

Making the “Discipleshift” in Your Church

DiscipleShift, Session Twelve (Chap. 12)

The five shifts in *DiscipleShift* are:

- 1) From reaching to making
- 2) From informing to equipping
- 3) From program to purpose
- 4) From activity to relationship
- 5) From accumulating to deploying

Not a program, but an ongoing, reproducible _____.

T / F Discipling will work in any given context or time in history.

T / F Discipling (being disciplined and becoming a disciple maker) is God’s intention for every believer in Christ.

Step 1: Develop Biblical Vision

“To repeat: you achieve consensus on vision, as vision comes from the Word” (p. 217).

Clarifying Questions to Ask...

How does the Bible define discipleship?

What does the Bible say a disciple looks like?

What are the specific phases of discipleship, as seen in scriptural models?

How will everyone in our church come to know this process?

What characteristics (values) must be present for real-life discipleship to occur in our church?

How will our church (at every level) emphasize the discipleship process?

How will our church raise up, reproduce and release disciple-making leaders?

How will our church serve as an attractional light on a hill?

How will our church send people out to serve incarnationally in the community?

Step 2: Create a Common Language

“The stakes with common language are high, because when differences in terminology arise within a church, there is great potential for confusion, blame and even accusations” (p. 221).

“Conflict is inevitable in relationships, and we must be committed to working things out constantly; this is part of spiritual maturity” (p. 222).

Step 3: Develop the Disciple-Making Process

Train people! Know the playbook!

“If you’re a church leader and your church has a playbook, then right up front it helps answer a well-meaning person like this who wants the church to go another direction. It helps articulate to that person the specifics of what you do as a church and why you do it. It helps the church leader say something like, “Hey, that’s great that you’ve experienced something else. But we’re going in this direction and here’s why” (p. 225).

Step 4: Live Out Your Vision

Alignment and implementation

“Before we do, we must be” (p. 226).

“Continually live out God’s vision for the church and explain to people why you do the things you do” (p. 226).

Step 5: Assess, Correct, Encourage

Hopefully, the scorecard and goals help assess whether vision is being realized.

“Note that with assessment, it’s always tempting to want to change your church’s vision statement” (p. 227).

“God’s vision for your church doesn’t change every time you go to a new conference or read a new book. You might need to cut a program, add a new ministry, or align your ministries together, but your overall goal doesn’t change” (p. 227).

Final Words

“Keep your heart warm and your vision clear. Everything in this world is passing away, so set your affection on things above. Get your eye on the glory of God” (p. 228).

Why does God especially bless work that is produced by teams?

How has your answer to the questions (like the ones on the reverse side) changed over the past few months?

“Relational disciples is Jesus’ plan. There is no Plan B. God will bless His plan, He is responsible for the results” (p. 196). Then what are we responsible for?