

# Intentional Discipleship Church (IDC) Process



Discipleship is a process of growth. It is a lifelong pursuit of following Christ. Many churches want to make disciples but don't have the empowering environment or the resources. CDM has identified nine components that are essential for discipleship to take place in successive generations.

We invite you to utilize our tools and resources as your church pursues intentional discipling.

Our resources may be utilized individually, or experienced in a comprehensive process which is tailored to the distinctives of your church.

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## Foundation

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**Pray, Team** and **Assess** make up the **Foundation**. It is absolutely vital that these dynamics be in place to begin and to sustain an effective process of Intentional Disciplemaking in the church.

- **PRAY** The Foundation of the Process begins with Prayer. We first address the prayer life of the leaders; re-invigorating them in developing intimacy with the Lord, renewing their Quiet Times. In addition, creating a corporate prayer focus for the church's mission and vision is critical. Regular updates on the progress by the leaders provide additional motivation to pray and to be part of the process by the congregation.
- **TEAM** Teaming is very important for the leaders. Out of a strong devotional practice, one's understanding and security in their design emerges. At the beginning of teambuilding is understanding one's own design and gifted contribution and that of others as well. Teaming must be strong among the leaders to handle the stresses they will encounter and to be able to come to agreement on critical issues and live in unity.
- **ASSESS** Assessment is essential to benchmark church health and effectiveness. It also will reveal the discipling needs of the church. As the church moves through the IDC Process, additional assessment needs to be done to measure progress. In addition, assessment needs to continue at regular intervals to provide vital information to the church leaders to continue to aid them in leading the church to be effective and intentional.

If we were merely bringing an organizational process to the church, then the foundation components would not be a necessity. But what we are after is a lot more significant than that. It is a systemic spiritual change and alignment of all ministries of the church with the Great Commandment, to love God, and the Great Commission, to make disciples.

## Components Overview

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**Mission** - The conceptual component of the IDC process that brings discipling into the centrality of what the church does.

**Spiritual Maturity** - A picture, a profile, and definition of what a mature disciple of Jesus Christ looks like including the process and materials.

**Outreach** - A Comprehensive Church Implementation Of Individual And Group Evangelism Strategies That Are Facilitated By Church Group Infrastructure Resulting In Fruit.

**Leadership** - A picture, a profile of what a discipling leader of Jesus Christ looks like including the process and materials for developing the leader.

**Small Groups** - The small group environment is a critical part of the church. Small groups are where people experience community for growth and fruitfulness.

**Life-To-Life** - The practice of giving away your life to others from the overflow of your relationship with Christ by investing in them through your walk with god, from the scriptures.

# Growth Stage Assessment

<b>4</b> <b>Proficient</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> The entire church is functioning around the mission of making disciples among the lost	<input type="checkbox"/> The church body is known to outsiders for its faith, hope, and love (I Thess.)	<input type="checkbox"/> The primary growth of the church is through conversions	<input type="checkbox"/> Generations of leaders are using their gifts to equip the church	<input type="checkbox"/> Discipleship training groups and missional groups are consistently multiplying	<input type="checkbox"/> The majority of members are in discipling relationships and there is third generation fruit
<b>3</b> <b>Pervasive</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> The church has a clear mission, core values, and vision, with relational structures to support them	<input type="checkbox"/> Most members are involved in spiritual growth disciplines	<input type="checkbox"/> Members are beginning to live and disciple among the lost	<input type="checkbox"/> The intentional leadership process is in place to equip emerging leaders	<input type="checkbox"/> Training groups, missional groups, and other groups are interdependent and aligned with the mission	<input type="checkbox"/> Second generation laborers are involved in Life-to-Life discipleship
<b>2</b> <b>Present</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Church leadership is committed to and modeling discipling	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal spiritual growth is modeled and emphasized by leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Leaders model outreach and are equipping others to do it	<input type="checkbox"/> The primary leadership role is prayer and ministry of the Word (Acts 6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Model discipleship training groups have been established by leaders	<input type="checkbox"/> Life-to-Life discipleship is being modeled by leadership
<b>1</b> <b>Potential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Some are passionate about and practicing the Great Commandment and Great Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Some are involved in intentional spiritual growth opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Leaders evidence a heart for those without Christ	<input type="checkbox"/> Someone on the leadership team is championing the discipling process	<input type="checkbox"/> Some form of Small Group ministry exists	<input type="checkbox"/> Some are practicing Life-to-Life ministry with positive observable results
	<b>Mission</b>	<b>Spiritual Maturity</b>	<b>Out-reach</b>	<b>Leadership</b>	<b>Small Groups</b>	<b>Life-To-Life</b>

## IDC Components

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### ***Life-To-Life***

By **life-to-life** we mean –

The practice of giving away your life to others from the overflow of your relationship with Christ by investing in them through your walk with God, from the Scriptures and from your life and ministry experiences, in ways that encourage and enable them to invest their lives in others also. An intentional discipling church realizes that personal involvement is key to authentic life-change.

Jesus, his disciples, and the early church used this approach. Kingdom principles became real and alive to people through these life-to-life mentoring relationships.

Our staff will assist you in understanding and effectively employing this mentoring process in your church.

### **☞ How is life-to-life ministry developing in your church? ☞**

1. Some are practicing life-to-life ministry with positive observable results
2. Life -to-life discipleship is modeled by the leadership
3. Second generation believers are involved in life-to-life discipleship
4. Majority of members are in discipling relationships and are seeing third generational fruit

## **Small Groups**

An intentional discipling church emphasizes the **Small Group** environment as a critical part of the church. Small groups are where people experience community for growth and fruitfulness.

Groups can recruit and bond new people into the church.

They can establish and build new Christians into followers of Christ. And they can train and develop disciples to minister and serve most effectively.

Group Structures in the church are extremely important for the support of your church's mission, values and vision.

Each type of group structure needs to be intentionally developed and aligned with the Mission of your church, especially Small Groups and Life-to-Life, as this is where the greatest level of intimacy, accountability and spiritual growth occurs in the church.

(Mid-size groups are equally important and strategies for them need to be developed that align them with your mission, values and vision, as well.)

Fruitfulness and intentionality in a church become a reality through the development of Relational Groups that support the church's mission, values and vision, especially in the areas of Small Groups and Life-to-Life.

### **☞ How is your church using Small Groups? ☞**

1. Some form of small group ministry exists
2. Model discipleship training groups have been established by leaders
3. Training groups and other groups are interdependent and aligned with the mission of our church
4. Discipleship training groups are consistently multiplying

## **Leadership**

**Leadership** - Leadership is that component that empowers the entire process of Intentional Disciplemaking.

Leadership development ensures the on-going modeling of your church's values in your leaders. This is so critical to the motivation of others. It also ensures the increasing skill level of your leaders that is so critical to effective leadership of others.

**Leadership** for an intentional disciplemaking church deals with developing a:

**Leadership Profile** - What does a mature leader look like, man or woman, in the areas of knowledge, character, skill and vision, in addition to the discipleship qualities already identified in the Maturity process.

**Leadership Process** - The development experiences for producing a leader need to be identified, put in place and supported by the church's Relational Infrastructure, which includes a Leadership Community group.

- A leadership **Personal Development Plan** needs to be developed, which facilitates a leader's taking personal responsibility in his or her own development.
- **Advanced Bible Study** skills also need to be addressed for the development of convictions in the life of a leader. This segment will be developed through Advanced Bible Study skills in studying the book of 1 Thessalonians.

### ☞ **How is your church doing in developing its leaders?** ☞

1. Someone on the leadership team champions the disciplemaking process
2. The primary role of leadership is prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6)
3. Intentional leadership process is in place, equipping emerging leaders
4. Generations of leaders are using their gifts to equip the church

## **Outreach**

**Outreach** - A church needs to develop a comprehensive Outreach Strategy.

By use of our Authentic Evangelism Seminar, we will facilitate your church in the development of such a comprehensive outreach strategy involving individual, group and total church dynamics.

**Church Relational Infrastructure** (groups) need to be aligned to support this outreach component. Your church will be facilitated in developing this critical aspect as well, the practical use of large, mid-size, small groups and life-to-life to effectively embrace and practice outreach.

### **☞ How is your church doing in Outreach? ☞**

1. Leaders evidence a heart for those without Christ
2. Leaders model outreach and equip others to do it
3. Intentional outreach strategies are starting to bear fruit
4. Primary growth of the church is through conversions

## ***Spiritual Maturity***

**Spiritual Maturity** addresses --

- **Maturity Profile** - What does a mature disciple look like, man or woman, in the areas of knowledge, character, skill and vision.
- **Maturity Process** - What are the development pieces for producing a disciple and what relational groups you will use to accomplish your strategy, such as small groups, mid-size groups, and Life-to-Life?
- **Discipleship Material** - Discipleship material needs to be selected and leaders trained to facilitate the development of disciples. We primarily utilize [In God's Family](#) (formerly called The 2:7 Series\*).
- In addition, disciples need to be equipped to build other disciples. We utilize the [Adventure of Discipling Others](#) for this disciple equipping process.

\*One of the most widely used discipling tools in the world. It develops the habits, skills, and character of a maturing disciple while providing accountability in the context of grace and love.

## **Mission**

At the heart of the church is its **MISSION** - What has God called your church to do? What is the aim or mission of your church; what are your core beliefs to guide you; what relational group structures are needed to support your beliefs; and what is your vision for the future?

**MISSION** deals with --

- Purpose - To glorify God
- Mission - Proclaim the Gospel and make disciples
- Values - The passionate, core beliefs and assumptions
- Vision - Your dream or a picture of where you are going and the Relational Structures to support your values

These four aspects of **MISSION** need to be clearly developed, understood, communicated and owned, or embraced, to be of significance to the church and guide its direction.

**The Mission Component** addresses all of these issues and facilitates the leaders in the development of each including: Mission, Core Values and Vision, including **Relational Group Structures** (by Relational Group Structures we are referring to large groups, mid-size groups, small groups and life-to-life).

### **☞ Where is your church in understanding its mission? ☞**

1. Some are passionate and practicing the Great Commandment and Great Commission
2. Leadership is committed to and modeling discipling
3. Clear mission, core values and vision with relational structures are in place to support them
4. Entire church is functioning around the mission of making disciples