

# Membership to Discipleship

Bi-District Training

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# The church of 1950

- Church and culture are the same
- Doors open – people came
- Methodists moved and stayed  
Methodist
- Multiple generations/ one service
- Small choices for cereal

# Today

- 19 % of the population attend Sunday mornings
- Fastest growing is “None’s”
- 33 % under age 30 have no religious background
- 125,000 churches closed last year
- 80/90 % are declining
- 83 % of people come to church because someone invited them
- 65 % of the unchurched would come if invited
- 73 % of the unchurched have never been asked
- We still believe Open Doors/ People come

# Technical versus Adaptive

- We are in a world where everything we know about how to grow a church is challenged. What we knew in the 1970's is no longer working in 2016.
  - We know how to start a Bible Study – this is an example of a technical challenge
  - We don't completely understand how to win young adults into relationship with God – this is an example of an adaptive challenge.
  - If we apply technical change solutions to adaptive challenges we set ourselves up for failure.

# Observations

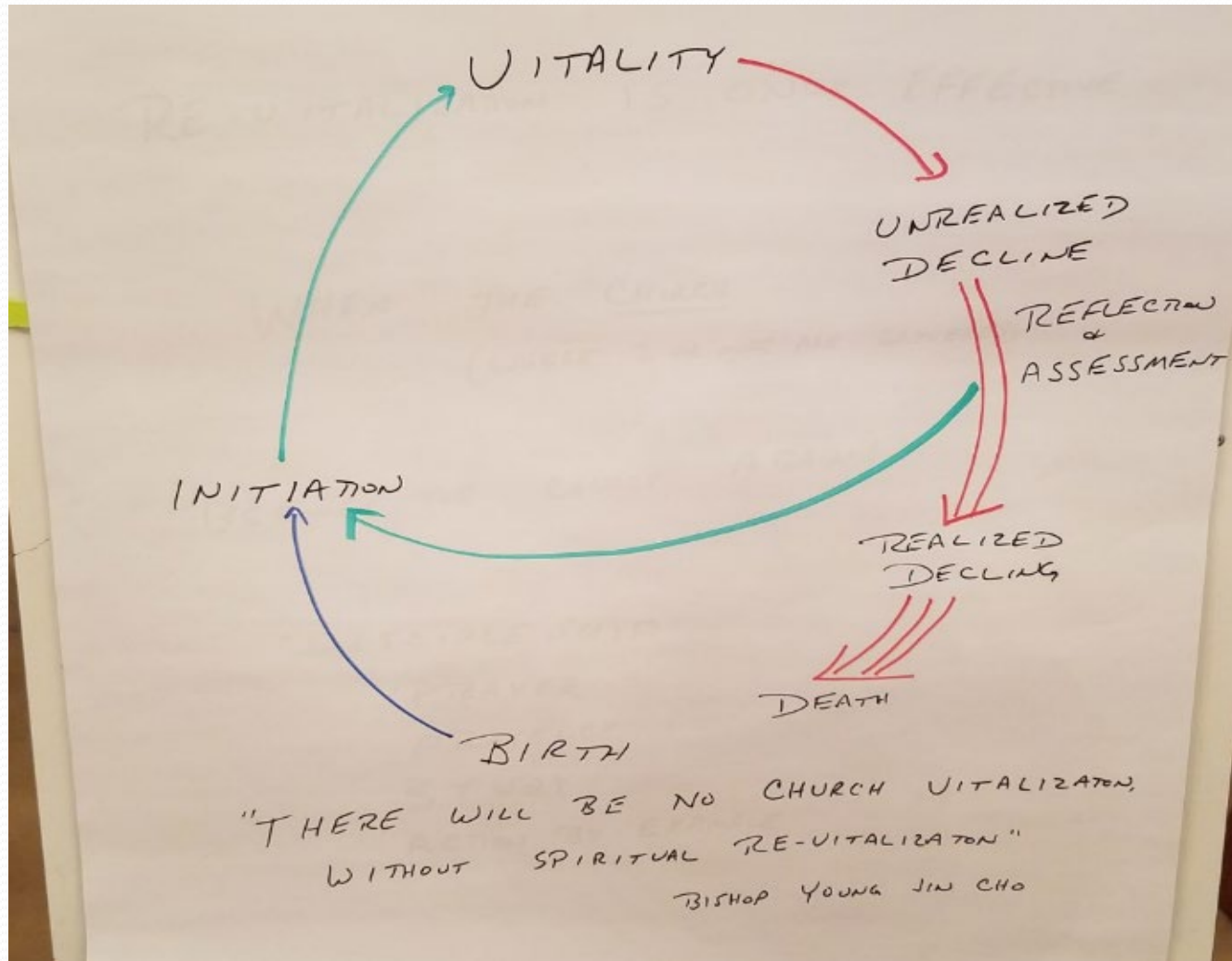
- Church activity does not necessarily lead to spiritual growth
- Reflection on scripture is the vanilla ice cream of spiritual growth
- Serving experiences are essential for spiritual growth
- Weak beliefs inhibit spiritual growth. We must know and trust the core beliefs of the faith to grow spiritually.

Phil Maynard

# Observations about what people want from their church

- Help in developing personal relationship with Jesus
- Help in understanding the Bible in greater depth
- Church leaders who model and consistently reinforce how to grow spiritually
- To be challenged to take the next steps in their spiritual journey.

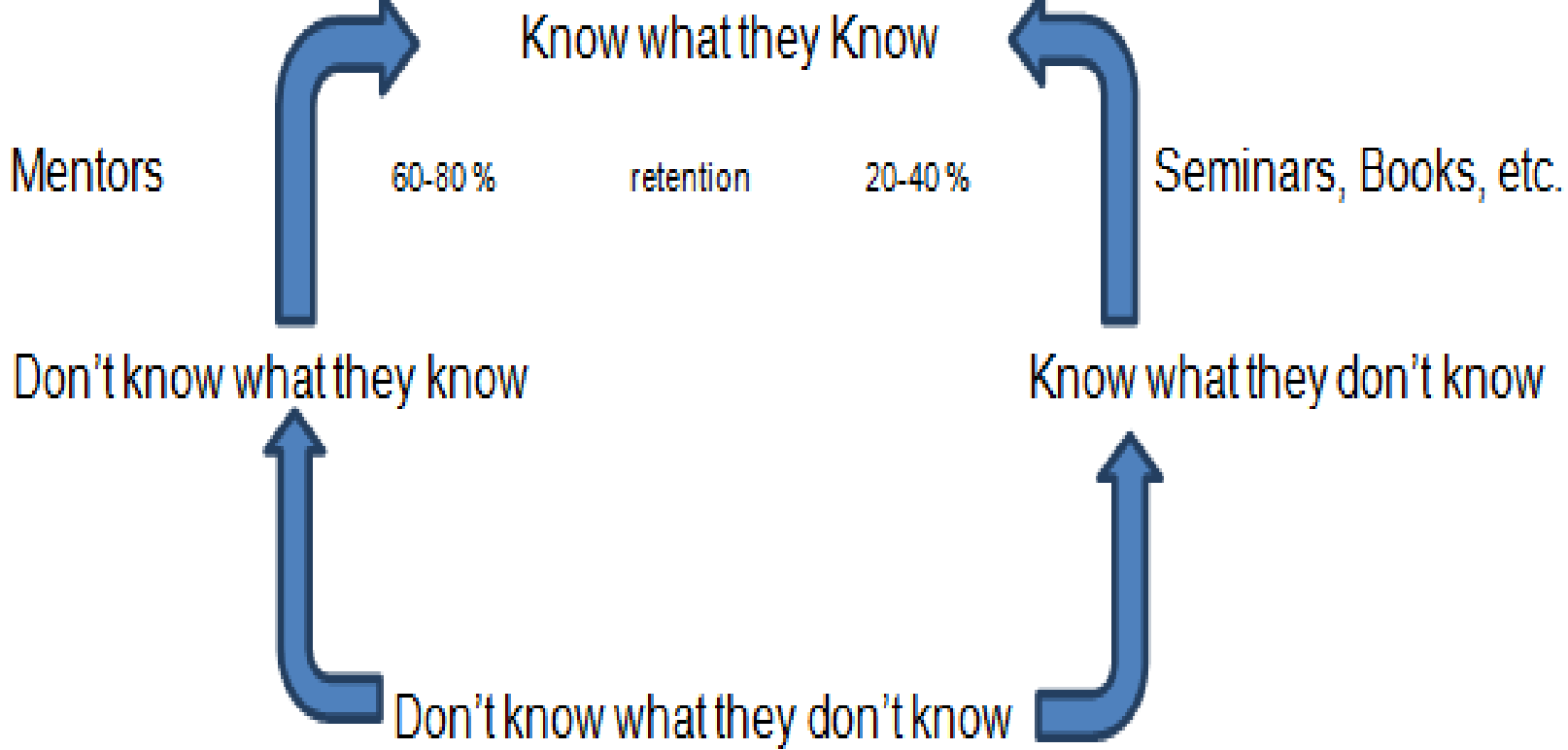
# Assessment



# Discipleship is the answer

- The early Christian movement understood that they were to follow Jesus, mimic Jesus and reach out in witness to the world around them. Because of their witness millions have come to Christ in the last two thousand years.





Searching  
for  
Meaning

Exploring  
Christ's  
Way

Beginning  
new life  
in Christ

Growing  
our walk  
in Christ

Maturing  
all of life  
in Christ

Infancy

Childhood

Adolescence

Adulthood

Taken from "from membership to Discipleship"  
By Phil Maynard

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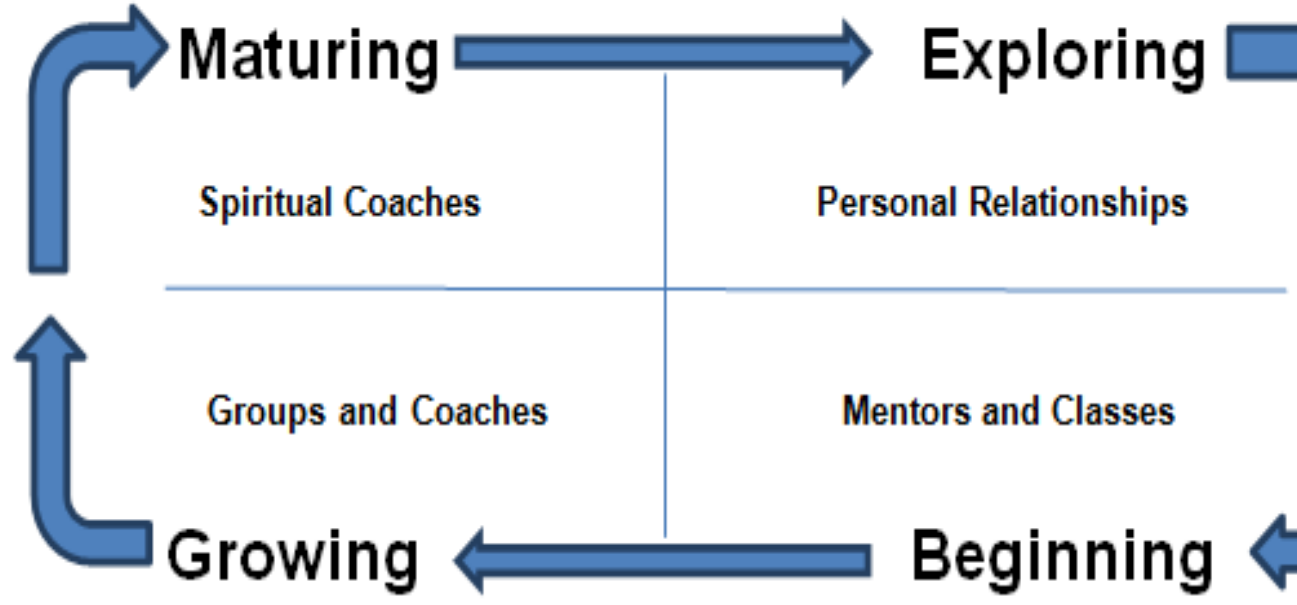
Growing  
our walk  
in Christ

Maturing  
all of life  
in Christ

Preventive Grace

Justifying Grace

Sanctifying Grace



**Maturing**

**Exploring**

**Spiritual Coaches**

**Personal Relationships**

**Groups and Coaches**

**Mentors and Classes**

















**Growing**

**Beginning**

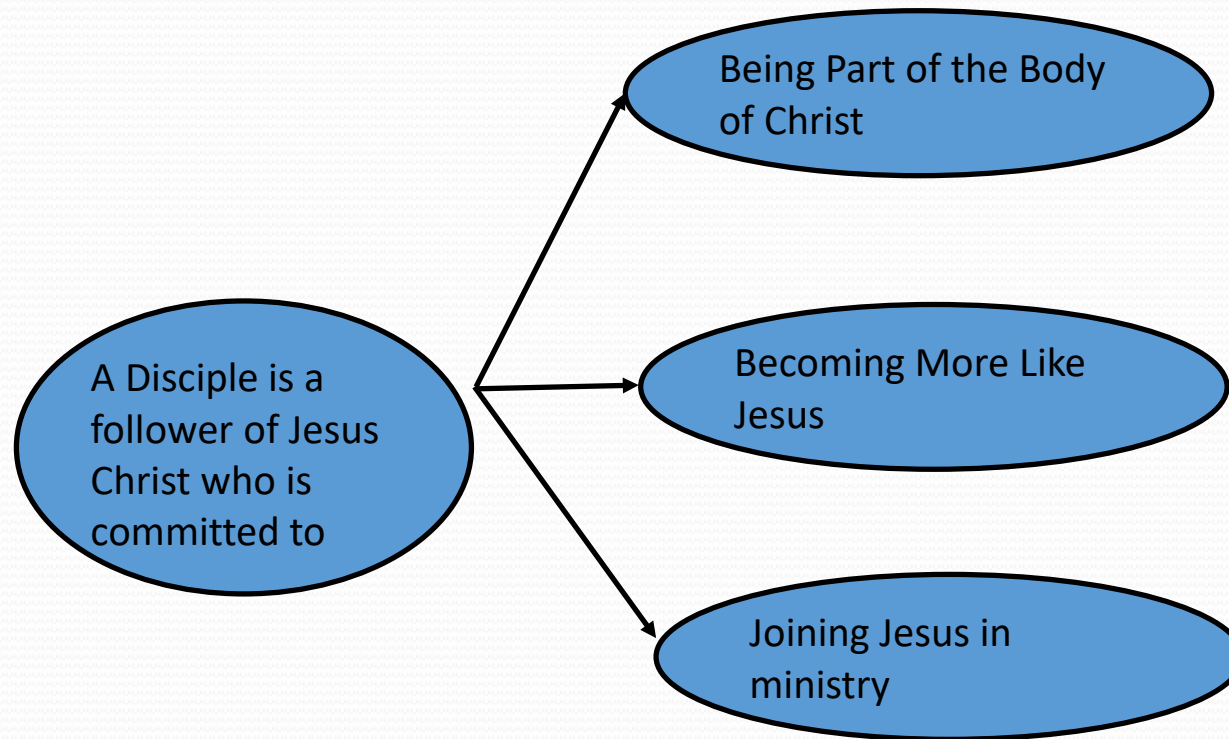


# Invite People to take the Discipleship Survey

# Discipleship Survey

Real Discipleship Survey			
Please select one box of each color, then click submit. <i>(For the color challenged, please choose one box per each icon)</i>			
<input type="button" value="Reset"/> <input type="button" value="Submit Survey"/>			
 I attend worship regularly and set aside time daily for personal worship.	 I am drawn to the story of God's love and am beginning to explore the scriptures for myself.	 I give some when I attend worship.	 I am called not only to receive, but also to offer God's gracious acceptance to others.
 I have accepted the call to be a follower of Jesus Christ and am committed to being part of the church, becoming like Jesus and serving others.	 I experiment with serving in different areas as I discover my gifts, talents, and passions.	 I attend worship when a friend invites me, when it is convenient, or when I feel a need.	 I am developing a daily practice of prayer, scripture, and devotional reading, opening myself to God.
 I am exploring new spiritual disciplines and experience a greater level of intimacy with God.	 I intentionally seek to build relationships with unchurched people in order to share God's love.	 I am partnering with God to help others grow in openness and obedience to Christ.	 I am often amazed at the way some disciples selflessly serve others and I want to make a difference as well.
 I am giving more and more regularly.	 I honor God in the ways I work, play, and engage others in relationships.	 I am curiously drawn to the Christians who graciously accept me as if I belong with them already.	 I am daily seeking to apply the teaching of scripture to my own life.
 I join Jesus in mission to others using my God-given gifts, talents and passions.	 I am tithing and consciously reordering my life to free up more resources to honor God and bless others.	 I am taking responsibility for my own growth through the daily practice of spiritual disciplines.	 I attend worship regularly, but I am growing to realize that I must attend to God every day.
 I seek to relate to others both in the church and beyond in ways that reflect God's hospitality to me.	 I understand more about Jesus' teaching through Bible Study classes and my own reading.	 I know Christ invites me to join him serving others and I'm discovering how God has gifted me to do this.	 I am tithing and reconsidering how I spend the other 90%.

# A Disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ for life who is committed to:



# A Disciple of Jesus Christ Is Committed to



Being Part of the  
Body of Christ

A Life of Worship  
John 4:23

A Life of Hospitality  
John 13: 34-35

Becoming More Like  
Jesus

A Life of Opening to  
Jesus Matthew 5

A Life of Obeying Jesus  
Matthew 28:19

Joining Jesus in  
Ministry

A Life of Service  
Matthew 5: 13-14

A Life of Generosity  
Matthew 6:24; 25:40

Taken from "From Membership to Discipleship"  
By Phil Maynard



# A Life of Worship

- Disciples worship
  - Individual Responsibility
    - Prepare for worship before arriving at the church
      - Read the Scripture and Sermon topic
      - Pray for illumination
    - Have a daily devotional Life
    - Read the Bible Daily
    - Participate in worship with your presence, prayers and consciousness

# A life of Worship

- How do we invite people to mature
  - Offer scripture and sermon topic ahead of time
  - Have passionate worship experience that incorporates all aspects of how people learn.
  - Offer ways to interact with the worship personally
  - Offer daily bible reading throughout the year
  - Model as an example mature discipleship

# A life of hospitality

- Disciples are hospitable
  - Individual Responsibility
    - Witness your faith, share your story
    - Actively strive for radical hospitality in your life
    - Participate in activities that allow relationships to develop
    - Prayer walk your neighborhood and/or community
    - Become a Shepherd to a visitor
    - Be a welcoming member of your church

# A Life of Hospitality

- Teach and preach on witnessing your faith
- Help folks develop their story
- Develop an attitude of radical hospitality
- Create opportunities for community interaction
- Develop and teach Shepherding and Mentoring
- Revisit the way you usher and greet people.
- Change your visitor, member language

# A Life of Hospitality

- Witnessing – Biblical stories to know
  - Abraham – willingness to do God’s will no matter the cost
  - David – how our human mistakes can and will be used by God
  - Moses – how God prepares and uses us even in our fears and imperfections
  - Paul – how even when we are zealous God can capture our attention

# A life Opening to Jesus

- Disciples are open to Jesus
  - Individual Responsibility
    - Learning about significant other
    - Learn more about Jesus
      - Bible Reading
      - Small Study groups
      - Small accountable groups
      - Prayer for illumination
      - Seek a mentor

# A Life Open to Jesus

- Develop informational materials that tell folks what is available, who is teaching, what they are teaching and how they can connect
- Develop small group leaders
- Preach and teach the Biblical story

# A life obeying Jesus

- Disciples obey Jesus
  - Individual Responsibility
    - Jesus said; Love God with all your heart, mind and soul (Shema, Deuteronomy 6: 4-7) and Love you Neighbor (Leviticus 19:34)
    - Live a life in keeping with the teaching of Jesus
      - Love the Lord with all your heart, all your mind and all your soul
      - Love your neighbor in the same way



# A Life Obeying Jesus

- Teach the Bible teachings of Loving God and Loving Neighbor
- Have leadership of the church model that behavior
- Matthew 25:35
- Teach the parables of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 30-37), the Wedding Feast (Matthew 24: 1-14) and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32), etc.

# A life of service

- Disciples serve
  - Individual Responsibility
    - Participate in the life of the church through serving
    - Participate in a small group mission at least quarterly

# A Life of Service

- Share and invite people into service in the church. Remove obstacles to new people joining service opportunities.
- Make sure the opportunities are well advertised and explore inviting one on one
- List missional opportunities in a newsletter and/ or the weekly information sheets
- Explore missional opportunities in your neighborhood

# A life of Generosity

- Disciples serve
  - Individual Responsibility
    - Witness your faith in ways that lift up the community in which you live
    - TITHE
    - Give of your time and talent

# A life of Generosity

- Have a inviting and engaging stewardship program annually
- Gallup's Strength Finders

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## **Traditional Vows**

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### **Prayers**

Galations 2:20

Ephesians 4: 14-15

### **Presence**

Romans 12:1

### **Gifts**

Proverbs 22:9

Acts 20:35

### **Service**

Matthew 25:44-45

### **Witness**

John 15:12

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## **Dimensions of Discipleship**

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### **A life Open to Jesus**

#### **A Life Obeying Jesus**

(Intentional Faith Development)

### **A Life of Worship**

(Passionate Worship)

### **A Life of Generosity**

(Extravagant Generosity)

### **A Life of Service**

(Risk Taking Mission)

### **A Life of Hospitality**

(Radical Hospitality)

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## **Membership Expectations**

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**Participate regularly in small group study, Bible reading, personal prayer and reflection**


**Participate in weekly worship unless traveling or ill**

**Commit to proportional giving to the ministries of this congregation with your time and to moving toward a tithe**

**Serve in some ongoing way in the local community.**

**Serve in some ongoing way within the church**

**Build relationships beyond the church to witness the love of Christ and invite someone to attend worship at least 3 times a year.**

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- Newcomers not engaged within the first three to six months are going to disappear.
  - Service behind the scenes is as important as those in the forefront
  - Discipleship churches are engaged and excited about Jesus.



What kind of disciples are  
you creating?

What kind of church are  
you?