

ESSENTIALS FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Enlisting, engaging, equipping, encouraging, empowering your leaders: disciple-making in a church is not easy. The purpose of this S.K.I.L.L. resource is to assist you to have a more effective disciple-making church. Godly, growing, passionate leaders are THE KEY element to the effectiveness of your disciple-making church strategy. These essentials of leadership development will help you grasp the greatness God has in store for your ministry.

Enlisting the God-called leader is essential. The best disciple-making leaders are disciples who are already making disciples; they already have a passion for growing in Christ themselves and for helping others to do the same. They will be wonderful role models/examples for those they lead.

Engaging God-called leaders in the ministry that God has called them to do is essential. Help them see the vision for your church and the priority of helping every member and family member along the transformation journey—not just their group members, but help them see the big picture.

Equipping God-called leaders for ministry and service (Ephesians 4: 12) is essential. Every leader needs training. Jesus spent most of his ministry on earth teaching and training those who would continue His work. An athlete needs to be reminded of the basics, to practice skills over and over, and to be taught new skills and new methods. In the same way, the disciple-making leader needs to be reminded of the basics, to practice his skills daily, and to be taught new skills and new methods.

The DISCIPLE-MAKERS MANUAL which is downloadable from www.alsbom.org/discipleship describes the disciple-making approaches that most churches are using today—program-oriented, process-oriented, platform-oriented, and more. It also gives questions from a master coach to guide you and your leaders to assess the effectiveness of your disciple-making strategy and to determine ways to become more effective disciple-makers.

You will also discover several options for leader training conferences provided through the Office of Sunday School and Discipleship at www.alsbom.org. THE SUMMIT FOR CHURCH LEADERS at Shocco Springs, as well as six regional conferences offer numerous general and age-level conferences for Sunday School teachers and leaders and discipleship teachers and leaders. THE SUMMIT also offers other leadership conferences that will help grow your leaders.

Encouraging your leaders is one of your priorities. Pray for them (Colossians 1:9-12 is a great prayer to pray.) Invite them to go to training with you. Point them to some of the resources and training opportunities above. Celebrate growth with them. Encourage them!

Empowering your leaders is one of your priorities. While the Holy Spirit is the one who really empowers, you need to release them and trust them to do the ministry that God has called them to do. Hold them accountable, but equip them, pray for them and trust them to be disciple-makers.

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