

APPENDIX 1

What Do Discipleship Group Meetings Look Like?

As you practice making disciples, you will come into a rhythm for how a group works. But if you need help getting started, here is a structure that we've learned works.

Your First Meeting

- 1) I use the Spiritual Journey Inventory (see Appendix 2).
- 2) I share my own testimony with the group. Then I instruct them to prepare their own testimonies to share with the group in the coming weeks.
- 3) I offer a few disclaimers:
 - a) Every disciple is a note-taker. You are not only learning for you; you're learning for the disciple you will make.
 - b) As we talk, don't be the person who monopolizes all of the time. Allow others to answer questions posed by the group.
- 4) I explain the Discipleship Covenant (see Appendix 3).

Every Week

I. Past

- a. Begin with prayer.
- b. Share highs and lows from the previous week.
- c. Recite memory verses.
- d. Recap your accountability goals from the previous week.

II. Present

- a. Personal insights from Bible reading: Share HEAR journals and hear how God is speaking to those in your group.

b. After discussing Scripture, you may like to read through another book as a group and spend some time discussing it. Here are a few books you may like to work through together:

i. *Discipleship Essentials*—Greg Ogden

ii. *Multiply*—Francis Chan

iii. *Follow Me*—David Platt

iv. *Christian Beliefs*—Wayne Grudem

III. Future

- a. Prepare a plan to practice what you've learned.
- b. Make some goals for the week. Make them measurable, achievable, and prepare to hold your members accountable to them.

IV. End in Prayer

APPENDIX 2

Sample Discipleship Group Covenant

I will commit to the following expectations:

- 1) I pledge myself fully to the Lord with the anticipation that I am entering a time of accelerated spiritual transformation.
- 2) I will meet with my discipleship group for approximately one and a half hours every week, unless providentially hindered.
- 3) I will complete all assignments on a weekly basis before my discipleship group meeting, in order to contribute to the discussion.
- 4) I will contribute to an atmosphere of confidentiality, honesty, and transparency for the edification of others in the group as well as my own spiritual growth.
- 5) I will pray every week for the other men/women who are on the discipleship journey with me.
- 6) I will begin praying about replicating the discipleship process upon completion of this group.

Signed Mentee _____

Signed Mentor _____

Date _____

APPENDIX 3

Foundations 260

Old and New Testament

Week 1

Genesis 1–2

Genesis 3–4

Genesis 6–7

Genesis 8–9

Job 1–2

Memory Verses:

Genesis 1:27

Hebrews 11:7

Week 2

Job 38–39

Job 40–42

Genesis 11–12

Genesis 15

Genesis 16–17

Memory Verses:

Hebrews 11:6

Hebrews 11:8–10

Week 3

Genesis 18–19

Genesis 20–21

Genesis 22

Genesis 24

Genesis 25:19–34; 26

Memory Verses:

Romans 4:20–22

Hebrews 11:17–19

Week 4

Genesis 27–28

Genesis 29–30:24

Genesis 31–32

Genesis 33; 35

Genesis 37

Memory Verses:

2 Corinthians 10:12

1 John 3:18

Week 5

Genesis 39–40

Genesis 41

Genesis 42–43

Genesis 44–45

Genesis 46–47

Memory Verses:

Romans 8:28–30

Ephesians 3:20–21

Week 6

Genesis 48–49

Genesis 50–Exodus 1

Exodus 2–3

Exodus 4–5

Exodus 6–7

Memory Verses:

Genesis 50:20

Hebrews 11:24–26

Week 7

Exodus 8–9
Exodus 10–11
Exodus 12
Exodus 13:17–14
Exodus 16–17

Memory Verses:

John 1:29
Hebrews 9:22

Week 8

Exodus 19–20
Exodus 24–25
Exodus 26–27
Exodus 28–29
Exodus 30–31

Memory Verses:

Exodus 20:1–3
Galatians 5:14

Week 9

Exodus 32–33
Exodus 34–36:1
Exodus 40
Leviticus 8–9
Leviticus 16–17

Memory Verses:

Exodus 33:16
Matthew 22:37–39

Week 10

Leviticus 23
Leviticus 26
Numbers 11–12
Numbers 13–14
Numbers 16–17

Memory Verses:

Leviticus 26:13
Deuteronomy 31:7–8

Week 11

Numbers 20; 27:12–23
Numbers 34–35
Deuteronomy 1–2
Deuteronomy 3–4
Deuteronomy 6–7

Memory Verses:

Deuteronomy 4:7
Deuteronomy 6:4–9

Week 12

Deuteronomy 8–9
Deuteronomy 30–31
Deuteronomy 32:48–52; 34
Joshua 1–2
Joshua 3–4

Memory Verses:

Joshua 1:8–9
Psalm 1:1–2

Week 13

Joshua 5:10–5; 6

Joshua 7–8

Joshua 23–24

Judges 2–3

Judges 4

Memory Verses:

Joshua 24:14–15

Judges 2:12

Week 14

Judges 6–7

Judges 13–14

Judges 15–16

Ruth 1–2

Ruth 3–4

Memory Verses:

Psalm 19:14

Galatians 4:4–5

Week 15

1 Samuel 1–2

1 Samuel 3; 8

1 Samuel 9–10

1 Samuel 13–14

1 Samuel 15–16

Memory Verses:

1 Samuel 15:22

1 Samuel 16:7

Week 16

1 Samuel 17–18

1 Samuel 19–20

1 Samuel 21–22

Psalm 22; 1 Samuel 24–25:1

1 Samuel 28; 31

Memory Verses:

1 Samuel 17:46–47

2 Timothy 4:17a

Week 17

2 Samuel 1; 2:1–7

2 Samuel 3:1; 5; Psalm 23

2 Samuel 6–7

Psalm 18; 2 Samuel 9

2 Samuel 11–12

Memory Verses:

Psalm 23:1–3

Psalm 51:10–13

Week 18

Psalm 51

2 Samuel 24; Psalm 24

Psalm 1; 19

Psalm 103; 119:1–48

Psalm 119:49–128

Memory Verses:

Psalm 1:1–7

Psalm 119:7–11

Week 19

Psalm 119:129–176; 139

Psalm 148–150

1 Kings 2

1 Kings 3; 6

1 Kings 8; 9:1–9

Memory Verses:

Psalm 139:1–3

Psalm 139:15–16

Week 20

Proverbs 1–2

Proverbs 3–4

Proverbs 16–18

Proverbs 31

1 Kings 11–12

Memory Verses:

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 3:5–6

Week 21

1 Kings 16:29–34; 17

1 Kings 18–19

1 Kings 21–22

2 Kings 2

2 Kings 5; 6:1–23

Memory Verses:

Psalm 17:15

Psalm 63:1

Week 22

Jonah 1–2

Jonah 3–4

Hosea 1–3

Amos 1:1; 9

Joel 1–3

Memory Verses:

Psalm 16:11

John 11:25–26

Week 23

Isaiah 6; 9

Isaiah 44–45

Isaiah 52–53

Isaiah 65–66

Micah 1; 4:6–13; 5

Memory Verses:

Isaiah 53:5–6

1 Peter 2:23–24

Week 24

2 Kings 17–18

2 Kings 19–21

2 Kings 22–23

Jeremiah 1–3:5

Jeremiah 25; 29

Memory Verses:

Proverbs 29:18

Jeremiah 1:15

Week 25

Jeremiah 31:31–40; 32–33
Jeremiah 52; 2 Kings 24–25
Ezekiel 1:1–3; 36:16–38; 37
Daniel 1–2
Daniel 3–4

Memory Verses:

Ezekiel 36:26–27
Daniel 4:35

Week 26

Daniel 5–6
Daniel 9–10; 12
Ezra 1–2
Ezra 3–4
Ezra 5–6

Memory Verses:

Daniel 6:26–27
Daniel 9:19

Week 27

Zechariah 1:1–6; 2; 12
Ezra 7–8
Ezra 9–10
Esther 1–2
Esther 3–4

Memory Verses:

Zephaniah 3:17
1 Peter 3:15

Week 28

Esther 5–7
Esther 8–10
Nehemiah 1–2
Nehemiah 3–4
Nehemiah 5–6

Memory Verses:

Deuteronomy 29:29
Psalm 101:3–4

Week 29

Nehemiah 7–8
Nehemiah 9
Nehemiah 10
Nehemiah 11
Nehemiah 12

Memory Verses:

Nehemiah 6:9
Nehemiah 9:6

Week 30

Nehemiah 13
Malachi 1
Malachi 2
Malachi 3
Malachi 4

Memory Verses:

Psalm 51:17
Colossians 1:19–20

Week 31

Luke 1
Luke 2
Matthew 1–2
Mark 1
John 1

Memory Verses:

John 1:1–2
John 1:14

Week 32

Matthew 3–4
Matthew 5
Matthew 6
Matthew 7
Matthew 8

Memory Verses:

Matthew 5:16
Matthew 6:33

Week 33

Luke 9:10–62
Mark 9–10
Luke 12
John 3–4
Luke 14

Memory Verses:

Luke 14:26–27
Luke 14:33

Week 34

John 6
Matthew 19:16–30
Luke 15–16
Luke 17:11–37; 18
Mark 10

Memory Verses:

Mark 10:45
John 6:37

Week 35

John 11; Matthew 21:1–13
John 13
John 14–15
John 16
Matthew 24:1–31

Memory Verse:

John 13:34–35
John 15:4–5

Week 36

Matthew 24:32–51
John 17
Matthew 26:35–27:31
Matthew 27:32–66; Luke
23:26–56
John 19

Memory Verses:

Luke 23:34
John 17:3

Week 37

Mark 16
Luke 24
John 20–21
Matthew 28
Acts 1

Memory Verses:

Matthew 28:18–20
Acts 1:8

Week 38

Acts 2–3
Acts 4–5
Acts 6
Acts 7
Acts 8–9

Memory Verses:

Acts 2:42
Acts 4:31

Week 39

Acts 10–11
Acts 12
Acts 13–14
James 1–2
James 3–5

Memory Verses:

James 1:2–4
James 2:17

Week 40

Acts 15–16
Galatians 1–3
Galatians 4–6
Acts 17–18:17
1 Thessalonians 1–2

Memory Verses:

Acts 17:11
Acts 17:24–25

Week 41

1 Thessalonians 3–5
2 Thessalonians 1–3
Acts 18:18–28; 19
1 Corinthians 1–2
1 Corinthians 3–4

Memory Verses:

1 Corinthians 1:18
1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

Week 42

1 Corinthians 5–6
1 Corinthians 7–8
1 Corinthians 9–10
1 Corinthians 11–12
1 Corinthians 13–14

Memory Verses:

1 Corinthians 10:13
1 Corinthians 13:13

Week 43

1 Corinthians 15–16
2 Corinthians 1–2
2 Corinthians 3–4
2 Corinthians 5–6
2 Corinthians 7–8

Memory Verses:

Romans 1:16–17
1 Corinthians 15:3–4

Week 44

2 Corinthians 9–10
2 Corinthians 11–13
Romans 1–2; Acts 20:1–3
Romans 3–4
Romans 5–6

Memory Verses:

Romans 5:1
2 Corinthians 10:4

Week 45

Romans 7–8
Romans 9–10
Romans 11–12
Romans 13–14
Romans 15–16

Memory Verses:

Romans 8:1
Romans 12:1–2

Week 46

Acts 20–21
Acts 22–23
Acts 24–25
Acts 26–27
Acts 28

Memory Verses:

Acts 20:24
2 Corinthians 4:7–10

Week 47

Colossians 1–2
Colossians 3–4
Ephesians 1–2
Ephesians 3–4
Ephesians 5–6

Memory Verses:

Ephesians 2:8–10
Colossians 2:6–7

Week 48

Philippians 1–2
Philippians 3–4
Hebrews 1–2
Hebrews 3–4
Hebrews 5
Hebrews 6

Memory Verses:

Philippians 3:7–8
Hebrews 4:14–16

Week 49

Hebrews 7
Hebrews 8–9
Hebrews 10
Hebrews 11
Hebrews 12

Memory Verses:

Galatians 2:19–20
2 Corinthians 5:17

Week 52

Revelation 1
Revelation 2–3
Revelation 4–5
Revelation 18–19
Revelation 20–22

Memory Verses:

Revelation 3:19
Revelation 21:3–4

Week 50

1 Timothy 1–3
1 Timothy 4–6
2 Timothy 1–2
2 Timothy 3–4
1 Peter 1–2

Memory Verses:

2 Timothy 2:1–2
2 Timothy 2:15

Week 51

1 Peter 3–4
1 Peter 5; 2 Peter 1
2 Peter 2–3
1 John 1–3
1 John 4–5

Memory Verses:

1 Peter 2:11
1 John 4:10–11

APPENDIX 4**Foundations 260****New Testament****Week 1**

Luke 1

Luke 2

Luke 3

Luke 4

Luke 5

Memorize:

Matthew 5:1–2

Week 4

Luke 16

Luke 17

Luke 18

Luke 19

Luke 20

Memorize:

Matthew 5:7–8

Week 7

Acts 7

Acts 8

Acts 9

Acts 10

Acts 11

Memorize:

Matthew 5:13–14

Week 2

Luke 6

Luke 7

Luke 8

Luke 9

Luke 10

Memorize:

Matthew 5:3–4

Week 5

Luke 21

Luke 22

Luke 23

Luke 24

Acts 1

Memorize:

Matthew 5:9–10

Week 8

Acts 12

Acts 13

Acts 14

James 1

James 2

Memorize:

Matthew 5:15–16

Week 3

Luke 11

Luke 12

Luke 13

Luke 14

Luke 15

Memorize:

Matthew 5:5–6

Week 6

Acts 2

Acts 3

Acts 4

Acts 5

Acts 6

Memorize:

Matthew 5:11–12

Week 9

James 3

James 4

James 5

Acts 15

Acts 16

Memorize:

Matthew 5:17–18

Week 10

Galatians 1
Galatians 2
Galatians 3
Galatians 4
Galatians 5

Memorize:

Matthew 5:19–20

Week 14

1 Corinthians 4
1 Corinthians 5
1 Corinthians 6
1 Corinthians 7
1 Corinthians 8

Memorize:

Matthew 5:27–28

Week 18

2 Corinthians 8
2 Corinthians 9
2 Corinthians 10
2 Corinthians 11
2 Corinthians 12

Memorize:

Matthew 5:36–37

Week 11

Galatians 6
Acts 17
Acts 18
1 Thessalonians 1
1 Thessalonians 2

Memorize:

Matthew 5:21–22

Week 15

1 Corinthians 9
1 Corinthians 10
1 Corinthians 11
1 Corinthians 12
1 Corinthians 13

Memorize:

Matthew 5:29–30

Week 19

2 Corinthians 13
Mark 1
Mark 2
Mark 3
Mark 4

Memorize:

Matthew 5:38–39

Week 12

1 Thessalonians 3
1 Thessalonians 4
1 Thessalonians 5
2 Thessalonians 1
2 Thessalonians 2

Memorize:

Matthew 5:23–24

Week 16

1 Corinthians 14
1 Corinthians 15
1 Corinthians 16
2 Corinthians 1
2 Corinthians 2

Memorize:

Matthew 5:31–32

Week 20

Mark 5
Mark 6
Mark 7
Mark 8
Mark 9

Memorize:

Matthew 5:40–42

Week 13

2 Thessalonians 3
Acts 19
1 Corinthians 1
1 Corinthians 2
1 Corinthians 3

Memorize:

Matthew 5:25–26

Week 17

2 Corinthians 3
2 Corinthians 4
2 Corinthians 5
2 Corinthians 6
2 Corinthians 7

Memorize:

Matthew 5:33–35

Week 21

Mark 10
Mark 11
Mark 12
Mark 13
Mark 14

Memorize:

Matthew 5:43–44

Week 22

Mark 15
 Mark 16
 Romans 1
 Romans 2
 Romans 3

Memorize:

Matthew 5:45–46

Week 26

Acts 22
 Acts 23
 Acts 24
 Acts 25
 Acts 26

Memorize:

Matthew 6:5–6

Week 30

Philippians 4
 Philemon
 Hebrews 1
 Hebrews 2
 Hebrews 3

Memorize:

Matthew 6:14–15

Week 23

Romans 4
 Romans 5
 Romans 6
 Romans 7
 Romans 8

Memorize:

Matthew 5:47–48

Week 27

Acts 27
 Acts 28
 Colossians 1
 Colossians 2
 Colossians 3

Memorize:

Matthew 6:7–8

Week 31

Hebrews 4
 Hebrews 5
 Hebrews 6
 Hebrews 7
 Hebrews 8

Memorize:

Matthew 6:16–18

Week 24

Romans 9
 Romans 10
 Romans 11
 Romans 12
 Romans 13

Memorize:

Matthew 6:1–2

Week 28

Colossians 4
 Ephesians 1
 Ephesians 2
 Ephesians 3
 Ephesians 4

Memorize:

Matthew 6:9–11

Week 32

Hebrews 9
 Hebrews 10
 Hebrews 11
 Hebrews 12
 Hebrews 13

Memorize:

Matthew 6:19–21

Week 25

Romans 14
 Romans 15
 Romans 16
 Acts 20
 Acts 21

Memorize:

Matthew 6:3–4

Week 29

Ephesians 5
 Ephesians 6
 Philippians 1
 Philippians 2
 Philippians 3

Memorize:

Matthew 6:12–13

Week 33

1 Timothy 1
 1 Timothy 2
 1 Timothy 3
 1 Timothy 4
 1 Timothy 5

Memorize:

Matthew 6:22–24

Week 34

1 Timothy 6
 2 Timothy 1
 2 Timothy 2
 2 Timothy 3
 2 Timothy 4

Memorize:

Matthew 6:25–26

Week 38

John 5
 John 6
 John 7
 John 8
 John 9

Memorize:

Matthew 6:33–34

Week 42

1 John 4
 1 John 5
 2 John
 3 John
 Jude

Memorize:

Matthew 7:7–8

Week 35

Titus 1
 Titus 2
 Titus 3
 1 Peter 1
 1 Peter 2

Memorize:

Matthew 6:27–28

Week 39

John 10
 John 11
 John 12
 John 13
 John 14

Memorize:

Matthew 7:1–2

Week 43

Revelation 1
 Revelation 2
 Revelation 3
 Revelation 4
 Revelation 5

Memorize:

Matthew 7:9–10

Week 36

1 Peter 3
 1 Peter 4
 1 Peter 5
 2 Peter 1
 2 Peter 2

Memorize:

Matthew 6:29–30

Week 40

John 15
 John 16
 John 17
 John 18
 John 19

Memorize:

Matthew 7:3–4

Week 44

Revelation 6
 Revelation 7
 Revelation 8
 Revelation 9
 Revelation 10

Memorize:

Matthew 7:11–12

Week 37

2 Peter 3
 John 1
 John 2
 John 3
 John 4

Memorize:

Matthew 6:31–32

Week 41

John 20
 John 21
 1 John 1
 1 John 2
 1 John 3

Memorize:

Matthew 7:5–6

Week 45

Revelation 11
 Revelation 12
 Revelation 13
 Revelation 14
 Revelation 15

Memorize:

Matthew 7:13–14

Week 46

Revelation 16

Revelation 17

Revelation 18

Revelation 19

Revelation 20

Memorize:

Matthew 7:15–16

Week 47

Revelation 21

Revelation 22

Matthew 1

Matthew 2

Matthew 3

Memorize:

Matthew 7:17–18

Week 48

Matthew 4

Matthew 5

Matthew 6

Matthew 7

Matthew 8

Memorize:

Matthew 7:19–20

Week 49

Matthew 9

Matthew 10

Matthew 11

Matthew 12

Matthew 13

Memorize:

Matthew 7:21–23

Week 50

Matthew 14

Matthew 15

Matthew 16

Matthew 17

Matthew 18

Memorize:

Matthew 7:24–25

Week 51

Matthew 19

Matthew 20

Matthew 21

Matthew 22

Matthew 23

Memorize:

Matthew 7:26–27

Week 52

Matthew 24

Matthew 25

Matthew 26

Matthew 27

Matthew 28

Memorize:

Matthew 7:28–29

APPENDIX 5

A Condensed List of Christ's Commands

- 1) **Repent**—Matthew 4:17; Luke 13:3
- 2) **Let not your heart be troubled**—John 14:27; John 16:33; Matthew 6:25–26 (also Philippians 4:6–7)
- 3) **Follow Me**—Matthew 4:19
- 4) **Rejoice**—Matthew 5:12 (also 2 Corinthians 6:10; 12:10; James 1:2–4)
- 5) **Let your light shine**—Matthew 5:16
- 6) **Honor God's law**—Matthew 5:17–19
- 7) **Be reconciled**—Matthew 5:24–25
- 8) **Do not commit adultery**—Matthew 5:27–30
- 9) **Keep your word**—Matthew 5:33–37
- 10) **Go the second mile**—Matthew 5:38–42
- 11) **Love your enemies**—Matthew 5:44
- 12) **Be perfect**—Matthew 5:48
- 13) **Practice secret disciplines** (giving, praying, fasting)—Matthew 6:1–18
- 14) **Lay up treasures in heaven**—Matthew 6:19–21
- 15) **Seek first the kingdom of God**—Matthew 6:33
- 16) **Judge not**—Matthew 7:1–2
- 17) **Do not throw your pearls to pigs**—Matthew 7:6
- 18) **Ask, seek, and knock**—Matthew 7:7–8
- 19) **Do unto others**—Matthew 7:12
- 20) **Choose the narrow way**—Matthew 7:13–14
- 21) **Beware of false prophets**—Matthew 7:15

- 22) **Pray for those who spread the Word**—Matthew 9:37–38
- 23) **Be as shrewd as serpents**—Matthew 10:16 (also Romans 16:19)
- 24) **Fear God; do not fear man**—Matthew 10:28 (also Luke 12:4–5)
- 25) **Listen to God’s voice**—Matthew 11:15; 13:9; 13:43; Mark 4:23; Luke 14:35 (also 1 Kings 19:11–13)
- 26) **Take My yoke**—Matthew 11:29
- 27) **Honor your parents**—Matthew 15:4
- 28) **Beware of false teaching**—Matthew 16:6, 11–12
- 29) **Deny yourself**—Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23 (also Matthew 10:38)
- 30) **Do not despise little ones**—Matthew 18:10
- 31) **Go to Christians who offend you**—Matthew 18:15 (also Galatians 6:1)
- 32) **Forgive offenders**—Matthew 18:21–22 (also Proverbs 19:11)
- 33) **Beware of covetousness**—Luke 12:15
- 34) **Honor marriage**—Matthew 19:6; 19:9
- 35) **Lead by being a servant**—Matthew 20:26–28
- 36) **Make the church a house of prayer for all nations**—Mark 11:17
- 37) **Pray in faith**—Matthew 21:21–22; John 15:7
- 38) **Bring in the poor**—Luke 14:12–14
- 39) **Render unto Caesar**—Matthew 22:19–21
- 40) **Love the Lord**—Matthew 22:37–38
- 41) **Love your neighbor**—Matthew 22:39
- 42) **Be born again**—John 3:7

- 43) **Await My return**—Matthew 24:42–44
- 44) **Celebrate the Lord's Supper**—Matthew 26:26–27
- 45) **Watch and pray**—Matthew 26:41
- 46) **Keep My commandments**—John 14:15
- 47) **Feed My sheep**—John 21:15–16
- 48) **Make and baptize disciples**—Matthew 28:19
- 49) **Teach disciples to obey**—Matthew 28:20
- 50) **Receive God's power**—Luke 24:49

APPENDIX 6

Next Gen Disciple-Making

When it comes to making disciples of those age eighteen and below (Next Gen ministry), there are some specific elements of the process that will need to be adjusted. While we have seen the Discipleship Pathway implemented in youth ministry and kids' ministry, there are aspects of the process that require a different approach than the adult ministries. The material in this book can be incorporated into any ministry area, but due to the challenges of Next Gen ministries, we want to address some of the major concerns. The goal is to help those serving in Next Gen ministry to adapt and implement disciple-making effectively.

Alignment

The most important factor for effective disciple-making in regard to Next Gen ministry is alignment. Alignment can be tricky due to the different ways groups of people learn and grow in ministry. Kids and teenagers have different needs than adults. The goal with alignment in disciple-making is not necessarily to get everyone doing the same thing (although that can be helpful); it is to get every ministry area on the same pathway. When it comes to Next Gen ministries, they should have the same Discipleship Pathway as the rest of the church: Congregation, Community, Core, and Crowd. However, the ministry that is done to facilitate each step on the Pathway may shift due to the ages and needs of the individual. For example, in the Core step (Discipleship Groups) on the pathway adults disciple other adults whereas in Next Gen ministry, kids should be discipled by their parents. Additionally, teenagers aren't the best option for

leading discipleship groups of other teenagers. There are many reasons for this, but primarily due to the accountability element of discipleship groups and the spiritual maturity required. There are always exceptions, but we would encourage churches to tread carefully due to the nature of what is shared in discipleship groups and how leaders deal with potential legal issues.

In order to help Next Gen ministries be effective at disciple-making, there are some specific caveats to consider along each step of the Discipleship Pathway:

Worship

Gathering to worship collectively under the preaching of God's Word is a critical step along the Pathway. While kids and teenagers may attend worship with their parents, some churches provide worship opportunities that are age specific. Considering this, you may want to allow that age-specific gathering to count as the first step along the pathway, or you may want to encourage kids and teenagers to attend worship with their parents. Either approach will work based upon your context. There are a couple of factors to consider regardless of which approach you choose.

1. Work to align the teaching with the same passage or topic used for the adults. Many Next Gen ministries use their own scope and sequence of teaching apart from the adults. Due to the specific needs of kids and teenagers, this makes sense. But in order to maximize alignment and provide the most effective connectivity for families, using the same topic or passage for all ages is an easy way to help parents disciple their children. Since they are generally learning the same things, they have a clear starting point for discussion. Rather than first finding out

what their child learned then trying to engage them, parents are able to share what they learned and engage with their children immediately from this common ground.

2. Synergy is crucial for thriving and growing ministry. Synergy happens when all ministries within the church are connecting and moving in the same direction. While alignment is helpful for content and equipping families to be on the same pathway, synergy is helpful for reinforcing and enhancing spiritual growth across the church. As staff and lay leadership serve to connect the ministries along the Pathway, creativity and focus coalesce, driving the unity and vision forward. Synergy is difficult to capture when each ministry area is doing its own thing with its own focus and its own process.

Biblical Community

Next Gen is just as in need of biblical community as the adults in the church. Life Groups, as described in the Community section of the Pathway (pages 140–44), are equally as important for kids and teenagers. But again, due to the age specific needs and context, there will be some alterations to the process. Youth ministry and kids' ministry should have groups designed to provide the opportunity to pray, study the Word, etc. When working with children, it is critical that safety and care are foundational to your strategy. It probably means that every leader must go through some sort of training and accountability process. Each of these added elements will shape how you are able to minister to the Next Gen in your church, especially in the Life Groups step along the Pathway. Regardless of how you decide to structure your groups, the key is to ensure that the elements of healthy

biblical community (these are found on pages 142–46) are present within the structure.

Discipleship Groups

When it comes to discipleship groups for Next Gen, there are some key alterations to the process. First, when it comes to elementary aged children and younger, we would encourage churches to allow the parents to serve as disciplers of their children rather than providing a ministry program or process. This does not discount the benefit of having Sunday morning or midweek programming for kids, such as Sunday school, but in the context of discipleship groups, parents should be the first option. To help with this, you can provide parents with tools like the Foundations for Kids reading plan and, again, aligning the passage or topic taught each week across the church from the pulpit to every group. These are steps that will immediately equip parents.

Of course, there are those children in the church whose parents will not disciple them or perhaps whose parents aren't believers. Depending on your context, this may be a large number or a small number of the children to whom you minister. To help with this, make sure you aren't assuming the true number of children who have parents who will not engage. Our ministry should not be an excuse for parents to disengage. Making it easier for families is not the same as helping families. Ensure that your process is not an excuse to become a place where parents outsource their responsibility to disciple their children. For those children who really are in need of additional focus due to their lack of a Christian parent in the home, you can provide the following elements in your existing programming:

- Take time each week to go over a Bible reading plan. Provide a plan that everyone can use (the Foundations 260 and Foundations 260 NT plans are available on the Replicate.org website for free download). Even if parents aren't walking their children through the reading plan, this will help them have accountability and encouragement to read the Bible for themselves.
- Teach kids and teenagers the HEAR method. and use it whenever you study the Word whether it's in Sunday school, Life Group, at someone's house, a retreat, or even camp. Help them develop this process (HEAR) of applying the Word.
- Encourage Scripture memory. Don't make it legalistic or programmatic, but help children learn to hide God's Word in their hearts.
- Provide action steps for kids to take regarding what they are learning from the Word. Again, this shouldn't be focused on our works, but it should help kids understand how to live out the life of a disciple.

Discipleship groups for teenagers present a unique challenge. Depending on your context and ministry leadership potential, you may want teenagers to continue to be discipled by their parents just as with the elementary aged children. We have worked with a number of churches who start the discipleship group process after age 18 and equip and help parents until that time. But in some contexts, you may be able to launch discipleship groups for your teenagers. This is possible, but it requires a bit more work. Here are some criteria we would suggest if you choose to implement discipleship groups among teenagers:

- Recruit spiritually mature adult leaders to lead the groups. In the standard discipleship group process, you would have the leader find three to five others to be in the group. Due to the accountability questions and maturity of teenagers, you should have adults leading the groups.
- Determine at what age or grade your discipleship groups for teenagers will begin. Some churches begin at the high school level while others start groups for middle schoolers. This should be determined by your church's leadership.
- The length of discipleship groups for teenagers might be extended due to the nature of their stage of life. Rather than twelve to eighteen months, you may want to have these groups meet for twenty-four months. With teenagers, it may take longer for them to engage in the process and with school and semester cycles, the longer term could be helpful. Additionally, consider the school schedule of teenagers when planning your discipleship groups. We have found that taking the summer months off or meeting less often helps with the school schedule of teenagers and their families. This means you may want to start your groups in the fall, coinciding with the start of school, and take the summers and part of the Christmas season off. Life for teenagers is just as hectic as it is for adults, but because of the general cycle of school, you can maximize their current schedules to be more effective with discipleship groups.
- When you have a spiritually mature teenager who is capable of leading a discipleship group, you can equip him or her to lead. This group should still have an adult leader, but the adult will hand off the group meeting leadership to the student while serving as an adult member of the group. This way you can begin to raise up students while

ensuring you have the supervision of an adult leader in the group as well.

- When it comes to multiplication of groups, the goal would be to get the group members to pray and find their three to five friends for their next group. The ministry will then need to recruit and equip additional leaders for each new group that launches.

Missions and Serving

The Crowds step along the Discipleship Pathway is focused on helping people live on mission and serve as part of the church body. Kids and teenagers are not exempt from serving and being mobilized for mission. Next Gen ministries often participate in serving opportunities that are age appropriate and mission trips and opportunities as well. The key to flesh out this step on the Pathway for kids and teenagers is simply to ensure you are intentional about it. We often lower the bar for our Next Gen ministries when we should be raising it. Often kids and teenagers want to serve and have opportunities just like the adults. As we help our whole church take the next step on the Pathway, don't diminish the opportunity for ministry and missions for the next generation.

NOTES

An Introduction You Can't Skip

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