





When Jesus began His Church he gave his disciples three very clear things to guide them. Jesus gave his disciples a **mission**. Jesus gave his disciples a **strategy**. Jesus gave his disciples a **focus**.

Jesus gave his disciples the mission that answered the “why” question. The mission to “make disciples” defined why the church existed. The strategy to help untrained people become “fully trained” disciples defined “what” the disciples were supposed to do. Finally, the focus of going from “Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth” made it clear “how” the disciples were going to accomplish the mission.

These three guiding principles that Jesus gave the Church when he started it are the same three guiding principles we need today. As our church moves into our fourth decade of existence, we want to be very clear and unified on these three things.

As we move forward as a church family we need to be certain, now more than ever, on our mission, our strategy, and our focus. We believe that following the same principles Jesus gave his disciples when the Church started will help us be the church God wants us to be.





# OUR MISSION



Two thousand years ago Jesus gave us the mission of his Church. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus told his disciples, "Go and make disciples of all nations." Jesus made it very clear why we exist. We exist to help every person in every nation in every generation become disciples of Jesus Christ. The Great Commission makes our mission extremely clear.

Jesus took his commission to make disciples a step farther in Luke 6:40. Jesus described what kind of disciples he wanted his disciples to make. Jesus said, "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher." Without question we are called to make disciples that are fully trained and look and act like Jesus.



Identifying what a fully trained disciple looks like is not hard. It is as simple as looking at Jesus, his disciples, and their disciples. When you can identify a common trait or mark of a disciple in Jesus, his disciples, and their disciples, it is safe to say you should see

it in us. As we look at these three generations of disciples we can see Christ's character and conduct on display. This reminds us that the character of Christ and the conduct of Christ should also be on display in us. Fully trained disciples will seek to be like their teacher.

The character of Christ is best described in what Paul refers to as the Fruit of the Spirit. In Galatians 5:22 and 23 Paul says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Jesus wants a whole planet full of fully trained disciples that demonstrate the character of Christ through the Fruit of the Spirit.

The conduct of Christ is best described by the priorities we see in both Jesus and the Church in Jerusalem as described in the Book of Acts. As you examine the common behaviors of both Jesus and the Church in Jerusalem you begin to identify seven marks of Christ's conduct that should be true of every disciple. We call a fully trained disciple with the character and conduct of Christ an M-7 Disciple.



Here is a quick look at the seven marks of a disciple that demonstrate the conduct of Christ and his disciples.

***A member!*** Jesus has always expected fully trained disciples to belong to his mission and movement. Disciples are always members of Christ's church both universally and locally.

***A magnifier!*** Jesus has always expected fully trained disciples to live as worshippers. Christ wants every disciple to live a lifestyle of both public and private worship.

***A maturing disciple!*** Jesus has always expected fully trained disciples to be growing and maturing in their faith. From infancy to adulthood a fully trained disciple should always be growing.

***A minister!*** Jesus has always expected fully trained disciples to be servants and ministers to others. Every disciple has been given gifts and abilities that ought to be used to meet the needs of others.

***A manager!*** Jesus has always expected fully trained disciples to be stewards of their God-given resources. Disciples should manage their money, time, relationships, and bodies in a way that glorifies God.

***A messenger!*** Jesus has always expected fully trained disciples to be witnesses that share the message of Jesus. Disciples consistently look for open doors to share the message of Christ to as many people as possible.

***A multiplier!*** Jesus has always expected fully trained disciples to reproduce and multiply more disciples. The ultimate mark of a disciple is to make more disciples.

The mission of Jesus is being fulfilled when fully trained disciples are being made. A world filled with fully trained disciples that look and act like Jesus will turn the world upside down for Christ.

# OUR STRATEGY



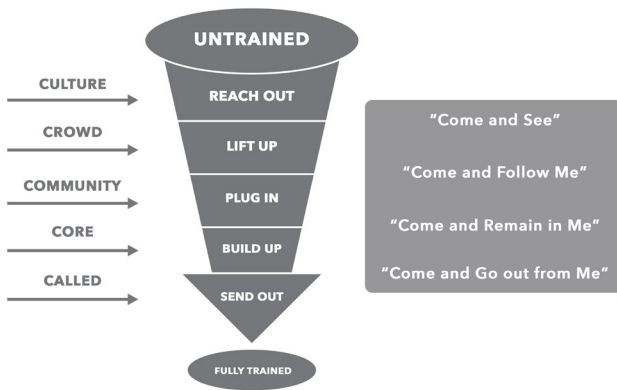


Two thousand years ago Jesus entered the world we live in to redeem mankind and start a movement of redemption called disciple-making. Christ's mission was to make "fully trained" disciples of every person, in every nation, in every generation. To accomplish this mission, Jesus had a strategy to help untrained people become fully trained disciples.

For over two thousand years the strategy to help untrained people become fully trained disciples has been the same. Jesus modeled the strategy he wanted us to implement with his original twelve disciples. Jesus modeled the perfect strategy for how to make fully trained disciples.

In John 20:21 Jesus told his disciples, "Just as the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Clearly, Jesus is telling us that we are to do the

same things in the same ways that he did. Like Jesus, we need an intentional and strategic process to help lead people to become fully trained disciples.



Jesus used a very intentional and strategic process to help people take

the necessary steps to become fully trained disciples. Throughout this whole process, relationships were the key. Jesus made personal challenges to each of his disciples, and he led them in the context of relationship.







# OUR FOCUS

A little over two thousand years ago Jesus gave his disciples the mission of making disciples of all nations. The strategy he wanted his disciples to use came right out of his own life. Jesus wanted his disciples to help untrained people become fully trained disciples by doing with others the same thing he had done with them.

Jesus not only gave his Church a mission and a strategy, he also gave them a clear focus. Their focus explained “how” Jesus wanted them to work his strategy to accomplish his mission. Jesus wanted his disciples to start making disciples at home, then extend to other areas a little farther from him, and ultimately expand to the ends of the earth. By following this focus the disciples would fulfill the mission of making disciples in all nations.

In the Book of Acts, Jesus gave the Church a clear focus for making disciples following his resurrection. In Acts 1:8 Jesus told the disciples in Jerusalem, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Jesus was clearly directing the Church to make disciples everywhere they could.



Today, two thousand years later, we believe the disciple-making focus of the church remains the same. The names of the locations have changed, but the focus is the same. We have the same power and the same focus the Church had in the first century. Today, we describe our disciple-making focus this way.



***We make disciples in our church!*** The Holy Spirit empowers Christ's disciples to make more disciples with the local church. Our Jerusalem means that we are called to make disciples in our church just as they did in the Book of Acts. We reach the nations by reaching our friends and family right where we live.

We believe our church is placed in this location in order for us to make as many disciples as we possibly can while we can. We want to be able to look back someday and know that we have accomplished the mission of making disciples.

***We make a difference in our community!*** The Holy Spirit empowers Christ's disciples to make a difference in the communities around the local church. Our Judea and Samaria include the people in our community that we might not yet know personally. Like Judea and Samaria there may be social, cultural, and even economic barriers that keep us from reaching these people in nearby areas.

We believe our church is placed in this location to make a difference in our community for Christ. We want to influence and impact our surrounding area in such a way that many people find their way to become disciples in our church.

***We make disciple-making movements around the globe!*** The Holy Spirit empowers Christ's disciples to make disciple-making movements all over the world. The Ends of the Earth are the places that are far from where we live that need to hear the message of Jesus. We seek to start movements of disciple-making in as many areas of the world as possible.

We believe our church is placed in this location so that we can help start additional movements of disciple-making all around the globe. We want to look back some day and know that we have leveraged our resources to help launch as many disciple-making movements as possible.

We can accomplish the mission of making disciples of all nations when we stay focused on working the strategy of Jesus in our Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and Ends of the Earth.





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