



Wolverine State Congress of Christian Education

Dr. Craig Tatum, Congress President

ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

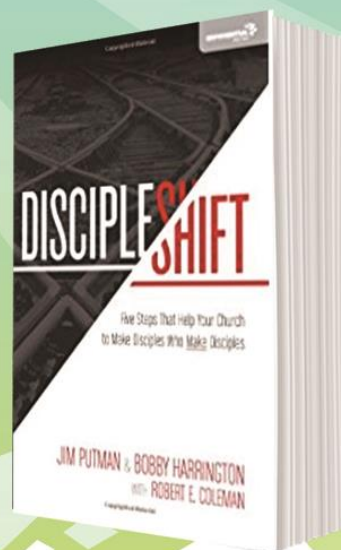
The Role of the Leader

in the Disciple-Making Process

Ephesians 4:11-12



October 11, 2018



Host Church:
Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
2080 West Grand Boulevard • Detroit, MI 48208
Dr. Nathan Johnson, Senior Pastor

Facilitator:
Dr. Addis Moore, Pastor
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
120 Roberson Street • Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-388-6227

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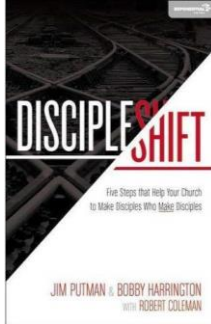
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I. DiscipleShift1

II. Shift 1: Preparing for the Harvest.....2

III. Shift 2: Application-Based Teaching.....4

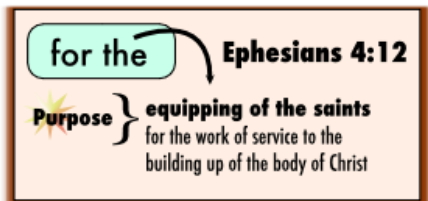


In Chapter 5 of the book, DiscipleShift, Putman; Harrington; and Coleman make a statement that I believe is crucial to making disciples for Jesus Christ in this 21st Century. They make the statement that *the solution requires a fundamental shift in our thinking*. We must move from **informing** people to **equipping** them. I have come to realize that people do not need more information; they need to apply the information already known.

We must never forget that the purpose of the church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ—**Matthew 28:19-20**. No other organization or entity is called or designed to do what the church was established to do. Therefore, in the age of competition and things competing for our agenda, there is no substitute or replacement for the church—**John 14:6, Proverbs 14:12**. Out of all the church does, its primary purpose is to make disciples for Christ; followers of Christ, imitators of Christ, learners of Christ, and those doing the same work as Christ.



With the purpose of disciple making as the objective, God gives pastors to move the church to multiplication and increase—**Jeremiah 3:15-16**. The pastor is given to lead



the people from where they are to where God wants them to be. The pastor's responsibility is to get believers ready for production—**Ephesians 4:11-12**. God shows the pastor what He sees first,

and then He shows the pastor where the people are and this causes tension. Remember, God requires more fruit—**John 15:1**. Tension is the beginning of vision. Vision is the tension between where the people are and what God says. Vision is a

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godly dissatisfaction with the status quo. When God stirs the vision within the pastor, he begins to formulate a picture of what God sees and then begins to formulate how to move the church from where they are to where God wants her to be—**Habakkuk 2:2-4**. Then, the mission is established. Mission is the “How to Move the Church” to vision realization. Since the purpose of the church is to make disciples, the mission must encompass the Great Commission—**Matthew 28:19-20, Matthew 9:35-38**. This is the beginning of the formation of Christian Education and leadership development for the local church. Christian Education and leadership development in the local church must be vision- and mission-driven. It must focus on what God wants—disciples. It must start with the pastor. This is the shift that must happen if we are going to make disciples for Jesus Christ.



Christian Education still undergirds everything in the church and is the most effective tool for church growth in the 21st Century. According to Jesus, the harvest is ready and He needs laborers. It is labor deployment time. They are deployed through Christian Education.



Christian Education is the most effective tool the pastor has to move vision to the



point of implementation. It is the developmental and equipping arm of the church. It is through Christian Education that individuals discover who

they are in Christ, discover their spiritual gift, and discover their area of ministry assignment to grow the church. Therefore, Christian educators must be in spiritual alignment with their pastor because they are trusted to carry the message of the pastor to the people. Teachers are vital to mission implementation. The growth of the church greatly depends on their connection to the pastor and their obedience. More than ever before in human history, the church needs effective Christian Education.

It is amazing that the new thing is actually the old thing. Over the years, the church has gotten away from Christian



Education God's way. Christian Education has become routine and gets little or no results. Most churches have Sunday School because it was already in place rather than to get results. There is seldom any analysis of the methods used to see if disciples are made. Twenty-First Century Christian Education should look like Christian Education in the early church. In the early church, the purpose of Christian

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TEACHING

Education was to get the saints ready to accomplish something, not just to know something—[Ephesians 4:12](#), [2 Timothy 2:15](#), [John 15:16](#). In [Acts 2:41-47](#), the church actually grew because of Christian Education. Christian Education led believers to do ministry as they met the need of others and the result was God adding to the church.

Over the years, believers have been taught how to quote Scripture but not how to



obey Scripture. We are guilty of teaching believers how to learn the Scripture but not how to apply Scripture. We have taught believers how to repeat Scriptures in the church

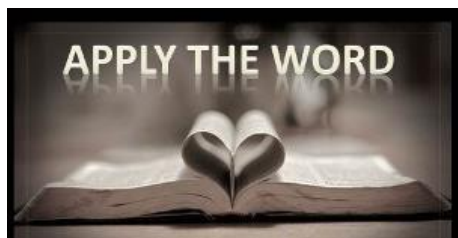
building but not how to use the Scriptures to get results in life situations. We have produced spiritual actors. A spiritual actor is one who plays the role of a believer by saying what the believer says and then reverts back to doing what they want and not what they said, getting no meaningful results.

Application-based teaching turns spiritual actors into practicing believers. In most of our churches, we do not need to teach more Bible, but we do need to teach the believer how to apply the Bible that has already been taught (life



application to get results). Application-based teaching is showing the student how to use the instruction from Scripture in life situations and get results. Application-based teaching expects results.

Hebrews 5:11-14 describes the type of believer who does not know how to apply the Word. It describes them as those who should be teaching but need to be taught



again what has previously been taught. They are milk Christians and are unskilled in the Word of righteousness. Milk Christians are those who have been around the Word of God but have not obeyed it long enough to grow up. It is the believer who has been in the church for twenty years and only has one year of experience.

Application-based teaching begins with an assignment. No one studies just for the sake of studying. If there is nothing to do with the information, the information is then useless. But, if the information is needed to do



something meaningful, then the studying becomes necessary and relevant. I have discovered that the believer must know how the Word of God works for them on an individual basis before they will use it for the benefit of the body. Most believers do not study the Word of God; they just read it. If you have not decided to do something before you study the Word of God, seldom does the studying lead to actions (Example—Nursery Rhymes).

Many individuals in our churches continue year after year with the same problem and issues, even though they attend church on a regular basis and are present at teaching sessions. Remember **James 2:19-20**.

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