

SOME SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR THE 3/4 GROUPS:

2:7 Series, (*NavPress, eleven sessions/weeks each*)

Book One: Growing Strong in God's Family;
Book Two: Deepening Your Roots in God's Family;
Book Three: Bearing Fruit in God's Family

Disciples Path, (*LifeWay, five sessions/weeks each*)

The Beginning; The Way; The Call, The Truth; The Life;
The Mission

The Call to Follow Christ,

(*LifeWay, seven sessions/weeks each*)

Abide in Christ; Live in the Word; Pray in Faith;
Fellowship with Believers; Witness to the World;
Minister to Others

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:

JANUARY – MARCH: Choose one book from above.

APRIL – JUNE: Choose a second book from above.

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER: Choose a third book from above

FIRST YEAR

Pastor leads 3-4 key leaders through one of the above resources.

SECOND YEAR

Each one who completes the process enlists 3-4 new people to lead through each resource.

THIRD YEAR

Each graduate enlists 3-4 new people to lead through each resource. Process repeats.

DISCIPLES REPRODUCING DISCIPLES

When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

—2 Tim. 1:5

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

—2 Tim. 2:2

"The immune systems of most churches are weak. Because we have lowered our view of God and set aside His standards, we have allowed sinful attitudes and practices to prevail. We have treated God's Word as if it were a collection of suggestions. This weak immune system allows sickness and disease to proceed unchecked. The culture of our churches will become much healthier when we simply begin to hold one another to God's clear standards."

Brad Waggoner, *The Shape of Faith to Come: Spiritual Formation and the Future of Discipleship*, B&H Publishing, 2008, page38.



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A CHURCH-TESTED STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING ADULT DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES



LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

EXTINGUISHERS

What are the extinguishers that will keep these groups from being successful?

PROGRAM-DRIVEN: planned series of meetings where the goal is to take the largest number of people through a complete workbook or course; consideration for individual growth is secondary.

LARGE GROUPS: the reasoning is that the larger the group, the greater and quicker the impact; accountability and personal/private matters are off limits; building trust is difficult.

INFORMATION-FOCUSED: as biblical information is dispensed, it is hoped learners will understand and make the necessary changes in their lives so that growth will take place.

RIGID SCHEDULE: discipleship can only take place at a specific time and place, not taking into account people's family and work schedules.

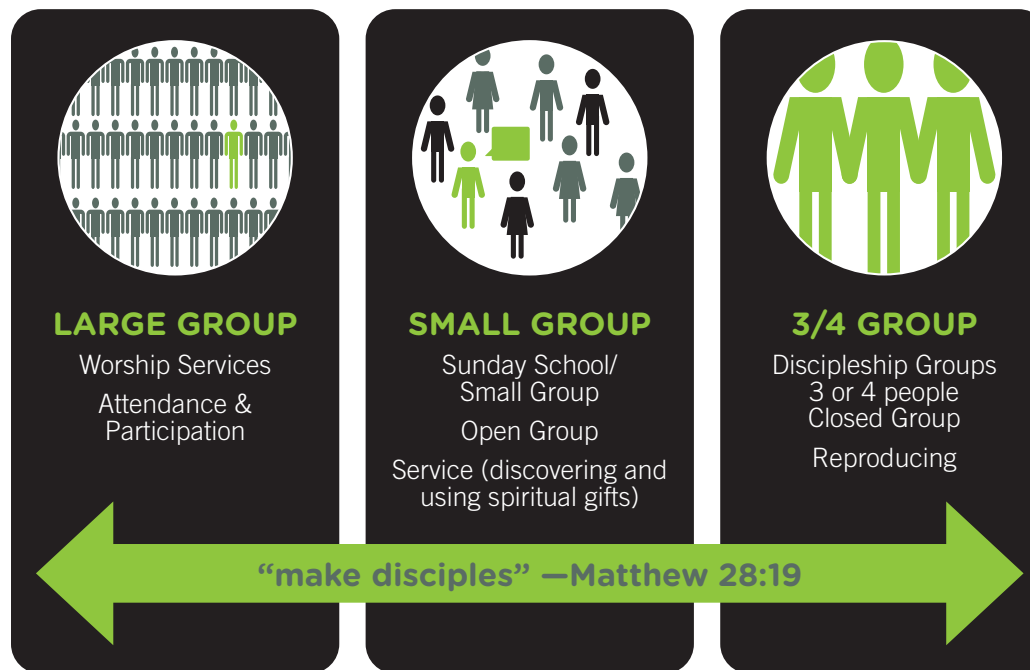
LOW ACCOUNTABILITY: when participants are not expected or under obligation to complete assignments and/or attend meetings, many drop out.

NON-REPRODUCIBLE: the class or group is an end in itself; participants do not intend to lead their own group and disciple others.

"Less than one out of every five born again adults (19%) has a biblical worldview, which is unchanged in the past 15 years; just half of all self-identified Christians firmly believe that the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles (not the facts, just the principles) that it teaches; barely one-quarter of adults (27%) are confident that Satan exists; an overwhelming majority of self-identified Christians (81%) contend that spiritual maturity is achieved by following the rules in the Bible; nine out of ten senior pastors of Protestant churches asserted that spiritual immaturity is one of the most serious problems facing the Church."

"Barna Studies the Research, Offers a Year-in-Review Perspective." George Barna research, 2009, webpage; www.barna.org/faith-spirituality. Assessed 12 July 2012.

THREE GROUPS EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE IN:



Reproducing disciples who will reproduce disciples is Christ's plan for world evangelization.

—Avery Willis, MasterLife II, 249.

"A disciple is one who makes Jesus Christ the Lord of his life."

—MasterLife II, 13.

ESSENTIALS

What are the essentials to make the 3/4 groups work?

PROCESS-DRIVEN: from the beginning, the group has specific goals and actions to accomplish those goals (spiritual maturity).

VERY SMALL GROUPS: personal concerns and individual needs can be addressed; holding participants accountable for assignments, group time sharing, and attending meetings is easier.

RELATIONSHIP-FOCUSED: the application of biblical principles to the individuals' lives will be the basis for transformation.

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE: the meeting times for the group or class will be determined by the leader and participants, taking into consideration their schedules.

HIGH ACCOUNTABILITY: from the beginning there is an expectation that group members will attend meetings, complete assignments, participate during group meetings and disciple others.

REPRODUCIBLE: participants will be enlisted with the understanding that they will enlist others and disciple them so the process will continue to reproduce disciples.