

SESSION ONE

CHRIST'S CHURCH FOR CHRIST'S IMPACT



Scripture

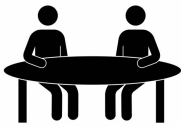
1 Corinthians 3:6-15 (The Message)

Planting and watering are menial servant jobs at minimum wages. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving. You happen to be God's field in which we are working.



Key Concepts

- We most likely need to re-tool ourselves to practice active evangelism.
- Most of us compartmentalize our church life from our secular life.
- Churches have become clergy dependent.
- Laity must step up and reclaim our role of lay ministry to have Kingdom IMPACT!



Practice Lab

Questions for Group Discussion:

1. In your reading of this first chapter of IMPACT!, what were the over-arching themes or teachings you discovered?
2. Describe your church's mission field? Describe your personal mission field.
3. Discuss your thoughts on passive vs active evangelism. What is the difference? What were you equipped to do?
4. Name three methods where laity could take ownership of the mission of making disciples in your church.
5. Why is this a "ripe" season for reclaiming the call of lay ministry?
6. Process the appropriate questions for your group on pages 19-20.

Time to Practice:

Divide the group in pairs or triads. Ask them to share with their partner(s) how they would answer the four questions at the bottom of page 14 and the top of page 15. Make sure each partner has the opportunity share and practice answering these questions.



My Take Away



My IMPACT Step

SESSION TWO CULTURAL IMPACT



Scripture

Acts 17:16-23 (Common English Bible)

Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.' What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you..."



Key Concepts

- The gap between the church and culture has become wider and wider over the past five decades.
- Churches have become foreigners in our own neighborhoods.
- Churches will have to adapt in order to become/stay relevant to the changing culture.



Practice Lab

Questions for Group Discussion:

1. What are our modern-day idols that keep us apart from being fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ?
2. Describe the culture of the neighborhood where your church is located. How familiar are you with the culture? Do you live in the neighborhood and socialize with them?
3. How will the prediction of a minority-majority population and one in five being 65 years of age or older affect your church?
4. How is your church adapting to meet this changing culture?
5. How will we IMPACT the souls of the Millennials?
6. Answer the appropriate questions of your group from page 34.

Time to Practice:

Divide the group into different pairs or triads from last session. Ask them to process how each are personally willing to lead adaptations in the church to become more culturally relevant to the neighborhood. How does this affect them personally? How will this affect the church?



My Take Away



My IMPACT Step

SESSION THREE DISCIPLESHIP IMPACT

Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20 (Common English Bible)

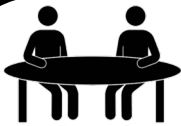


Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted. Jesus came near and spoke to them, "I've received all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age."



Key Concepts

- The church has focused on membership rather than discipleship causing us to concentrate on the institution rather than being a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Most churches are missing an intentional faith development process and the value for all to engage in it.
- Some churches have lost the purpose of small groups by becoming fellowship focused rather than discipleship focused.
- We sometimes become focused too much on knowing Jesus and not enough about living out the life Jesus modeled for us.



Practice Lab

Questions for Group Discussion:

1. Discuss your thoughts on the definition of a disciple from page 36.
2. Compare and contrast member versus discipleship.
3. How does your church intentionally disciple both new believers and existing attenders to grow deeper in their discipleship continuously?
4. What improvements are needed in your church's intentional discipleship process?
5. Discuss the traits and processes suggested around small groups. What did you learn from the concepts in the book?
6. Answer the appropriate questions for your group from page 57.

Time to Practice:

Divide the group in pairs or triads. Ask each partner to share their discipleship experience. How have they been disciplined? Who disciplined them? Who are they now disciplining? What are his/her next steps in growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ?



My Take Away



My IMPACT Step

SESSION FOUR RELATIONAL IMPACT



Scripture

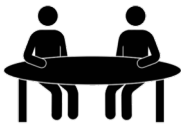
Acts 6:1-7 (The Message)

Praying, the apostles laid on hands and commissioned them for their task. The Word of God prospered. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased dramatically. Not least, a great many priests submitted themselves to the faith.



Key Concepts

- We, as the church and as disciples, are in the relationship business.
- Great hospitality is the first step in building relationships
- Connection is an intentional relational process to help build relationships and connect a person into the life of the congregation and a discipleship process.
- Because we are in the relationship business, we must be intentional in every aspect of the church on how build relationships and being relational with one another and with Christ is central to all we do.



Practice Lab

Questions for Group Discussion:

1. What is the primary relational focus in your church – internal or external? Explain your answer.
2. Who is/are the primary relationship builders with new people? If it is the pastor, discuss the limitations with this approach and how to shift away from it.
3. Hospitality is a first-impression and demonstrates how open the church is to new relationships. How is your church with hospitality particularly for guests?
4. How does one go about getting connected into the life of your church?
5. How are intentional relationship-building opportunities built into worship design, ministries, and community networks in your church?
6. Answer the questions on page 78-79 appropriate for your group.

Time to Practice:

Ask each participant to pick one area of the life of the congregation (hospitality, fellowship, connections, discipling, worship, ministries, congregational care, denominational/connectional, or community) and share how it could be more relationally-focused.



My Take Away



My IMPACT Step

SESSION FIVE

MISSIONS THAT MAKE AN IMPACT



Scripture

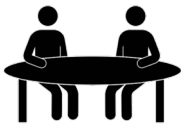
Matthew 25:40 (The Message)

'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'



Key Concepts

- We are called to do good deeds AND share the Good News.
- Check writing is not as IMPACTFUL and relational good deeds.
- Church with IMPACT are a vital thread in the life of their community.



Practice Lab

Questions for Group Discussion:

1. What current mission work is your church doing?
2. How could the church have more IMPACT! through their current missions?
3. Who is God calling you to take responsibility for reaching? Define this mission field.
4. How is or could your church be "of" and "with" the community?
5. Discuss what third places are currently available in your community and how your church might be able to create a new third place.
6. Answer the questions on page 93 appropriate for your group.

Time to Practice:

Ask each group to think about a new way to both meet people's needs in the community while also building relationships so they might have the opportunity to share his/her faith story. Have the group think through what shifts would need to be made in the life of the church to make something new like this happen.



My Take Away



My IMPACT Step

SESSION SIX

WORSHIP WITH IMPACT



Scripture

Acts 2:43-47 (The Message)

Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.



Key Concepts

- Worship is a verb and not a noun.
- Worship planning is best when done collaboratively in a group.
- Worship planning must take the mission field into account.



Practice Lab

Questions for Group Discussion:

1. How is worship planned in your church?
2. Who participates in worship? How are the participants chosen?
3. How could your church's worship experience be more IMPACTFUL?
4. Discuss the terms vertical and horizontal as it pertains to worship from pages 98-99.
5. What would it take to move the worship experience from attractional to missional?
6. Answer the questions on page 104-105 appropriate for your group.

Time to Practice:

Ask each group to identify three elements of worship that are IMPACTFUL and three areas that are not. Share their work and explain the reasoning to the larger group.



My Take Away



My IMPACT Step

SESSION SEVEN

IMPACT-FOCUSED LAY LEADERSHIP



Scripture

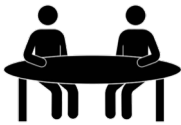
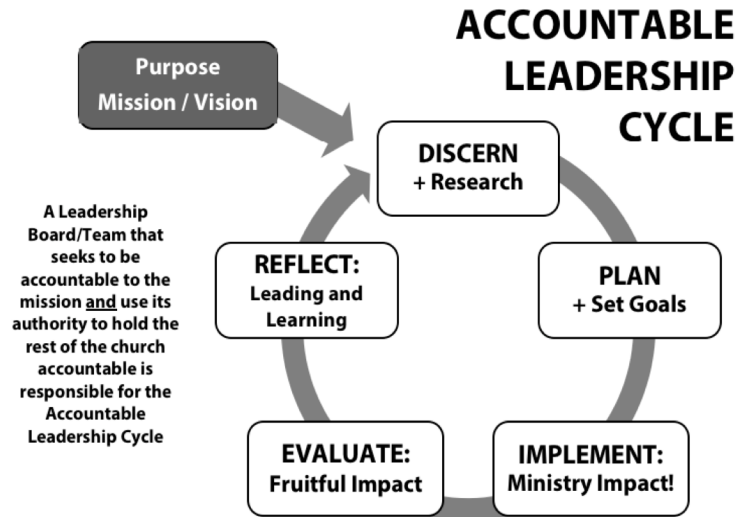
Exodus 18:12-23 (The Message)

Moses' father-in-law said, "This is no way to go about it. You'll burn out, and the people right along with you. This is way too much for you—you can't do this alone. Now listen to me. Let me tell you how to do this so that God will be in this with you."



Key Concepts

- Many churches have leaders in place from a power perspective or default rather than those best equipped to lead.
- Most church boards are managing leaving no one to govern. Decision-making is complicated and relationally based
- Accountability is essential in the life of the church to nurture a healthy laity leadership culture.
- Better identification, recruiting and equipping practices are needed in most churches to be a vital, growing congregation.



Practice Lab

Questions for Group Discussion:

1. What is current culture in your related to how church leaders come into their leadership and how long they serve?
2. Please share your thoughts on how simple and authentic (desired by the modern leader) your leadership culture is in your church.
3. How does your current leadership structure align (or not) the church in its purpose/mission of making disciples? Identify any gaps present where alignment is missing.
4. Discuss the idea of accountability and practice in leadership at your church. How does it match up to the Accountable Leadership Cycle?
5. How are leaders identified, recruited, and equipped for ministry in your church? What are the markers of a mature disciple to lead?
6. Answer the questions on pages 123-124 appropriate for your group.

Time to Practice:

Ask each group to draw a diagram of the organizational chart of the congregation. Have each group present their diagram. Compare the various diagrams and different perceptions of the congregation's leadership structure. Discuss what was discovered in this exercise.



My Take Away



My IMPACT Step

SESSION EIGHT

NEW PASTOR'S ARRIVAL: OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPACT



Scripture

2 Kings 2:5, 7-15 (The Message)

When they reached the other side, Elijah said to Elisha, "What can I do for you before I'm taken from you? Ask anything." Elisha said, "Your life repeated in my life. I want to be a holy man just like you."



Key Concepts

- Pastoral transitions are a great opportunity to create new momentum. Don't miss the opportunity.
- Most church do not do the intentional work of really knowing who they are, what they need in pastoral leadership, and who the community is.
- Pastors are appointed to the mission field not just the church.
- Intentionality is needed in this time of transition to reap the harvest opportunity.



Practice Lab

Questions for Group Discussion:

1. Discuss your last few pastoral changes. How did it go? What improvements could be identified.
2. How is a pastoral profile completed in your context? What preparations are made to help clearly articulate the profile based on the needs of the congregation AND mission field?
3. How do you say good-bye and hello in times of pastoral transitions? What improvements could be made? How does communication play into the potential improvements?
4. How well does your church "know thyself" and "know the community?"
5. What intentional steps of intentional relationship building are in place to greet a new pastor and get an early win?
6. Answer the questions on pages 148-149 appropriate for your group.

Time to Practice:

Ask each group to brain storm ideas on how the church's next pastoral transition could be its very best, and an opportunity for missional IMPACT. Share their ideas with the larger group.



My Take Away



My IMPACT Step