



# TRENDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

# How Well Do Churches “Do” Discipleship?

1 in 5 practicing Christians are involved in discipleship

2 questions every church should be able to answer:

- 1. Do we have a comprehensive plan for making disciples?**
- 2. Is our plan working?**

# Barriers to Discipleship

- ▶ “Busyness” of life
- ▶ Lack of commitment to discipleship
- ▶ Lack of church leadership with clear approach to growing disciples

# Preferred Method of Discipleship (Barna 2015)

## Practicing Christians

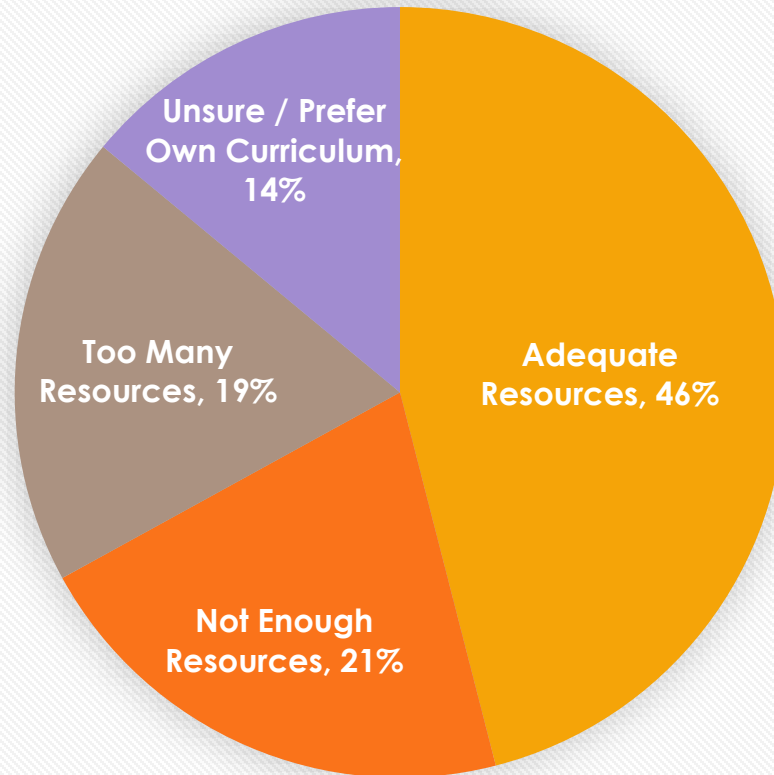
- ▶ 38% - On my own
- ▶ 25% - With a group
- ▶ 21% - One-on-one
- ▶ 16% - Mix of these

## Senior Pastors

- ▶ 11% - On one's own
- ▶ 52% - With a group
- ▶ 29% - One-on-one
- ▶ 8% - Large group

# Discipleship Resources

## Church Leaders



# Defining What Is Discipleship

“Intentionally equipping believers through accountable relationships empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to replicate faithful followers of Christ.” (Gallaty)



# Desired Changes in How the Church Disciples

- ▶ ***Is not*** a program or ministry
- ▶ ***Is part of*** church's core identity
- ▶ Clear & intentional plan & approach
- ▶ *Making Jesus' Final Words Our First Work*  
(Gallaty)

# Are Churches Assessing Their Discipleship Efforts?

When asked how they measure discipleship effectiveness? (Barna 2015 )

- ▶ Many **describe** process & number of programs rather than **evaluate** results
- ▶ Many indicate **effectiveness is not tracked** or **record only number involved**



# Fielder Church

- ▶ Inhale & Exhale the Gospel
- ▶ Make disciples who do the same

Intentional  
Accountable  
Measurable

# Fielder D-Groups

- ▶ Missional – Intentional lifestyle evangelism
- ▶ Accountable – Covenant with clear expectations
- ▶ Communal – Journey alongside one another
- ▶ Reproducible – Measurable when mentee becomes mentor

# Fielder D-Group Guidelines

- ▶ Pliability – Jointly pliable for the Holy Spirit to shape us
- ▶ Confidentiality – What is shared stays within the group
- ▶ Commitment
  - ▶ Pray for each other
  - ▶ Complete assigned readings
  - ▶ Respond to accountability questions
  - ▶ Make attending a priority

# Fielder D-Groups

## **Foundation (FDG)**

- ▶ To inhale & exhale the Gospel

## **Growth (GDG)**

- ▶ To understand God's word & grow in love with Him

## **Leadership (LDG)**

- ▶ To become missional leaders & develop radical love for imperfect people

# Fielder D-Group Covenant

## Prayer

- ▶ Pray for 3 non-believers by name & group members' "one thing"

## Hospitality

- ▶ Invite a non-believer or friend into your home once a month

# Fielder D-Group Covenant (cont)

## Accountability

- ▶ List 5 most important discoveries
- ▶ Share your “one thing” you want to change in your life
- ▶ Truthfully respond to accountability questions

## Reproducible

- ▶ Commit to lead 3 new people through a D-Group

## Commitment

- ▶ Commit to 6 months **in** a group
- ▶ Commit to 6 months **leading** a group

# D-Group Basic Flow

Time Allotment	Agenda Item	Description
5 min	Hang out time	Time for people to reengage in relationship & trust
55 min	Accountability	Individual responses to accountability questions & praying for each person's area of need
50 min	Reading Discoveries	Time dialoguing about the 5 most important discoveries
10 min	One Thing	Share one thing you will change this week

# D-Group Books

## FDG

1. *Crazy Love*
2. *Purpose-Driven Life*
3. *God Questions*

## GDG

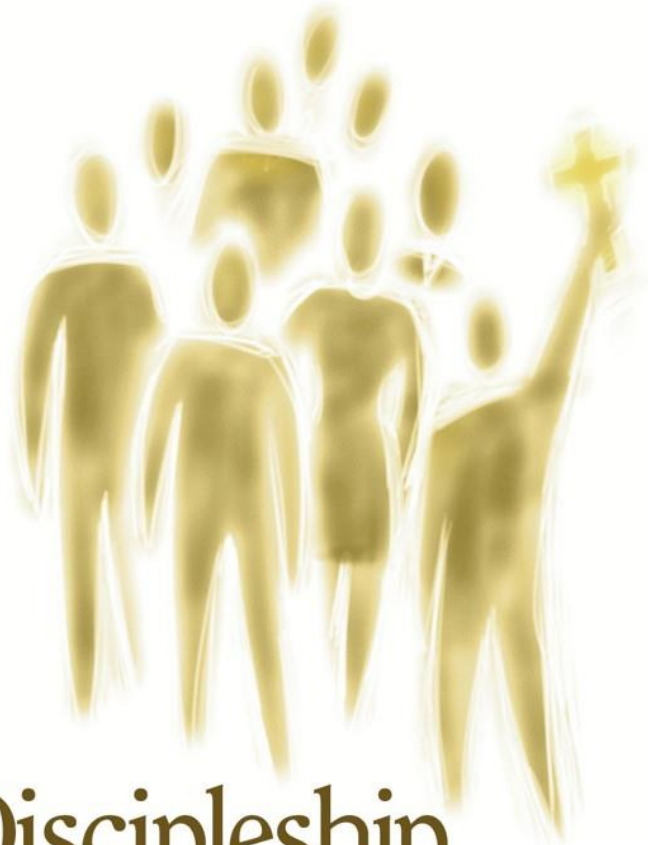
1. *Journey Into God's Word*
2. *Old Testament Today*
3. *A Survey of the New Testament*

## LDG

1. *Radical*
2. *The Present Future*
3. *Center Church*
4. *Just Walk across the Room*
5. *Managing God's Money*
6. *Celebration of Discipline*



# Fielder D-Groups



Discipleship

2014 - Present		
Discipleship Groups	Number of Groups	Number of Participants
LDGs	34	136
GDGs	20	80
FDGs	16	64
Total Groups	89	280

**Making disciples who do the same**

# Fielder D-Group

Online Tool for  
D-Group  
Members

DPointer01 - Leadership  
Discipleship Group - Active

## PRAYING FOR

Chrissy  
Jeff  
Steve

CHANGE

## NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting is on **2/19/2017** at **6:30 P**  
Unknown next meeting location.

CHANGE

Fielder D-Group

Online tool for  
D-Group  
Members

## DISCIPLINES

Read "Celebration of Discipline"  
by Richard Foster  
Chapters 8-13

LDG - Session 14.pdf

RECORD MEETING

## TRACKING & REPORTING

\*\*\*  
Report Your Top 5  
&  
Prayer/Hospitality Tracking  
\*\*\*

# Disciple Making: Up Close & Personal

## **D-Group Approach**

- ▶ Intentional
- ▶ Relational
- ▶ Accountable
- ▶ Measurable

**Inhale & Exhale  
the Gospel and  
Make Disciples  
Who Do the  
Same**