

# NATIONAL STUDY ON DISCIPLE MAKING IN USA CHURCHES:

High Aspirations Amidst

Disappointing Results

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CONDUCTED BY GREY MATTER RESEARCH

# National Study on Disciple Making in USA Churches: High Aspirations Amidst Disappointing Results

## For Discipleship.org and Exponential.org

By Grey Matter Research & Consulting  
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## Brief Summary of the Report

The following key points are a summary of the results from this study.

1. **Fewer than 5% of churches in the US have a reproducing disciple-making culture** – we champion and celebrate these churches. They are a model for other churches. But, at the same time, in light of the truth that disciple making is the core mission of the church, the study found a disappointingly low percentage of churches with a culture of and strategy for reproducing disciples and disciple makers (Level 4 and 5 churches).
2. **An absence of churches reflecting viral-like disciple making movements (L5 churches)** – we did not find clear examples of disciple making movements (DMM) in the US. Stated differently, we did not find in the established churches that were interviewed disciple making movement churches. These churches may exist in the USA, but they are not reflected in the data uncovered. Such churches are common in various other parts of the world. We delineate them from level 4 churches (reproducing disciples) by the level 5 viral-like features – these churches reflect a special movement of the Holy Spirit as they rapidly multiply disciples and disciple makers.<sup>1</sup> We look forward to finding them in the USA.
3. **Lack of commonly understood definitions** – there is not a clear, compelling and commonly understood set of basic definitions for terms such as *discipleship*, *disciple*, and *disciple making*. This makes it very difficult to assess effectiveness within local churches and within the broader church community (consistent definitions do not prevail in Protestant churches in the USA).
4. **Overestimating Impact** – pastors are overly optimistic in their assessment of the disciple-making cultures present in their churches, and frequently overrating their effectiveness in discipleship and disciple making.

## Summary of Recommendations

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<sup>1</sup>The best way to describe the dynamics of these movements is to compare them to the book of Acts or to something like the spiritual dynamics in the Asbury revival of 1970 described by Dennis Kinlaw <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qOqitIKUNs>

The following key points are a summary of recommendations by Discipleship.org and Exponential.

1. **Champion Clear Definitions and Commonly Understood Language** – we must create clear and easily understood definitions and language that reflect what the Bible teaches about disciple making and seek consensus among an expanding number of leaders and ministries who will promote them and uphold them.
2. **Senior Pastors Must Embrace Disciple Making as the Core Mission of the Local Church** – their churches and personal ministries need to shift to a focus on Jesus-style disciple making as the Core Mission of their Churches (see more below).
3. **Develop New Measures of Success** – senior pastors (and their teams) must develop new scorecards based upon metrics and cultures that reflect success in Jesus-style disciple making.
4. **Champion Effective Strategies and Models** – The programmatic strategies that have been successful in adding disciples, are not generally producing strong, disciple-making cultures. We need to return to Jesus-style disciple making and embrace strategies that inspire and empower everyday Christians to become disciple makers. We need simple, effective, and reproducible models that will produce successive generations of disciple makers if followed.

The research was completed for Discipleship.org and Exponential.org by Grey Matter Research.<sup>2</sup>

Would you like to take the assessment of your church as a Disciple Making Church? You can get the free assessment by spending 20-30 minutes taking the online survey - <https://reproducingchurches.org/disciple-making/>

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<sup>2</sup> Discipleship.org and Exponential sought to identify the percentage of churches at each of the 5 levels highlighted below. The study was completed in September 2019, with survey responses gathered in August. The study was conducted by telephone. A total of 1,000 interviews were completed among senior/lead pastors in Protestant churches. The sample was stratified by denominational group, geographic region, and church size to ensure representativeness. Grey Matter Research & Consulting (Phoenix, AZ) conducted the study. Grey Matter has extensive experience researching the Christian community, including clergy. The total sample size has a potential sampling error of  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level with a 50% response distribution. In simple English, this means if the same study were conducted 100 times using the same sampling, and the distribution of responses to a particular question had half of all respondents giving one response and the other half giving another response, 95 out of 100 times the proportion would be within plus or minus 3.1 percentage points from the 50% response given in this study (so the effective range would be 47% to 53% if the answer in question was selected by 50% of respondents in this study). To request the full report, email [geary@discipleship.org](mailto:geary@discipleship.org)

## Five Levels of Disciple-making Churches

Discipleship.org and Exponential are pleased to collaborate on this new resource. As a “discipleship-first” tribe, Discipleship.org believes Jesus calls us, as individual disciples, to be disciples who make disciples and that disciple making is the core mission of the local church. Our many partners – with their names and websites at the end – enable Discipleship.org to do the work we do for the cause of disciple making.

Exponential is a multiplication movement. Both Discipleship.org and Exponential believe that at the core of healthy Christian multiplication movements is disciple making. We believe the general or common calling shared by all Christians, everywhere, throughout all time, is to follow Jesus’ command that we be disciples who make disciples wherever we are!

Disciple making is the first and critical dimension of Kingdom multiplication that Exponential refers to as 3D Multiplication.<sup>3</sup> For your reference, the three dimensions of multiplication include:

1. Disciple making
2. Capacity building for disciple making
3. Mobilization for disciple making

When these three dimensions align, we get biblical disciples who make biblical disciples who plant churches that plant churches. We get followers who are fully surrendered, putting Jesus at the center of their lives. When we pursue these three areas, we mobilize a movement of missionaries to carry the fullness of Jesus into every crack and cranny of society.

### Five Disciple-making Church Profiles

For simplicity, we have developed five profiles that are practical and measurable ways of classifying where a church is in the disciple-making process.<sup>3</sup> Our levels for measuring congregation disciple making include:

- Level 1 (Subtracting from disciple-making efforts)
- Level 2 (Plateaued, neither helping nor hindering disciple making)
- Level 3 (*Adding* disciples by church programs)
- Level 4 (*Reproducing* personal disciple makers)

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<sup>3</sup> See the free eBook *Multipliers: Leading Beyond Addition* for more in-depth coverage of the 3D Multiplication model - <https://exponential.org/resource-ebooks/multipliers/>.

- Level 5 (*Multiplying* personal disciple makers)

Each of these disciple-maker levels is unique. We have found that each one has common ways of thinking about God, people, being a disciple, the Kingdom, and what it means to make disciples of Jesus. The more likely someone lives out the Kingdom mindset, practices intentionality, and views their effectiveness from a long-term perspective, the farther they move along the disciple-making scale.

Jesus is our model. Jesus is the pattern for Level 5 disciple makers. He did not just make disciples; He made disciple makers.

## **The Five Levels**

**Level 1** – These churches demonstrate the behaviors of people who are not passionate about growing in their relationship with Christ through obedience to Jesus’ disciple-making call. They don’t personally or intentionally focus on helping others grow in their relationship with Christ, and they don’t help others make disciples. They may actually have a negative impact on disciple making because they allow the world to have a greater impact on the people around them than they do for the cause of Christ.

*Level 1 churches are numerically declining churches and 29% of the churches in the USA fit into this category.*

**Level 2** – The behaviors of these churches describe those who identify with Christ but are not yet growing in their relationship with Him. Similar to Level 1, they are not personally making disciples. However, they do help in disciple-making efforts by attempting to create church gatherings that involve helping people to plateau in their life as disciples. The behaviors of these men and women prevent disciple making from progressing as quickly as the next three levels (3, 4 and 5) because those assessing at Level 2 don’t seek to intentionally influence others for spiritual growth.

*Level 2 churches are numerically plateaued churches and 44% of the churches in the USA fit into this category.*

**Level 3** – These behaviors describe disciple-making churches that seek to intentionally advance disciple making by the programs of the church. These churches add disciples by the preaching, programs, pastoral ministry, and various factors of the church. They do not mobilize significant numbers of members to become personal disciple makers.

*Level 3 churches are numerically growing church (by addition) and 27% of the churches in the USA fit into this category.*

**Level 4** – These churches are intentionally growing and are seeking to actively equip and coach the members to make disciples. They raise up people who personally invest in relationships so that they can make disciples and assist in others’ disciple-making efforts as well. The leaders are committed to the process of disciple making personally, do it themselves, and join with the other leaders of their church or para-church organizations. They see their role as coaching and equipping everyday disciples to become disciple makers.

*Level 4 churches are a part of numerically growing churches and they are also characterized as churches that are reproducing disciples and disciple making – less than 5% of churches in the USA fit into this category.*

**Level 5** – The behaviors of these disciple-making churches epitomize a unique movement of the Holy Spirit’s power. They are churches where almost everyone makes disciples. The leaders live to develop disciple makers who will then make other disciple makers, to the fourth generation. These churches are igniting and fueling disciple making movements.

*Level 5 churches are a part of numerically growing churches and they are also characterized as churches that are multiplying disciples and disciple making – we could not find statistically verifiable evidence of churches in the USA that fit into this category.*

## **Executive Summary of the Details: Intent without Impact?**

Every research study is really a compendium in thousands of bits and pieces of data, the way individual pixels combine to form a digital image. And like pixels, if the individual bits and pieces of data aren't combined to form a bigger picture, the real impact is missing.

The big picture of this research into discipleship is that many Protestant pastors are making substantial claims about their church's disciple-making activities and priorities, but at the same time cannot report significant impact resulting from these activities and priorities.

There were many seemingly positive findings about disciple making in this study, but those must be tempered with substantial reality checks. Consider:

### **The Finding:**

- The average pastor reports 12.5 new commitments to Christ in the last year per 100 people in his or her congregation. Ten percent reported 25 or more new commitments per 100 congregants.

### **The Reality Check:**

- Over half of all pastors who reported 20 or more new commitments to Christ also reported not a single additional person attending their church in the same time frame.
- While 84% of pastors reported at least one new commitment to Christ, only half that many reported any church growth.
- If pastors' numbers about new commitments are projected to the national population, there would be a net annual gain of 5.9 million new believers each year, or 59 million new Christians over the past decade. Yet national studies by a variety of organizations have shown no significant, consistent gains in Christian self-identification, basic Christian beliefs, church involvement, or born-again beliefs over the past couple of decades

### **The Finding**

- Pastors believed 22% of their congregation, on average, are actively involved in disciple making on a regular basis. Sixteen percent said at least half are active disciple makers, including 2% who claimed every single person in their church is.

**The Reality Check:**

- Of the pastors who claimed 90% or more of their congregation are active disciple makers, 64% had seen no congregational growth in the last year.
- Of the pastors claiming half or more of their people are active disciple makers, 57% have shown no growth at all; 7% have actually shrunk. These churches actually had *below-average* numbers of new commitments.
- Of the pastors claiming at least 75% of their congregation are active disciple makers, 55% showed little or no numerical growth in their own church, and 76% were not planting new churches even every two years as a result of all this supposed activity.

**The Finding:**

- Three out of four pastors felt their disciple-making efforts will not be truly effective until they see reproduction in their efforts (i.e. disciples who make disciples who make disciples), including over half who agreed strongly with this.

**The Reality Check:**

- Just 15% of pastors said their church has both a simple, reproducible model to equip their members to make disciples and a framework or metric for measuring their success at doing so. Only 7% agreed strongly that they have both.

**The Finding:**

- Pastors believed about half of their core church leaders (including themselves and other staff) see their single most important leadership role as coaching and equipping people to be disciple makers. Twenty-one percent claimed *every single one* of their core leaders has this perspective.

**The Reality Check:**

- There was no appreciable difference in church growth according to whether 10% of core leaders prioritized disciple making, or 100% did.
- The average pastor only spends 9% of his or her work hours in personally equipping people to be disciple makers – far less than is spent on sermon prep (32%), pastoral care (20%) or administration (20%).
- The average pastor said the majority of major decisions made by their core leaders do not have the impact on the church's disciple making as the primary decision factor.
- Among pastors claiming all of their core leaders prioritize disciple making, 78% aren't hearing stories of disciple making success on a weekly basis; 42% aren't even hearing them on a monthly basis.

Human beings sometimes see things as truth not because they're actually true, but for other reasons – because we so badly want them to be true, because others

perceive them as true, because we're taught those things are desirable, etc. When pastors are asked about disciple making, many report lots of effort and a high priority, but then they're often not able to report any tangible results...or even a method of measuring results. Either there's significant disciple making activity going on that's ineffective, or the reality is that there's far less activity going on than many pastors want to admit to others or even to themselves.

It may also be that a significant part of the problem is *definitions*. Exactly what is disciple making? What is discipleship? What activities comprise either one?

Prior to being asked any questions about disciple making in this study, pastors were given a very specific definition:

*People intentionally entering into relationships to help others follow Jesus, become more like Jesus, and join the mission of Jesus. Disciple making includes the whole process from conversion through maturation and multiplication, which is making disciples who in turn make other disciples.*

The definition stresses intentionality, building relationships for the purpose of disciple making, conversion, maturation, and multi-generational multiplication. Yet despite the definition, it can be easy for pastors to slip mentally back into whatever definition they are used to using in their own context. This has two levels of impact.

First, it means when organizations talk about disciple making, pastors may hear the definition, but still think about it in light of their own definition, in their own context. This can lead to substantial communication problems and disconnects. It will be critical to review outgoing information and communication in light of this.

Second, it can mean substantial inflation of reporting disciple-making activities, or what activities are considered to be part of disciple making or discipleship.

Without going too deeply into definitions, traditional discipleship usually encompasses helping people become more like Jesus, or stronger followers of Jesus. It's often thought of as a very personal journey, largely impacting individual Christians who are already converts. Disciple making encompasses far more: building relationships with people in order to make disciples, conversion, traditional discipleship, and multiplication. How this substantial difference impacts things will depend on how pastors think about discipleship and disciple making.

If the pastor uses a more traditional definition of discipleship or takes individual parts and pieces of the definition of disciple making, then just about anything could qualify as discipleship or disciple making. Preach on stewardship? Jesus wants us to give, so that's part of discipleship. Work to raise money to refurbish

the Sunday school rooms? That's where we study about becoming more like Jesus, so that's supporting discipleship. Hold a staff meeting? Everyone's goal is to foster discipleship, so that's partly a discipleship activity.

But if the pastor truly uses the definition of disciple making provided in the questionnaire, he or she will need to consider not just individual parts, but the whole process, because it is a whole process. At that point, the numbers they're reporting would likely become far, far lower.

What does it matter if pastors aren't able to take a hard, unvarnished look at the disciple-making activity in their church? What does it matter if they use a much broader, more generic definition of "discipleship"? It matters a lot.

The reality is that if you convince yourself that you're getting all A's in school, what motivation is there to study harder? If you feel you're already spending lots of time on discipleship-related activities, and you feel your mindset is already pointed towards discipleship, what more can you do?

In 2018, Grey Matter Research conducted a study among American charitable donors (*The Donor Mindset Study*). We asked people what proportion of their income they give to charity. The average donor actually gives about 1.95% of his or her income to charity (outside of houses of worship), but they *think* they give 8.41% away. While 55% of Americans give to non-profits, only 15% of donors were aware of this. Six out of ten donors believe they give away a higher proportion of their income than the typical American does.

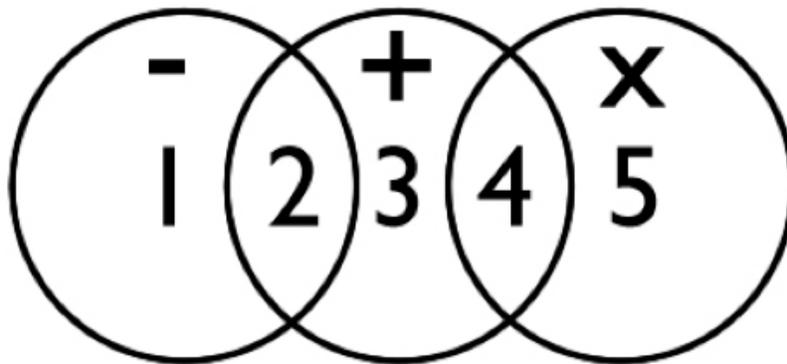
The report notes the following: "One, the average donor feels he or she is part of a select minority who support charities. Two, the vast majority of donors severely overestimate the proportion of their income they contribute. Three, six out of ten think they're doing as much or more than other donors. When your perception is that you are doing so much, and so much more than others, what reason is there to consider doing more?"

That's the danger of overestimating your own activity. That also appears to be where many American Protestant pastors are today: overestimating the disciple-making efforts and effectiveness of their church. The real numbers simply do not back up the perceptions of many pastors. But if pastors believe so much is being done, what motivation is there to commit more time, effort, and priority to the all-important process of making disciples, who make other disciples, who in turn make yet more disciples?

## The Traits of Level Four and Level Five Disciple Making Church Cultures

Discipleship.org has completed an extensive review of the character traits of Level 4 and Level 5 Disciple-making Churches. Level four churches – which regularly *reproduce* disciples and disciple making – exist in the USA. But they are rare.

**In fact, one of the key findings of the study is that there are under 5% of all churches that are qualified as Level 4 disciple making churches. For a quick review, here is a summary of the model we used as a filter in this study.**



Level 1: Subtracting // Level 2: Plateauing // Level 3: Adding  
Level 4: Reproducing // Level 5: Multiplying

To determine Levels 4 and 5, we incorporated what pastors said about having a model and metric for disciple-making, the proportion of disciple-makers in their congregation, how much time the pastor spends on disciple-making, results (church planting, stories about new disciple-makers), and what pastors reported about their core leaders (proportion who feel disciple-making is their most important role as a leader, how disciple-making impacts leadership decisions about the church).

**Again, the good news is that there are disciple making churches – but just under 5% of all churches qualified as Level 4.** But we could not statistically verify churches that qualify for Level 5.

Truth be told, 80% of all churches scored negative points on this model; another 5% weren't even scored because no one in their church was making disciples.

Here are the key character traits of churches that are level 4 and level 5 churches.

**Level 4 – reproducing disciples – this happens when 24 – 50% of lay leaders who become disciple-makers**

1. Jesus-style disciple-making is the core mission of the church – it is motivated by love for people lost without salvation in Jesus - and the church regularly *reproduces* disciples and disciple makers.
2. Disciple-making is the *emerging* cultural identity of the church – reflected in the *reproduction* of the church’s values, actions, and words.
3. Every decision made and every dollar spent passes through the filter: “how does this help us make disciples in relational environments like Jesus?”
4. The church has a starting foundation of weekly fasting and prayer – asking for God to empower disciple-making.
5. The core leadership focus not just on making disciples, but on *making disciple-makers* (of lay leaders) with at least 20 – 39% of their time spent personally equipping people (outside weekend gatherings).
6. There is a joyful expectation that every disciple should “obey all of Jesus’ teachings” and grow to become a disciple-maker.
7. 24 – 50% or more of adult lay leaders are personally engage in leading roles of making and reproducing disciples.
8. Every leader uses the same simple, effective, and reproducible disciple-making model and a metric that tracks effectiveness (disciplined application of the same model).
9. Core leaders hear stories on a weekly basis of formerly lost people now making disciples.
10. The disciple-making activities of the church result in planting new churches every year or two.

**Level 5 – multiplying disciples by almost everyone (90%) becoming disciple-makers.**

**The USA lacks clearly defined examples of viral-like disciple-making movements (DMM).** There are some 1,000 disciple-making movements around the world that match the following character traits. They are unique movements, reflecting a revival-like culture like that found in the early chapters of the book of Acts. Discipleship.org has partnered, for example, with several of these disciple making movement leaders in West African that are reaching hundreds of thousands of people who are planting thousands of churches in a short time. But, again, the research tells us that there no clear examples of these movements in the USA.

For more on viral-like disciple making movements (DMM) that reflect a special work of the Holy Spirit, check out the following websites, for examples:

- <http://www.finalcommand.com/>
- <https://newgenerations.org/>

- <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/>

At discipleship.org we use the following definition of a disciple making movements, which is reflected in the 10 character traits of level 5 disciple making churches below.

**Disciple-making Movement (DMM)** – A disciple-making movement exists when churches plant multiple churches (within a few short years), through gospel activity, that has abundant fruit among the lost, that multiplies these disciples (people growing in obedience to all of Jesus’ commands), who in turn replicate themselves in others, so that we can see at least four generations regularly produced in multiple streams of disciple-making activity and these streams multiply consistently into churches.

Here are the character traits of level 5 disciple making churches (multiplying).

1. Jesus-style disciple-making is the core mission of the church – it is motivated by love for people lost without salvation in Jesus - and the church regularly *multiplies* disciples and disciple makers.
2. Disciple-making is *the* cultural identity of the church – reflected in the *multiplication* of the church’s values, actions, and words.
3. Every decision made and every dollar spent passes through the filter: “how does this help us make disciples in relational environments like Jesus?”
4. Praying and fasting is significantly entrenched – it happens *a couple of times a week and it is intensified in special seasons* – asking for God to empower disciple-making.
5. The core leadership teams focus, not just on making disciples, but on *making disciple-makers* (of lay leaders) with at least 40+% of core leadership time spent personally equipping and coaching leaders in the disciple-making process (outside weekend gatherings).
6. Almost everyone (90%+) has become mobilized to make disciples and plant churches. There is a joyful expectation that every disciple should “obey all of Jesus’ teachings” and make disciples.
7. Everyone uses the same simple, effective, and reproducible disciple-making model (disciplined application of the same model).
8. Disciple making in the church is viral – these disciples regularly multiply themselves at least four generations deep and in multiple streams that also multiply themselves consistently.
9. Disciple-making results in multiple church plants every year.
10. Church leaders hear stories many times a week of *formerly lost people* who are now making disciples and planting churches.

## Recommendations

**I. Champion Clear Definitions and Commonly Understood Language** – we must create a new consensus on definitions that reflect what the Bible teaches and seek to create a band of leaders who will promote them and uphold them.

Discipleship.org champions the following definitions (see [Discipleship.org/about](https://discipleship.org/about)):

1. **Disciple** – someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus (Matt. 4:19).
2. **Discipleship** – is simply the state of being a disciple. This word (like the word evangelism) is not in the Bible. Unfortunately, in the North American Church, discipleship is typically seen as an educational process designed to orient new believers to the biblical and everyday practices of our churches – and so we often prefer the term disciple-making.
3. **Disciple-making** – is entering into relationships to intentionally help people follow Jesus, be changed by Jesus, and join the mission of Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20).
4. **Disciple-maker** – a disciple of Jesus who enters into relationships with people to intentionally help them follow Jesus, be changed by Jesus, and join the mission of Jesus.
5. **A Church** – A spiritual family growing in surrendered obedience to all the teachings of Jesus Christ who gather together regularly under biblically recognized leadership for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission (making disciples) with a Great Commandment heart (loving God, loving people).
6. **A Disciple-making Culture** – The beliefs, habits, and narrative of a church constantly repeated with congruence and intentionality, that make it clear to almost everyone, all the time, including newcomers, that disciple-making is what everyone does in this church.
7. **A Disciple-making Church (or Level 5 Church)** – is a church where disciple-making is the core DNA and culture of the church, where the average church member makes disciples to the fourth generation and this disciple-making activity is regularly produced in significant and diverse streams within the church and these streams multiply consistently into new churches.

8. **Disciple-making Movement (DMM)** – A disciple-making movement exists when churches plant multiple churches (within a few short years), through gospel activity, that has abundant fruit among the lost, that multiplies these disciples (people growing in obedience to all of Jesus' commands), who in turn replicate themselves in others, so that we can see at least four generations regularly produced in multiple streams of disciple-making activity and these streams multiply consistently into churches.

**II. Senior Pastors Must Embrace Disciple Making as the Core Mission of the Local Church** – their churches and personal ministries need to shift to a focus on Jesus-style Disciple-making as the core mission of their churches.

The book *DiscipleShift: Five Steps to Help Your Church Make Disciples Who Make Disciples*<sup>4</sup> outlines five key shifts. We recommend the following updated framing of those shifts.

- Shift to Jesus-style disciple-making is the core purpose of the local church.
- Shift to clarity on what it means to be a disciple (what you are making).
- Shift from leaders who focus on being communicators and CEO's to being leaders who first make disciple-makers as well as being communicators, CEO's, etc.
- Shift leadership to focus on equipping/coaching and intentionality.
- Shift to a Reproducing Disciples (Level 4) or Multiplying Disciples (Level 5) score card.

**III. Develop New Measures of Success** – senior pastors (and their teams) must develop new score cards based upon metrics and cultures that reflect success in Jesus-style disciple-making. Some elements will remain the same, but new ones should be added.

What are some potential scorecard Elements?

1. Attendance at the weekend gathering
2. Number in discipling relationships (outside weekend gatherings) – as a percentage of weekend gathering
3. Baptisms

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<sup>4</sup> See *DiscipleShift: Five Steps That Help Your Church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples* (Zondervan, 2013) by Jim Putman and Bobby Harrington with Robert Coleman, This book is both an Exponential book and a discipleship.org resource.

4. Number of spiritual apprentice disciple-makers
5. Number of disciple-making leaders
6. Number of apprentice disciple-making leaders
7. Offerings
8. Number who regularly fast
9. Number serving to reach lost people– as a percentage of weekend gathering.
10. Number serving the church – as a percentage of weekend gathering.

**IV. Champion Effective Strategies and Models** – the keys to effective disciple-making and success at new score cards are found when church leaders shift to focus on equipping and coaching the members of their churches in disciple-making using simple, effective, and reproducible models.

As a church leader, you are the architect of the church’s disciple-making system. You need clarity on the three actors in the disciple making process.

1. **Our part:** The things we (individually or collectively) can do to help a person in his or her spiritual journey, including the adoption of strategies.
2. **Their part:** These are the things that an individual is responsible for doing. If a person isn’t interested in growing, there’s really nothing I can do. The will must be engaged and responsive. There must be a desire and a hunger for change.
3. **God’s part:** Ultimately, there are things that God alone is responsible for in helping people grow and develop spiritually. God is the one who transforms lives and brings about lasting life change. I need to understand my responsibility as a leader, learning to fast and pray the way Jesus and the early church fasted and prayed. I also need to learn to be patient and rest in God’s plan and timing, while being diligent in the opportunities He provides.

At Discipleship.org we partner with a growing number of disciple making ministries, including the following organizations which can help you to develop plans, strategies, and cultures that will help you lead disciple making churches.

- The Bonhoeffer Project ([thebonhoefferproject.com](http://thebonhoefferproject.com))
- Dandelion Resourcing ([dandelionresourcing.com](http://dandelionresourcing.com))
- discipleFIRST ([disciplefirst.com](http://disciplefirst.com))
- Downline Ministries ([downlineministries.com](http://downlineministries.com))
- Emotional Healthy Discipleship ([emotionallyhealthy.org](http://emotionallyhealthy.org))
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- Faith International University ([faithseminary.edu](http://faithseminary.edu))
- Final Command ([finalcommand.com](http://finalcommand.com))

- Global Discipleship Initiative ([globaldi.org](http://globaldi.org))
- Discipleship for Women ([discipleshipforwomen.com](http://discipleshipforwomen.com))
- Great Commandment Network ([greatcommandment.net](http://greatcommandment.net))
- Impact Discipleship Ministries ([impactdisciples.com](http://impactdisciples.com))
- Legacy Discipleship ([legacydisciple.org](http://legacydisciple.org))
- Like Jesus ([LikeJesus.church](http://LikeJesus.church))
- Lionshare ([lionshare.org](http://lionshare.org))
- Navigators Church Ministries ([navigatorchurchministries.org](http://navigatorchurchministries.org))
- New Generations ([newgenerations.org](http://newgenerations.org))
- Radical Mentoring ([radicalmentoring.com](http://radicalmentoring.com))
- Relational Discipleship Network ([rdn1.com](http://rdn1.com))
- Renew Network ([renew.org](http://renew.org))
- Replicate ([replicate.org](http://replicate.org))
- Small Circle ([smallcircle.com](http://smallcircle.com))
- Sonlife ([sonlife.com](http://sonlife.com))
- TCM International ([tcmi.org](http://tcmi.org))

We are grateful for the growth of these organizations because they all help provide churches with the kind of specific guidance, coaching, systems, and tools necessary for systemic change.

**Would you like to take the assessment of your church as a Disciple Making Church? You can get the free assessment by spending 20-30 minutes taking the online survey - <https://reproducingchurches.org/disciple-making/>**