



GroupLife

Connecting People to Christ, Community and the Commission

Session 1 – a 60 minute workshop focusing on theology, philosophy, and methodology of making disciples and disciple-makers in groups.

- 1) Welcome, Introduction, and Prayer ^(2 min) Slides 1-3
 - a) Welcome the group to the workshop.
 - b) Introduce yourself. Include where you currently serve. Slide 4
 - c) Remind workshop participants that this workshop is sponsored by the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions through the Office of Sunday School and Discipleship... and is made possible through their contributions to the Cooperative Program. Slide 5
 - d) Call attention to the workshop handout for group exercises, a note-taking guide, and a place to record takeaways and to-do items.
 - e) Open the group in prayer.

- 2) Opening Group Exercise - Three things about YOU and ME! ^(8 min) Slide 6

Note: This opening activity may be omitted or adjusted based time allotted. (The workshop is designed for 68 minutes, removing this activity would adjust the workshop to 60 minutes projected time)

 - a) In groups of 3-5, introduce yourself by working together to discover three things everyone in the group has in common and one thing unique to each group member.
 - b) Be prepared to introduce your group members by sharing the things you discovered during this exercise.
 - i) 5-minute countdown timer Slide 7

- 3) GroupLife Focus ^(3 min) Slide 8
 - a) Ask: When you hear the title “GroupLife Disciple Making Strategy” what comes to mind?
 - b) Share with participants that “GroupLife is a title to capture whatever types of groups they use to make disciples of Jesus. (Sunday School, LIFE Groups, Small Groups, Community Groups, D-Groups, Micro Groups, etc)”
 - c) Share the focus of GroupLife. ^(4 min) Slide 9
 - i) *“GroupLife Disciple Making Strategy: Refocusing or reengineering your group strategy to equip and encourage people to be and make disciples and disciple-makers with Jesus. This objective is accomplished by Connecting people to Christ, Community, and the Commission.”*
 - (1) Emphasize that “GroupLife is about equipping and encouraging people to be and make disciples and disciple-makers with Jesus”. *Making disciples and disciple-makers is the overarching and primary focus of groups!*
 - (2) Emphasize that disciples and disciple-makers are made by “connecting people to Christ, in community, and to the commission”.



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- 4) Ask “As we consider refocusing or reengineering our groups with greater (3 min) **Slide 10**
intentionality toward making disciples and disciple-makers with Jesus...what are the primary ways you are moving people toward Christ-likeness or helping them be disciples of Jesus that are making disciples with Jesus?”

- 5) Group Exercise (5 min) **Slides 11-15**
a) In groups of 3-5 people, discuss the questions assigned to your group. (Group assignments are included on the workshop handout)

- i) Group 1 **Slide 12**

01 What do you think of when you hear “Connecting People to Christ”?

02 How are you “Connecting People to Christ” in your church and groups?

03 Is “Connecting People to Christ” a priority in your church and groups?

- ii) Group 2 **Slide 13**

01 What do you think of when you hear “Connecting People to Community”?

02 How are you “Connecting People to Community” in your church and groups?

03 Is “Connecting People to Community” a priority in your church and groups?

- iii) Group 3 – **Slide 14**



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iv) Allow groups to unpack highlights from assignments. (3 min)

Slide 15

6) Theology, Philosophy, Methodology (3 min)

Slides 16

a) *"In thinking about the Sunday School teachers, group leaders, pastor's, staff and church leaders that have most influenced my life...all of them had a strong Biblical Theology, which informed and formed their Philosophy of Ministry, and guided their Methodology, the way they lived, loved, worshipped and disciplined others". Steve Layton*

b) Ask participants...

c) Steve stated that a strong Biblical Theology, which informed and formed their Philosophy of Ministry and guided their Methodology.

i) *What do you think this statement means?*

d) Remind participants that our making of disciples and disciple-makers is impacted by our theology, philosophy, and methodology. What we believe about the gospel from God's Word (theology), impacts what we believe (philosophy) and what we do (methodology) in our churches and groups.

e) Making disciples and disciple-makers much be grounded in Theology, what God says, not what others are doing (methodology) or simply how we have done things in the past.

Slide 17

i) Slide 17 is designed to represent an iceberg. People see what is above the waterline, our methodology, but the greatest impact of making disciples and disciple-makers is how we handle what is below the waterline, our theology, and our philosophy of ministry. When designing and executing disciple-making and group strategies, it is imperative that we design and execute based on God's Word.

7) Ask a participant to read Acts 2: 42-47. (2 min)

Slide 18

a) Say...Considering the New Testament Church Model found in Acts 2:42-47, what do we discover theologically, philosophically, and methodologically? Simply...from these verses (1) what did we learn about God, (2) what did the New Testament Church value, (3) and what did the New Testament Church do to make disciples and disciple-makers with Jesus?

Slide 19



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- b) Say...“We do the same things in groups today which raises the question, is God adding daily to our groups?” Why or Why not?
 - c) Ask...“What seems to be missing in many of our churches today...”
 - i) ...they devoted themselves” to their “why”.
 - d) Say... The NT church understood their “why” and devoted themselves to intentionally and passionately pursuing their why where they live, work, worship, and play! **Slide 20**
- 8) Why statements...(2 min)
- a) *“When you know your WHY, your WHAT has more impact because you are walking in or toward your purpose”.* Michael Jr **Slide 21**
 - b) *“When you know your WHY, you’ll know your WAY”.* Michael Hyatt **Slide 22**
 - c) *“When you know your WHY, you can endure any HOW”.* Viktor Frankl **Slide 23**
- 9) Know your why
- a) *Knowing and living out our WHY is foundational as Christ followers and disciples of Jesus* **Slide 24**
 - i) Our WHY gives...Purpose, Direction, Courage
 - ii) Our WHY Keeps us...Gospel Centered, Transformational, Missionally Minded
 - iii) *Knowing and living out our WHY is the driving force behind everything we are...and everything we do as disciples of Jesus.* **Slide 25**
- (1) Our WHY reminds us of our...Identity, Purpose, Significance
- (2) Ephesians 2
- (a) v8 – For by grace you have been saved through faith
 - (b) v9 – For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for Good Works
 - (c) v13 – But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ
 - (d) v20 – built on a foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in who the whole structure, being joined together grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him, you are also being built into a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit.
- 10) Ask...How do you define your Why? (4 min) **Slide 26**
- (1) *What are some of the watershed moments that have impacted your Why?(Key moments in your spiritual journey)*
- 11) Our Why, Our Way, and Our Work (as Disciples and Disciple-makers) (8 min) **Slide 27**
- a) Our Why – Love God, Love Others
 - i) The Great Commandment – Matthew 22:37-39



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- ii) Love God
- b) Our Way – Make Disciples
 - i) The Great Commission – Matthew 28:19-20
 - ii) Make Disciples
- c) Our Work – Equip and Encourage Disciples of Jesus
 - i) The Great Call – Ephesians 4:11-13
 - ii) Live Sent

12) Group Exercise

Slides 28-35

- a) Create 3 groups and make the following assignments.

- i) Group 1 - The Great Commandment

Slides 28-30

(1) Read Matthew 22:37-39

(2) *Discuss: How are we teaching our groups, through both word and deed, to love God and others with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength?*

- ii) Group 2 - The Great Commission

Slides 31-32

(1) Read Matthew 28:19-20

(2) *Discuss: If our one job as a disciple of Jesus is to make disciples with Jesus...what does a disciple of Jesus look like? (What are the characteristics of a disciple of Jesus and how are we making them in our groups?)*

- iii) Group 3 - The Great Call

Slides 33-34

(1) Read Ephesians 4:11-13

(2) *How are we teaching our groups, through both word and deed, to live "on mission" with Jesus? (Locally and Globally)*

- b) Reassemble the large group and ask them to share the thing they discovered in this exercise.

Slide 35

13) Ask "How do you define a disciple of Jesus?" (4 min)

Slide 36

14) Ask a participant to read Matthew 4:19 (2 min)

Slide 37

- a) *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"*

15) Share a concise and theological definition of a disciple of Jesus.

Slide 38

- a) A disciple of Jesus
 - i) Believes and Follows Jesus (Follow me)
 - ii) Is being changed by Jesus (and I will make you)
 - iii) Lives on mission with Jesus (fishers of men)

16) Group Discussion

- a) Ask...How can we use groups to make disciples and disciple-makers with Jesus? (4 min)

Slide 39



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17) Church strategy (methodology) conversation ^(5 min)

Slide 40

- a) Here is an example of a church model supporting the theological and philosophical Matthew 4:19 definition of a disciple of Jesus. Have participants think about their disciple-making church and group strategy.
 - i) Ask...How does your church or group make disciples by helping people
 - (1) Believe and follow Jesus (Follow me)
 - (2) Be changed by Jesus (I will make you)
 - (3) Live on mission with Jesus (fishers of men)

18) Group Discussion ^(5 min)

Slide 41

- a) Ask...Given unlimited resources and restrictions to make changes in the disciple making strategy for your group/class (and/or church family), what would you affirm, adjust, add or abort.

19) Encouragement

Slide 42

- a) *“The goal is not simply to cross the finish line, but to see how many people you can inspire to run with you.” Simon Sinek*

20) Take Aways ^(3 min)

Slide 43

- a) Say...Considering the fact that we have spent the last hour together focusing on the theology, philosophy, and methodology of making disciples and disciple-makers...(ask what are you taking away from our time together?)
- b) General Slide to put up if needed during closing discussions

Slide 44

21) For additional help reach out to... ^(1 min)

Slide 45

- a) Feel free to provide your contact information here
- b) Use slide 45 to provide contact information for State Missionaries and/or Steve Layton, creator of this workshop model.

22) Close in Prayer - closing slide ^(1 min)

Slide 46

Preparation:

1. Gather copies of the workshop handout and writing utensils
2. If using the PowerPoint presentation, download it to your laptop or pad. Use a pps vs a ppx version of the slideshow to ensure font and video presentations work correctly. Test the presentation to make sure that everything looks correct and that videos play correctly.
3. Print a copy of the workshop model adjusted to your presentation plan. Feel free to edit the Word document version of the presentation. Note: both a pdf and Word version of the



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workshop is provided to allow for editing (word version) and security of the original (pdf) version.

Notes: