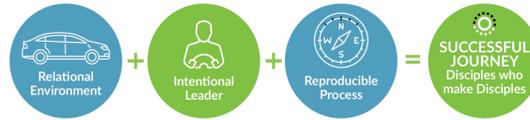


HOW CAN DISCIPLE MAKING BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED?

Intro: Greg

PICTURE OF A SUCCESSFUL DISCIPLE MAKING JOURNEY



Successful Journey: Disciples who Make Disciples [Ralph]

2-minute version of the Camarillo Church change story? How did you get to a transformed culture?

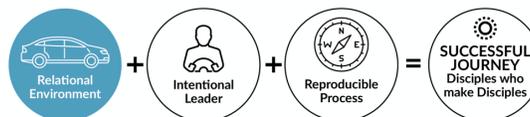
Started with an awareness that there was something wrong. Even though we had an attractional model we had topped out and were going backwards numerically. We might have just continued on if the numbers had continued to increase. Our internal study revealed that people were not being build up spiritually.

We came across an approach that Greg Ogden proposed in his book *Transforming Discipleship*

- From experiment to traction
- From a few groups to a multiplication of groups
- From staff to lay leadership at the grass roots
- From 0 to 130 groups in 5 years. It defined the culture of the church. We are about making disciples and this is the way we do it.

Three Main Components that contribute to a successful journey

PICTURE OF A SUCCESSFUL DISCIPLE MAKING JOURNEY



Relational Environment: Car (Greg)

Every journey needs a vehicle to get to its destination. Our car is the relational environment of the *micro group (triads or quads)*. The micro group is a way to implement Jesus' relational model of disciple making. Jesus called 12 men to be "with Him" (Mark 3:13-14) as the primary way to shape his disciples. Jesus' ultimate goal was to prepare the 12 (minus one) to carry on His ministry when He returned to the Father (John 17:4-5). It is no coincidence that Jesus had his own *micro group* consisting of Peter, James and John. We find that this size of a group optimizes four transformational elements:

When we...

- open our hearts in transparent trust to each other
- around the truth of God's word

- in the spirit of life-change accountability
- while engaged in our God-designed mission
...we are in the Holy Spirit's *hothouse* of transformation.

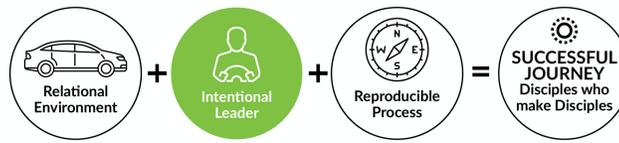
[Ralph: what is a micro group?]



- Container for the elements of accelerated growth
- 1 person invites 2 or 3 others (created thru personal invitation)
- 3 to 4 participants (Triads/Quads)
- Gender specific
- Meets for a year to year and a ½
- Covenants to reproduce: each person seeks to start their own group upon completion
- Meets for 90 minutes/weekly
- Curriculum based
- Meets in a safe space

The most important of the transformative elements is **transparent trust**. Honesty, vulnerability and openness provide the soil where the seed of God's word can sink deep into our being. This is one of the main reasons to keep the groups small.

PICTURE OF A SUCCESSFUL DISCIPLE MAKING JOURNEY



Intentional Leader: Driver (Greg)

Every car needs a driver. Every group needs a leader. The first step a leader takes is to form the groups. A distinguishing mark of *micro groups* is that they are formed around *the power of prayerful personal invitation*. Again, Jesus is our model. Luke 6:12-13 reads, **“In these days He [Jesus] went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God. And when day came, He called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom He named apostles:”** Jesus chose His disciples in the context of prayerful discernment. From a larger group who had been following Him, Jesus chose twelve to be apostles (or the future leaders of His mission). This prayerful personal invitation contrasts with the usual programmatic church approach. Instead of the descriptors of a *micro group* pictured above, the church generally conducts programs. Programs are group methods we use to herd people through systems to give us an illusion of success.

The genius of the micro group size of 3 or 4 is that it makes leadership accessible to the everyday person. Why?

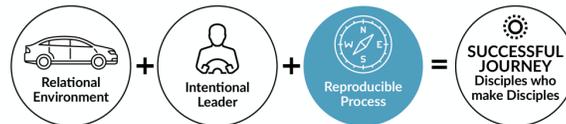
1. **Simplicity:** With a curriculum that is easy to use, the leader is just guiding a conversation. The larger the group the more training is needed.
2. **Leaders are trained in the group:** There is no necessity for extra leadership training or development. After several weeks of meeting, leadership within the group is passed around so that each person has numerous opportunities to lead. It is like an

apprenticeship. Once their groups are complete, group members have internalized the ability and passion to have their own group.

- 3. Members are learning from each other:** There is no teacher in the group. The Holy Spirit works through the truth of the biblically based curriculum and the insights shared among the group members. **[Ralph—Colossians 3]**
- 4. Transformative Mindset: Moving the mindset from consumer to contributor**
[Ralph]



PICTURE OF A SUCCESSFUL DISCIPLE MAKING JOURNEY



Reproducible Process [Greg]

The curriculum is the GPS that gets us to our destination. What could be the impact that a foundational, disciple making curriculum could have if a vast majority of people in the church or university were covering the same material? Sometimes the best way to see the importance of something is to imagine the consequences of what you don't have. Without a curriculum you will **not...**

- have a plan;
- be intentional;
- have a transferable tool: people will not be confident to disciples others without a tool.

Discipleship Essentials is the tool we use as the disciple making foundation.

Summary [Ralph]: If you don't remember anything else we said remember two words: context, content, and leadership—senior pastor has to get involved. Ralph assumed this responsibility.