

# WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

## Simple Definition

Discipleship is so simple that two thousand years ago, a carpenter explained it to uneducated fishermen in one sentence;

And He said to the, "follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

When Jesus calls someone to be His disciples, He makes a threefold call;

### 1. Discipleship is a call to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

The starting point of being a disciple is the decision to follow Jesus. This truth is founded on the original disciples of Jesus who physically and spiritually followed Him. They surrendered their life to Him and followed Him as their Lord.

Discipleship ministry is our spiritual care for others to make them follow Jesus.

### 2. Discipleship is a call \_\_\_\_\_ for people.

Discipleship is equipping believers to reach out people and lead them to Christ. If we follow Christ it does not mean that we should cut off our contact with non-believers. Rather, we should continue in our relationships with them so that Christ's love can flow through us to them.

As soon as Matthew answered the call to follow Jesus, he threw a party at his house so all his old friends could meet Jesus, including his friends.

#### Matthew 9:9-13

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus passed by from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax collection office. He said to him, "Follow me." He got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup> As he sat in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw it, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick

do. <sup>13</sup> But you go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' for I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Discipleship ministry is our spiritual care for others to equip them to reach out others and lead them to Jesus (evangelize).

**3. Discipleship is a call to \_\_\_\_\_ with other believers .**

When Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, he had to follow along with Peter and John. He was not given an option to follow Jesus alone. The early disciples lived with meaningful relationship with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ and co-workers in the God's vineyard.

Biblical fellowship is more than greeting a few church members before and after the service. Real fellowship is a Christ-centered relationship.

Acts 4:12

And they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Discipleship ministry is our spiritual care for all the believers under our care to make them connected to each other and form a strong bond of followers.

**FOUNDATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLES**

**1. Every person is \_\_\_\_\_ to God.**

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

God places a high value on lost people . We must also learn to see them the way He sees them.

Matthew 9:36

When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd.

**2. Every church can \_\_\_\_\_**

1 Corinthians 3:6-8

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave them the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor.

We, (as members of the same church) are working together and helping one another for common purpose in the Lord's work. The purpose of planting and watering is growth. When discussing growth, we believe that Brampton Lighthouse Christian Ministries can grow in three ways.

1. Deeper
2. Stronger
3. Larger

**3. Every minister should prepare others to \_\_\_\_\_**

Ephesians 4:11-12

<sup>11</sup> It was He Who "gave gifts to people"; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ.

Clearly in these verses, God is equipping all the saints for the work of ministry. In the church, God is equipping the saints through the shepherd (Pastor).

**4. Every disciple should make \_\_\_\_\_**

Matthew 28:18-19

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ."

Jesus' command to make disciples was given to the disciples. They were just ordinary people. Spiritual progress, not perfection, qualifies a person to make disciples.

- No matter where you work
- No matter what your age
- No matter when you started following Jesus

**THE DISCIPLESCHIP PROCESS**

- Because lost people matter to God, we should \_\_\_\_\_ our church to people.
- Because every church will grow as it is built on Christ, we should \_\_\_\_\_ it on biblical foundations.
- Because ministry is not only for full-time ministers, we should \_\_\_\_\_ believers to minister.
- Because everyone is called to make disciples, we should \_\_\_\_\_ disciples to make disciples.

## DISCIPLESHIP PARADIGM



Each principle has a set of tools designed to help accomplish the corresponding goal for each part of the discipleship process.

Though each component of BLCM's discipleship process is presented separately, it is important to view the discipleship process as continuous.

Because we believe that discipleship is best done in a group context, the primary way to make disciples is through Cell Groups.

PROCESS	GOAL	TOOLS/ ENVIRONMENTS
<p><b>ENGAGE the church to People</b> (Luke 15:1-7 1 Corinthians 9:22)</p>	<p>Preach the Gospel</p>	<p>Cell Group Bible Bridge illustration One verse Evangelism</p>
<p><b>ESTABLISH Biblical Foundations</b> (Matthew 7:24-27 1 Corinthians 3:10)</p>	<p>Establish the believers in the faith</p>	<p>Cell Group Bible Sunday Worship Service</p>
<p><b>EQUIP Believers to Minister</b> (Matthew 4:19 Ephesians 4:11-13)</p>	<p>Equip the believers with skills to do ministry</p>	<p>Cell Group Bible</p>
<p><b>EMPOWER Disciples to Make Disciples</b> (Matthew 28:19-20 2 Timothy 2:2)</p>	<p>Make the disciples confident, competent and effective</p>	<p>Cell Group Bible</p>

## ENGAGE

Our goal here is to evangelize.

The first step in the discipleship process is to engage our church in people. When our church is engaged to people, we can easily and practically share the Gospel.

Matthew 28:19

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

### 1. Be a friend of \_\_\_\_\_

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables which help us understand what it looks like to engage the church to the lost. In order to effectively engage to the lost, we must understand four key concepts;

Luke 15:1-2

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming close to Him to hear Him. <sup>2</sup>The Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, “This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.”

Setting up the context for the parables, Luke describes a situation that occurred rather frequently in Jesus’ life and ministry: Jesus was found spending time with religious outsiders, tax collectors, prostitutes, Samaritans, and lepers. This intentional engagement with lost people earned Him the pejorative label “friend of sinners.”

Luke 7:34

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’

## 2. Leave the \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 15:3-6

<sup>3</sup> He told them this parable. <sup>4</sup> “Which of you men, if you had one hundred sheep, and lost one of them, wouldn’t leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one that was lost, until he found it? <sup>5</sup> When he has found it, he carries it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> When he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’

Engaging the lost usually involves moving out of our comfort zones. Why? Because lost people generally don’t hang out in the same places that Christians do.

Jesus gave the greatest demonstration of engaging when He left the streets of gold in heaven to walk on the dirty roads of Roman Empire. Showing up on earth was just the beginning. While here, He was the expert at engaging all types of people.

## 3. Don’t quit \_\_\_\_\_ the lost are found .

Luke 15:4

“Which of you men, if you had one hundred sheep, and lost one of them, wouldn’t leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one that was lost, until he found it?

Luke 15:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Or what woman, if she had ten drachma coins, if she lost one drachma coin, wouldn’t light a lamp, sweep the house, and seek diligently until she found it? <sup>9</sup> When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the drachma which I had lost.’

Just like the shepherd who went out and searched for the lost sheep until he found it, and just like the woman who searched her house until she found the lost coin, so we should persistently pray for and engage the lost until they are found in Christ. This often involves building long term relational bridges with lost people.

#### 4. Celebrate the lost being \_\_\_\_\_

##### Luke 15:5-6

<sup>5</sup> When he has found it, he carries it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> When he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'

##### Luke 15:9-10

<sup>9</sup> When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the drachma which I had lost.'<sup>10</sup> Even so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner repenting."

##### Luke 15:20-24

<sup>20</sup> "He arose, and came to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe, and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat, and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this, my son, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost, and is found.' They began to celebrate.

All these three parables have this in common – there is great rejoicing when the lost are found.

The parable of the lost son gives us the fullest insight into how our Father responds when sinners repent. He throws a party.

Engaging the church with people will result in the lost being found as the Gospel is preached.

## HOW TO PREACH THE GOSPEL?

Because people are valuable to God, we must boldly, intentionally and strategically engage our church to them in order to have an opportunity to preach the Gospel.

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ a conversation

Preaching the Gospel begins by starting a conversation and getting to know someone who doesn't know Jesus yet.

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ questions

Ask questions about the person that lead to spiritual matters, in an effort to help inch the person closer towards God.

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Listen sincerely and respectfully to the answers.

### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ the story

Ultimately, the goal of the asking and listening is to give the Good News of salvation. Do this by sharing your two-minute testimony and giving a simple and clear presentation of the Gospel.

## YOUR TESTIMONY

Your testimony is your personal irrefutable account of what Jesus has done for you and how He changed your life. It is a verbal declaration of what you have seen, heard, and experienced. Jesus will use Your testimony to make an impact on others. Though people can argue about doctrines or teachings, no one can argue with a changed live.

### Luke 8:38-39

<sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

## A GOOD TESTIMONY

- makes God a hero
- is biblically accurate
- Provides concrete examples of change
- is simple

### Three Parts of Your Testimony

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ

What sins, beliefs, and actions characterized your old life? What were their consequences?

- Briefly describe your life before Christ
- Be Discreet and don't bring glory to your old self.

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**2. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ**

What truths and circumstances brought you to the point of making Jesus your Lord? How did you respond?

- Carefully explain how you came to the point of submitting your life to Christ.
- Be specific and paint the picture of how you respond and what repentance looked like

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**3. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ**

How did God’s love and leadership change your life, and how is it continually changing you?

- Joyfully describe your life since Jesus became your Lord
- Give practical and specific examples of ongoing benefits of following Christ (example: forgiveness, new life, clear purpose in life, joy, etc.)
- Take more time to explain how your life has changed since you surrendered to Christ

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## Three-Verse Evangelism

Here is one tool for peaching the Gospel. You may also use others tools.

### Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

### Romans 6:23

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### John 3:16

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

#### **1. All have sinned**

Everyone has sinned. Sin is any act of disobedience or rebellion against God and, the truth, not a single person on earth has perfectly obeyed God's commandments. We all fall short of God's glorious standard. Because we have compiled a long record of sins, we are utterly incapable of saving ourselves from sin.

#### **2. The wages of sin is death**

Since we have all sinned, we are sinners, and we have been separated from God, Who is holy and righteous. No matter how consequential or huge we think our sin is, because of it, we deserve death and are disqualified from even being in God's presence. Those who refuse to know and believe in God will be separated eternally from God's presence in a place called hell.

#### **3. God loves us despite our sins**

Despite our sins, God still loves us. Because of His love, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to save us through His death on the cross. All people have hope of salvation and it's only through Jesus Christ.

#### 4. God gives the free gift of eternal life

Salvation is a free gift from God. This is absolutely good news! We can only go to heaven because of what Jesus has done. Our "good" works cannot give us eternal life.

#### 5. In Christ Jesus our Lord

Salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone. He died on the cross for our sins. He took our place on the cross when we should have died for our own sins. He died, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day.

#### 6. We must believe in Jesus Christ

We must personally believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our believing must be proven by receiving Him in our life as our Lord and Savior. The Bible says that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We should concretely decide to receive Him in our life. We can receive Him through prayer. We should pray with all our heart. The prayer below is a prayer to receive Jesus in our life.

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I need salvation. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. I want to turn back from my sins starting today. Please forgive me. I open my heart and I ask You to come into my life. Save me. Grant me eternal life. Amen.*

### ESTABLISH

#### Matthew 7:24-27

<sup>24</sup> "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

It is not enough to engage the lost. If we want to make disciples, we must establish biblical foundations. Foundations are not the most exciting part of a building, nor are they most attractive part of the finish building. Yet, they are vitally important, determining both strength and the ultimate size of the building. The same is true with biblical foundations.

These often unseen foundations predict future growth and determine the potential for spiritual life.

The first goal of discipleship is to establish biblical foundations in the life of each disciple. The following verses teach three important truths about foundations.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the ultimate foundation.

1 Corinthians 3:11

<sup>11</sup>For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ establishes biblical foundations

Matthew 7:24-25

<sup>24</sup>“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ is foundational

2 Timothy 2:19

But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”

## Establish Biblical Foundations

If we want strong disciples, we must establish them in the faith, the Word and prayer, and church.

### 1. Establish in the \_\_\_\_\_

The starting point for disciples is building their lives on Jesus – the ultimate foundation upon which everything else is built.

#### 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Establishing someone in the faith looks different with different people in different contexts – but it always involves repentance, faith in Jesus, and baptism in water and Holy Spirit.

#### Acts 2:38

<sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### 2. Establish in the \_\_\_\_\_ and prayer

After the person is established in the faith, the next step is to start a personal habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. No one can survive the storms of life without deep roots in God’s Word.

#### Matthew 7:24-25

<sup>24</sup> “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

1 Peter 2:2

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.

Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

**3. Establish in the \_\_\_\_\_**

When Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, they had to follow along with other disciples. They were added to the group, His small community of cross-carrying disciples.

John 13:34-35

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.”

When Jesus ascended to heaven, His disciples continued to meet together – understanding that living in community was essential for enduring persecution and for obeying Jesus’ command to make disciples of all nations.

Acts 2:41

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Those who are undergoing discipleship must be invited to attend the church

Too many Christians are leaning and falling, not because of the intensity of the storms, but because of weak foundations. It is not enough to have good façade; we must build strong foundations on Christ by establishing believers in the faith, Word and prayer, and the church community.

## EQUIP

### 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

The Biblical job description for professional ministers – Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers - is to **equip** believers to minister.

### Ephesians 4:11-13

<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Paul, who started ministering to others as soon as he had his life-changing encounter with Jesus, wrote about the link between ministry and maturity in his letter to the Ephesians.

### 1. Mentors

#### Ephesians 4:12

. . . to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

One of the major roles of the Pastor is to quip the members to minister.

### 2. Ministry

#### Ephesians 4:12

. . . to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

While some members may not feel ready yet, God is ready to use them.

### 3. Maturity

#### Ephesians 4:13

Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

In many instances of the believers' life, they mature while doing the ministry.

Because every believer is called to minister, they must be equipped with basic ministry skills. All the believers, not just the Pastors, are called to do the works of the ministry. God is ready to use them and mature them as they do the ministry.

### EMPOWER

#### Luke 9:1-2

And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup> and He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

Jesus modeled an empowering leadership style. He was never content for the disciples to simply follow Him as spectators, but was intent on empowering them to do what He had been doing. He went so far as to say that they would do even greater works after He had gone back to the Father (John 14:12).

In order for us to empower disciples to make disciples, we must understand three principles about empowering:

#### 1. Empower as \_\_\_\_\_ as possible

Acts 9 tells the story of a man who, in a matter of days went from Saul the persecutor to Paul the preacher. Imagine if Ananias, who first disciplined Paul, had told Paul that he needed to wait several years to mature before he could preach the Gospel. How different would the story of the church in Acts be?

Acts 9:1-2

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:17

So, Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 9:8-20

<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

In that event, God commissioned Ananias to pray for Saul. As quickly as possible, Ananias fulfilled the Lord’s order. The result on Saul was tremendous.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ happens before, during, and after empowering

Empowering people to take ministry responsibility without proper training and well-established foundation is both unwise and unfair because it sets them up to fail. So while we want to empower quickly, we must never empower someone before they are equipped.

Though Paul began to preach almost immediately after his conversion, he did spend several days with the believers in Damascus being established and equipped before he began to preach.

Acts 9:8-20

<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

After equipping, empowering, and sending His disciples out, Jesus always had debriefing sessions when His disciples returned. They reported victories and defeats. They asked questions. Jesus corrected their lack of faith and their selfish attitudes.

Luke 9:1-2

And He called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup> and He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

Luke 9:10

On their return the apostles told Him all that they had done. And He took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida.

The equipping process did not end when they were empowered. It continued and intensified after they were empowered.

**3. Empowering is risky but \_\_\_\_\_**

Often, the underlying fear behind our hesitancy to empower disciples is the fear that they will make mistakes in ministry. Of course they will. Didn't Peter? Didn't Paul? Didn't you?

Mistakes in ministry are not optional – they are expected. As leaders, it is important to create empowering environments where believers are encouraged to take risks and make mistakes in an effort to make disciples. In these kinds of environments, disciples can learn from their mistakes, be equipped and encouraged, and try again.

## POWER TO BE A WITNESS

Luke 24:48-49

<sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Matthew 28:19-20

<sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Ultimately, the power to obey Jesus' command to go and make disciples comes from God. Without the Holy Spirit, obedience to this command would be impossible.

## CELL GROUP

### What is a Cell Group?

In Science, cell is the smallest unit of life. They also called the "building blocks of life."

In a church, Cell Group is a small group of members, empowered by the Holy Spirit, where each one \_\_\_\_\_ to meet together regularly to do the work of the kingdom.

Jesus made disciples in small groups. He also ministered to the individual disciple when the need arose. Small group discipleship and one-on-one discipleship is not either-or, but both-and. Jesus did both. Rather than discipling twelve men individually and independently of each other, He built relationships among His disciples. When one needed private ministry, He ministered to that man privately, but most of their discipleship was a group project. It was not enough for the disciples to relate to Jesus, they had to relate to each other. Just like Jesus, we must learn to minister to the twelve to the one, to the group and to the individual.

## Small Group Ministry in the Bible

The Bible has many examples of small group ministry in both the Old and New Testaments.

When Jethro, Moses' Father-in-law, saw that Moses was carrying the burden of leadership by himself, he gave his son-in-law good advice: do not try to do ministry alone. Thankfully, Moses listened to Jethro.

### Exodus 18:17-21

<sup>17</sup> Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good.<sup>18</sup> You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. <sup>19</sup> Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, <sup>20</sup> and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. <sup>21</sup> Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.

### Exodus 18:24-25

<sup>24</sup> So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. <sup>25</sup> Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.

The early church in the Book of Acts met both in homes and the temple.

### Acts 2:46

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts.

## A Healthy Cell Group

People in a healthy Small Group meet needs, study the Bible, and fellowship with each other, but the primary purpose is to make disciples.

The Cell Group meeting of BLCM is just a part of the overall discipleship ministry in the life of the church. For a Cell Group to truly be healthy and successful, ministry relationships must extend beyond the meeting.

<b>DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY</b>	<b>CELL GROUP MEETING</b>
7 days a week	1 day a week
24 hours a day	60-90 minutes
Anytime, any place	Specific time, specific place

- A Cell Group meeting happens once each week, Discipleship ministry happens seven days a week
- A Cell Group meeting lasts from sixty to ninety minutes at a prescribed time and place. Discipleship ministry can take place anywhere, anytime, and for as long as need be
- While it is important to learn to properly lead a Cell Group meeting, it is important to learn to minister to people.

A Cell Group is more than just a meeting. It is the primary environment for discipleship in BLCM. A healthy and successful Cell Group goes beyond a weekly meeting to discipleship, which takes place anytime, anywhere, seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. Small group ministry is the primary place for engaging, establishing, equipping, and empowering disciples.

## HOW TO LEAD CELL GROUP

A Cell Group meeting has four sections:

- Warm-up
- Word
- Application
- Prayer

Ideally, Cell Group meeting lasts from sixty to ninety minutes.

### 1. Warm-up

Cell Group meeting begins with warm-up questions. The warm-up is designed to give everyone a chance to speak. It helps people connect with and get to know each other.

The Cell Group leader (or intern) should introduce the warm up questions and encourage everyone to answer.

The warm up question/s should be related to the topic in some way, but it should, it require any Bible knowledge to answer. If the warm-up; question/s is to spiritual, theological, or controversial, it will make the participants, specially the non-believers feel uncomfortable. The warm-up is designed to help the new ones, specially the non-believers drop their guard.

Helpful tips

- Encourage everyone to answer
- Designate who should answer
- Good warm-up questions
  - have no right or wrong answers
  - ask for an opinion o experience
  - require no Bible knowledge
  - are not controversial
  - are connected to the topic

## 2. Word

The Word time is 15-30 minute teaching on the text or topic of the week. This brief teaching is followed by a time of application where all the participants are encouraged to share how they will put the lesson into practice.

## 3. Application

In Cell Group meeting, we teach the Bible so people can do it, not so they can know it. The whole point of the teaching is practical application.

## 4. Prayer

Make sure you have plenty of time left, so your prayer time is not rushed.

## CELL GROUP LEADERS

A Cell Group leader is a disciple who has been equipped and empowered to make disciples and develop leaders through small group ministry.

All Cell Group leaders must be full of FAITH:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ . They follow Jesus and help others follow Him as well
2. \_\_\_\_\_ . They are willing and able to serve
3. \_\_\_\_\_ . They are not spectators of the ministry of the BLCM. They are involved.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ . They are humble and willing to learn, grow, and receive training and instructions.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ . They are passionate for God, His Word, and His purpose.

## INTERNS

An intern is a future Cell Group leader who is currently serving with a Cell Group leader.

It is important to understand the difference between an intern and an assistant. By definition, an intern will eventually do everything the leader is doing. One day soon, the intern will lead a Cell Group. The intern is not just there to help, but to learn and receive \_\_\_\_\_ training. On the other hand, an assistant is just there to help.

Interns should also be full of FAITH: Faithful, Available, Involved, Teachable, and Hungry.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

### 1. Attend the subsequent training sessions

All Cell Group leaders who are trained today, shall attend the subsequent sessions with the Pastor for continuous establishing, equipping, and empowering. Self-commitment shall be pushed and intensified. Upcoming sessions shall also be spent more on prayer.

### 2. Lead Cell Groups

All trained Cell Group leaders shall lead a Cell Group among BLCM members. All members shall be divided into small groups. Each small group (Cell group) shall be led by one or more leaders for the meantime. We shall start this way as we implement the new and intensified disciples program of the church and as we have more leaders than small groups.

All Cell Groups will use the same lessons (uniform lessons). Expectedly, each group will vary as far as lesson number is concern. The Pastor shall supply all Cell Groups with the needed lessons.

The Cell Group leader/s should implement clearly and decisively the establishing, equipping and empowering process.

### 3. Pray for new contacts

As the Cell Group members are nurtured in the discipleship process more deeply, the group should pray for new contacts. Fill-up the VIP Form. Pray for the specific names in the form. Pray for opportunities to invite them in the Cell Group. Pray for their salvation.

#### 4. Invite them to your Cell Group

Engage the people you are praying for. Build relationship/friendship with them. Invite them. Be clear and specific about the date and place of your Cell Group.

Believe that God will cause your Cell Group to grow, and that together, you will honor Him and make disciples.

Once you have established a healthy Cell Group that engages, establishes, equips, and empowers, growth is inevitable.

It's time to multiply when a Cell Group grows larger than ten people and it's too many for everyone to participate and the coordination, the common schedule and hosting are getting challenging.

It's time to multiply when;

1. **The \_\_\_\_\_ is ready.** The Cell Group is consistently over ten people.
2. **The \_\_\_\_\_ is ready.** The intern is confident.
3. **The \_\_\_\_\_ is ready.** The Cell Group leader discerns the timing for the group and intern