



DISCIPLESHIP

What should discipleship look like in my church?

This is a common question that pastors and church leaders ask, whether looking for a new model or evaluating a current one. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to making disciples. As you seek The Holy Spirit's guidance, with agape' love toward the people in your zip code, this tool has been created for you to evaluate your discipleship model in your context.

Define:

What does discipleship mean within your church? It seems obvious, but only when you are all in agreement can you be unified around your mission to be The Church and disciple your church members to be who Jesus has called them to be, and do what Jesus has called them to do. One suggestion is to combine the two most important statements that Jesus taught.

Discipleship is;

“living out the Great Commission and the Greatest Commandment.”

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

"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."

Matthew 22:37-38 (NIV)

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

HOW DOES OUR CHURCH DEFINE DISCIPLESHIP

Evaluate:

Once you have defined discipleship, evaluating your model is a valuable exercise to ensure that your church is living according to your agreed upon definition. The following five prompts are designed, not to be the final word, but to serve as a discussion starter for your leadership team.

5 PROMPTS TO GUIDE THE EVALUATION OF YOUR DISCIPLESHIP MODEL

INTENTIONAL: Everything that is said, sung, and done in the life of the church, from Sunday to Saturday is on purpose and centered around the mission and context of the church. Answer the question “Why do we do this?”

- Describe the context of our church.
- What is the mission of our church?
- How is our church strong with being intentional?
- How can our church become more intentional?

HOLISTIC: Being a disciple of Jesus affects every area of a person’s life: head, heart and hands. It includes and also goes beyond a curriculum and program, inside and outside the walls of the church building.

- How is our church strong with being holistic?
- How can our church become stronger with being holistic?

MULTIPLYING: Reproducing believers, leaders and churches.

- How is our church reproducing believers, leaders and churches?
- How can we strengthen our church in this area?

RELATIONAL: Values all three relationships in the Greatest Commandment, with God, others and ourselves.

- How is our church strong with being relational?
- How can our church become stronger with being relational?

LIFELONG: A person is never too young and never too old to be discipled. Start early, teaching children to be disciple-makers now and for the rest of their lives.

- How is our church strong in this area?
- How can we strengthen our church in this area?

Celebrating every time a disciple makes a disciple and a church multiplies itself until
The Wesleyan Church has a transforming presence in every zip code.