

The Disciple Making Pastor

The Disciple Making Pastor The Disciple Making Pastor: A Guide to Transformational Leadership in the Church The disciple making pastor stands at the heart of a thriving church community, embodying a leadership style rooted in Jesus Christ's Great Commission. This role extends beyond traditional pastoral duties, emphasizing intentional spiritual development, mentoring, and creating a culture of discipleship within the congregation. In today's rapidly changing world, the disciple making pastor is vital for nurturing faithful followers of Christ who actively live out their faith and inspire others to do the same. This article explores the essential aspects of the disciple making pastor, including their biblical foundation, core responsibilities, practical strategies, and the impact they have on individual believers and the broader church community. --- Understanding the Role of the Disciple Making Pastor What Is a Disciple Making Pastor? A disciple making pastor is a church leader committed to guiding individuals in their spiritual journey, helping them grow from new believers to mature followers of Christ. Their primary focus is on developing a discipleship culture—an environment where spiritual growth is prioritized and modeled at every level of church life. Unlike traditional pastors whose roles may center around sermon delivery, administrative oversight, and community outreach, disciple making pastors prioritize one-on-one mentoring, small group leadership, and creating pathways for ongoing spiritual development. Biblical Foundations of Discipleship Discipleship is deeply rooted in Scripture. Key passages include: - Matthew 28:19-20: The Great Commission instructs believers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them. - 2 Timothy 2:2: Paul encourages Timothy to entrust teachings to reliable people who will also teach others. - John 15:8: Bearing fruit through discipleship demonstrates glorifying the Father. These verses highlight the biblical mandate for intentional disciple-making as a core aspect of Christian leadership. --- Core Responsibilities of the Disciple Making Pastor 1. Modeling Discipleship A disciple making pastor serves as a spiritual example, demonstrating a Christ-centered life that inspires others. Their personal walk with God influences their teaching and mentorship. 2. Equipping Leaders and Mentors They identify and train potential small group leaders, mentors, and spiritual coaches within the congregation, multiplying the disciple-making efforts across the church. 3. Developing Discipleship Pathways Creating structured programs and resources that guide believers from initial faith to mature maturity. These may include: - New believer classes - Foundations of faith courses - Leadership development programs - Advanced discipleship

studies 4. Facilitating Small Groups and Mentorship Small groups are vital for intimate spiritual growth, accountability, and community building. The pastor oversees these groups, ensuring they foster genuine discipleship. 5. Encouraging Lifestyle Discipleship Discipleship isn't limited to formal programs; it involves everyday practices such as prayer, Bible study, service, and evangelism, which should be modeled and encouraged. -- - Strategies for Effective Discipleship Leadership 1. Cultivate a Discipleship Culture - Integrate discipleship into the church's vision, mission, and values. - Celebrate stories of spiritual growth and transformation. - Encourage every church member to see themselves as a disciple-maker. 2. Use a Holistic Approach Discipleship should encompass spiritual, emotional, relational, and service dimensions. Strategies include: - Bible study and theological training - Prayer and spiritual disciplines - Community service projects - Personal mentoring relationships 3. Leverage Technology and Resources Utilize digital tools for discipleship, such as: - Online courses and webinars - Discipleship apps - Social media groups for encouragement and accountability 4. Foster Accountability and Community Build accountability relationships that encourage consistent spiritual practices and 3 growth. Small groups often serve as the backbone for this. 5. Measure and Adjust Set clear discipleship goals and regularly evaluate progress. Gather feedback and adapt programs to meet the evolving needs of the congregation. --- The Impact of a Disciple Making Pastor Personal Transformation A dedicated disciple making pastor helps individuals deepen their faith, overcome spiritual barriers, and develop a vibrant prayer life and biblical understanding. Church Growth and Maturity Discipleship leads to a healthier, more engaged congregation. Members become active participants in ministry, outreach, and leadership. Community Influence Mature disciples often become catalysts for community transformation, sharing their faith and serving others, thereby extending the church's reach. Leadership Development By investing in the spiritual growth of others, the disciple making pastor cultivates future leaders who can continue the cycle of discipleship. --- Challenges Faced by the Disciple Making Pastor Despite its biblical importance, disciple making leadership faces several challenges: - Resistance to change within the church culture - Time constraints and resource limitations - Balancing administrative duties with mentorship - Ensuring consistent disciple-making efforts across diverse groups Overcoming these challenges requires perseverance, strategic planning, and a clear vision rooted in Scripture. --- Conclusion: Becoming a Disciple Making Pastor The role of the disciple making pastor is both a calling and a responsibility grounded in biblical principles. It requires intentionality, relational skills, and a deep commitment to spiritual growth at every level of church life. By modeling Christ, equipping others, and fostering a culture of discipleship, these pastors can transform their congregations into vibrant communities where faith is lived out authentically and effectively. Embracing the disciple making

model not only fulfills Jesus' Great Commission but also ensures that the church remains dynamic, relevant, and impactful for generations to come. For pastors seeking to lead with purpose and passion, becoming a disciple making pastor is a journey worth pursuing—one that bears eternal significance.

Question What are the key qualities of a disciple-making pastor? A disciple-making pastor exhibits qualities such as humility, relationally driven leadership, deep biblical understanding, a passion for mentoring others, and a commitment to spiritual growth both personally and within the congregation. How can a pastor effectively implement disciple-making strategies in their church? Effective implementation involves establishing intentional discipleship pathways, training leaders to mentor others, fostering small group environments, emphasizing biblical literacy, and creating a culture that values ongoing spiritual development. What role does community and small groups play in disciple making for pastors? Community and small groups are essential as they facilitate authentic relationships, accountability, personalized spiritual growth, and opportunities for mentoring, making discipleship more relational and impactful. How does a disciple-making pastor measure success? Success is measured by spiritual maturity of members, active participation in discipleship processes, multiplication of new disciples, transformation in character and conduct, and the overall growth of the church's spiritual health. What challenges might a disciple-making pastor face, and how can they overcome them? Challenges include cultural resistance, lack of engagement, resource limitations, and spiritual dryness. Overcoming these involves consistent prayer, adapting strategies to cultural contexts, fostering relationships, providing ongoing training, and maintaining a focus on Christ-centered mission.

The Disciple-Making Pastor: Cultivating a Culture of Spiritual Growth In the landscape of modern ministry, the role of a disciple-making pastor has gained increasing prominence. Moving beyond the traditional focus on preaching and administrative duties, these pastors emphasize a relational, intentional approach to spiritual development—fostering an environment where believers are equipped and empowered to become lifelong disciples of Christ. This comprehensive review explores the multifaceted nature of the disciple-making pastor, examining their biblical foundations, key characteristics, strategies for effective disciple-making, challenges faced, and the transformative impact they have on individuals and the church community as a whole.

--- **Understanding the Role of the Disciple-Making Pastor**

The Disciple Making Pastor

5 Definition and Biblical Foundations A disciple-making pastor is primarily committed to guiding believers into deeper, authentic discipleship rooted in biblical principles. Unlike pastors whose focus may be primarily on sermon delivery or administrative oversight, the disciple-making pastor intentionally cultivates a culture that emphasizes:

- Personal spiritual growth
- Intentional relational mentoring
- Equipping members to reproduce disciples

Biblical Passages Supporting the Role:

- Matthew 28:19-20

(The Great Commission): "Go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." This command underscores the importance of ongoing disciple-making as a central ministry activity. - 2 Timothy 2:2: Paul's instruction to Timothy: "...and the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." Highlighting multi-generational disciple-making. - John 15:8: "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." Emphasizing fruitfulness as evidence of true discipleship.

The Discipleship Paradigm The biblical model of discipleship involves relational mentorship, modeling Christlike character, and reproducing these principles across communities. A disciple-making pastor seeks to emulate Jesus' approach—personal, intentional, and reproducible. ---

Key Characteristics of a Disciple-Making Pastor

1. **Christ-Centered Focus** A disciple-making pastor centers all efforts on Christ's teachings, example, and mission. They prioritize spiritual formation over transactional ministry tasks.
2. **Relational Leadership** Building authentic relationships with congregants is fundamental. They invest time in mentoring, listening, and walking alongside believers in their spiritual journeys.
3. **Reproducibility** The goal is to develop disciples who can, in turn, disciple others. The pastor models this process and creates structures that facilitate multiplication.
4. **Intentionality and Planning** Discipleship does not happen by accident. Effective disciple-making pastors develop intentional programs, small groups, and one-on-one mentoring relationships.

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5. **Biblical Literacy and Doctrine** They prioritize deep biblical understanding, encouraging members to read, meditate, and apply Scripture in everyday life.
6. **Humility and Servanthood** A disciple-making pastor exemplifies humility, recognizing that their role is to serve and empower others rather than exert authority for its own sake.
7. **Prayerfulness** They cultivate a prayerful lifestyle, recognizing the importance of dependence on the Holy Spirit for effective disciple-making.

--- **Strategies for Effective Disciple-Making**

1. **Developing a Disciple-Making Framework** Creating a clear, reproducible pathway for spiritual growth is crucial. This may include:
 - **Assessment tools:** To identify spiritual maturity levels.
 - **Structured curricula:** Focused on core doctrines, spiritual disciplines, and character development.
 - **Mentoring relationships:** Pairing mature believers with newer ones.
2. **Emphasizing Small Groups and Life-on-Life Discipleship** Small groups foster community and accountability. The pastor should:
 - Encourage authentic sharing and vulnerability.
 - Use group discussions to deepen biblical understanding.
 - Promote accountability partnerships.
3. **One-on-One Mentoring** Personal mentorship allows for tailored spiritual guidance, addressing specific challenges and fostering trust.
4. **Training and Equipping Leaders** Multiplication depends on training lay leaders and potential disciple-makers:
 - Conduct leadership development workshops.
 - Teach mentoring skills.
 - Encourage intentional disciple-making habits.
5. **Utilizing Discipleship Materials and**

Resources Provide accessible resources such as: - Bible study guides - Devotional materials - The Disciple Making Pastor 7 Discipleship curricula 6. Integrating Discipleship into All Ministries Discipleship should permeate every aspect of church life—worship, outreach, service, and community engagement. 7. Measuring Discipleship Growth Establish metrics to evaluate progress: - Spiritual maturity assessments - Reproduction of new disciples - Engagement in spiritual disciplines --- Challenges Faced by the Disciple-Making Pastor 1. Cultural and Contextual Barriers In a society increasingly driven by individualism and consumerism, fostering a discipleship culture can be difficult. 2. Time and Resource Constraints Deep, relational discipleship requires significant investment—time, energy, and often limited financial resources. 3. Church Member Resistance Some believers may prefer passive participation or lack understanding of discipleship's importance. 4. Leadership Buy-In Securing support from church leadership and aligning vision can pose obstacles. 5. Maintaining Relevancy Adapting disciple-making strategies to diverse age groups, cultures, and technological contexts. 6. Ensuring Reproduction Creating a sustainable, multiplying discipleship culture that continues beyond individual leaders' efforts. --- The Disciple Making Pastor 8 Transformational Impact of a Disciple-Making Pastor On Individuals - Deepened biblical knowledge and spiritual maturity - Greater Christlikeness in character and actions - Increased confidence in sharing faith - Empowerment to serve and lead within the church and community On the Church Community - Creation of a disciple-making culture that permeates all ministries - Increased engagement and participation - Holistic growth—spiritually, relationally, and missionally - Development of future leaders and mentors On Society and Mission - Churches led by disciple-making pastors often have a stronger emphasis on outreach and social transformation. - Reproducing disciples become catalysts for broader community impact. --- Conclusion: Embracing the Call of the Disciple-Making Pastor The role of the disciple-making pastor is both challenging and profoundly rewarding. It requires intentionality, biblical fidelity, relational depth, and a willingness to invest in others' spiritual journeys. By focusing on reproducing Christ's likeness in individuals and fostering a culture of ongoing discipleship, these pastors help transform not only individual lives but also entire communities and, ultimately, the kingdom of God. The future of effective ministry increasingly hinges on the ability of pastors to embrace and exemplify disciple-making principles. As they do so, they will fulfill Christ's Great Commission with integrity, producing a harvest of mature, reproducing disciples who carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. discipleship, leadership, spiritual growth, mentorship, church ministry, evangelism, faith development, pastoral training, spiritual mentorship, spiritual formation

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christ commanded the church to make disciples to produce people who love and obey god
 bear fruit and live with joy the crisis at the heart of the church is that we often pay lip
 service to making disciples but we seldom put much effort behind doing it for the pastor
 who is ready to put words into action the disciple making pastor offers the inspiration and
 practical know how to do so bill hull shows pastors the obstacles they will face what
 disciples really look like the pastor s role in producing them and the practices that lead to
 positive change he also offers a six step coaching process to help new disciples grow in
 commitment and obedience and practical ideas to integrate disciple making into the fabric of
 the church

thomas doubted peter denied matthew had a shady past and most of jesus disciples had
 trouble understanding his true message and mission at times how did jesus take lowly
 fishermen and tax collectors and turn them into some of the most influential men that ever
 lived and how can modern church leaders empower regular church members to meet their
 potential as servants of god in jesus christ disciplemaker hull outlines christ s methods in
 training his twelve disciples and presents a biblical pattern that emulates christ s model for
 reaching the lost by taking readers through four growth phases evangelizing establishing
 equipping and leading hull shows how these principles can be adapted for any discipler

jesus christ disciplemaker is the perfect resource for pastors and church leaders who want to learn how to help others grow in god's service

a practical guide to creating and sustaining a culture of disciple making in any church over the last few decades american churches have produced plenty of converts but not as many mature believers studies show the majority of christians don't even understand the basics of faith but how do you tackle such a big problem replicate shows church leaders how to make disciples who make disciples and get the rest of your church on board as well this one on one relational ministry is how jesus laid the foundation for his church that is still growing today and it's how we continue the work in our own local congregations learn the five marks of a healthy disciple making church how to influence culture uproot misconceptions of the church and the gospel and change your church and community no more focusing on mere numbers it's time to grow in maturity and through multiplication

a classic in christian discipleship for twenty years this updated edition shows why disciple making should be the focus of every believer's life

for many people church is there to meet their needs with programs designed with them in mind strategic disciple making teaches these churchgoers to develop a servant's heart readers will discover that they control the destiny of their church if they seek personal contentment they must grow as disciples and church expert aubrey malphurs explains the true meaning of the word this refreshing resource offers a radical how to for renewing faltering faith it is perfect for burned out ministers and downcast church leaders who want a more authentic discipleship experience

question what is the god-given purpose of the local church answer relational discipleship discipleshift walks you through five key shifts that churches must make to refocus on the fundamental biblical mission of discipleship these intentional changes will attract the world and empower your church members to be salt and light in their communities over the last thirty years many influential church leaders and church planters in america have adopted various models for reaching unchurched people while many of these approaches have merit something is still missing something even more fundamental to the mission of the church discipleship making disciples helping people to trust and follow jesus 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 discipleship empowers christians to be more like christ as they intentionally develop relationships with non-believers through biblical and professional insights jim putman and bobby harrington discuss the transformational effectiveness of making disciples and just how to do so in practical terms you'll learn the

specific roles of a disciple making pastor the components of person to person discipleship how each ministry in your church leads to discipleship how to implement discipleship in your church disciple making leaders will not produce perfect churches but they will create effective churches

the great commission is to make disciples renowned church planter and pastor ralph moore shows leaders why a focus on making disciples is the essential next step once a church is planted this biblical practical handbook will guide churches of any size to focus their ministries around jesus s command to his followers to make disciples of all nations making disciples offers a model of church ministry that sees every member as a minister and it will become an indispensable resource for equipping a new generation of disciple makers

newly expanded and revised edition of bestseller about changing from a program based church to a church making disciples

jesus wants mature disciples this book shows how to squeeze joy out of sorrow truth from pain and make permanent advances for the savior

discipleship occurs when someone answers the call to learn from jesus how to live his or her life as though jesus were living it the end result is that the disciple becomes the kind of person who naturally does what jesus did how the church understands salvation and the gospel is the key to recovering a biblical theology of discipleship our doctrines of grace and salvation in some cases actually prevent us from creating an expectation that we are to be disciples of jesus a person can profess to be a christian and yet still live under the impression that they don t need to actually follow jesus being a follower is seen as an optional add on not a requirement it is a choice not a demand being a christian today has no connection with the biblical idea that we are formed into the image of christ in this ground breaking new book pastor and author bill hull shows why our existing models of evangelism and discipleship fail to actually produce followers of jesus he looks at the importance of recovering a robust view of the gospel and taking seriously the connection between conversion answering the call to follow jesus and discipleship living like the one we claim to follow

this book deftly raises the issue that church leaders need to grapple with today and in all generations bobby harrington co founder of discipleship org and renew org avoid a major pitfall most disciple making efforts today fail because they focus on me discipleship gets me closer to god makes me a better christian and helps me gain purpose in life but jesus style discipleship focuses on god and his kingdom how can we relearn this simple yet profound truth when so many people today have embraced the american gospel of me and how can

we teach this to others bill hull and brandon cook tell readers to stop asking how am i doing instead they teach us to ask god centered questions this reorientation changes everything the false promise of discipleship implores readers to stop asking the wrong questions and to start making disciples the way jesus made disciples this short book equips you with practical takeaways so you can thrive as a disciple maker written for disciples at all stages of growth it challenges common assumptions that may be undermining your disciple making efforts based on their personal experience as pastors authors hull and cook provide you with a scriptural gospel centered approach to becoming a thriving disciple and disciple making leader learn to ask the right questions and avoid some of the most pervasive yet common pitfalls among disciple makers today take a quantum leap toward jesus style disciple making walk away with a new framework and the right questions you need to follow jesus faithfully amidst the all pervasive american gospel bill hull is a co founder of the bonhoeffer project and author of conversion and discipleship along with over twenty other books about discipleship he speaks as a persevering prophet on the topic of discipleship around the nation brandon cook serves as lead pastor at long beach christian fellowship and is a co founder of the bonhoeffer project he is also the author of learning to live and love like jesus

we know that the goal of the christian life is to glorify god and to enjoy him forever while this is god s ultimate plan does he have a particular purpose for the cell based church i ve been wrestling with this question for the past twenty two years this question confronts me every time i coach a pastor or pastors in preparation for coaching i ask myself what is my principal objective in helping this pastor where am i guiding this church what am i trying to do i ve come to the conclusion that the primary goal of cell ministry is to make disciples who make disciples christ s last command to his disciples was for them to repeat the process and to reproduce new disciples but how were they supposed to do that this book answers these questions the early church followed christ s pattern by making disciples through the house churches that periodically celebrated together in public worship in 2 timothy 2 1 2 paul tells timothy to continue the discipleship process by passing on the pure gospel message to faithful men and women even though the term disciple is later replaced by words such as brothers sisters christians and saints the concept remains the same we in north america and the western world often project our own cultural bias into christ s great commission matthew 28 18 20 most discipleship books in fact assume that discipleship is an individualistic endeavor between me and god and yes there is an important individual aspect e g personal devotions etc yet in matthew 28 jesus was talking to a group of disciples he wanted them to follow his example by making disciples in a group jesus molded twelve disciples in a group and then sent them house to house so how does the cell church make disciples in this book i show how the cell small group works together with the cell system

to make disciples who make disciples in the cell a potential disciple is transformed through community priesthood of all believers group evangelism and team multiplication in the cell potential disciples are formed through learning how to love one another exercising their gifts evangelizing together as a group and then sent forth as teams to start new groups discipleship is a group process in the new testament and god is calling his church to re-emphasize this truth the cell system ensures each leader has a coach and that training equipping track happens then the cells gather together to worship and grow through the teaching of god's word all three aspects are essential to form disciples training is needed because disciples won't learn all they need to know in the cell coaching ensures that each leader is cared for and receives shepherding the celebration service brings the cells together to hear god's word worship and receive fresh vision the goal of the two wing cell church is to make disciples who make disciples the cell church today makes disciples by following the early church pattern of cell and celebration recommendations i've read all of joel comiskey's books but making disciples in the twenty first century church is his best work yet in this book joel reminds us that the real call and challenge of the church is not developing leaders or numerical growth but making disciples who make disciples he also helps us understand why that is best done in a cell or small group context and gives us great insight about how to make that happen i'm looking forward to having all of our pastors coaches and cell leaders and members read this book in the near future dennis watson lead pastor celebration church of new orleans i am so excited about joel comiskey's new book making disciples in the twenty first century church when i'm asked what makes a cell church thrive i always say discipleship thank you joel for unpacking discipleship not just as an endeavor for individuals but as the critical element for creating a church community and culture that reproduces the kingdom of god all over the earth i pray this book won't only be read but lived out as we were made to make disciples jimmy seibert senior pastor antioch community church president and founder antioch ministries international i really like that joel asked the why question before the how question he even takes on the what question which is just as important the interest in discipleship is greater now than anytime in the last fifty years i fear however that we are using the same words but are not speaking the same language i recommend this work i cheer joel on he joins many of us who are masters of the obvious it seems so obvious that our purpose is to be disciples and make disciples i cheer him on because he goes beyond the what and why and does address the how this will help any person who reads it and i pray that there will be many bill hull author of jesus christ disciple maker disciple making pastor disciple making church and the complete book of discipleship adjunct faculty at talbot school of theology biola university the history of the cell church movement in brazil has many names of great men of god joel comiskey certainly is one of them we see how over the years his understanding of the new

testament church has deepened again joel surprises us with this jewel he covers many aspects of cell church life showing us how discipleship relates to the broader scope of it and how to shape followers of jesus he takes us to the heart of the matter of the cell church as he states it the purpose of cell ministry is making disciples who make disciples excellent book the movement in brazil certainly will be blessed through this book enjoy it robert michael lay cell church ministry in brazil pioneer in the cell movement in brazil and publisher of joel s books in his tremendously helpful new book making disciples in the twenty first century church joel comiskey cuts directly to the core purpose of cell ministry which is making disciples who make disciples then he tells us how to do it through the cell based church like joel s other books making disciples in the twenty first century church is solidly biblical highly practical wonderfully accessible and is grounded in joel s vast research and experience great job joel dave earley lead pastor grace city church of las vegas nevada author eight habits of highly effective small group leaders adjunct professor liberty baptist theological seminary for more than twenty years joel comiskey has served the cell church movement he has helped scores of congregations move from being traditional churches to communities where edification and harvest occurs twenty years now he combines two decades of observation as his capacity as a researcher he has scoured many books to assemble wise counsel for us his discussion of how community varies from culture to culture is indeed penetrating as i read through the pages i mentally noted specific christian workers who need to read these pages thanks joel for the way you allow the king to speak through you to enlarge his kingdom on earth ralph neighbour jr key pioneer of the cell church movement joel comiskey continues to deepen our understanding of the cell based church in making disciples we are equipped to carry out the great commission at maximum capacity get ready to have your vision for ministry strengthened and expanded andrew s mason small groups pastor thrive church elk grove ca founder smallgroupchurches.com as one of the world s leading experts on cell based churches joel comiskey is well placed to show how new testament style disciple making works his decades of experience in fields of ministry all over the world confirm that every member ministry and personal investment in disciples are god s pathway to true maturity and expansion of the kingdom of god this well written book deserves attention from every serious christian dennis mccallum author organic discipleship

how can i know if my disciple making efforts are effective how can i know if people growing spiritually have you ever asked these questions if so you are not alone many disciple makers regularly struggle with these issues while attendance and baptisms are easily counted measuring the spiritual maturity of our people is not quite so simple to make matters worse an unfortunate reality of our day is that pastors are graded on how big their

churches are and not how mature their people have become sadly the american church has adopted business metrics to grow churches rather than biblical methods for growing disciples in marcs of a disciple pastor robby gallaty provides a biblical guide for gauging spiritual growth mature disciples are missional accountable reproducible communal and scriptural use this book as a measuring stick to determine the health and effectiveness of disciple making in your church and personal life jesus didn't leave the maturity of his disciples to chance neither should we

well organized and readily accessible the complete book of discipleship pulls together into one convenient comprehensive volume relevant topics to discipleship such as spiritual growth transformation spiritual disciplines discipleship in the local church and beyond indexed for easy reference

people not programs make disciples the call to disciple making is for every believer not just the ministry professional jesus modeled disciple making and as his disciples we are called to follow his example michael kramer examines all aspects of disciple making and offers a straightforward and simple plan to equip the church he encourages christians and ministry leaders to think critically about disciple making and to commit to jesus great commission michael makes the convincing argument that our willingness to engage in personal disciple making will deepen our own walks with jesus and create a movement within our churches communities and countries that will impact generations for the sake of christ

during his years of pastoral teaching ministry pastor john has bemoaned the erosion of the church of western civilization in general and the american culture in particular he attributes much of this erosion to a general weakness in the church of making biblical disciples of jesus christ this book is not primarily about showing that weakness rather he will define biblical discipleship and provide a simple to grasp but difficult to do five step process to transform converts into maturing disciples of jesus christ the will of god for the christian is sanctification to be holy dietrich bonhoeffer wrote of the cost of discipleship pastor john gives a workable process to be holy the stated goal is to look like the biblical jesus to a watching world

in many ways the church has become more adept at adding members than preparing true christian disciples author and evangelist mark swiger believes that bringing souls to christ and then nurturing them to christ like maturity requires an approach that is different from the methods often employed today many congregations do not have a clear plan in place for seeing every believer grow to fruitfulness and spiritual maturity adding to this problem sometimes pastors struggle with knowing how to equip others for the work of the ministry

swiger has developed a spirit led manual for disciples and those who lead them part i of his book is for everyone since every believer is first and foremost a disciple of jesus part ii speaks to the particular needs of pastors and leaders who are charged with discipling others this interactive biblically based handbook is designed to help the church rediscover the eternal disciple making truths and examples found in the scriptures god s word still has the power to transform ordinary believers into disciples who can turn the world upside down

explores the dynamic process and progressive steps of christ s strategy for revitalizing our lives our witness and our church s effectiveness

greg ogden recovers jesus method of accomplishing life change by investing in just a few people at a time in this revised and updated edition ogden sets forth his vision for transforming both the individual disciple and discipleship itself showing how discipleship can become a self replicating process with ongoing impact from generation to generation

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