

THE SALVATION ARMY KINGSTON GARDENS

Discipleship Process

Everyone is on a spiritual journey. You and I are on a spiritual journey, the people we come across in our daily lives are on a journey.

The journey was never to be taken alone, we are created as a people in community, and long to belong...

God brings people across our paths whether in our homes, community or here at K.G. Salvo's. So part of that discipleship process is engaging and impacting our local community, it's about connecting with people, building relationships, helping people find a place of community and belonging at K.G. Salvo's and grow in their spiritual journey of faith. It's about being intentional about our discipleship pathways...

When Discipleship becomes part of our DNA, I think we would naturally be asking the question **'what's the next step'** for ourselves and others on that journey, towards a greater spiritual awareness of God in ours and their lives.

Let me use as an example the *Engel Scale*. It is only a rough guide, but it can be useful to help us assess where people are spiritually, so that we can have some idea of the next step they need to take towards faith in Christ and offer appropriate help. It also reminds us that coming to faith and becoming a disciple is one long process that takes a lifetime.

Evangelism is the first stage of making disciples. Let me say, that we turn afresh to Christ each day, and someone who became a Christian years ago is also on the same journey towards God as those who are just starting out. We need to remember that Jesus commands us to make obedient disciples, not 'average weekly attenders'.

For most people the journey towards a committed and owned faith in Christ usually takes between one and five years, sometimes longer. Of course God can, and often does, wonderfully surprise us with encouraging exceptions to the norm when certain people seem to be on a fast-track to faith, but even in these cases God has often been patiently at work in their lives over many years.

As we as church embrace discipleship process – recognizing people who are on a journey, we need to constantly examine our programs and ensure that it is providing appropriate activities to move people onwards at all stages of the route.

For some regular attenders at Sunday worship gathering our next step on our spiritual journey maybe a small group or a discipleship group....

At all times we need to engage with both knowledge and attitude, head and heart, and cooperate with the way the wind of God's Spirit is blowing in the all-important but unseen third dimension.

The discipleship journey begins- way down here and right through to here... where disciples are making disciples...

What is the next step? Is the question we bring before God and His Church.

So how do you discern the next step... you come alongside and journey with people, build relationship, listen, pray for them, listen..

It's through building relationships, welcoming, connecting with people, journeying with them

If our DNA is going to be a discipling church **what does a Disciple look like?**

7 **Facts** about Disciples... (we explore further)

Friend of God

Following Jesus

Formed by the **Spirit**

Fellowship with **believers**

Faithful to **Scripture**

Freedom thro' **disciplines**

Frontline **missional** living

The **Marks** of a disciple ... (we explore further)

7M

Models Godly character

Ministers grace and love

Makes good work

Makes culture

Makes disciples

Mouthpiece for truth and justice

Mouthpiece for the gospel

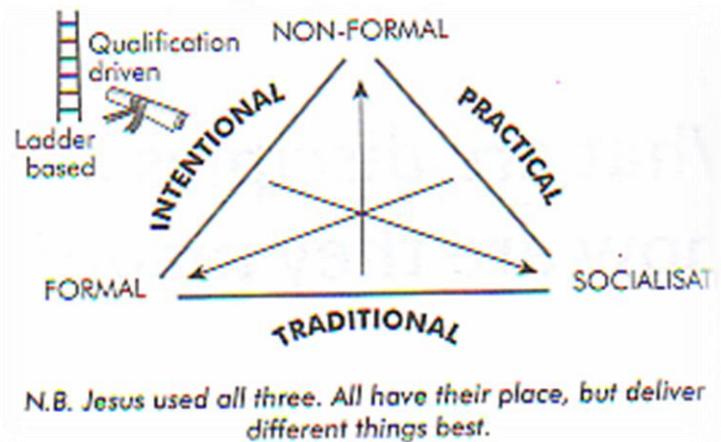
As we study the scriptures we will find it gives us clues to the process of how disciples are made throughout the old and new testament...

From:-

Non-formal process has aspects that are intentional and practical. Eg. Apprentices,

Formal process – has more intentional and less of a practical element eg. Membership classes

Socialisation – the process of socialization has practical and traditional aspects.



Building Blocks

- **The Individual disciple** - We are responsible for our own spiritual life. We all struggle with it... therefore the next building block is.....
- **The mentoring relationship** - We need people who will walk with us.
- **The discipleship team** - What disciple making team are you part of?
- **The discipleship group** - Discipleship group – is about disciple making

Our first and foremost focus needs to be on us....

Becoming intentional Disciples...

Disciple making involves Authority; intimacy; accountability.

Preaching/teaching has authority but not the other two

Small groups has authority scripture and intimacy but not always accountability.

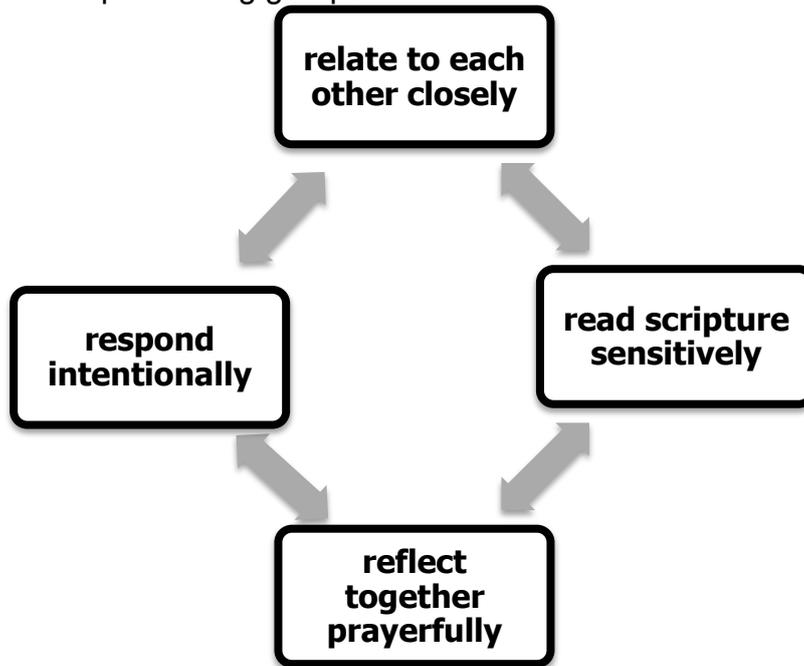
Disciples making groups have all three.

Disciple making groups consists of 3-4 people, where a small group is 8-12 people.

The Ethos and culture of a Disciple Making group

- **committed to discipleship** (Commitment is essential – you never pull out of a group cause your too busy... our spiritual growth needs a high priority.)
- **covenanted to each other** (work out when, where, how often, what scripture your going to cover etc.)
- **careful** in their **conversation** (Being careful in conversation is a discipline you have to keep to in these groups... to avoid gossip and criticism you embrace the rule to talk to people not about them, to never talk about the church or leaders....if it starts to become a gossip group it needs to close or it falls into sin.)
- **confidential** in their **sharing**
- **concerned** with the **whole** of **life**

The practise of Disciple making groups involves...



What is your next step in being intentional about your own discipleship journey.... The next building block

Being accountable shows a willingness to grow.

People need to be accountable in the business world, and in a sense God wants us to be accountable in spiritual growth and disciple making in His business. We are in our Father's Business.

Is it getting involved in a small group, a discipleship group or involved in a mentoring relationship that keeps you accountable as Christ Disciple?

We Monitoring Genuine Progress.

- Conversation** – that are happening -healthy.
- The stories people** tell – testimonies of God at work
- The contract to which people commit.** Usually people when they leave say you didn't care enough as Corps Officer. The Contract needs to be 'We are all about Growing

disciples and we keep one another accountable to that.' It's about pastoral equipping. – this is our new contract.

- You can monitor genuine progress by the **prayers people make**
- The people** they bring, reaching out and invite others on the journey.

Gordon McDonald **says The marks of maturity?**

Self-sustaining in spiritual devotions. Wise in human relationships.

Humble and serving.

Comfortable and functional in the everyday world where people of faith can be in short supply.

Substantial in conversation;

prudent in acquisition;

respectful in conflict;

faithful in commitments.