

If the original disciples had not fulfilled the mission of making disciples, you would not even be reading this article right now. Jesus knew that the best way to develop leadership was through discipleship. In Luke 9:10, Jesus debriefed His disciples after sending them out on a mission. "When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then He took them with Him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida." The foundation for any movement of disciple making must be built on the right type of leadership. Loving accountability makes this foundation of leadership effective. The original disciples respected what Jesus inspected. Impact Discipleship prioritizes the raising up of discipleship leaders that carry on the mission.

C: CHURCH BASED

It amazes me that there are so many parachurch ministries that do a better job of making disciples than many churches do. That tells me that somehow, during the past two thousand years, the church has lost the vision Jesus gave it for being a movement of making disciples that make disciples. In Colossians 2:19 Paul says, "He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow." God designed the church to be the perfect environment for disciple making to occur. Just as a family provides the essential ingredients for child development, the church provides the essential ingredients for spiritual development. We simply need to regain the vision Christ wants the church to have for making disciples.

T: TRANSFERABLE MATERIALS

In 2 Timothy 2:2 Paul taught, "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be

qualified to teach others." Impact Discipleship provides tools for making disciples that focus on transferable concepts to be easily handed down from one generation of disciples to the next. These concepts give consistency in teaching from one disciple to another. Impact Discipleship does not teach a disciple everything they could ever know about the Christian life. It simply teaches them what they need to be able to know more about the Christian life. The use of transferable concepts allows for unity in the process of developing disciples. Whatever disciple-making process a church decides to use, it should be based on a unified curriculum.

IS IMPACT FOR YOU?

Now that you have had a chance to read more about Impact Discipleship, would you consider making the Impact philosophy a part of your local church's ministry? If you need more information or would like to speak to someone about helping you get the Impact Discipleship process started in your church, simply contact us at the address given below.

For more
information
contact:

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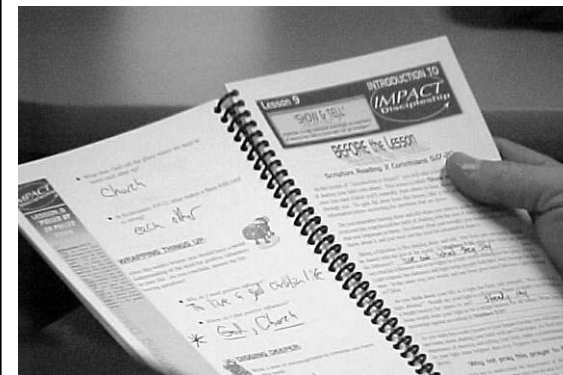
THE PHILOSOPHY OF IMPACT DISCIPLESHIP

**(Being and Building
Disciples of Christ)**

*"God started the church the way
He wanted it. Now He wants
it the way He started it!"*

by Ken Adams

When God conceived the idea of church in His mind, my guess was that His idea of church and our idea of church are two very different things.



It would only seem logical that the ministry of Jesus was the pattern for the way God wanted the church to operate. Jesus' ministry

was obviously a ministry of disciple-making. Clearly Jesus came to make disciples who would make disciples.

By looking at the ministry of Jesus, it would appear that God intended the church to be a movement of multiplying disciples. If the church were a movement, it would function more as a living spiritual organism than an organized institution. If the church was multiplying, it would be growing exponentially rather than by small additions. If the church was making disciples, we would have a much stronger force of soldiers attacking the gates of hell.

If you have ever yearned to see the church get back to what God originally meant her to be, then you realize it must get back to the priority of making disciples, not just decisions.



IMPACT DISCIPLESHIP

Impact Discipleship is a plan to help the local church get back to what God created it to be in the first place. Impact Discipleship is a philosophy of ministry that emphasizes the priority of making disciples. The goal of Impact Discipleship is to help people live out the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). As people learn to love the Lord with all their hearts, soul, and mind and to make disciples by going, baptizing, and teaching, they begin to understand what it means to “be and build” disciples for Christ.

I. M. P. A. C. T.

Obviously, Impact is not the only approach for getting the church back to making disciples,

but it is one approach. As you look at the following acrostic it will help you understand the philosophy behind Impact Discipleship. Maybe after reading this philosophy you will consider its implementation within your own church.

I: INTENTIONAL STRATEGY

Impact Discipleship is an intentional strategy of making disciples, which helps people go from infants in the faith to mature adults in the faith. This intentional strategy involves a small group format with a discipleship curriculum that emphasizes instruction, accountability, prayer, hands on ministry, fellowship, and reproduction. As Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron against iron, so one man sharpens another.” The intentional strategy of Impact Discipleship provides an effective environment for spiritual growth.

M: MOVEMENT OF MULTIPLICATION

Impact Discipleship is designed to be a strategy of making disciples who make disciples. Discipleship is just not discipleship if it does not reproduce! Matthew 28:19-20 says, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” When Jesus spoke these words, He



was speaking to individuals who were already disciples. He had invested in them so that they would one day invest in others. The goal of discipleship is to multiply rather than add more disciples.

I have been involved in the local church for over forty years, and to this day I can only think of a handful of spiritual leaders who can name more than one generation of disciples that have been influenced by their lives. Is that the way Jesus wanted the church?

P: PROCESS, NOT A PROGRAM

Impact Discipleship is not designed to be another Bible teaching program. It is designed to be a process of spiritual development that guides people through several stages of spiritual growth. The goal of Impact Discipleship is not to complete the course, fill out the notebook and graduate. The goal of Impact Discipleship is to be involved in a lifelong process of spiritual development that moves an individual from a beginning disciple to a builder of other disciples. In Hebrews 5:12-14 the Scripture says, “In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk,

being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” Impact Discipleship provides the context for constant use of the tools for spiritual development.

A: ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP

The success of the Great Commission was dependent upon the original disciples’ leadership.