of healthy disciples is won or lost at the sea level, not in attendance charts.

As you grow in numbers, some will be gifted for the bigger events.

Prioritize your small group disciple-making.

Section 3 - The Care Group Leader

Chapter 9 Who Can Lead A Care Group?

Spiritual qualities over academic ones.

This is same and different than for a pastor or teacher.

Willing to be accountable to the overseer.

Ability to reproduce.

God made us inherently to reproduce ourselves.

Leader is like a spiritual father with spiritual teenagers.

Delights in development of others even doing things better than he can.

Always loving.

Willingness to do pastoral care during the week.

Chapter 10 Tips In Leading A Care Group Meeting.

Wheres and Whens.

Who does what?

Sitting arrangements make a difference.

Good beginnings show love.

Ice-breakers and how to make them.

Help in guiding discussion.

Singing and thinking.

Opening the word of God.

Ways to pray together.

Launching outward individually and as a team.

What is fellowship?

Problems you may face.

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Make it reproducible.

Example 1: The RAP time.

Reports of last week's meetings.

Answers to Questions from the Groups or training time previewing next lesson.

Planning and Prayer for each other.

Example 2: Model the next lesson with the leaders.

Chapter 12 Producing Care Group Lessons Each Week.

Not usually a reproducible activity.

Building lessons based on the sermon.

Using existing lessons for care groups or cell groups.

Modifying Sunday school lessons or other materials.

Chapter 13 Coordinating Care Groups Into Your Yearly Schedule.

Work closely with your board.

Remind them of the vision.

Remind yourself of the disciples on the sea coast level every day.

Trust their judgements.

The example of the Harvest Cycle.

Structure of a planning meeting.

Make a yearly calendar big enough to work with.

Mark the seasonal events that affect members.

Religious

Secular

Schedule big events

All church members can enjoy or participate in.

Schedule medium sized events

Based on needs and resources. eg Marriage enrichment seminars.

Schedule Open times.

Encourage simultaneous care group fun outings or small parties.

Promotion of the schedule.

Keep the big schedule posted

Announce events throughout the year.

Stay ahead in planning coordination for the big events.

Be flexible.

Section 5 - The Local Ministerial Fellowship

Chapter 14 A Call For Balance In Cooperation.

How do joint activities aid disciplemaking in your region?

Minimize detracting from local church schedules.

Joint events need longer advance scheduling.

Chapter 15 A Call For Humility And Love.

Our church is not our church.

The big get bigger and the small...don't.

How about those not gifted in managing?

Sharing gifts; a win/win solution.

Care group hoppers and sheep stealing.

Some may leave some may come.

Talk in the ministerial to avoid problems.

Do your part to build communication among churches.

Believe in the church's calling; Making disciples who follow Christ just like we do.