

Barriers to Embracing a Discipleship Culture

The Impact of Covid

[Your notes]

5 Negatives

1. **Traumatic Loss**
2. **Attendance Crashed**
3. **Pastors Are Exhausted**
4. **Who's Doing the Discipling?**
5. **Apocalypse Now**



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5 Positives

1. **Christ-Centered Community**
2. **Spiritual Stirrings**
3. **Body Ministry**
4. **The Committed Still Give**
5. **Let's Go 'All-In'!**



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5 Next Steps

*** Most of these issues are discipleship issues that relate to our submission to Jesus as Lord! ***

1. Work from Rest

Exodus 20:8-11 *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns."*

Ministry is a marathon

KEY: work from rest

Roots and fruits

YOUR MOVE:

What sustainable rhythms do you need?

Are you taking a sabbath?



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2. Operate in Community

Luke 10:1 *"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go."*

Disciple-making is not meant to be a solo activity

It's not all about paid staff!

YOUR MOVE:

Who are you receiving rich and uninhibited encouragement and accountability from?
NAME THEM!

Who are you offering rich and uninhibited encouragement and accountability to?
NAME THEM!



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3. Root the Future in Mission

Acts 1:8 *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

When in doubt, go back to the mission.

Who are you called to be on mission amongst?

Whole church, communities on common mission, households, friend groups. Starts with you as leaders.

YOUR MOVE:

Who is at the center of your household mission vision?
NAME THEM!

Who is at the center of your church's mission?
NAME THE COMMUNITY!



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4. The Goal Is Making Disciples

Matthew 7:24 *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”*

Disciple = hear + obey

“What is Jesus saying and how am I responding?”

Viral definition

YOUR MOVE:

What is your viral definition of disciple?

How are you constantly communicating this in your church?



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5. Pursue the Spirit's Empowering

Ephesians 5:18 *"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."*

"Keep on being filled with the Spirit"

- Present tense =
- Passive voice =
- Imperative =

Stop and ask

YOUR MOVE:

Will you actively pause and ask the Spirit to fill you each morning - and throughout the day?



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These are extraordinary times, so immensely difficult and challenging. Yet also this is a season of opportunity.

We must embrace this new season with humility and a realization that we've moved from being map-followers to being map-makers.

As a result, the core strategies to survive and thrive in this territory are going to be different or at least reformed from what we relied on before.

BUT JESUS IS FAITHFUL!

Processing Time

- including Q&A and prayer ministry

Hey - Pay Attention....

BONUSES COMING UP!!



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BONUS #1

Free access to our video curriculum
‘SOW: Season of Witness’!

Goto

<https://www.naturallysupernaturalcourse.com/courses/sow>

Sign up to purchase, then on the checkout page enter the
coupon code “texasumc”

The Small print:

As this is how our family brings in income, please do not share this code with friends or churches outside of the Great Plains UMC! Instead, please direct them to the site to purchase their own access.



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BONUS #2

50% off our flagship video curriculum

‘The Naturally Supernatural Course - Part A: Foundations’

Goto <https://www.naturallysupernaturalcourse.com/>

Sign up to purchase, then on the checkout page enter the coupon code “texas-nsc” to receive your 50% off!

NB This discount is ONLY AVAILABLE until the end of December 2022, when Course prices will rise!

The Small print:

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BONUS #3

12 Internal Barriers To Embracing A Disciple-Making Culture

1. Not truly wanting to hear what God is saying/ doing
2. Refusing to repent of the things that are undermining the Western church
3. Job insecurity: “Will I be fired if I pursue discipleship over consumerism?”
4. General fear of the unknown
5. “I was never (properly) disciplined, so how can I disciple others?”
6. My ego being tied to success in the current model
7. The challenge of choosing to go deep and not just wide
8. Things will get messy and there will be unexpected results
9. “I won’t be able to be in complete control/ micro-mange”
10. “I like my alone time, and have stopped enjoying being with people for long”
11. Personal cost for me and my family
12. Lack of willingness to become more vulnerable

12 External Barriers To Embracing A Disciple-Making Culture

1. Unbridled busyness of people
2. Prioritizing others things (such as my child’s sports) over Christian community
3. The history of our church, including her inherited ‘baggage’
4. The power of consumerism within our culture (especially in the suburbs)
5. “How will we sustain the existing financial engine of our church (eg paying the colossal building loan)?”
6. The flighty nature of Christian consumers — if I come on too strong, they’ll leave our church
7. Many existing Christians don’t really want to be disciplined, let alone make disciples
8. Lack of leaders who ‘get’ it and want to support this shift
9. “I am held accountable mostly for things that are not about disciple making”
10. Our current success (we do a great job at what we already do)
11. Current ministries demand time, attention and resources
12. Lack of margin for mission in the system

