

Session One

Understanding Our Part in the Great Commission

Introduction

Welcome everyone.

Introduce your self and share why you are committed to this training.

Say: God is very passionate about His children. He wants them to understand and live a very fulfilling life and ministry as Disciples and Disciple-Makers. He also wants you to develop a Disciple-Making ministry producing enough witnessing disciples to share the gospel and disciple every person in your community and beyond. Most Christians do not think very much about the Great Commission, because they see so little growth that they have concluded that God only expects them to reach a few or as many people as they can. **This is not God's intention for His people!**

Seeing the Big Picture

God's Eternal Purpose is to Save a Lost World

"The Son of Man (Jesus) came to seek and to save what was lost" Luke 19:10

Jesus said:

"Father, I brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do"
John 17:4

Thought:

If God appeared in this room right now and asked, ***"Did you as an individual or as a church, complete the work I gave you to do?"*** What would you say?

Do you understand God's purpose for your life?

God's Purpose for You

Jesus said: ***"...as the Father has sent me, I am sending you"*** John 20:21

- **God's Power:** The Gospel – Romans 1:16
- **God's Purpose for His Children:** Share the gospel – Luke 19:10
- **God's Strategy:** Make Disciples of all Nations - Matthew 28:18-20

God the Father's Command

"And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he (Jesus) commanded us. 1 John 3:23

Jesus' Command

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

The Great Commission

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28: 18-20

We are to Disciple Nations – Every Person - Every Nation!

What is a Disciple?

- Ask: Is a Convert a Disciple?

A Disciple is:

- A person who has received Christ and is following the teachings of Christ!
- A Disciple is a person who is living like Christ not just learning about Christ!

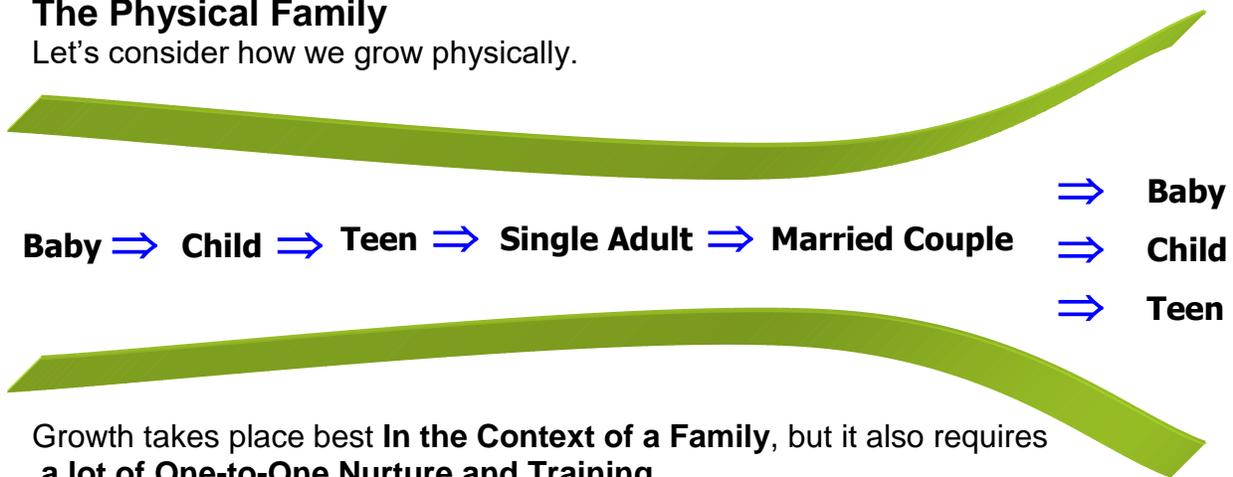
Principles of Growth

All Healthy Living Things Grow

God had built into His creation the inherent capacity of healthy living organisms to grow and reproduce. **The Church is a Living Organism!**

The Physical Family

Let's consider how we grow physically.



Growth takes place best **In the Context of a Family**, but it also requires **a lot of One-to-One Nurture and Training**.

Note to the Leader: Show a diagram (on a chart or PowerPoint slide) of your own family tree. Hand out a sheet of paper to each person and have them pair-up and draw their own physical family tree. Include Grandparents – Parents – Spouse – Children – Grandchildren – Great Grandchildren etc.

On the back of the sheet of paper draw your spiritual family tree.

Many Churches resemble a Spiritual Orphanage more than a Spiritual Family!

In an orphanage, the orphanage keeper and a few assistants try to care for a large number of children. They ring a bell; the children get up and get ready for breakfast. They get them ready for school and send them off. When they return from school they supervise them as they play and do homework. They ring a bell and the children come for dinner, get ready for bed and so on.

The orphanage keepers – God bless them - do the best they can – but it will never be a family as God intended. Often Pastors and leaders become the orphanage keepers.

God's Church Should Be a Network of Spiritually Reproducing Families!

The Spiritual Family

Spiritual growth takes place best **In the Context of a Spiritually Reproducing Family (Small Group)** but also requires **One-to-One Nurture and Training.**



People show signs of **maturity** when they shift the focus of their attention away from **meeting their own** needs to the **meeting of the needs of others.**

Spiritual Children

By Spiritual Children, we are referring to the Reproduction of Disciples by Disciple-Makers

- Are the people in your church or ministry being genuinely **Transformed** into fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ?
- Are they **Loving one another** as Christ has commanded them?
- Are they **Sharing the Gospel**?
- Are they **Reproducing by Equipping** other Spiritual Children?

How can you Experience such a Church?

Where do we Begin?

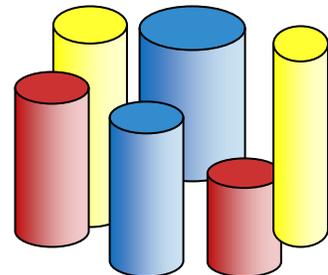
We are to begin by making disciples in our own community (Sphere of influence) and God will send these equipped disciples out to make more disciples of Jesus!

Acts 1:8 says, ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”***

You alone do not know and could not reach every person in your community, but do you realize that every person in your community is known by someone in your community! If you could disciple the people you can reach and they do the same everyone can be given the opportunity to receive Jesus Christ and become His disciple!

* Understanding Our Community

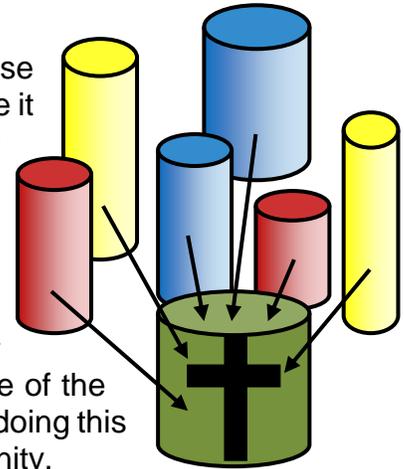
People in our community tend to gather together with other like-minded people. Anthropologists call these segments “Silos”. (Circles of influence). These could be large or small and may be formed around racial lines or various affinities because they have common interest. Families are mini silos. Your Church is also a silo. Each silo has its own unwritten understanding of who is **“inside”** and who is **“outside”** their silo.



*Extraction Evangelism

Traditional evangelism uses the extraction method to reach these groups. That means they try to *contextualize* the gospel to make it acceptable to the group they want to reach and send someone to them who is considered by that silo as an “outsider”.

They feel they are successful if they reach one person and bring that person to their “church silo”. This is difficult to do and it is also a huge transition for the person they have reached. It often means that you have separated that person from his/her “natural silo”. The new person learns the language and culture of the church silo – making him/her an outsider to their former silo. In doing this you cause hurt and your actions are disruptive to their community.



This extraction evangelism method can make it almost impossible to ever reach the rest of this community.

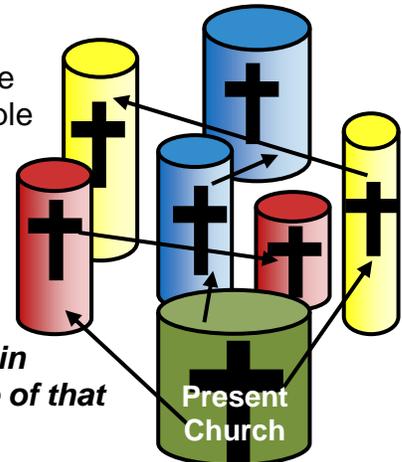
***Satan is pleased, he knows he has lost a few individuals,
but he also knows you have settled for a few people when you
could have reached the whole family, silo, community and nation.
Satan even encourages extraction evangelism!***

History shows that in many countries the church is not reaching enough people to even keep up with the population growth and has no hope of ever discipling the whole nation, while in other countries the church is growing at an explosive rate.

So, How Can We Reach these Lost People?

*We must acknowledge these community structures and see the individual as an entry point into the family. As we disciple these families they become gateways into their silos. Silos reach out within their community, and even to other communities and so they become highways - reaching whole nations.

***Focus on planting the Gospel into every existing Silo
that could spread to more and more people and could in
time establish a new church with, for, and by the people of that
silo that would keep on reaching their own silo!***



*The above insights are adapted from the book *Contagious Disciple Making* by David L. Watson and Paul D. Watson

Jesus came to “***seek out and save the lost***” (Luke 19:10) and in John 20:21 Jesus said, “***...as the father has sent me, I am sending you.***”

We are to seek and save every last one of them!

Is it possible? It must be our goal, so, how can it be accomplished?

The following Sessions explain the step by step process to help you reach your community and nation!