



# THE MOVEMENT **PATHWAY**

**FOR EVERYDAY PRACTITIONERS**

## **AN INTRODUCTION TO MOVEMENTS OF GOD**

In your lifetime God is moving and the gospel is spreading in unprecedented ways all around the world. **A rapid multiplication of new disciples, new leaders, and new churches is saturating entire regions, many of which were previously unreached with the good news of Jesus.**

There are areas of India and Africa where millions of people are becoming new followers of Jesus and starting tens of thousands of new churches. When we see this type of church growth happening in an area, we call it a 'gospel movement'. Similar numbers have been recorded in China over the last few decades. At its height, this movement produced 10,000 new disciples daily.

The underground Church in the Middle East has not only seen similar results, but it's the place where gospel movements are growing the fastest. In fact, every region of the Muslim world is experiencing a rapid multiplication of new disciples and churches. Entire regions are being transformed by the good news of Jesus.

And that's just a snapshot. With all this going on in other parts of the world, many Christians in western countries are asking, "Why isn't this happening here?"

The truth is, our disciple-making and church structures we have in the West aren't simple or reproducible enough to allow for multiplication like in these other countries. And western Christians haven't historically been taught nor are willing to serve as missional practitioners in their own communities.

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However, there is hope!

*From high school students to baby boomers, prisons to urban and suburban neighborhoods, refugee communities to addiction recovery homes, we are seeing DBS and microchurches born in every sort of environment.\**

A passion and vision is growing among many for disciples to make new disciples, everyday believers to be trained and deployed as leaders, and churches to birth new churches, resulting in the beauty, justice, and good news of Jesus spreading throughout our communities.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF GOSPEL MOVEMENTS

Generally speaking, a movement is a sociological phenomenon where a group of people work together to passionately advance their shared commitments.

### A GOSPEL MOVEMENT HAPPENS WHEN

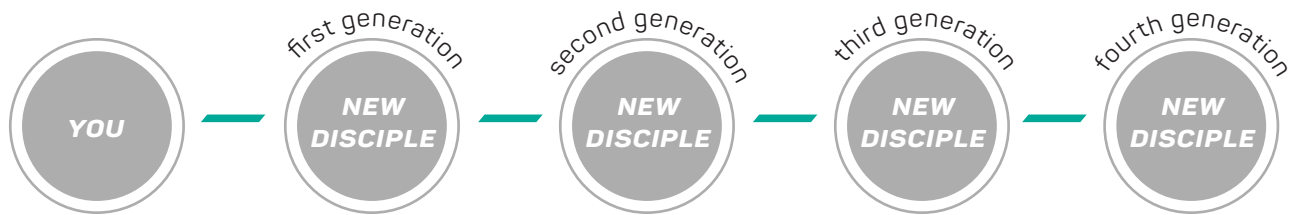
the good news of Jesus spreads contagiously through a network of social relationships whereby many people become committed followers of Jesus and groups of these disciples multiply.

We measure the start of a new gospel movement by counting how many “generations” of new disciples have been made through one person.

If one person makes one new disciple or group of disciples, that’s one new generation of disciples! If that group goes on to make a new disciple/group, that’s two generations! **For something to be considered a gospel movement, we must be able to trace at least 4-generations of new groups of disciples.** And not only that, we must be able to trace this 4-generational multiplication happening in multiple networks of relationships simultaneously. The last test

\* a description of DBS and microchurch is provided below

of a true gospel movement is this: if these groups have multiplied to the point where we can count at least 100 of these new groups of disciples, then we know we're seeing a true gospel movement!



We also see significant similarities and shared core values and practices present in every gospel movement. These characteristics tend to fly in the face of traditional western ministry assumptions and practices. However, each one is deeply rooted in the examples of Jesus, the early Church, and gospel movements throughout history.

Many Westerners who have grown up in the church may find the paradigm shifts here challenging. However, God may be calling many of us to lay aside our cultural assumptions in order to participate in His mission in new and significant ways.

## DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDIES & MICROCHURCHES

A primary discipleship tool in gospel movements is **Discovery Bible Study**

**(DBS)**—a simple and reproducible method used all over the world. Generally, Discovery Groups consist of

- spiritually interested people
- who read a Bible story together,
- discover what it says,
- and respond with tangible obedience.

As we join God in mission and share the good news of Jesus with the people in our lives, Discovery Bible Study becomes an effective process for making new disciples. It's not a program, but rather a "way" of disciple-making from the ground up.

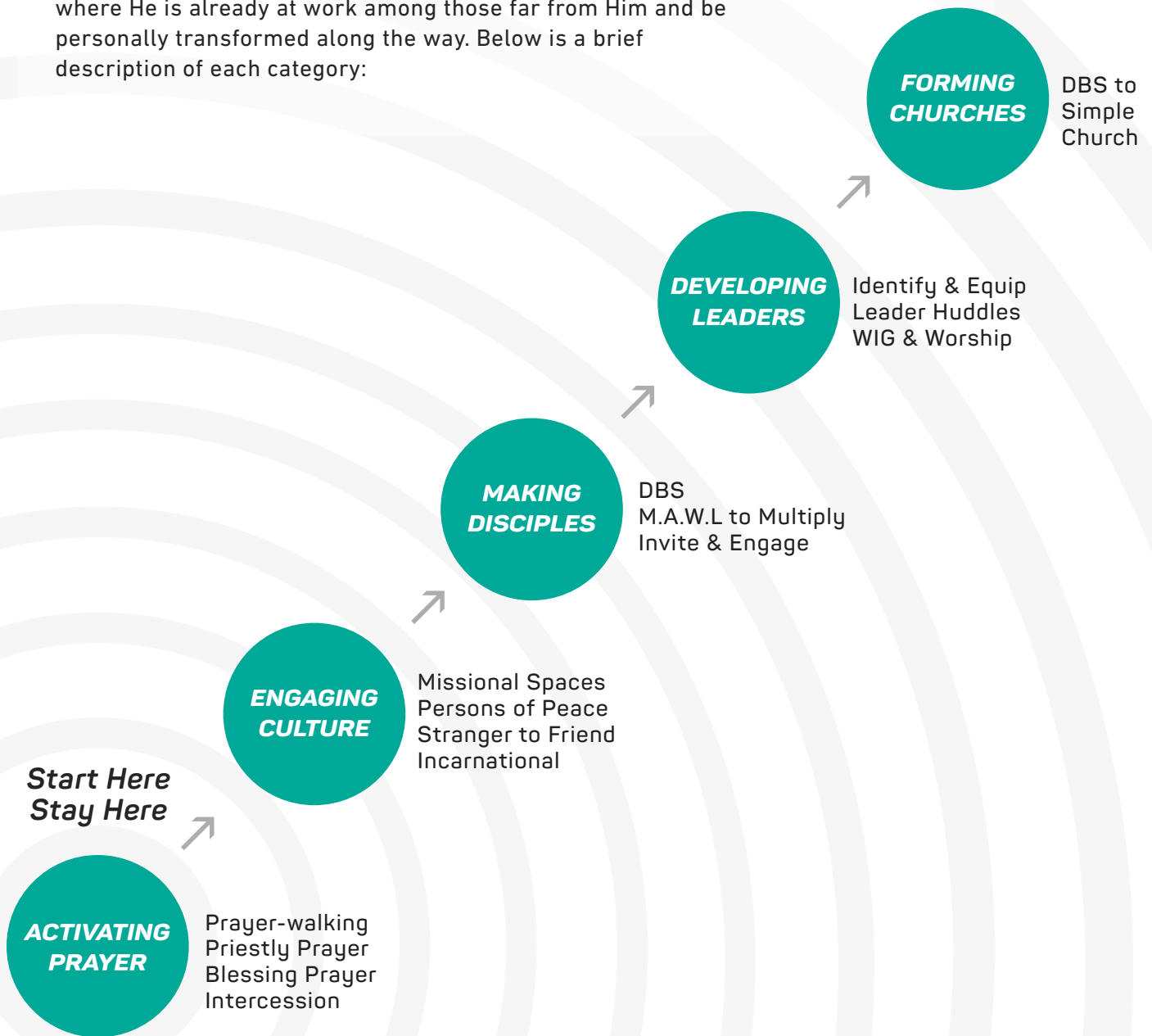
Over time, as new disciples and new spiritual families emerge, DBS environments can mature into ongoing microchurches. **These are extended spiritual families, led by ordinary people, who live in close community with one another and own the mission of Jesus in a particular network of relationships.** Disciple-making and church formation grow from the ground up, just like what we see in the book of Acts.

## THE MOVEMENT PATHWAY

If one were to look at all gospel movements from 10,000 feet in the air, certain elements are consistent in every one of them. Radical prayer, cultural engagement, disciple-making, equipping leaders and forming new churches resulting in tangible cultural transformation are constants in every gospel movement. In this training, we call these elements “**The 5 Components of Gospel Movements.**”

The following training called “The Movement Pathway” is not just another trend or program to highlight for a season and then move on. Instead, these components are reverse-engineered pillars and practices observed from actual gospel movements (including what we see in the book of Acts and, best of all, the life of Jesus).

To travel on the Movement Pathway is to join God intentionally where He is already at work among those far from Him and be personally transformed along the way. Below is a brief description of each category:



01

## ***ACTIVATING PRAYER***

A prayer movement precedes every gospel movement. New disciple-making flows from the heart of God, so our job is to simply hear and know His voice and then join Him in His work. We are praying to discover and discern where He is already working in order to join Him, rather than asking God to bless our strategies. In this training, we will discuss and implement missional prayer practices focusing on the contexts and people to whom God has already called us. Activating prayer operates comfortably in the supernatural, expecting signs and wonders, dealing with the demonic, and knowing how to partner with the Holy Spirit. It includes listening prayer, spiritual mapping, prayer walking, strategic prayer, and is often declaratory. It harnesses the spiritual authority God has delegated to us and exercises the power of blessing.

02

## ***ENGAGING CULTURE***

When we understand our identity as people called by God and given a powerful mission to complete (Matthew 28:19,20), we are free to run with purpose. This training will focus on practical elements of living on mission, including rhythms of blessing others, engaging in spiritual conversations, and discovering people who are spiritually curious (Luke 10 identifies these people as “Persons of Peace”). Such engagement means meeting the felt needs of people in the name and power of Jesus. It means discerning where the Spirit of God is uniquely active and people are receptive, and then responding appropriately. Engaging culture in this paradigm is intended to position believers (who through engaging culture have gained relational equity) to invite pre-believers into a discovery process where they become committed and obedient disciples of Jesus.

03

## ***MAKING DISCIPLES***

When we live as committed disciples in the neighborhoods and networks to which God has called us, we find people God has prepared to hear the good news about Jesus. Instead of pulling people away from their friends and family and pushing them to join a church in order to be discipled, we simply share the gospel and begin making disciples from the ground up, in the everyday rhythms of life. We will focus on a simple, yet effective tool used worldwide called “Discovery Bible Study” to help us make new disciples right where people already are. This process does not rely on experts, is highly relational, and is easily reproduced regardless of setting or culture.

## 04 *GROWING LEADERS*

In a gospel movement, everything multiplies. New disciples grow and multiply themselves, and emerging leaders are equipped and deployed according to their gifting. The only way to see cities and nations reached is to multiply everything at every stage in the movement pathway. To sustain movement, it is imperative that leaders know how to identify new leaders and how to strategically coach, mentor, and launch them into ministry.

## 05 *FORMING CHURCHES*

Disciples grow and learn together. New spiritual families emerge. These simple expressions of church can be referred to in different ways, such as a microchurch, house church, or a gathering. In the book of Acts and within gospel movements worldwide, believers' primary gathering occurs within homes and everyday spaces. In such gatherings spiritual families can love one another, worship and pray intimately together, and be on mission in powerful ways. They are lightweight, inexpensive, and easily reproducible from context to context. When followers of Jesus engage together in worship, community, and mission, they are the Church.

### **YOU'RE INVITED**

Hearing stories of what God is doing around the world among gospel movements is breathtaking. The book of Acts is happening over and over again. As Westerners, we are crying out to the Lord that we would see a similar work of God in our nations and our communities. As followers of Jesus, this is not merely a pipe dream; rather, it's the example that we see in the New Testament. The gospel, when released, multiplies and transforms, possessing the power to radically change entire cultures.

**Here's the best part: Jesus is inviting you to join Him in this epic story of redemption.** He's not just calling the experts, the educated, or even the super gifted on this journey. No, it's quite the opposite. Jesus is inviting the ordinary who are willing and obedient. If this is you, you have the right posture to make disciples in your everyday life. *Welcome to the journey!*

(Thanks to Cory Ozburn, Bill Randall, Kerri Meador and Phil Alessi for their contributions to this document.)