

Church Libraries Making Disciples with their Churches
Alabama Baptist Convention Zoom Webinar 2022
Participation Guide

Description: Jesus commissioned us to make disciples. Church libraries make disciples best with their churches. And churches need their library teams to join them in their disciple making strategies. Through a panel discussion, let's consider 5 disciple making principles that guide churches. Each of these principles open opportunities for libraries. The panel members represent small, median, and large churches.

I. Introduction

A. Panelists

1. Janice Baker, Leader, Church Library, Clingan Ridge Baptist Church, Cleveland, TN
2. Sue Berthelot, Leader, Church Library, Ascension Baptist Church, Gonzalas, LA
3. Morlee Maynard, Leader, Enrichment Center, Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, TN;
Church Librarians Network Coordinator

B. Source: 5 Principles of Making Disciples webinar by Ken Braddy

Click: [Training Thru 22 | Lifeway](#). Scroll down to this webinar for replay.

II. Principle 1: Discipleship Requires Proximity

A. A few points made by Ken.

1. Discipleship is the emphasis. Relationships are the method.
2. Jesus worked in small groups.
3. Jesus primary methods was life-on-life. He showed them how to follow God.
(*Real Life Discipleship: Building Churches that Make Disciples* by Jim Putnam p. 33)
4. Current trend in churches is community which is now more important than content.
5. People value community as much or more than content.
6. Churches are totally focused today on making disciples.

B. What is a disciple?

C. What is discipleship?

D. Why and how do church libraries participate in building community?

III. Principle 2: Disciples are made in groups

A. A few points made by Ken.

1. Disciples need to be involved in more than preaching and listening. That includes doing life together in small groups. The idea here is to move people out of rows and into circles.
(*Growing Up: How to Be a Disciple Who Makes Disciples* by Robby Gallaty, p. 25)

2. Lifeway Research: 63% of believers say they do not need other believers.
3. 73% of people in groups use their spiritual gifts to serve in their churches. Only 42% who are not in groups serve in their churches.
4. 60% pray more than others when they are members of a group while 30% of the non-group people pray on a regular basis.
5. The “worship-only” people are gone from a church in 5 years.

B. How can church libraries reach out to the 63% who are not in groups in their churches?

C. Ken made another point about groups.

1. The best size for a group is 12 members plus 4 guests. This size gives teachers and group members a better chance to know each other than in the larger groups.
2. Research shows the larger groups have more absentees than the smaller groups.

D. What are ways church libraries can assist the groups in building relationships?

E. Trends show children are not regular attenders in groups because of sports, dance, etc. on Sundays and weekdays.

(Article: [Fostering Friendships at Church and Why it Matters](#) by Jana MacGruder)

F. What role can our churches libraries play in the lives of these children?

IV. Principle 3: Disciples are made over time.

A. A few points by Ken.

1. Disciple making is a process that takes time.
([5 Steps to Create a Discipleship Plan](#) by Ken Braddy)
2. In this same article Ken shows a generic disciple making process that pastors and church leaders use to customize a process for their churches.

B. With groups and the process graphic, where do you see church libraries providing support and services?

C. Who is the church library liaison on your church leadership team? _____

V. Principle 4: Growing Disciples Read the Bible Daily

A. A few points from Ken: 3 predictors of spiritual growth.

1. Reading the Bible and other Christian literature daily.
2. Attending weekly worship services.
3. Be involved in a Bible study group of some kind.

(The Shape of Faith to Come: Spiritual Formation and the Future of Discipleship by Brad J. Waggoner)

B. What do church libraries offer to support Bible and Christian literature reading?

VI. Principle 5: Disciples Grow

A. Points from Ken.

1. Lifeway Research did a 30-year study and testing on discipleship growth assessment. Click [here](#).
2. The results are the basis of a pathway for churches to use in developing a discipleship process. (Booklet: [Creating a Discipleship Pathway](#) by Michael Kelley)

B. What are we doing or could be doing to inspire and assist disciples of Jesus along this pathway?

8 Signposts or Markers

Church Libraries

1. Engage with Scripture
2. Obey God and Deny Self
3. Serve God and Others
4. Share Christ
5. Exercise Faith
6. Seek God
7. Build Relationships
8. Live Unashamed

Join us on the Church Librarians Network to continue discussing and sharing ideas about church libraries making disciples with our churches. Thank you for your participation!

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