

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

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

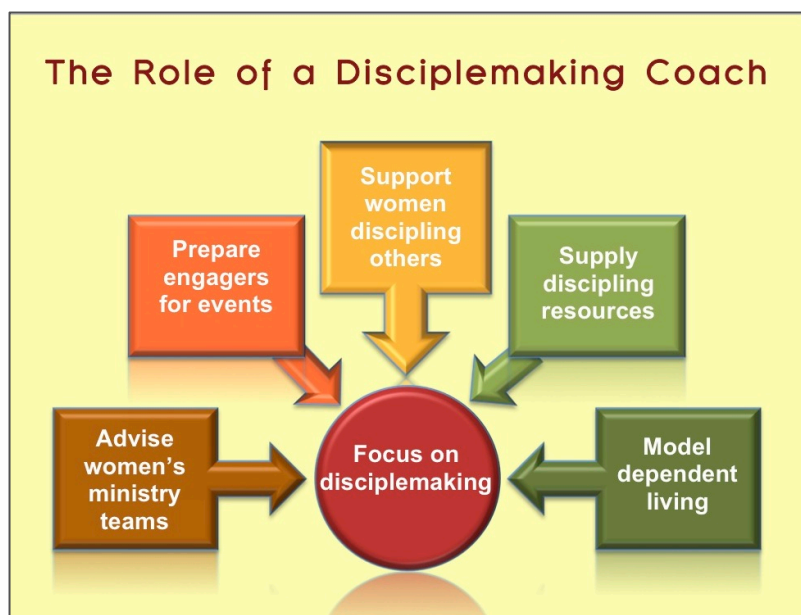
DETERMINE how you will respond when others come to you with a ministry idea. Ask the questions below while praying for guidance:

- 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 disciplers.

By transforming your leadership team to the discipling 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 discipling to begin.

RECRUIT A DISCIPLING COACH

Recruit a *Discipling Coach* to support women in one-to-one discipling relationships and assist your leadership team stay focused on your discipling 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!