

A New Job Title: Equipper

## DiscipleShift, Session Six (Chap. 6)

“Disciple making is not only God’s plan for evangelizing the world; it’s His plan to encourage the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church” (p. 123).

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes” (Ephesians 4:11-14).

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Key Shift: From Informing to Equipping**

“A leader’s job is to guide and equip the saints so that the entire church becomes a mature community in which disciples flourish. It involves \_\_\_\_\_ the ministry and gifts of all believers. It’s about creating a place where everybody learns to be a minister by growing, serving and making disciples themselves” (p. 114).

“If a church emphasizes the wrong things and then uses the wrong methodologies to reach its goals, the result will not be fruitful, mature disciples. Making this shift means moving from a leader who believes it’s his job to inform other people about how to live the Christian life to a leader who equips people to live out the ministry of all believers moving forward in spiritual maturity” (p. 115).

What flaws does Putman identify in the one-man star attraction and attractional churches?

Inevitably, the pastor is in the spotlight to some extent, just by nature of his position. What is the difference between pastor as “star player” and pastor as “head coach”? Describe each role.

What kind of spiritual leader do you expect and how would that be evident?

“If a pastor is not developing and nurturing key relationships in which he is equipping others to follow Jesus, then he’s not doing what Jesus modeled for him to do” (p. 119). But, he may still be well regarded by the people! Discipleship has to be the bottom line.

Jesus is the master disciple maker, so what were his methods?

“We do not depend on the weekend service to do the primary work of what we’re seeking to accomplish as a church. Jesus didn’t use the methodology of preaching to the crowds as his core means of making disciples, so why should we?” (p. 116)

### **Four Main Roles of a Disciple-Making Pastor**

#### **1) An Authentic Disciple**

Frauds will be found out and the result is not pretty for the pastor or the church!

#### **2) A Discipleship-System Builder**

“A disciple maker makes disciples. **Every Christian has that job.** A pastor is more than that. He has been given the task of leading a church in which he is to create a \_\_\_\_\_ in which people are taught how to be disciples” (p. 120).

*Ineffective vs. Effective*

#### **3) A Developer of Leaders**

Three common obstacles:

--we don’t have time to see and develop leaders because we’re doing the work ourselves

--we take a *college* coach approach instead of a *high school* coach: Are we willing to develop people in our midst or would we just rather recruit from someplace else?

--we tend to look for an all-star, instead of who can play a specific position on a great team

Leadership apprentice model:

I do. You watch. We \_\_\_\_\_.

I do. You \_\_\_\_\_. We talk.

\_\_\_\_\_ do. I help. We talk.

You do. I \_\_\_\_\_. We talk.

You do. Someone else watches...

How is being a disciple maker different than being a leader?

#### **4) A Vision Caster**

A church leader will need to defend that system and constantly reinforce it, protecting the system against vision drift. Ask: Will this help or hinder making disciples?

Continual casting of the vision (make disciples who make disciples) is key, especially when meeting with other church leaders.

**For Discussion:** Is this too much to ask of the pastor or the people? What behaviors or expectations would need to change if the pastor were in this coaching/equipping role?

What evaluation criteria for equipping should be used? What should not be used?