

# MAKING MISSIONAL DISCIPLES

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# The Greatest Problem

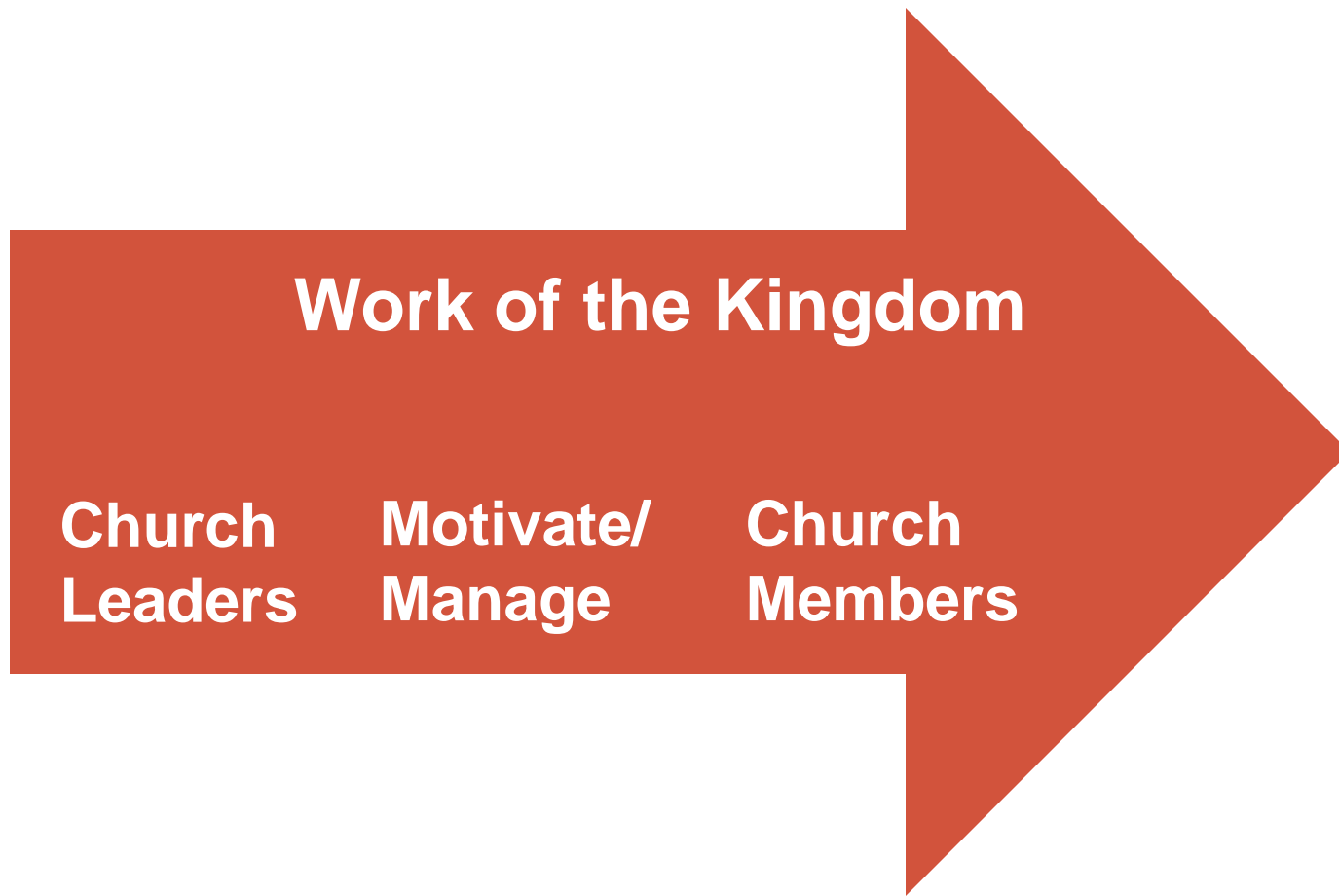
The greatest problems for the church are not from secular ideologies or Atheist philosophies, or even other religions.

The real problem for the church is where it has always been. It is in the midst of God's people, not in the circumstances surrounding them.

The real problem is when God's people try to do His work in the power of the flesh rather than the power of His Spirit.

# From Managing Members to Life Transformation

Too often, our Mode of Operation in the church is represented by the figure below:



# From Managing Members to Life Transformation

## Ephesians 4:11-13 (NKJV)

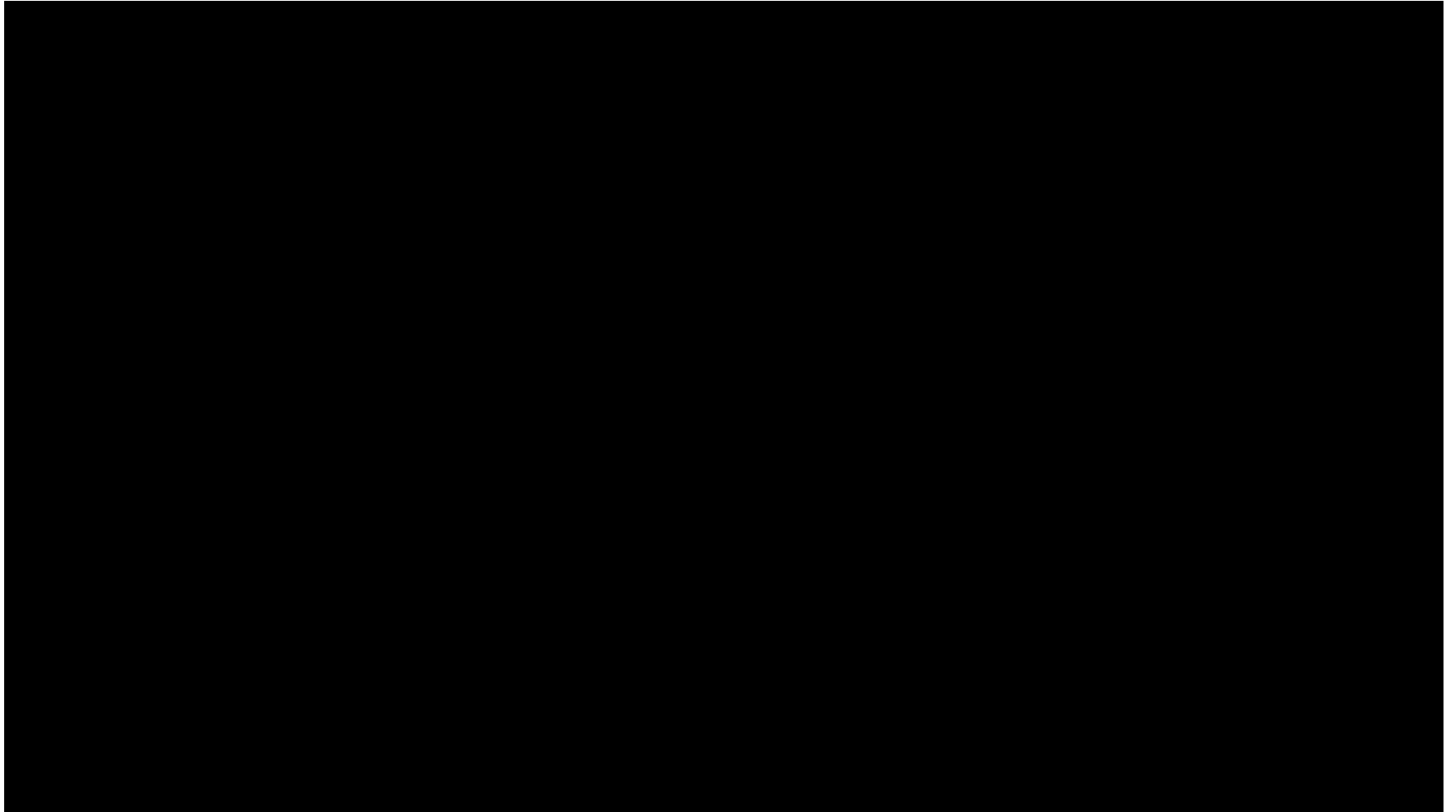
<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ . . .

### **Management Mindset**

. . . <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

### **Transformation (Eph. 4:13) Mindset**

Are we making disciples?



# An honest unflinching look!

Many self-professed Christians and churchgoers hold to beliefs and perspectives that are clearly unbiblical. And that overall the sample of churchgoers did not grow or mature over the course of a year.

Brad Waggoner

(Based on research for SFI)

# The Reveal Study

2004 - Greg Hawkins, exec pastor at Willow Creek, surveyed Willow Creek members to determine the effectiveness of WC's programs — small groups, worship, service groups, etc. with regard to Willow's Mission Statement - ***To turn irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.***

The survey results produced what Bill Hybels calls "*the wake up call of my adult life*" –

# The Reveal Study

Participants were classified into 4 groups based on their responses.

1. Exploring — not yet Christians, but interested.
2. Growing — new Christians beginning to grow in faith.
3. Close to Christ – faith is taken personally and practiced consistently
4. Centered in Christ – life is characterized by Christ-like sacrifice



# The Reveal Study

The Results of the Reveal study showed: that after a person entered Stages 1 & 2, church programs did not help them love God or love people more. Most people seemed to stall in stage 1 or 2.

1. Exploring — not yet Christians, but interested.
2. Growing — new Christians beginning to grow in faith.

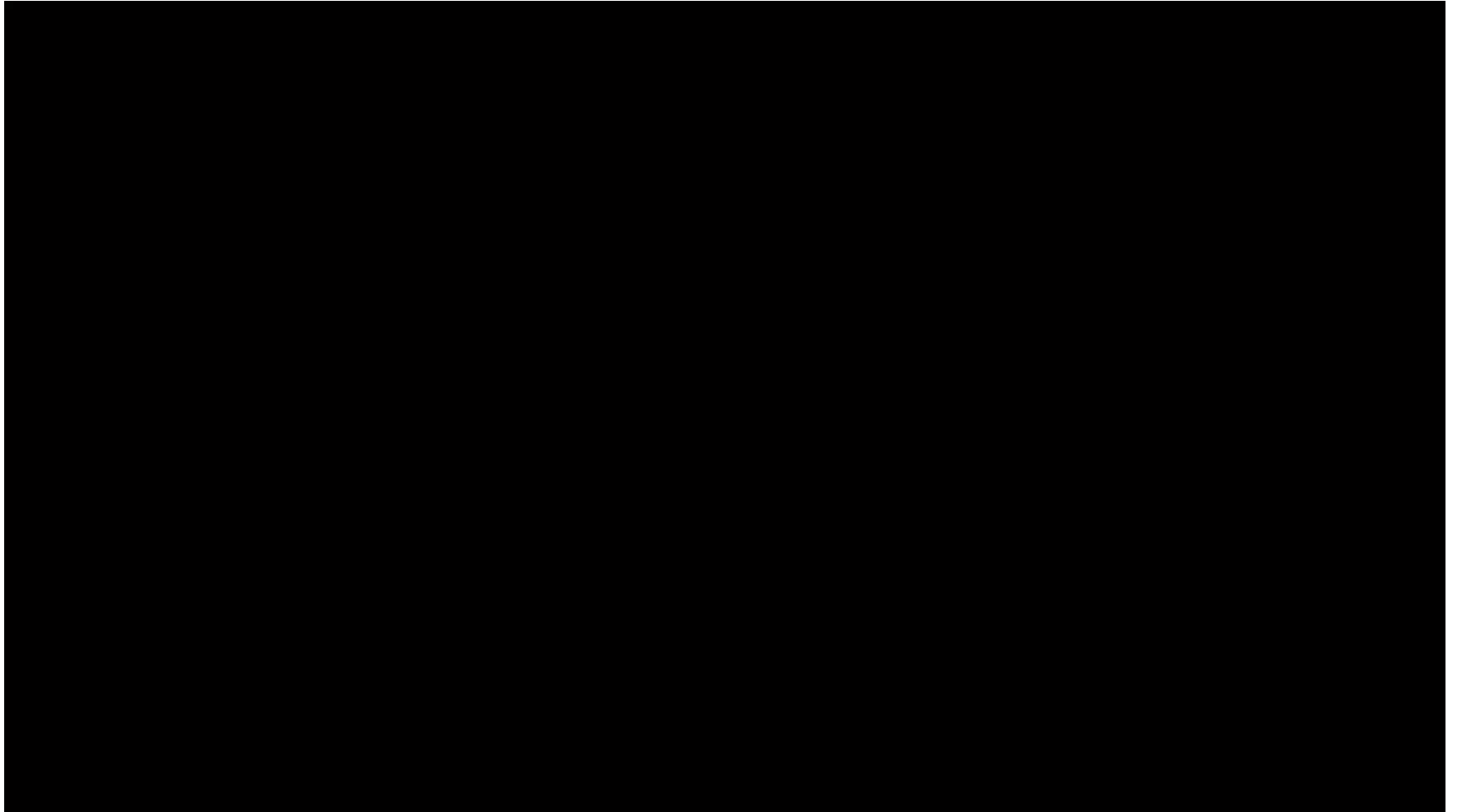
# The Reveal Study



# The Reveal Study

*“We were not leading our people to take spiritual responsibility for themselves”*

# Faith in Kindergarten



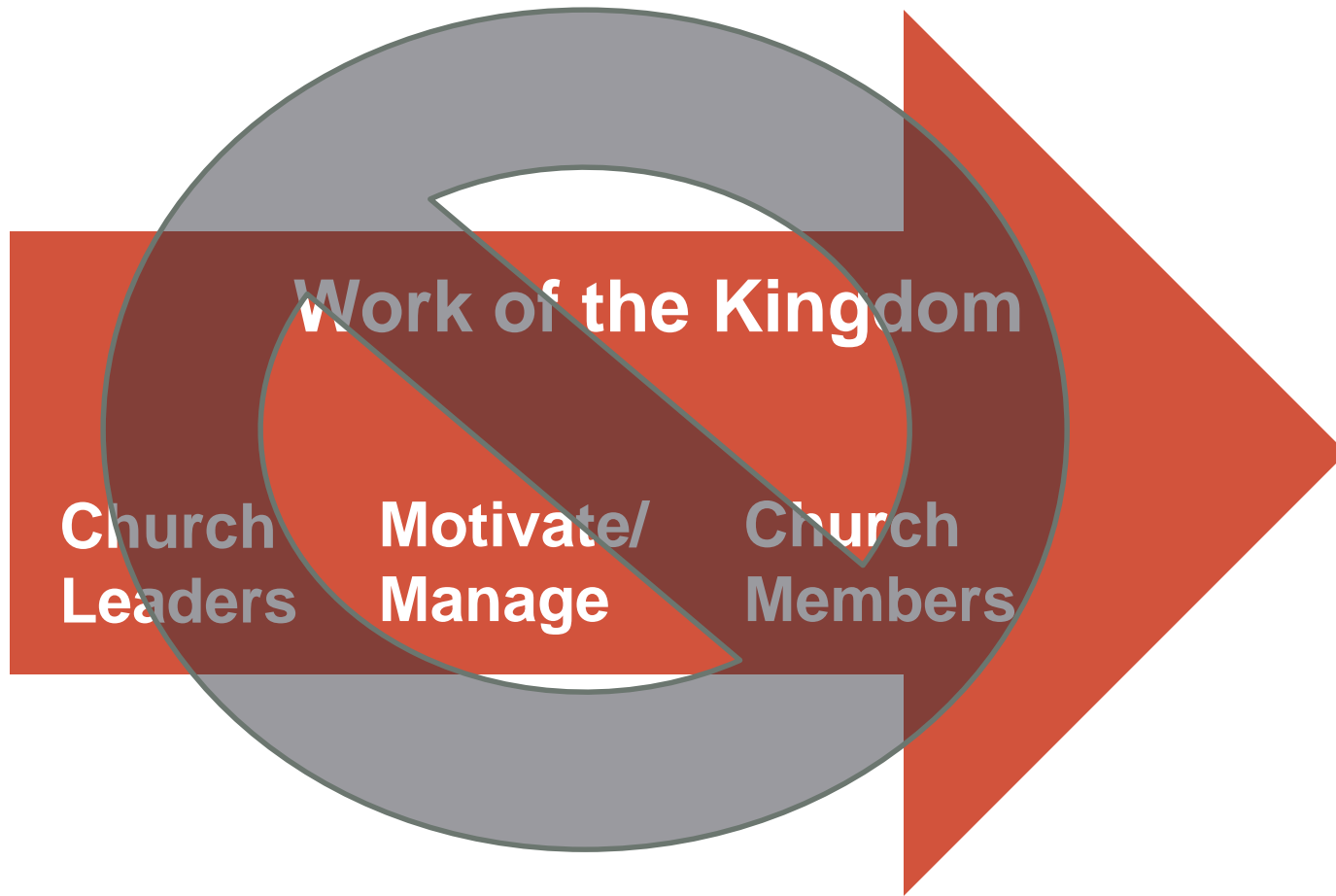
# From Managing Members to Life Transformation

*This is not a call for activism. Instead it is a call for deep inner alignment with God's purposes. . . . Transformed hearts produced transformed persons, through and through, and deeds arise from the heart quickened by faith. The deeds of the kingdom arise naturally out of a certain quality of life.*

Dallas Willard – The Divine Conspiracy

# From Managing Member to Life Transformation

Too often, our Mode of Operation in the church is represented by the figure below:



# From Managing Member to Life Transformation

## **Ephesians 4:11-13 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> **till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**

# From Managing Member to Life Transformation

The Mode of Operation in the church must change: *The deeds of the kingdom arise naturally out of an Eph. 4:13 Life.*



## Work of the Kingdom

Church  
Leaders

Equip the  
Saints

Eph. 4:13 Life



# From Managing Members to Life Transformation

## **Ephesians 4:14-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

<sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--

<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

# From Managing Members to Life Transformation

We will be more effective in making disciples for `Christ when we:

Clearly communicate to our church members that they need to GROW UP in Christ.

Articulated a clear DEFINITION of what being grown up in Christ looks like.

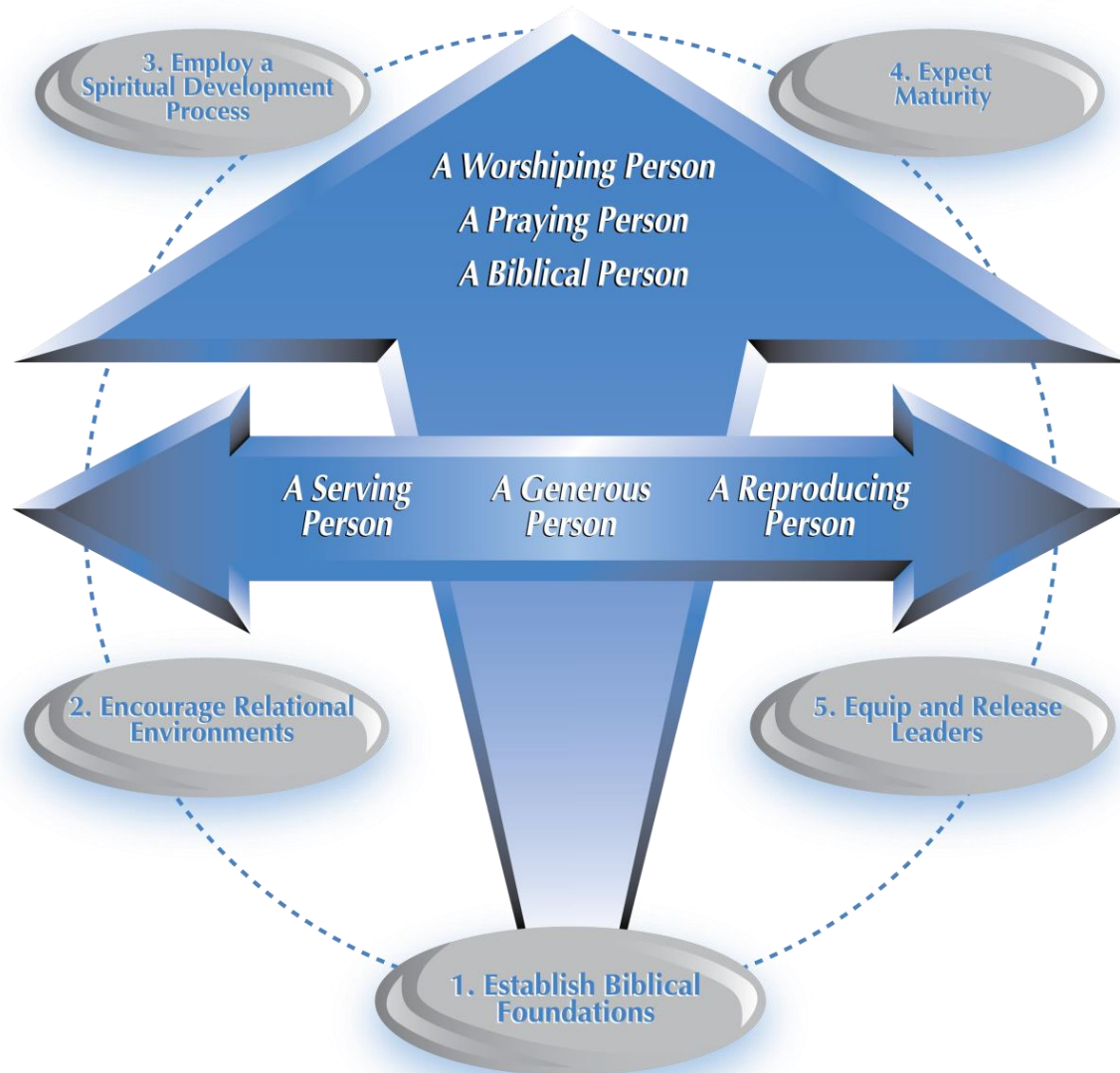
Provide an effective PATHWAY to help our church members grow up in Christ.

# Growing Disciplemaking Cultures



<p><b>Purposeful</b> <i>Ephesians 4:11-16</i></p> <p><b>Leaders have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision</li> <li>• Heart</li> <li>• Know-how</li> </ul>	<p><b>Picture</b> <i>Matthew 28:18-20</i></p> <p><b>Picture is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible based</li> <li>• Specific</li> <li>• Integrated to church</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pathway</b> <i>Colossians 2:6-7</i></p> <p><b>Pathways move from:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large group</li> <li>• Small group</li> <li>• One-to-one</li> </ul>	<p><b>Practitioners</b> <i>Matthew 9:36-38</i></p> <p><b>Alongsiders who have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision</li> <li>• Intentionality</li> <li>• Means</li> </ul>	<p><b>Progress</b> <i>Acts 6:1, 7</i></p> <p><b>Celebrate wins:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase number of disciples</li> <li>• Multiplication of disciples</li> </ul>
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# Kingdom Person Strategy



# Kingdom Person Strategy

The Kingdom Person Strategy focuses specifically on Matthew 22:36-40, in which Jesus explained His expectations with regard to keeping the commandments. An understanding of this passage in the context of the overall message of Scripture makes it clear that a Kingdom Person organizes his or her life according to the Great Commandment: loving God and loving people as expressed in the following six dimensions:

# Kingdom Person Strategy

- **A Worshipping Person** – lives worship by surrendering his or her own agenda and embracing God’s agenda.
- **A Praying Person** – has learned to hear the Father’s voice and respond to His mission, just as Jesus modeled.
- **A Biblical Person** – is developing a healthy Biblical framework for living and is committed to following Jesus in every area of life.
- **A Serving Person** - demonstrates love to one’s neighbor through willingness to put the needs of others above oneself and live out the truths of the Gospel.
- **A Generous Person** – extravagantly invests in the Kingdom of God and the well-being of His body.
- **A Reproducing Person** – is a disciple maker who leads others to lead others to live like Jesus.

# Developing Kingdom People

- Developing Kingdom People does not happen without an intentional and strategic process. While the details of the Kingdom Person process can vary based on a particular context, the essential elements for developing Kingdom People are:
  - Establish Biblical Foundations
  - Encourage Relational Environments
  - Employ a Spiritual Development Process
  - Expect Maturity
  - Equip and Release Leaders

# Establish Biblical Foundations

- Disciple Making Must be Scriptural – 2 Goals:
  - Based on Biblical Principles
    - We must seek a Biblical understanding of the mandate to make disciples. In addition, we must seek to discover the biblical methodologies for making disciples.
  - Develop Biblical Practices
    - Disciples must learn how to read, understand, and apply Scripture for themselves. Become ***spiritual self-feeders who can eventually learn to feed and develop others. (Chew your meat!)***



# Encourage Relational Environments

- Jesus Made Disciples
  - In the context of relationships
  - By modeling faith in real life situations
  - By shepherding

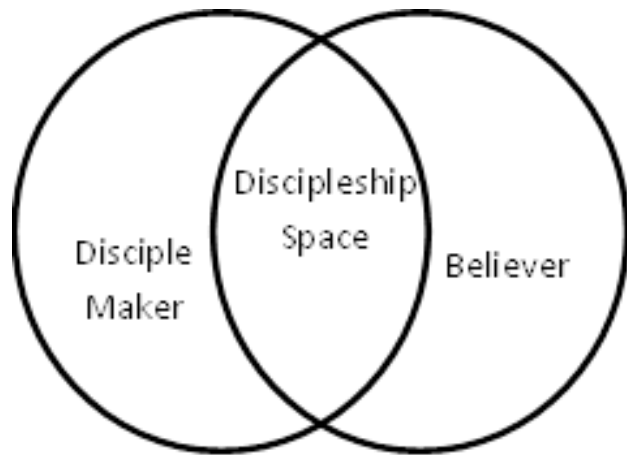
\*Relational Environments are the key to disciple making!

# Relational Environments Create Discipleship Space

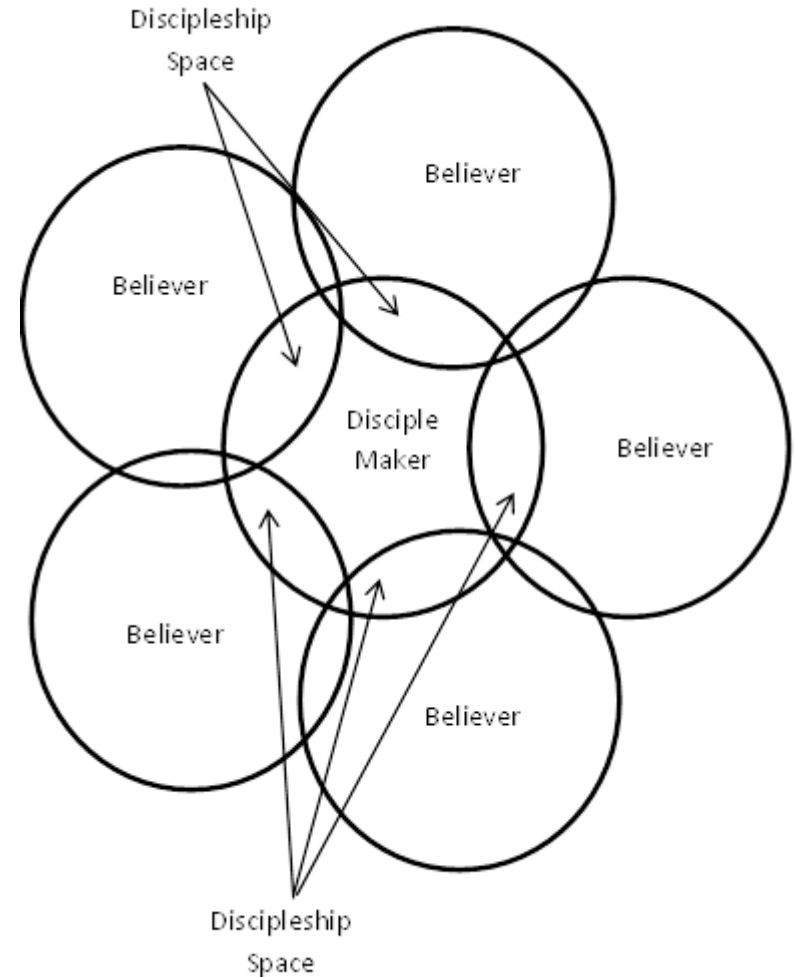
The overlapped life is the space where discipleship happens. This discipleship space is created when disciple making leaders build relationships with others for the purpose of multiplying themselves. Disciple makers must be intentional about creating environments where relationships can be built and discipleship space can be created.

# Discipleship Space

Relational One to One Discipling



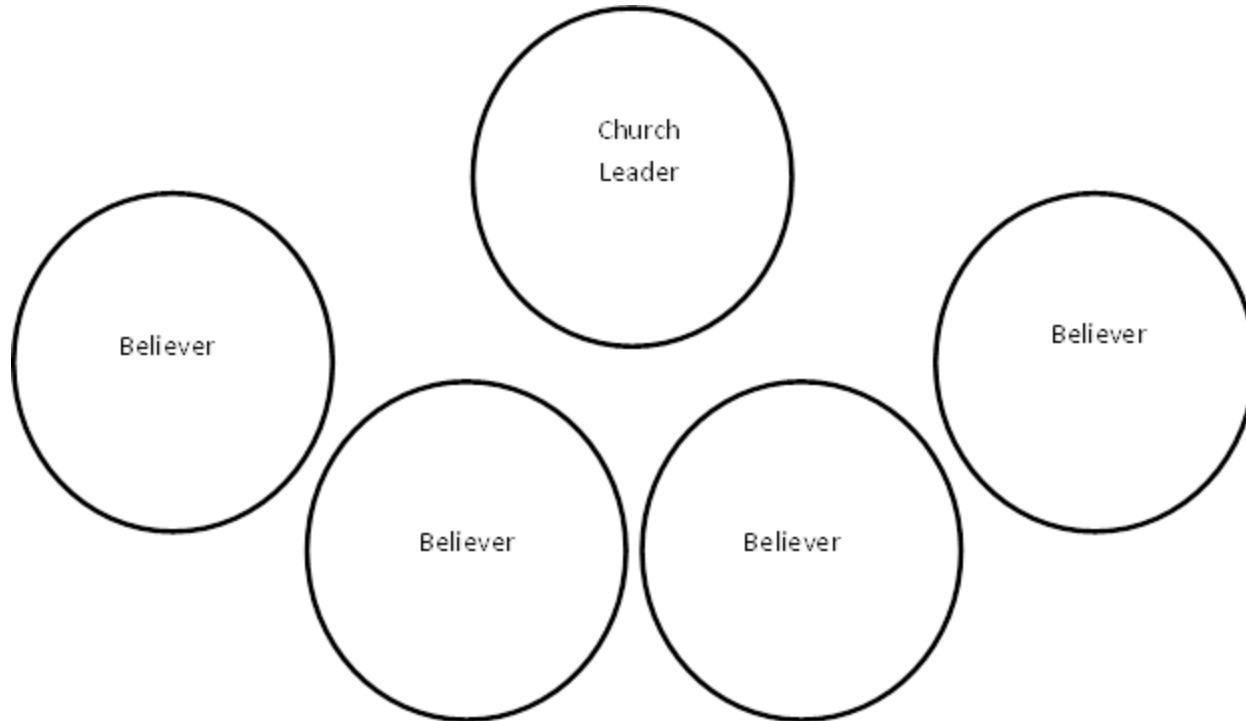
Relational Small Group Discipling



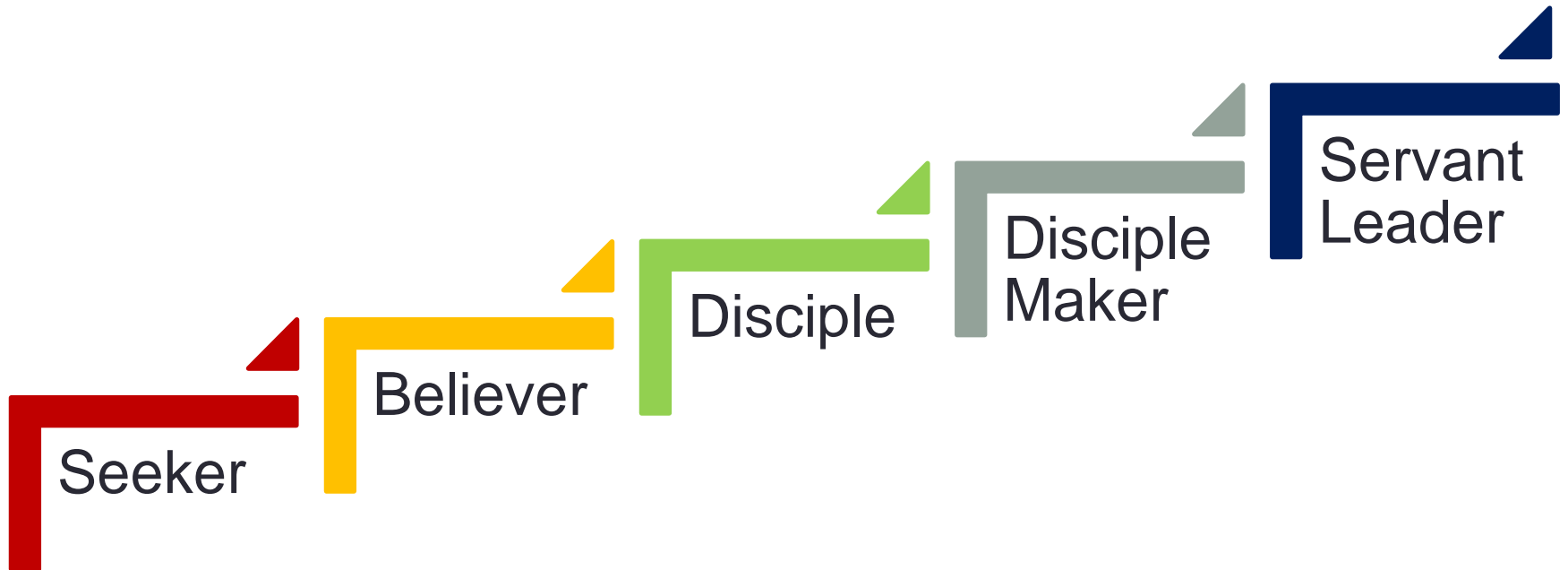
# Discipleship Space

## Non-Relational Ministry

(Discipling rarely happens because there is no discipleship space)

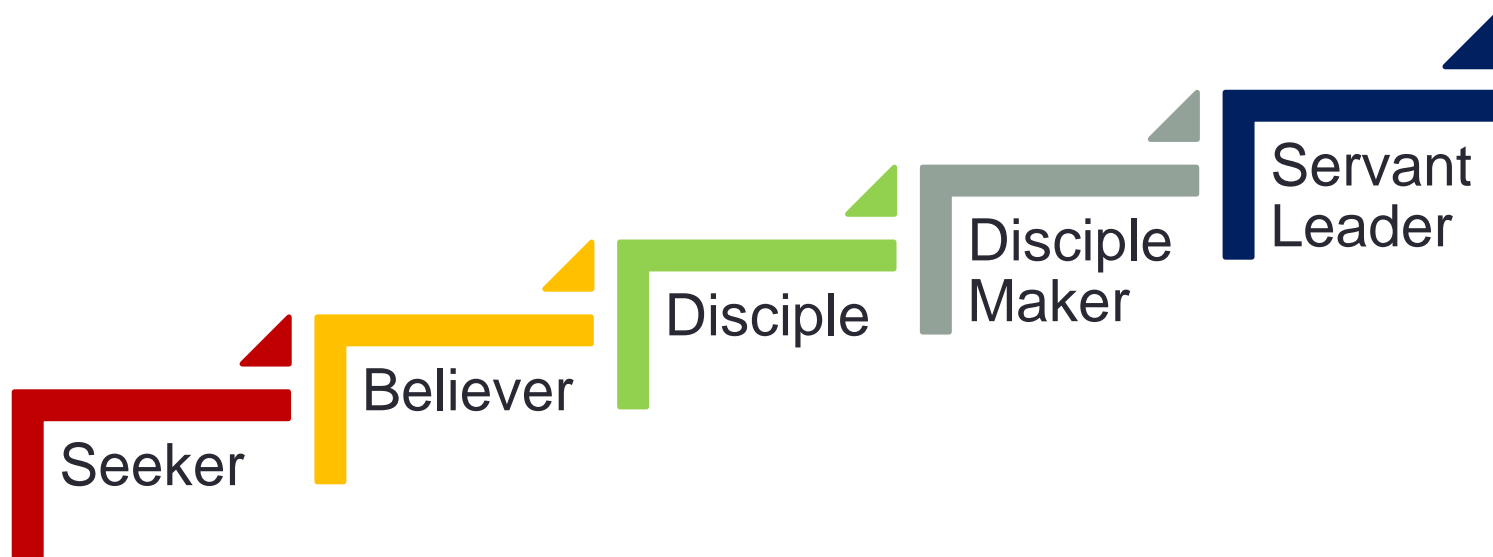


# Employ a Spiritual Development Process



# Seeker Stage

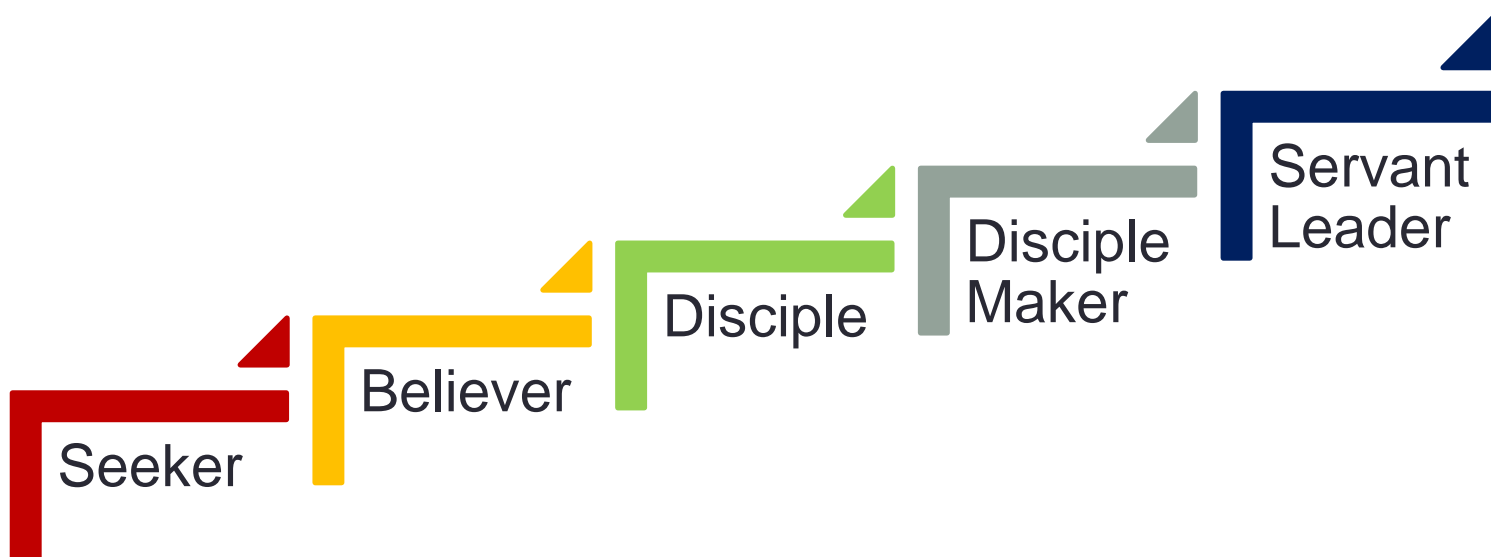
## 1. Seeker Stage (Spiritually Interested)



# Believer

## 1. Believer Stage (Spiritually Hungry – Can't Feed Self)

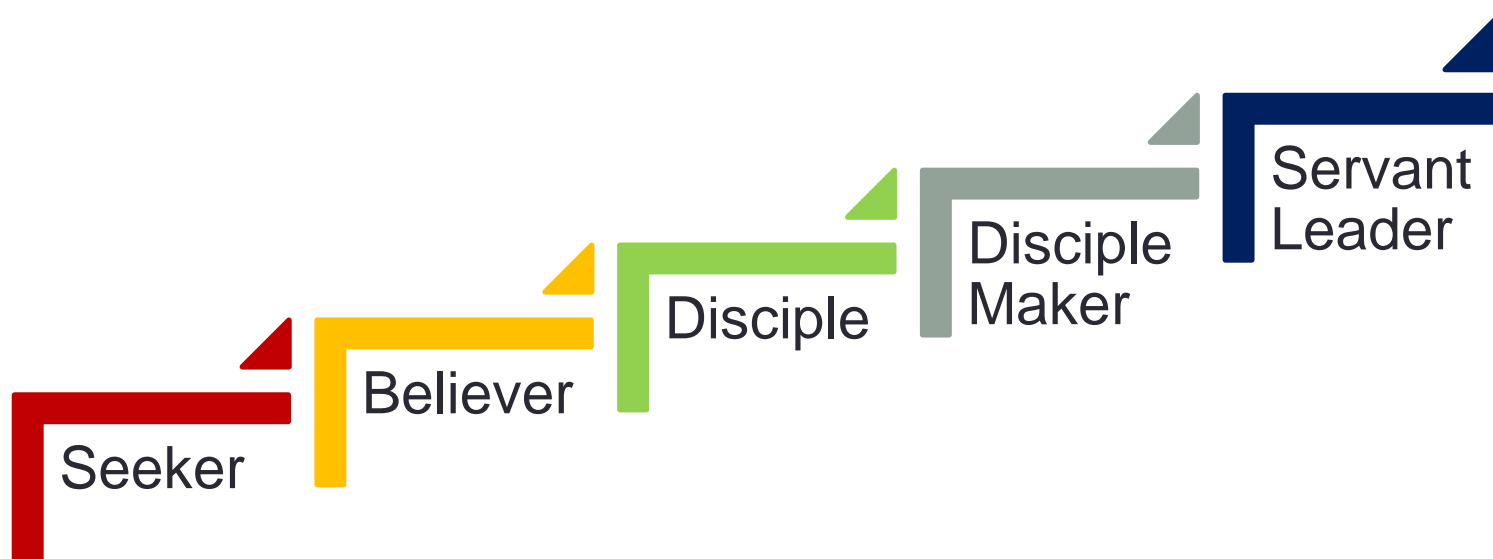
- 1 John 2:12 *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of His name.*



# Disciple

## 2. Disciple Stage (Spiritually Growing – Feeds Self) – 1

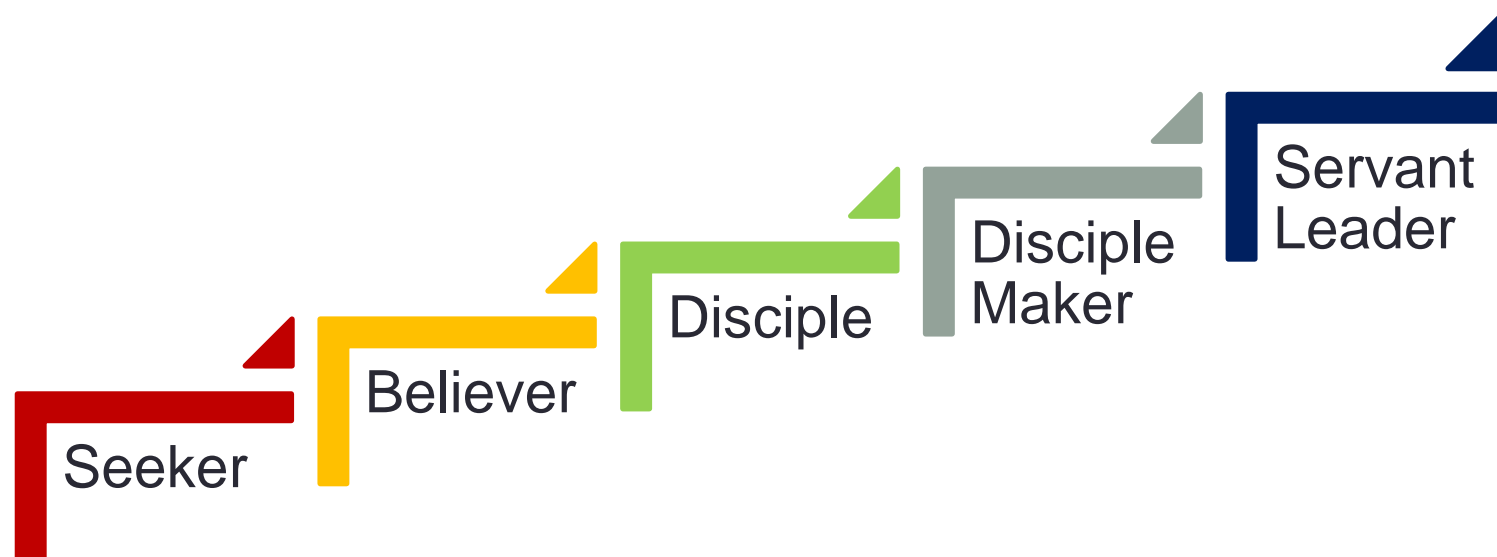
John 2:14a *I have written to you, children, because you have come to know the Father.*





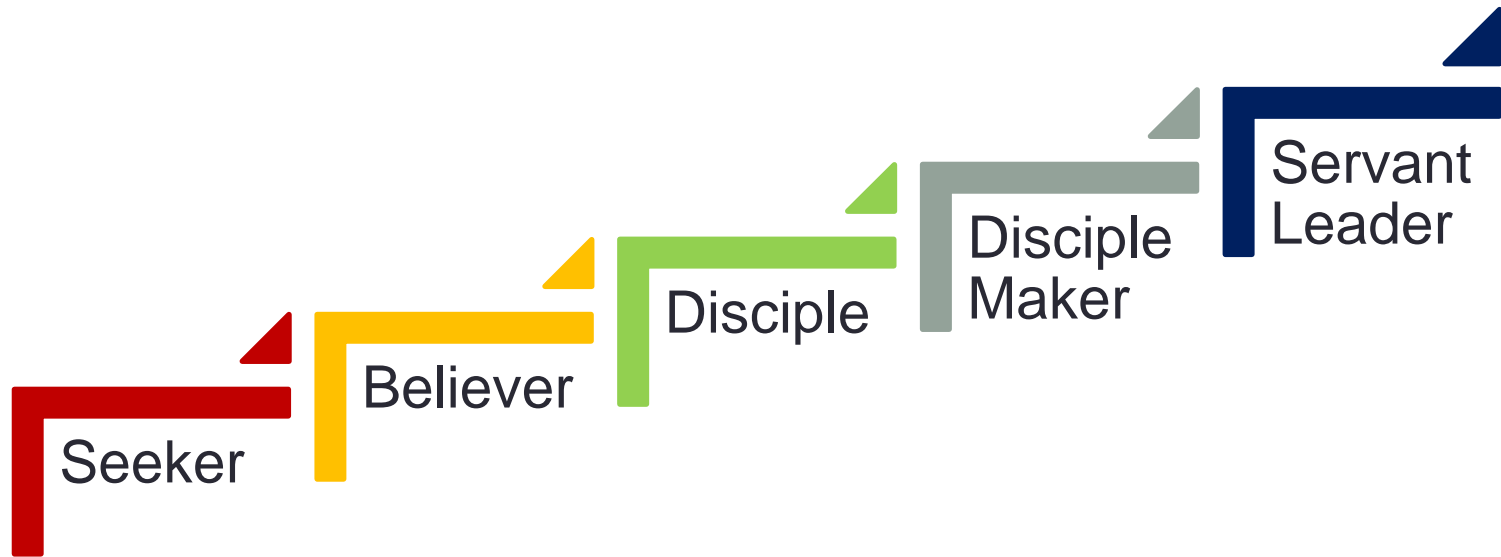
# Disciple Maker

**3. Disciple Maker Stage (Spiritually Mature – Feeds Others)** - 1 John 2:14b *I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, God's word remains in you, and you have had victory over the evil one.*



# Servant Leader

4. **Servant Lead Stage** (Spiritually Reproducing – Leads in Ministry) 1 John 2:13a *I am writing to you, fathers, because you have come to know the One who is from the beginning.*



# Expect Maturity

Every follower of Christ must be expected to grow. An expectation of Christian growth and maturity must become the norm for the church. It is a serious problem when believers do not grow in their faith and fail to demonstrate increasing levels of spiritual maturity.

# Expect Maturity

Ephesians 4:11-14 (HCSB) - 11 And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, **[growing] into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.** 14 Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit.

# Expect Maturity

## Methods for Creating an Expectation of Maturity

- 1. Modeling spiritual maturity
- 2. Spiritual mentoring
- 3. Create a church culture that exemplifies and celebrates spiritual maturity
- 4. Teach the spiritual development process and help people move through it
- 5. Encouraging participation in Missions and Ministry
- 6. Encourage the practice of Christian spiritual disciplines

# Equip and Release Leaders

Developing Kingdom People is dependent on effectively developing and releasing leaders who are skilled and motivated to impact the lives of others by modeling maturity and helping others grow in their faith.

# Equip and Release Leaders

2 Timothy 2:2 (HCSB) - 2 And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

# Equip and Release Leaders

## Methods for Equipping and Releasing Leaders

- 1. Teach spiritual gifts and calling
- 2. Provide opportunities to explore ministry service
- 3. Develop and communicate a leadership development plan
- 4. Know the qualities of discipling leaders and how to cultivate them