

Becoming a Disciple Making Movement

Sean Stevenson-Douglas
www.estoncollege.ca

You can
Influence **millions**
Impact **thousands**
Lead **~150**
Disciple **12**



Our efforts to lead, impact, and influence people must never squeeze out our capacity to make disciples. Discipleship needs to be our top priority.

Disciple making is defined as “a relational way of teaching others to obey the commands of Jesus out of love for Him.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Critical mindsets of shifting to multiplicative disciple making:

- 1) *Define the relationship.* (Luke 5:1-11) Approach people you would like to enter a disciple making relationship with, tell them what you see in them, and invite them to the journey.
- 2) *Begin with an exit strategy.* (John 16:7) Within 2-3 years, we should be ready to move from “discipleship” to “coaching” or full release. Your end goals must be to replace yourself, send the disciple to a new ministry assignment, or split your authority with them and share a role.
- 3) *Make their growth & success the definition of your growth and success.* (John 20:21) This puts our own egos to death and realigns priorities to keep disciple making front and centre.
- 4) *Define maturity by obedience to God, not merely knowledge.* (Matthew 7:24-27) Discipleship is not only about giving right answers, but also about walking the Jesus Way. Loving obedience to Jesus shows more maturity than deep theological or biblical insights.
- 5) *Think 4-generationally.* (2 Timothy 2:2) We must pass on reproducible forms and behaviours to those we disciple, and we should encourage them to make disciples, as well.

Critical behaviours to shift to multiplicative disciple making:

- 1) *Pray and read the Bible together.* (Hebrews 8:11) General church gatherings (anything over 10-12 people) do not make enough room for the trust and interaction necessary to do deep discipleship work.
- 2) *Share a meal together at least once every two weeks.* (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Matthew 9:10) This can be combined with prayer and Bible reading. A small group of disciples is preferable but make 1-on-1 spaces available occasionally, too.
- 3) *Invite them to shadow you in your ministry responsibilities.* (Matthew 14:13-21) They will learn more from doing it together than you than your describing the right way to do it.
- 4) *Delegate real authority and responsibility to them.* (Matthew 10:1-15) Building from the principle of reproducibility, to grow in ministry assignments and devotional rhythms, disciples need to learn to stand independently by degrees to reach full maturity.

