Got Ministry? Enhance for Disciplemaking

Jesus Christ called you to a new life (Galatians 2:20), clothed you with Himself (Galatians 3:26-27), commissioned you with a purpose (Matthew 28:19), and empowered you to fulfill that purpose (Acts 1:8)—to follow Him as His disciple and to live for Him as a disciplemaker (leading others to Him).



Has your ministry team been event-driven with one person overseeing Bible studies, another the retreat, & another the Christmas brunch? Does your current women's ministry need to have more structure and purpose to what you organize and fund? It's a good time to enhance women's ministry for disciplemaking.

What is Disciplemaking?

The terms "discipleship" and "disciplemaking" often get confused.

- **DISCIPLESHIP** typically refers to the normal process for Christians to grow in their faith through Bible studies, prayer, worship, & small groups. It usually focuses on individual spiritual growth.
- **DISCIPLEMAKING** goes a step further than typical discipleship. Disciplemaking includes seeing people trust in Christ and grow in their faith. It also includes training Christians to reach new people for Christ and help new believers grow in their faith so those can then reach their own peers for Christ. Disciplemaking makes disciples who make more disciples. It is others-focused.

An effective disciplemaking ministry is not necessarily a big or busy ministry but one that is regularly reaching new people for Christ, building them up in the faith, and training them to reach their peers for Christ. The local church is the best venue for disciplemaking to take place. (Adapted from Sonlife Ministries, Growing Healthy Women in Ministry, page 17)

The disciplemaking pathway or process consists primarily of these "steps":

- **ENGAGE** (Win the lost; reach those who need to know Jesus)
- ESTABLISH (Build up the believer in the truths of the faith so they become mature disciples)
- EQUIP disciples to win the lost (ENGAGE) and build up believers (ESTABLISH)
- EXPAND your ministry through releasing those equipped to do disciplemaking

Clarify "Women's Ministry"

Many church ministries involve women in teaching children's classes, local missions, and worship team, but those are not considered "women's ministry." Women's ministry is whatever is offered to women and for women to help each one know and live out her commissioned 2-fold purpose: 1) to follow Jesus as His disciple and 2) to live for Jesus as a disciplemaker.

Transition Strategy

- EVALUATE existing ministries for a disciplemaking purpose
- ENHANCE existing activities for disciplemaking
- Dissolve those activities less effective for disciplemaking
- Consider new ways to address the weak areas
- TRANSFORM the team to the disciplemaking mission and determine how you will respond to new ministry suggestions
- RECRUIT a Disciplemaking Coach to support discipling relationships and assist the leadership team

EVALUATE

To **evaluate** existing ministries for purpose and effectiveness in disciplemaking, first list what you offer to women, whether ongoing (weekly/monthly) or occasional (once a year), under the category you would consider the **primary purpose** of each activity (headings in red). Include any leader training. Use the "Unclear Disciplemaking Purpose" column if you are unsure about an activity's purpose.

ENHANCE FOR DISCIPLEMAKING	ESTABLISH	ENHANCE FOR DISCIPLEMAKING	
Ask questions: Promoting to community? Preparing engagers? Preserving childcare spots for the unchurched? Followup? Celebrate and dissolve?	(The primary purpose is to help new believers get established and/or to help existing believers grow to maturity.)	 Ask questions: Helping those new to Bible study? Variety of study levels? Crossing generations? Followup? Celebrate and dissolve? 	
	DISCIPLEMAKING Ask questions: Promoting to community? Preparing engagers? Preserving childcare spots for the unchurched? Followup?	DISCIPLEMAKING Ask questions: Promoting to community? Preparing engagers? Preserving childcare spots for the unchurched? Followup? (The primary purpose is to help new believers get established and/or to help existing believers grow to maturity.)	

ENHANCE OR DISSOLVE

Explore ways to **enhance** existing activities to make them more effective for disciplemaking. Consider how to **dissolve** or move away from those activities that do not have a disciplemaking purpose or have become less effective. Caution: move slowly with your "Operation Kaboom." Sometimes those can be moved to another church ministry or released to an individual to continue doing it apart from women's ministry. End it with celebration and appreciation.

ENHANCE FOR DISCIPLEMAKING Ask questions: • Leader training? • Preparing to share? • Encouraging mature ones to disciple newer ones? • Followup? • Celebrate and dissolve?	Unclear Disciplemaking Purpose	ENHANCE FOR DISCIPLEMAKING Ask questions: • Change to fit a purpose? • Celebrate and dissolve?
	DISCIPLEMAKING Ask questions: Leader training? Preparing to share? Encouraging mature ones to disciple newer ones? Followup?	DISCIPLEMAKING Ask questions: • Leader training? • Preparing to share? • Encouraging mature ones to disciple newer ones? • Followup?

CONSIDER THE WEAK AREAS

- Equip to engage: encourage and prepare women to intentionally build relationships with unchurched women and share their faith in casual conversation as opportunity arises.
- The disconnected: Who is left out of your current ministry?
- The immediate neighbors: How to reach the women in the neighborhoods closest to the church

TRANSFORM THE TEAM TO THE MISSION

MATCH the leadership team members to the process of disciplemaking (Engage, Establish, Equip) as a way of staying balanced. Ask Jesus to draw each team member to one of those three aspects of disciplemaking. Use the *Disciplemaking Ministry Guide* (from NextStep Resources) as a resource.

DETERMINE how you will respond when others come to you with a ministry idea. Ask the guestions below while praying for guidance:

- 1) What would be the primary purpose of this ministry related to Engage, Establish, or Equip?
- 2) Will this ministry activity produce new disciples? Support and fund what produces new disciples and disciplemakers.

By transforming your leadership team to the disciplemaking mission, you can help the women of your church move away from dependence on traditional event-driven ministries and toward a lifestyle of making disciples who make more disciples. The local church is the best venue for disciplemaking to begin.

RECRUIT A DISCIPLEMAKING COACH

Recruit a *Disciplemaking Coach* to support women in one-to-one discipling relationships and assist your leadership team stay focused on your disciplemaking purpose. Ask Jesus to bring someone's name to mind you could ask. Her role could include any of the following:



- ADVISE women's ministry teams during planning.
- PREPARE trained engagers for activities open to visitors.
- **SUPPORT** women who are discipling others.
- SUPPLY transferable individual discipling resources.
- MODEL dependence on the indwelling Holy Spirit!

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