

Session Six

The Spontaneous Reproduction of Churches

✓ Check each item below after you discuss it with your Coaching Team.

Preparation to be done before you meet with your Coaching Team:

- ☐ 1. Read **The Commitments of a Leader** and **Leadership Basics**. Be prepared to describe each one and explain briefly why each one is essential for leadership.
- ☐ 2. Read **Share the Ministry Philosophy** and **A-Z Thinking**. Be prepared to share why it is important for our Discovery Groups to understand not just what we do, but also why we do it.
Be prepared to share with your Discovery Group Leaders your personal passion and vision for your life and ministry.
- ☐ 3. Read **The Spontaneous Reproduction of Churches**. Help each person understand the potential they have to grow and reproduce their Discovery Groups and expand the present church ministry or plant a new church if God so leads.
- ☐ 4. Complete **Report** below.

To be completed with your Leader:

- ☐ 5. Each share how God has worked in your life this month.
- ☐ 6. Discuss and (✓) check off points 1 through 4 above.

Report on the Discovery Groups you Coach:

- ☐ 7. _____ Discovery Groups have
_____ People who attend regularly
_____ New Attendees This Past Month
_____ Pairs of People in Dynamic Basics One-to-One Training
_____ Pairs of People in Dynamic Discipling One-to-One Training
_____ People received Christ as Saviour through our groups this past month.

Prayer and Closing:

- ☐ 8. Pray for each other and our Discovery Group Leaders.
- ☐ 9. Go over Preparation assignment for next Coaching Session.
- ☐ 10. Set a Date _____ Time _____ Place _____
for our next Coaching Session.

The Commitments of a Leader

There are *four basic commitments* in the life of a Leader. He must have a strong love for and commitment to **Jesus Christ and His Word, His People – His Church, the Lost and the Task.**

If the leader is not Christ-centred, the group is in danger of becoming heretical in their beliefs and practices. If he does not have a love for and commitment to the Body of Christ, he will either be unable to care for those in the group, or he will try to turn the group into his own little spiritual kingdom instead of building it to the rest of the church. If he is not committed to the lost, the group will become ingrown and fail to reach out. If he is not committed to the task that God has given us as His missionaries, the leader will get his eyes off the goal and fail to equip the people in his group to fulfil the Great Commission.

1. Strong love for and commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word

The leader must be Christ-centred manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in his life. He must have a desire to grow in his relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ and discipline himself to spend time daily with Him in Prayer and Bible study.

2. Strong love for and commitment to His People - His Church

The leader must take the initiative. It is said that a leader is **someone who leads**. He/she doesn't wait for something to happen, or hope something will happen, but makes it happen. He/she must have a deep concern for and sensitivity to the group. Asking; **"Where are my people spiritually? Are they becoming obedient to the Word? Are they being equipped for ministry?"** He must be creative and positive as he works to make it happen. He must be an example to the group with the attitude of not **do as I say** but **do as I do**. If the leader does not spend time alone with the Lord, how can he expect those he leads to do so? As he becomes involved in the lives of the people in his group he learns to anticipate possible problems and is willing to confront and assist in solving them. He must create an atmosphere of openness and warmth by his demonstration of loving concern for each member of the group. He is eager to serve, and his objective is to make people more dependent on Jesus Christ instead of dependent upon him or her self.

3. Strong love for and commitment to the Lost

In order for the leader to demonstrate his/her commitment to those who do not know Christ, he/she must be an example in actively initiating conversations and prayerfully searching for people who are open to the gospel and is offering to begin a Discovery Group with them. He/she must also be diligently equipping the group for the work of the ministry, motivating them to reach out where they live and work. Unless opportunity is provided for outreach, the group can stagnate in self contentment, becoming just a "mutual admiration society".

4. Strong love for and commitment to the Task

The leader must be faithful to his task as Discovery Group Leader or Coach and also faithful to the mission that Christ has given to His Church. He/she must be teachable, being willing to learn from others, in order to do the best possible job of leading their group to be God's people on a mission for the redemption of the world.

My strongest area is _____

My weakest area is _____

Leadership Basics

Leaders must become intentional and focused in their character development before they can impact the character of their ministry.

A Leader's Mind set

- Ministry is people. (Ministry always flows out of relationships)
- Our goal is changed lives.
- We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to change lives.

A Leader's Essential Tasks

- Casting and instilling vision for changed lives.
- Keeping stories of changed lives before the people.
- Equipping in personal ministry skills.
- Reproducing through Equipping new leaders.
- Coaching Leaders.

A Leader's Character

- Seeks to glorify God by exercising his/her giftedness in the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfil a mission from the Lord.
- Ignites in others a passion for the mission and helps them exercise their giftedness and passion to fulfil the mission.
- Accepts responsibility, receives authority, and welcomes accountability.

Expectations of Leaders

Loyal - To one another, the group/team, and authority.

Eager - To help others succeed in life and ministry.

Attitude - Teachable, Positive, Supportive.

Devoted - To Christ, each other, ministry.

Encourager - Believes in the dreams of others.

Real - Willingness to be vulnerable and authentic

Leadership = INFLUENCE

I Pray that I will _____

Share the Ministry Philosophy

Once the vision and ministry philosophy are clear, the Pastor, Coaches, Discovery Group Leaders and other ministry leaders need to continually keep them before the people. This can be done in a variety of ways. The following are some suggestions:

- ❑ The Pastor could preach on the Vision of our Church.
- ❑ The Pastor could preach on the Ministry Philosophy of our Church.
- ❑ The Pastor could preach on the Spontaneous Disciple Making Process of our Church. He could include examples or testimonies of changes in the lives of people who have been involved in the Spontaneous Disciple Making Process.
- ❑ Talk about the Vision in Staff, Coaching Team and other leadership meetings.
- ❑ Always evaluate present ministries and new ideas for ministry in light of how they will accomplish our Vision and Goals.
- ❑ 50% to 80% of the leader's time and effort at all levels should be spent on keeping the Vision before the people.

Ask each leader; "Who are your Disciples" (these are the people that you need to spend your time and effort with)? _____

How much time and effort do you spend sharing the Vision and Ministry Philosophy with your Discovery Group Leaders? _____

What do you plan to do? _____

When? _____

A to Z-Thinking

You need to begin with the end in mind!

Most Churches are so **programmed** to think **Programs** that it is hard for them to think beyond the **program**. You need to constantly ask - "**Why are we doing this Ministry?**" and/or "**How does this fit into a process that will move people toward maturity in Christ?**"

For example: To have an evangelistic outreach to lead people to Christ, with no thought of how you will follow people up, disciple them, equip them to share Christ with others and develop them to equip others - would not be A to Z-Thinking. It would be A-Thinking. To do Evangelism and provide Follow-up would be A to B - Thinking. While it takes time for people to grow to maturity, it is very important that the Church/Ministry leaders provide the whole Growth Process from A to Z so each person can have the opportunity to develop to their full potential in Christ.

Give an example of a recent project that was A-Thinking _____

A to B Thinking _____

Describe what you think would be the A to Z for our Church _____

The Spontaneous Reproduction of Churches

Effective Discovery Groups will quickly reproduce into many more groups. Each of these groups could be coordinated as a network through your church. They could become a new church plant, individually or as a cluster of Discovery Groups coming together weekly or monthly or even occasionally as a new Church Plant for fellowship and encouragement. You need to seek God in much prayer to know His will and leading.

The following could be helpful in Planting a New Church.

Church Planting

The following is a proven strategy to plant reproducing churches that will multiply out to many other new churches. We are grateful to George Patterson for his insights and have adapted his strategy to our discipling process.

He states, ***“Christ commands us ‘Lift up your eyes and look on the fields’”*** (John 4:35). A brief glance at the ‘fields’ of over (3 billion plus un-reached people and growing rapidly) is awesome. Just the mathematics involved, forces us to the conclusion that it is not enough to simply **go** to a mission field or to **send** someone else. It is not even enough to go to a mission field and start a few churches. Obedience to the Great Commission will mean that we either send and train, or go as the type of missionary that can start churches that will grow and reproduce normally (as churches will do). They will start daughter churches, and grand-daughter churches, and great grand-daughter churches and on and on and on until you have reached enormous population areas. **There is no other way we can obey Christ.”**

Planting a Church requires more time and commitment than starting a new Discovery Group. To qualify as a Church Planter, you should be an experienced Discovery Group Leader and Coach. Your Church or denomination may require other training as well. The following is a simple guideline for Planting a New Church.

To expand the Spontaneous Discipling Making Process into a new area by planting a New Church the Mother Church Leaders Should:

- ☐ 1. Select a Leader who has proven to be, ***“faithful and able to teach others”***
(2 Timothy 2:2).

He/she should have:

- ☐ Been trained in and trained others in: ☐ Dynamic Basics One-to-One
☐ Dynamic Discipling One-to-One
- ☐ Successfully led a Discovery Group.
- ☐ Successfully Coached several other Discovery Group leaders.
- ☐ The necessary time and commitment to continue his/her own training and development as he/she leads the new Church Plant.

- ☐ Regular training and accountability from the Mother Church (They could use the Pastors Life Group Resources Workbook).
- ☐ 2. Prayerfully select the target community or country. Take a map of the region and divide it into several areas and plan to establish a disciple-making Church in each area. Choose an area where you have a qualified person as described above or begin with finding a Person who is Interested and Open to the Gospel and start a Discovery Group.
- ☐ 3. Help the Church Planter develop his vision, goals and plans to reach every man, woman and child in his/her area with the gospel, disciple those who receive Christ and develop leaders to start enough Discovery Groups that will become enough disciple-making Churches to be able to reach the whole region.

As the Church Planter You Should:

- ☐ 1. Recruit prayer partners and develop a Prayer Calendar with 30 friends from the mother Church and others who will pray regularly with you and for you and the new ministry you plan to establish.
- ☐ 2. Seek to discern and understand the felt needs in the new community.
- ☐ 3. Develop your strategy to engage the community based on the felt needs you discover. The gospel is their real and ultimate need but use methods to demonstrate the gospel by meeting their felt needs.
- ☐ 4. Pray for and find a Person who is Interested and Open to the Gospel and will give you entry to his/her family and/or friends. Begin a Discovery Group with them.
- ☐ 5. Continue to begin new Discovery Groups! When anyone in your group asks you to share with their family or friends you could have him/her invite their friends to their own home and begin a new Discovery Group. Seek to begin Discovery Groups with the community leaders. You will lead the new group until you can develop a qualified leader.
- ☐ 6. Follow-up and disciple those who receive Christ. Use Dynamic Basics – One-to-One.
- ☐ 7. Baptize those who receive Christ as soon as possible.
- ☐ 8. Train potential Discovery Group leaders using Dynamic Discipling One-to-One and this Coach Training and Resources Workbook.
- ☐ 9. When you have Leaders who have reproduced their Discovery Group by training new Discovery Group leaders to lead their own Discovery Groups, appoint them as Coaches (Elders). Observe the Gifts of these Coaches (see Ephesians 4:11-13) and form an Elders team that complements each other according to how God has gifted them and you.

Examples: Apostles *“strategic thinkers”*, Prophets *“visionary leaders”*, Evangelists *“passionate about sharing the Gospel”*, Pastors *“Relationships are everything”* and Teachers *“Persuading others with the truth of God’s Word”* (also see Note below). You may want the leaders of the Mother Church to assist you in selecting the Elders.) Continue training these leaders in Godly character.

Note: Like the Five Fingers of the Hand

Gerald Coates, leader of the Pioneer movement in England, sometimes compares the five-fold ministry with the five fingers of the hand. The Apostle is the thumb. He gives stability, holds the counterbalance, and can literally touch all the other fingers. The Prophet is the indication finger. He points at you and says: *“You are the man!”* The Evangelist is the Middle Finger, who is the longest of all, and sticking furthest out into the world. The ringfinger resembles the Pastor-Shepherd, caring for internal relationships. The small finger is the Teacher: he can worm his way and his teaching deep into any ear.

Wolfgang Simson points out in his book *Houses That Change The World* *“when planting a Church you need the balance of all Five leaders”*.

1. Teacher

If you leave a teacher to develop a church all by himself, he will build it around his unique gift of teaching. A teacher does not really lay foundations; but he explains them brilliantly and Biblically.

2. Evangelist

Evangelists often seem to live in one endless rally, and if you would leave them to build a church, they will create a most fascinating series of events and programs, exciting with a lot of “adrenaline per minute”, but will ultimately have only one message to tell. He will be able to gather many, but usually is not exactly gifted to build them together. Very soon the people will get tired of this one-sided spiritual diet and leave, looking for more.

3. Pastor

One of the strongest messages of a charismatic shepherd/pastor to the world is “come to me all you who are heavy laden - I will listen to you and counsel you.” And come they do. If the Shepherd is left all to himself, his ministry will naturally create a counseling center, which ultimately may grow into a spiritual hospital, where people come to have their wounds cared for in the power of the Holy Spirit. Pastors - like good uncles - have difficulty saying “No!” The result is often a choking effect created by their gifting. Their ministries will be swamped by more needy people than they can handle, and the growth will stop and limit itself. They quickly become “overloaded” and reach their capacity.

4. The Predominant Role of Apostles and Prophets for Church Planting

As important as the role spiritual hospitals have to play, they cannot replace what apostles and prophets are uniquely gifted for: to build a supernatural base and foundation for a multiplying church movement, to accept nothing as impossible, to respond strategically to visions and supernatural revelations, to be prophetic talent-spotters. They are not so human-centered and felt-

need-oriented “tenders” like good Pastors, Teachers and Evangelists, but God-centered: they have the God-given ability to see beyond things, beyond human needs and problems, and take hold of the tasks and visions of God. They do not want to just build “a church” they want to reach the whole city or nation! They live very much in the future, for the future, from the future, growing constantly pregnant with future developments, and can therefore pull and lead the church into the future, and prevent it from becoming a traditional institution only celebrating the past, or a fossilized monument of history long gone. The church is ***“built on the foundation of apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief corner stone”*** (Eph.2:20), writes Paul. When Jesus writes to the church in Smyrna ***“that you have tried those who call themselves apostles”*** (Rev. 2:1-7) it was after almost all of ***“The Twelve”*** had died. This suggests simply the continuation of apostles even after the ***“age of apostles”***, says Watchman Nee in his book ***“The Orthodoxy of the Church”***. Like with a foundation for a house, much of the work of apostles and prophets is not always seen but felt. That is why they are called ***“first of all”*** (1 Cor. 12:28), because they are also “called in” first of all to do the foundational work for “founding churches”, the site spotting, earth moving, excavating, foundation laying, so that others can build on that foundation.

- ☐ 10. Bring the Discovery Groups together for Worship, Communion and Baptism. Train the Elders (Coaches) to lead in the Worship services, Communion and Baptisms.
- ☐ 11. Make plans to birth many Daughter Churches. Now, as your new church plant has become the Mother Church you select one of your Coaches to begin a new Church in the same way you began, by starting with (☐ 1.) above on this checklist. Also use Pastors Life Group Resources Workbook. Coach/Mentor the new Church Planter as he/she walks through the process of establishing a New Church.

God bless you as you expand God’s kingdom by equipping Discovery Group Leaders and starting many new groups that are reaching families, friends and neighbors. These groups could become a vibrant new Church in your community. May God be greatly glorified!