LIFE INVESTMENT

“Discipling is not a six-week program. We are geared to herding people in mass through a program, and once completed, we expect mature disciples to pop out at the other end. Classroom models are necessarily focused on mastering content at the same pace for all, with standardized requirements. Disciplemaking should be viewed in terms of a parent’s investment in a child who is nurtured through the stages of infancy, childhood, adolescence and finally into adulthood. Making disciples will only occur when we change our thinking from a quick fix to a long-term life investment. In the long run the results are both deeper and numerically greater.

It may be three to five years before the effects of this approach on the quality and vitality of a church will be seen. Those selected for leadership of the church will be those who have been discipled and in turn can disciple others. The leadership base will be expanded and spontaneous ministry will begin as “self-starters” energize the body of Christ. Mission groups will crop up because qualified leaders have a passion to meet a heart-felt need.”

(excerpt from The Essential Commandment, Greg Ogden (2011), p. 200)

- Growth occurs when we are intentionally investing in others.
- We began in 2010 with 4 groups.
- In 2011, there were 34 with 116 willing to become committed disciples.
- At the end of 2012, 84 disciplers continued with 224 people.
- By April 2013, 96 intentional quads with 249 are participating to become disciplermakers.
- Be intentional. Be prepared.

CamarilloCommunityChurch.org
Greg Ogden continues with these five criteria for building a discipleship ministry. The second is transferability. “In my discipling efforts I had been frustrated by my inability to move the discipling process beyond the first generation. Those in whom I had invested either did not catch the vision or did not feel equipped to do for others what I had been attempting to do for them. Yet, inherent in anything called discipling must be the ability to transfer life to life to life. When Paul wrote Timothy, he looked four generations down the road (2 Timothy 2:2). I much prefer a relational model of partners walking together toward maturity in Christ. The disciple in this process is not so much a teacher as a guide, facilitator or partner along the way. From the beginning of the discipling relationship, the new disciple is asked to give serious consideration to continuing the discipling chain by committing to the next generation. The process of weaning disciples away from the disciple is supported by sharing the leadership of the discipleship sessions among the group members. This allows disciples to practice in a safe environment what they will be asked to do in their next discipleship unit.

**PURPOSEFULNESS**

“Spiritual maturity is difficult to quantify. However, if disciplines are being practiced, if content is being learned and applied, and if lifestyle changes are taking place, then progress is experienced. For example, Paul apparently felt mature disciples should know their spiritual gifts and be using them. They also should be reproducing themselves in the next generation. This approach to discipling is designed to give participants a sense of growth toward maturity. I do not mean to imply that if you master this content, you automatically become a mature disciple, as if it is the tool that transforms. But entering the discipline of this process creates a context for the Holy Spirit to do his work.” (p. 201)
PREPARATION

A Successful Journey

- **A Driver: The Intentional Leader**
  First, be a disciple. A road trip cannot begin if someone doesn’t turn the key, start the car, and drive. A driver with a destination in mind is essential. An **intentional leader** has to drive the discipleship process toward the goal of making disciples.

- **A Vehicle: The Relational Environment**
  A driver, of course, must have something to drive. Relationships are what God uses to communicate His truth and help people grow. Without a **relational environment**, the journey of discipleship is boring and ineffective. It may be informative, but it won’t be life-changing. Relationships create the environment where discipleship happens best.

- **A Map: The Reproducible Process**
  We call the road map that we use in discipleship the **reproducible process**. This road map allows us to measure a disciple’s progress and teach that disciple the route so that he or she can intentionally lead others on the same journey. (See the Share-Connect-Minister-Disciple chart in Real-Life Discipleship by Jim Putman.)

These elements of the discipleship journey are modeled in Scripture, in the life of Jesus and in the early church to produce growing disciples.

RESOURCES

**Why do we need to be intentional?**
To schedule time to make disciples.

- If we write it down, we are 73% more able to accomplish it.
- If we review it and repeat it, we are 93% more able to accomplish it.

—research on intentionality
First Annual BATON-PASSING CEREMONY, March 3, 2013

FLEXIBILITY

“There is content to be absorbed, there are tools to be practiced, and there are personal lifestyle changes to be made. No two people do this in the same way or at the same speed. Therefore an approach to discipling will take into account that Christ is formed in each person on a timetable unique to each of them.” (p.201)

“Do you believe that Jesus is at work in the world around you and that he wants to use you in alignment with his will to accomplish his work?”

- David Platt, *Follow Me.* (2013)