

# IT'S A MOVEMENT

## MULTI-SITE, APPRENTICING, AND HUB CHURCHES

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*...I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. MATT. 16:18 NLT*

### ALL IT TAKES IS ONE PERSON TO START A MOVEMENT.

*"All it takes is one person to start a movement," (Brains on Fire). So God became human and that is exactly what Jesus did – he started a movement to heal the world. Though Jesus began his public ministry with no political power, no educational advantages, little financial backing, and the reputation of being the butt of a joke ("Can anything good come from Nazareth?" and "He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary."), somehow he ignited a movement that covers the earth today. Not bad for a person who never traveled more than 200 miles from his birthplace!*

### THREE MOVEMENT NON-NEGOTIABLES

1. The movement starts and ends with **God**. (GENESIS 1:1, REV. 21:3)
2. It's a movement of God's love that points to **Jesus**. (JN 3:16, MATT. 22:37-40)  
*"So at the heart of all great movements is the recovery of a simple Christology (essential conceptions of who Jesus is and what he does)..." – HIRSCH, FORGOTTEN WAYS*
3. It's a movement fueled by the **Holy Spirit** and spread through the church.  
(MATT. 28:18-20, ACTS 1:8, REV. 7:9)  
*"The mission of God flows directly through every believer and every community of faith that adheres to Jesus. To obstruct this is to block God's purposes in and through his people." - HIRSCH, FORGOTTEN WAYS*

### MOVEMENT STRATEGIES

- (1) **Point to Jesus.** Jesus is the center, the definer, the revealer of God's heart and mission. The entire message of Scripture is about Jesus Christ, his person, his sufferings, and his glory.
- (2) **Everyone gets to be one of the twelve disciples.** We release counter-cultural disciples who live in a way that is very different than the other people in our culture and yet bring out the best of that culture while being deeply involved for the good of the community we live in.
- (3) **We are arrows out.** We invite the functionally unchurched and dechurched into our lives to follow – to belong before they believe. We eat, work, play, and worship together. Everything we do has in mind those who are not yet on the mission. It is not about us.
- (4) **We have permission.** We have permission from Jesus to share our stories, launch new groups, make disciples, share in the Lord's Table (communion), and to baptize our family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers as they say yes to Jesus.
- (5) **We multiply leaders through apprenticeship.** We will build an apprenticeship culture through empowering everyday, ordinary people to make disciples, baptize them, and teach to them obey Christ. The next wave of leaders emerges as they work alongside the leaders of the mission.
- (6) **We are mobile.** We use public spaces, third places, homes and neighborhoods, in addition to our church property to strategically engage our communities and make more room for more people by launching additional campuses. Our goal is to be everywhere!
- (7) **We bring the hurts of the world closer** through local and global mission experiences.

## MOVEMENT | THE BOOK OF ACTS

In the book of Acts, we read about apostolic leaders being **apprenticed** and sent out by elders from **church multiplying hubs** to launch new campuses and new works as the New Testament church went **multi-site**.

- **APPRENTICING.** *Action based training that takes place on the fringes of the mission.*
- **MULTI-SITE.** *A church that meets in more than one location.*
- **CHURCH MULTIPLICATION HUBS.** *Large churches at the crossroads of communities that have the strategic opportunity to send leaders and launch new works.* (Example: Antioch – See Acts 11, 13, 15)

### THE CHURCH MULTIPLICATION HUB IN ANTIOCH (SIX CHARACTERISTICS)

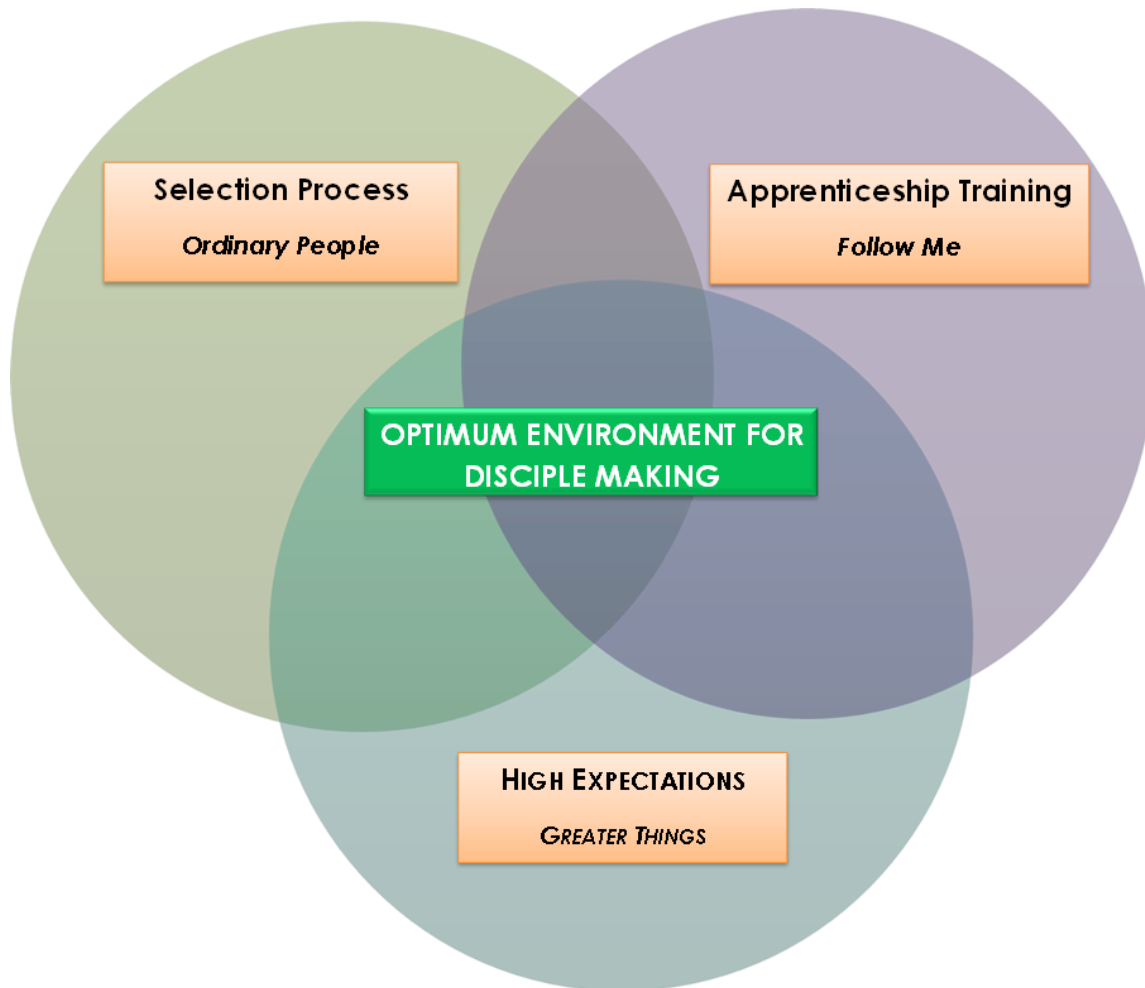
1. The HUB is a CULTURAL CROSSROADS city to the surrounding region (strategic location)
2. There is a CONSTANT FLOW of leaders – sending & returning
3. It is a safe place to work out GOSPEL & CULTURE ISSUES
4. There are LOTS AND LOTS OF APPRENTICES – always thinking about the next wave of leaders in the church
5. It has the AGILITY AND FLEXIBILITY to send leaders & funds to resource the movement
6. They function as though it ALREADY HAS PERMISSION to do the mission (doesn't wait for Jerusalem)

### THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE IN A MULTIPLICATION HUB (SIX LEADERS)

1. The Holy Spirit - THE DIRECTIONAL LEADER
2. Barnabas - the TRUSTED INFLUENCER & CONNECTOR
3. Elders of Antioch (Simeon, Lucis, Manaen) - GIFTED TEACHERS, MENTORS, SENDERS, & DISCIPLE MAKERS
4. Saul/Paul - THE UNEXPECTED, APOSTOLIC LEADER
5. Timothy/Titus/John Mark, etc. - THE APPRENTICES
6. Luke - THE PIVOTAL OUTSIDER (GENTILE) & INTERPRETER (KNOWS THE CULTURE FROM THE INSIDE)

## MULTIPLICATION | DISCIPLE MAKING

The movement is dependent on our ability to make disciples who make disciples. (*Go and make disciples...* MATTHEW 28:19 NLT). What is the optimum environment for making disciples who are missional movement leaders?



### OPTIMUM ENVIRONMENT FOR DISCIPLE MAKING

1. SELECTION PROCESS – Jesus chose *ordinary people*. (ACTS 4:13)
2. APPRENTICE TRAINING – Called them saying, "*Follow me.*" (MATTHEW 4:19)
3. HIGH EXPECTATIONS – Told them they would do, "*...greater things.*" (JOHN 14:12)

## FIVE PRACTICAL STEPS TO MULTIPLY LIKE JESUS

### 1. **START AN APPRENTICESHIP FOR FUTURE LEADS**

*He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."*

MATTHEW 9:37-38 NLT

#### **WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?**

Jesus invited the first disciples into his life. He opened up his life and his mission to those who would lean in. The words "follow me," and "come and see," reveal that the nature of the Jesus apprenticeship is:

1. ***Intentional*** – Jesus did not apprentice by chance or by accident. He did not wait for disciples to choose him. And Jesus did not randomly ask people to follow, but prayed all night before choosing the Twelve. It was intentional.
2. ***Invitational*** – the invitation itself was a powerful form of acceptance. When Jesus invited the disciples into his life it gave them the opportunity to belong before they had to believe.
3. ***Relational***. The invitation was simple: follow me – which was very different than follow this. It was about following a person not a set of rules, a religious code, or purity rituals. Jesus invited these disciples into his life and quite literally over to the place he was staying saying, "*come and see.*" The disciples learned how to love by seeing Jesus love, feeling Jesus' love, and growing in their love for one another.

***TALK ABOUT EVERYDAY LIFE*** –Apprenticeship learning takes places as you go about your life. The apprentice doesn't just learn about how to do the job of a pastor, but how to be a good spouse, parent, and friend.

***GIVE FUTURE LEADS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN BY DOING*** - The apprentice will have to read in order to grow but they will also learn by doing. Apprentices are the next leaders, throughout their apprenticeship they are continually learning and doing.

***FEEDBACK AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARE CRUCIAL*** - Apprenticeship naturally involves application. Apprentices are constantly asked two questions: (1) What is God saying to you? (2) What are you doing about it? Before the apprentice learns more information, the teacher asks how the apprentice put the last lesson into action and what they discovered. The feedback and accountability are crucial because it shows that you care about the growth of the future lead.

## 2. **CHOOSE ORDINARY PEOPLE LIKE JESUS** (SELECTION)

*The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.* ACTS 4:13 NLT

### THE INHERENT ADVANTAGES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

1. ***It is a sign of God's upside-down kingdom.*** "The first shall be last..." Nobody could possibly see this coming and all of the arrows of praise would point to God and not humans.
2. ***It has got to be about grace – not pedigrees or purity.*** Grace shows up best in messy lives. Jesus recruited Peter at least three times (John 1, Matthew 4, Luke 5,) and the last time Peter fell to his knees and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me – I'm too much of a sinner to be around you." Because of this grace given to them, they do not take the opportunity for granted.
3. ***There are more tax collectors and fishermen than there are religious leaders.*** Big pool to fish from if the mission is to reach the entire planet. This is Jesus employing a *Blue Ocean* strategy on "uncontested market space."
4. ***Ordinary people know more people outside of the church.*** They have existing relationships to outsiders who will never show up in church. When Jesus invites Matthew Levi to follow him, Matthew throws a party and invites all his tax collector friends to meet Jesus. So these people never have to pray about meeting someone to share the message of Christ, their first instinct is to go to their friends and family and say, "Come and see."
5. ***They are smarter when it comes to reaching their tribe.*** The ordinary people have inside information on how to reach the people in their circle of influence and do not need to figure out how to break the mission code. This "intelligence at the leaves" principle helps extend the gospel more rapidly with more impact, because the ordinary person already knows what will work and what does not work in their culture.
6. ***They are more accustomed to the action-based learning of an apprenticeship.*** Fishermen are used to learning things and immediately applying it to their trade. They do not have as many years of learning that is not connected to doing, so they have not picked up the bad habit of having a lot of unused, stored knowledge that does not turn into love.
7. ***Ordinary people are more of a "clean slate".*** Because of their inexperience with leadership in religious settings, they would not be in the position to tell Jesus that they had a better way of teaching or living out the mission. They were, as Jesus desired – new wineskins for new wine.

8. **Ordinary people do not feel the pressure of having to make a living off of the mission.** Fishermen like Peter know that the worst-case scenario for them if this church thing does not work out is that they can go back to fishing. And tent-makers like the Apostle Paul know they can do both! Because they had professions before they went on the mission with Jesus, they know they already have a trade that they can fall back on or leverage.

3. **DEVELOP THROUGH ACTION-BASED TRAINING (APPRENTICESHIP)**

*One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.*

MATTHEW 4:18-20 NLT

**WHY APPRENTICESHIP?**

The Jesus way of making disciples and developing missional leaders through apprenticeship stands in stark contrast to the academy style of learning that is familiar to most church leaders in the Western world. Author Alan Hirsch calls this apprenticeship learning “*hitting the road with Jesus.*” He makes the point that this action-based learning is better suited for the missional leaders needed in our world today saying that *the problem is that most of our training institutions are geared toward training a more maintenance type of leader.*

1. I do. You watch. We talk. <sup>1</sup>	Jesus teaches in the synagogues, preaches to the crowds, and heals the sick. Afterwards he talks to the disciples about the great harvest and tells them to pray for more workers. ( <i>Matthew 9</i> )
2. I do. You help. We talk.	John feeds the 5,000 with the help of his disciples distributing the food. Afterwards, they talk about the cost of discipleship. ( <i>John 6</i> )
3. You do. I help. We talk.	The disciples pray for someone with an evil spirit. The evil spirit does not come out so they go to Jesus for help. Jesus casts out the evil spirit. Afterwards he talks with his disciples telling them that some evil spirits only come out with prayer and fasting. ( <i>Mark 9</i> )
4. You do. I watch. We talk.	Jesus sends out the Twelve. They return and talk about what happened and what they learned. ( <i>Mark 6</i> )

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Exponential

5. You do. Someone else watches.	Jesus sends out his apprentices to make disciples of all nations and then he ascends to heaven. ( <i>Matthew 28</i> ) Peter preaches on the day of Pentecost and 3,000 people are baptized. ( <i>Acts 2</i> )
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#### 4. **SHARE JESUS' HIGH EXPECTATION FOR APPRENTICES**

*I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.* JOHN 14:12 NLT

##### **GREAT THINGS?**

Jesus had remarkably high expectations for rather ordinary people. These expectations were especially important for the transformation of the disciples. Without the high expectations of sacrificing everything for the mission, overcoming persecution, making disciples of all nations, being filled with the Holy Spirit to be witness of Jesus to the ends of the earth, and do even greater works than Jesus, it seems unlikely that this group of Twelve people would become a church that it still transforming the world today.

Greater expectations are an important part of an apprenticeship because ***it prevents a "dumbing down" effect.*** If disciples believe that they can never achieve greater things than their teacher, then they will never attempt it. By doing less than their teacher, they will inevitably pass on to the next generation of students a dumbed down version of what they received with even lower expectations. So with each next generation of disciples, the quality of the disciple and what they do in Jesus' name would have dwindling results.

##### **WHAT WERE JESUS' HIGH EXPECTATIONS?**

1. The disciples would take the gospel to the entire world.
2. They would make disciples of all nations.
3. Their righteousness would surpass that of the religious leaders.
4. They would do the same things and even greater works than Jesus.
5. They would be persecuted and overcome the world.

##### **THE ENVIRONMENT OF JESUS' HIGH EXPECTATIONS**

1. ***AUTONOMY*** - Early in their apprenticeship Jesus sent out his disciples in pairs, (both the Twelve and a larger group of seventy-two), *and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.* Not only did this mission experience build their confidence and increase their appetite to learn, but it also set the tone for the type of autonomy that Jesus would give his apprentices to "own the mission". According to author of the book *Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us*, Daniel Pink says, "A sense of autonomy has a powerful effect on individual

*performance and attitude.* This autonomy also prepared the disciples for Jesus' eventual ascension.

2. **POWER** - Jesus told his disciples that he was leaving, but that God would give them the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit of God that lived in Christ would now live in his followers leading them into all truth and giving them power to be the witnesses of Christ all over the world. This expectation of the Holy Spirit led the disciples to wait in Jerusalem as instructed by Jesus. And when the Holy Spirit filled them, Peter connected their experience as the fulfillment of God's promise to pour out his Spirit on all people.
3. **ASCENSION** - When Jesus did ascend, the disciples and other early followers of Jesus formed the church that became known as the new body of Christ. As long as Jesus was on earth he was limited to one human body. But by ascending to the Father and sending the Holy Spirit, Jesus could now love and heal through all of the followers of Christ on earth, hence help heal the world. The mission of God could grow and expand to all people in all nations. Jesus could now literally be on every continent preaching the gospel to every people group and be with his disciples to the end.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSECUTION IN HIGH EXPECTATIONS**

Not only did the disciples of Jesus expect persecution, but also they saw it as something necessary for the gospel. This expectation of persecution helped people "count the cost" of what it meant to follow Jesus so that those who followed Jesus were "all in" and the church was not diluted by half-hearted followers. Because the disciples of Jesus were prepared for persecution, they responded with joy even though all of them suffered greatly for the cause of Christ. The Twelve gave their lives to spread the message of the gospel to the world (minus Judas who betrayed Jesus).

- Expect persecution. (JOHN 15:20 NLT)
- Being persecuted is a blessing. (MATT. 5:11-12 NLT)
- Followers of Jesus are to bless those who persecute them. (MATT. 5:44 NLT)
- Persecution will cause people without deep roots in their faith to fall away. (MATT. 13:21 NLT)
- Followers of Jesus will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. (MATT. 24:9 NLT)
- The church will be hated all over the world because of Jesus. (MT. 24:9 NLT)
- The gospel will split families. (MARK 13:12-13 NLT)
- The Messiah will be crucified. (MATT. 26:1-2 NLT)
- The disciples will stand trial in court because of their faith in Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will give them the right words to say just in time. It will be God speaking through them. (MATT. 10:18-19 NLT)
- Don't be afraid because God has overcome the world. (JOHN 16:33 NLT)

## 5. SEND LEADS OUT WITH YOUR BLESSING AND AUTHORITY FROM JESUS

*Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* MATTHEW 28:19 NLT

### THE IMPORTANT OF BLESSING AND SENDING OUT LEADERS

*Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called "the black man"), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them." So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.* (ACTS 13:1-3 NLT)

1. ***It points to Jesus.*** When we pray over leaders and send them out what it says is that we are ALL IN with the Great Commission that Jesus gave to his disciples.
2. ***It brings relational accountability.*** Those who are sent feel a relational accountability both to Jesus and to those who sent them and fulfill the mission that they were sent to do. (*Note – this can become really important in the "I quit" moments*).
3. ***It opens the door for future communication.*** Without a heartfelt, Holy Spirit-led blessing, the sent ones are less likely to communicate with their parent church.
4. ***It sets up the future opportunity to honor.*** Leaders and churches that send leaders and people to multiple and launch new works for Jesus make great sacrifices and should be honored for it. The honor gives God glory and encourages others (including future leaders and churches) to make the necessary sacrifices to move the mission forward.
5. ***It reminds us of our identity – WE ARE SENT ONES.*** Every time we send out more leaders for the mission, it reminds everyone who follows Jesus that we are arrows-out. Jesus really is sending all of us on his mission and the real-life sending story is powerful.

*...missional movement begins by becoming an apprentice of Jesus ... the word apprentice says that you not only are a learner but also are willing and ready to take action that will demand greater leadership responsibility in order to further the movement of Jesus* (FERUGSON, EXPOTENTIAL)

## A KINGDOM-SIZED VISION

Jesus' high expectations for his disciples included that these fishermen, tax collectors, and other ordinary people would take the gospel to everyone in the whole world. ***This Kingdom-sized vision created an "arrows-out" culture where the disciples' identity was tied to their mission.*** In fact, Jesus called the disciples "ones sent on a mission" or apostles. And at the Last Supper, Jesus told them, "*As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.*" So these ordinary people turned apostles participated in Jesus' kingdom-sized vision in the following ways:

- At Pentecost, they began to preach the gospel to people from all different nations. (ACTS 2:7-11 NLT)
- The church continued to grow and multiply. (ACTS 6:7 NLT)
- As persecution broke out, they spread the gospel everywhere they went to escape. (ACTS 8:1-4 NLT)
- The gospel began to take root among different people groups. (ACTS 15:7-8 NLT)
- New churches were planted and new leaders emerged sending new apostles to spread the gospel further and plant church throughout the Roman Empire. (ACTS 13:1-4 NLT)
- Everywhere churches were planted, new leaders emerged. (ACTS 16:4-5 NLT)
- The Apostle Paul preached the gospel in Rome. (ACTS 28:30-31 NLT)
- Followers of Jesus lived as missionaries in their cities and communities. (1 CORINTHIANS 9:22 ESV)

As the early church took advantage of the Roman roads, they eventually spread the gospel to the point that Rome declared Christianity the official religion. Missiologist, Ralph Winters, reflects on this saying, "*Perhaps, the most spectacular triumph of Christianity in history was its conquest of the Roman Empire in roughly 20 decades.*"

In the midst of persecution, the disciple John encourages the church as he records the revelation of a new heaven and a new earth in a world where God is in charge and the world has been set right. It is a world where there is *no more death or sorrow or crying or pain*. The Jesus Apprentice expects and looks forward to a day when God makes everything new. And the followers of Jesus are called to live as citizens of God's rule on earth, participate in the healing this world, and announce to the world *that God is God, that Jesus is Lord, that the power of evil have been defeated, that God's new world has begun.* (N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*).