

4

LAUNCHING A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

OBJECTIVE

To launch a new discipleship group out of an existing discipleship group.

DISCIPLE

Following Jesus, being transformed by Jesus, and committed to the mission of Jesus.

THE WHY

MULTIPLICATION

The early church continued to provide groups in people's homes for people to meet in, be discipled in, and be launched into ministry from. God's design for His church since the beginning is that we disciple and multiply.

NEW RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

A new group gives people a new relational environment to be discipled in, which means MORE people getting discipled to be like Jesus! If we don't launch new groups, we WILL hit a ceiling of how many people we can disciple.

EMERGING LEADERS

A new group allows emerging leaders a place to express their gifts and callings that might have otherwise gone unused.

THE HOW

ANNOUNCE IT

Before the new leader starts a new group, announce it to the group they are currently in. Give the current group at least six gatherings to process this before the new leader is sent out to launch. This allows room for vetting, questions, grieving and processing emotions and questions before the launch.

ASK THE GROUP TO HELP

Ask each group member to pray about how they can help for the launch. Maybe a few will feel called to be a part of the new group. Maybe they will feel called to be intercessors for that group for a certain period of time. Maybe they will feel called to buy a Costco membership for the new leader so they can provide snacks for the new group.

1

FORMING

2

BUILDING

3

APPRENTICING

4

LAUNCHING

INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN

Once a launch date has been established and communicated, help the emerging leader by encouraging them to invite others. Pray for that leader as they prepare to launch. Lay hands on them at their last group gathering and send them to go and make disciples.

BECOMING CO-LABORERS IN THE MISSION

Stay in touch with the new group leader(s) as a mentor, co-laborer, friend and coach. Be careful not to control or dictate their group (as they may choose to do some things differently than you did), but be available to listen, hear their concerns or questions and to encourage them in their abiding in Christ.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

1. **HOW DO I ENCOURAGE A LAUNCH WHEN MY GROUP WANTS TO STAY TOGETHER?**
2. **DO I HAVE TO LAUNCH JUST AN EMERGING LEADER? CAN OUR GROUP BECOME TWO EVENLY SPLIT GROUPS?**
3. **IS THERE A MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE BEFORE WE LAUNCH?**
4. **ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LAUNCH A GROUP EVERY YEAR?**
5. **WHAT ARE BEST PRACTICES FOR STAYING FRIENDS WITH THE LAUNCHED DS GROUP MEMBERS WHILE MAINTAINING TIME AND SPACE FOR THOSE I AM DISCIPLING?**