



Beyond Training to a Disciple-Making Movement Erik Fish

I've noticed significant differences among groups I've trained to make disciples and plant simple churches. Some groups led new people to Jesus and formed groups of disciples (simple churches) that eventually multiplied to produce third and fourth generation churches. In other cases, very few, if any, new disciples were made or churches planted. *What made the difference?*



Every single time the biggest difference has been follow up and coaching!

4 things leaders should do after a Disciple Making Training

1. **Beware of Ministry Busy-ness** – In Luke 10, Jesus sent out 36 teams of two to enter specific pockets of people who weren't yet acquainted with Jesus and the message of the kingdom. He warned them, *"Don't stop to talk to anyone along the way."* Be aware of the distractions that come from endless ministry opportunities that may present themselves. Make reaching and establishing groups of disciples in new pockets of people first –priority.
2. **Follow up with those sent to make disciples and plant churches.** I recommend doing this within the first week following the training, and at least once a month afterward. People need care – and they need coaching. [The Action Plan](#) people filled out from the training experience provides a very simple format for accountability and encouragement. Ask them how it's going. Ask what challenges they are experiencing. Pray for encouragement and remind them to focus on implementing the Action Plan. Remember, the disciples Jesus sent out in Luke 10 reported back to Jesus. Have your people report back to you about how it's going.
3. **Gather together regularly (once a month is good) with your disciple makers for prayer, celebration, and encouragement.** When people are sent to make disciples in new pockets of people, they will experience the joys of reaping the harvest as well as the challenges that come with pioneering. People will grow in their effectiveness as they share in these joys and challenges with others who are doing the same thing.
4. **As simple churches start growing, look for the basic characteristics of church to be present in these groups.**

Ask these questions of your leaders:

Are new people repenting and believing in Jesus?

Are new believers being baptized?

Are the groups receiving and practicing gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Are the groups practicing the Lord's Supper?

Are the groups gathering regularly for Word, Worship/Prayer, and Fellowship?

Are personal discipling relationships being established?

Are the groups following the Seven Basic Commands of Jesus?

Repent and Believe

Be Baptized (In Water and Holy Spirit)

Love God and Others

Give

Pray – Spend time with God often

Gather Regularly

Make Disciples of All Nations

Celebrate strengths. Coach simple church planters to add any specific areas they are leaving out.

If you follow these four basic steps, you will give people you've trained the best chance of success in expanding the gospel, making new disciples, and multiplying movements of the church.