

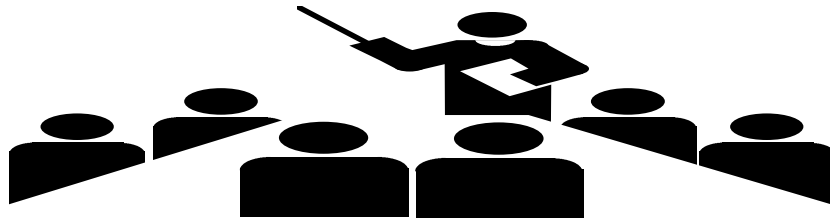
LEADERSHIP SEMINAR



Facilitator

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Topic:

“Church Leaders and Disciple Making”

Outline

- I. The Mission of the Church and the Disciple Making Process
- II. The Qualifications of Church Leaders
- III. The Role of Church Leaders in the Disciple Making Process
- IV. The Vital Role of the Class Leader and the Importance of the Class Meeting

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“Church Leaders and Disciple Making”

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20

Proposition: We must place Christian discipleship and disciple making at the heart of the church.

I. The Mission of the Church: Making Christian Disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)

- A. **Evangelism** [the proclamation of the gospel] is the first step in Christian discipleship. (Mark 16:15,16)
- B. **Baptism** [initiation & assimilation into the Church] is the next step in Christian discipleship. (Mt. 28:19)
- C. **Teaching** [training converts to obey Christ] is the crucial step in Christian discipleship. (Mt. 28:20)

II. The Disciple Making Process: the process that produces witnesses for Christ.

- A. We must clearly communicate the roles of the pastor, the people, and the disciple-making process.
 - 1. The pastor must be devoted to:
 - a. The ministry of the word and prayer (Acts 6:1-7)
 - b. The training and deployment of leaders (2 Tim. 2:2) [disciple makers]
 - c. The management of the ministry (1 Pet. 5:1-5)
 - 2. The people must be equipped to do ministry and pastoral care. (Eph. 4:11-16)
 - 3. The disciple-making process nurtures converts into mature, responsible, reproducing disciples.
- B. We must have a genuine commitment to the priesthood of all believers (1 Pet. 2:9)
- C. We must have a genuine commitment to multiplication, not just reproduction.
- D. We must use the small group as the primary means of disciple making.

1. We must use the small group for making disciples.

- a. It provides an environment where we can develop basic skills.
 - 1) A working knowledge of Scripture
 - 2) A belief in and understanding of prayer
 - 3) The benefits of sharing ones life with others
 - 4) The ability to communicate the message of Christ
- b. It provides an environment where peers can help us keep our commitments.
- c. It provides an environment where we will be accountable and responsible.
- d. It provides an environment where we can be trained to do outreach ministry.

2. We must use the small group for training disciple makers.

- a. It provides a means by which we can train those who qualify for leadership.
 - 1) Those with the gifts
 - 2) Those with the character
 - 3) Those with the usefulness
 - 4) Those who have been discipled
 - 5) Those who are committed to disciple making
- b. It provides a means by which we can equip leaders in disciple making.
- c. It provides a means by which we can deploy disciple makers as church leaders.
 - 1) The official leaders of the church should be disciple makers.
 - 2) Those who lead the church's ministries should be disciple makers.
 - 3) Those who lead the small group discipleship should be disciple makers.

III. The Qualifications for Leadership in Zion Methodism

A. They must be members in Full Connection.

1. The requirements for Probationary Membership (*The Book of Discipline* Part II [2004], p. 14)
 - a. An earnest desire to be saved.
 - b. A willingness to forsake evil and endeavor to lead a holy life.
 - c. A determination to attend the appointed means of grace.
2. The requirements for Full Membership (*The Book of Discipline* Part II [2004], pp. 16-17)
 - a. Confirmation of the Baptismal Covenant
 - b. "Saving faith" in the Lord Jesus Christ
 - c. Belief in the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures
 - d. A willingness to be cheerfully governed by the rules of the church
 - e. A willingness to hold sacred the ordinances of God
 - f. A willingness to endeavor to promote the welfare of the Redeemer's Kingdom
 - g. A willingness to cherish friendly feelings toward all persons, especially church members
 - h. A willingness to contribute of their earthly substance according to their ability to support the gospel and the other benevolent enterprises of the church.

B. They must be members in Good Standing. (*Book of Discipline* [2004], pp. 36, 194, 118-120)

1. They must be persons of regular attendance to the appointed means of grace.
2. They must be persons of solid piety and spirituality.
3. They must be persons of sound moral character.
4. They must be persons of faithful stewardship.
5. They must be persons of good relations with others, especially members.

C. They must know Methodist Doctrine. [Beliefs & Theological Emphases] (*Discipline* [2004], p. 172)

D. They must know & uphold Church Polity & Discipline. (*Discipline* [2004], pp. 172, 194)

E. They must be committed to Evangelism. (*Discipline* [2004], p. 172, par. 445; p. 194, par. 491)

1. They must evidence the desire to witness to the gospel of the kingdom of God.
2. They must evidence the ability to witness to the gospel of the kingdom of God.
3. They must evidence the practice of witnessing to the gospel of the kingdom of God.

F. They must submit to Authority.

1. They must obey leadership conditionally. [Hebrews 13:17; Romans 13:1, 2]
2. They must respect leadership absolutely. [Romans 13:6, 7; 1 Peter 2:13-18]
3. They must appreciate leadership sincerely. [1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13]

IV. The Role of Church Leaders in Making Christian Disciples

A. Lay leaders have given invaluable service to the church for thousands of years.

1. Moses' father-in-law convinced him of the value of qualified lay leaders. (Ex. 18:13-27)
2. Moses recognized his inability to bear the burden of leadership by himself. (Num. 11:10-17)
3. The Apostles of the early church came to appreciate the value of qualified lay leaders. (Acts 6:1-7)
4. John Wesley came to appreciate the value of qualified lay leaders. (*Discipline* [1996], p. 22.)

B. Church leaders must take the lead in the church's evangelistic thrust. (Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:36-39)

1. The Board of Stewards and the Board of Trustees must make evangelism and disciple making their primary concern as they fulfill their specific duties and serve as the Official Boards of the church.
2. The Local Board of Evangelism must provide evangelism training for both clergy and laity, and sponsor evangelistic services and outreach projects that involve the entire congregation.
3. The Outreach Ministries must meet the *needs* of community through the *gifts, talents, and resources* of the church in order to create opportunities to *share the gospel of Jesus Christ*.

- C. Church leaders must take the lead initiating and assimilating converts. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41)
1. Baptism is the ritual in which the church celebrates the *initiating of the convert*.
 - a. The Spirit initiates converts into Christ's body. [The baptism of the Spirit] (1 Cor. 12:13)
 - b. The ordained minister initiates the convert ceremonially. [The baptism of water]
 - c. The congregation initiates the convert into the local church. [The baptism of love]
 - 1) Leaders greatly impact the attitudes & actions of church members.
 - 2) Leaders and members must love all that come to Christ, regardless of age, class, or color.
 - 3) Leaders and members must welcome all that seeks salvation, regardless of their shortcomings.
 2. Baptism is the ritual in which the church commits to the *assimilating of the convert*.
 - a. New converts must be properly orientated to the church.
 - b. New converts must be properly assimilated into a functioning class.
 - c. New converts must be properly exposed to the teaching ministry of the church.
 - d. New converts must be suitably equipped to serve in some aspect of the church's ministry.
 - e. New converts must be adequately trained to share their faith with others.
 - f. New converts must be definitely taught to obey the commands of Christ.
- D. Church leaders must take the lead in teaching believers to obey Christ. (Matthew 28:20; Acts 2:42)
1. Christian Educators must teach believers to live by Christ's commands by *precept and example*.
 2. Christian Educators must train both leaders and members to serve faithfully.
 3. Christian Educators must help to equip both leaders and members to share their faith effectively.
- E. Church leaders must take the lead in the ministry of intercessory prayer. (Acts 2:42-3:1)
1. Intercessory Prayer is a ministry to which we must devote ourselves. (Acts 2:42; 3:1)
 2. Conversions are the direct results of fervent, effectual prayers for the lost.
 3. The sending forth of laborers is the direct result of fervent, effectual prayers. (Luke 10:2)

V. The Vital Role of the Class Leader in Making Christian Disciples

- A. The class leader's role in the initiation and assimilation of new converts
1. The class leader should assist in the *immediate follow-up and orientation of new members*.
 - a. Give the new converts the "So Great a Salvation" Tract and use it to do the following:
 - 1) Have them record their decision in the appropriate place.
 - 2) Explain to them what has just happened.
 - 3) Enlighten them about the assurance of salvation.
 - 4) Guide them in understanding the aids to spiritual growth.
 - 5) Stress to them importance of baptism and church membership.
 - b. Welcoming them into the class by doing the following:
 - 1) Meet with them for a few moments after the service.
 - 2) Greet them warmly and introduce yourself as their class leader.
 - 3) Hand them a card with your vital information. (name, phone, address, etc)
 - 4) Obtain their vital information. (name, phone, address, etc)
 - 5) If possible, introduce them to one member of the class as their prayer partner.
 - 6) Explain to them that their class is their small family within the larger church family.
 - 7) Tell them that you are to help them grow spiritually and to help them in times of crisis.
 - 8) Tell them the day, time, & place of your weekly class meeting. (write it on the card)
 - 9) Offer to pick them up and bring them to the first meeting.
 - c. Enroll the convert into the New Members' Class and monitor their attendance.
 2. The class leader should assist in the assimilation of new converts.
 - a. They must minister to the babes in Christ by:
 - 1) Giving them the love and attention they need to grow spiritually
 - 2) Spoon-feeding them until they are able to feed themselves
 - 3) Changing their diapers until they are potty-trained

- 4) Protecting them until they are able to protect themselves
 - 5) Nurturing them as probationary members of the church
- b. They must minister to the spiritual adolescents by:
- 1) Teaching them to become faithful students of God's Word
 - 2) Teaching them to develop a consistent and meaningful prayer life
 - 3) Teaching them the importance of accountability
 - 4) Teaching them to faithfully attend the appointed means of grace
 - 5) Helping them to discover, develop, and use their spiritual gifts
 - 6) Helping them find their ministries in the church.
 - 7) Supporting them in times of crisis or need.
 - 8) Teaching them to share their faith with others.
 - 9) Teaching them to obey Christ's commands
 - 10) Preparing the converts for full connectional membership
- B. The class leader's role in the nurture and teaching of Christian believers.
- 1. Nurturing believers to spiritual growth in Christ.
 - a. Helping them to become mature Christians
 - b. Helping them to become responsible Christians
 - c. Helping them to become reproducing Christians
 - 2. Teaching believers to obey the commands of Christ
 - a. Teaching them how to live in accordance with God's word
 - b. Teaching them how to develop Christian character
 - c. Teaching them how to bear the fruit of the Spirit
 - d. Teaching them how to love people in a Christ-like manner
 - e. Teaching them how to do no harm and how to avoid evil of every kind
 - f. Teaching them how to do good of every possible sort and how to be merciful
- C. The class leader's role in the training and deployment of Christian disciples
- 1. Training Christian Disciples
 - a. Training Christian disciples to share the faith
 - b. Training Christian disciples to serve faithfully in the church
 - c. Training Christian disciples to do outreach in the community
 - 2. Deploying Christian Disciples—Recommending qualified disciples for leadership, service, ministry
 - a. Recommending those who show evidence of graces
 - b. Recommending those who show evidence of gifts
 - c. Recommending those who show evidence of usefulness
 - d. Recommending those who show evidence of commitment to disciple making

VI. The Class Meeting as the Place Where Disciples Are Made

- A. A small group ministry
- B. A weekly meeting
- C. A behavioral mode of ministry
- D. A family within the family
- E. A point of entry & exclusion
- F. A circle of care and concern
- G. A disciple making entity