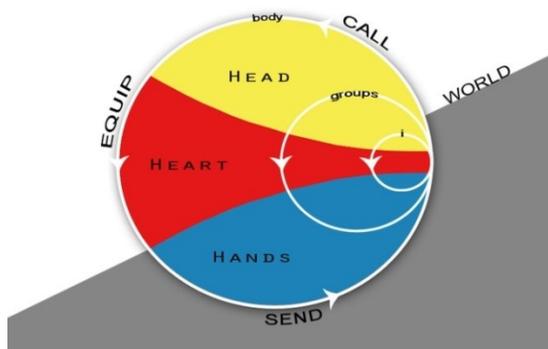


Discipleship Approach - FBC Life Model



New Testament disciple-making involves:

- Calling people by the gospel, out of the world and into a relationship with Christ
- Equipping those people to become mature reproducing disciples in Christ
- Sending disciples into the world on mission to reproduce more disciples of Jesus.

We build reproducing disciples of through:

- Head: giving people the Truth to know God and to understand and think Biblically.
- Heart: providing Community so people share life in authentic loving relationships
- Hands: being Engaged with the world to make a difference in Jesus' name.

There are 3 spheres of involvement that form the NT expectation for every disciple:

- Church body: regular gatherings of the whole body for worship and disciple-making
- Groups: involvement in community groups, for teaching, caring and sharing mission
- Personal: a transforming Spirit-led walk that overflows into a life of devotion to God, family life centered on God, active service in the body and personal outreach to the lost.

3 Forms of Relationships

What forms does church life take? We start with a small circle labeled with a little 'i', that represents the **individual**. Each believer is significant to God. You matter. Jesus called people personally. He didn't call groups of people to follow Him. (Mark 2:14; Rom.12:3-8).

The degree to which we succeed as a church at accomplishing the mission of Christ will be to the degree to which every single member of our church owns personally the mission of Christ.

We are so committed to the importance of **groups** that we make active participation in a recognized community group a key expectation for membership. Small groups are not just a nice idea, or a good option for people. For us they are vital. (Mark 3:13-19).

Most of the admonitions in the NT about body life must be practiced in a small group setting, where the walls come down and the masks come off; where people care for each other and learn and grow together.

Our community groups have a 3 fold function. They are for learning and caring, but they also function as outreach and ministry teams.

The local church is the aspect of **the body** of Christ that consists of believers living within a location that identify publicly with one another with Christ at the centre. It is our conviction that we need to come together weekly for inspirational corporate worship, confessing and exalting Jesus as Lord, hearing the Word proclaimed and enjoying our church family.

3 Stages of Development

Call

The call of Christ speaks of the radical counter cultural nature of Christianity. Christ calls us out of the world; not physically speaking, but there is a sense in which we relinquish all else in order to follow Him. There is a turning away FROM all else, to turn TO Him. The call to follow Christ is a call to give Him first priority in all of life. In this sense it is a dying to self. (Mk 1:14-20).

Equip

The second arrow, in each of the 3 circles represents the second stage of the process of change that Christ wants - we label it 'equip'. Our relationship with Christ is how we are changed. His presence in our lives is what makes the difference in our living. He addresses the needs of our hearts, and begins a lifelong process of mending the broken pieces of our lives. That is why we use the word 'equip'. It is our relationship with Christ by which He equips us for life. This is not a matter of looking at Jesus and then trying to be like him. It is a matter of being changed by His presence through our interaction with Him. (Mk 3:13-14).

Send

The third part of the process is the sending part. This means we are called and equipped in Christ for a purpose. *We are called to Him, and equipped in Him, to be then sent by Him.* The sending part is the fulfillment of the missional process. To be sent like Jesus was sent is to be incarnational. It is your life present and active in the world as the hands and feet of Jesus. To be sent is about your whole life, your hands, feet, your time, everything you are. (John 20:21).

3 Core Values

Truth (Head)

Simply put, truth exists and truth matters. Truth has the power to change us. The truth can 'set us free' (John 8:31-32). *As a church, we need to be inspiring life change through the changeless Word of God.* In order to make disciples of Christ, we need to be providing people with the critical information they need to come to know God and to understand and think biblically. (Mt.7:24-29; John 17:17; Gal.1:6-9; 2Tim.3:16).

Community (Heart)

Life is relationship and community is what holds this model together - our relationship with God and with one another. We need to be sharing our lives together in authentic relationships. On a very practical and profound level, we need each other. We need encouragement. We need accountability. We need love. We need each other. (John 13:34-35; Col.3:12-17).

We succeed in part as a church by developing authentic, healthy relationship environments that are filled with grace, motivated by love and characterized by encouragement and accountability with Christ at the centre.

Engagement (Hands)

Engagement is stepping out in faith to make a difference in Jesus' name - stepping outside of our comfort zone as they say, exercising faith. When we say engagement is one of our 3 core values, it means we will succeed as a church, in large part, by equipping, employing and deploying our people for action, stepping out in tangible, faith stretching ways, that impact others for the cause of Christ. John 15:8,16.

To summarize the model: *"the church of Jesus Christ consists of those who have been called out of the world and into relationship with Him, who are being changed and empowered by Him, and then directed back to serve on mission in a lost and dying world for Him."*

The church exists to make disciples. Only God can change people, but He has given us key roles. We can give people the truth, we can love them, and we can get them involved, serving and sharing, giving and going. That includes you and me: learning and growing in the truth, loving and caring for those around us and stepping out in faith.



FBC Discipleship Path

