

Let's Start the Conversation!

Leader/Participant Guide

Background

In our vast number of conversations with Church leaders, and Christ followers, we consistently encounter the question “where do we start?” It seems that many in the North American Church are confused and somewhat discouraged when determining how to best nurture people to become mature and flourishing Christ followers who help others do the same – also known as a disciple. It can feel like taking a shot at a target with the lights turned off.

We have learned that simply applying a new method, to the existing “problem” will not result in an enduring solution. The shifts required from us, and most disciples are **mindset** shifts. And unlike methodological shifts, most recent brain science reveals that mindset shifts cannot be rushed. Certain environments can, however, facilitate the journey towards new ways of thinking. This conversation guide seeks to give time for individuals to discover new understandings for themselves. Long-lasting behavioural changes catalyzed when we discover truth for ourselves.

It is to this end that we have created the first in a series of conversation tools. We trust the *Let's Get the Conversation Started* video content, along with this participant's guide and supporting documentation, will facilitate the early stages of these mind shifts as you seek to move towards a new paradigm not only as individuals, but as a united community of faith.

Options

As you journey through the video led conversation guide, there are several places for personal reflection and group discussion. The questions and their order correspond with the instructions given by the video facilitator. While there is significant time given at each processing step, feel free to either lengthen or shorten the time spent in reflection and discussion to meet the needs of your context. Understanding that reduction of reflection time, while speeding up the conversation, may hinder the mindset shifts the tool seeks to facilitate.

The complete conversation including preset reflection/discussion time requires 1 ½ hours. If, however, you require additional reflection time, you can extend the experience beyond the 1 ½ hour time frame.

The video guided tool has the flexibility to be used in varying group sizes and contexts. The following paragraphs present how it could be used within several different contexts. We hope this gives you understanding of the tools structure and flow, so that you may adjust it for your own use.

1. Elder's Board or Staff Leadership Team

Day Retreat Setting: Using the full video file, add additional time to personal processing and group discussion time as needed. Group discussion can occur within the larger group, or a mix of smaller and larger groups at your discretion. This setting also facilitates a longer group discernment process at the end of the retreat.

Three 45 min Meetings: Use each of the Part A, B and C videos to facilitate three separate meetings over a course of several weeks or months. Participants will need to record and hold onto their

reflections more carefully to bring insights from previous meetings forward. We also recommend that you add time at the beginning of the second and third meetings to prayerfully reflect on individual and group insights from the previous sessions.

2. Small Group

Two Hour Meeting: Use the full video file, and follow the times set for processing within the video. Ensure discussion happens within smaller groups of 3-4 people, to ensure everyone has enough time to share.

Two One Hour Meetings: Use the full video file and stop it when you are around the 45 minute mark on the video. Participants will need to record and hold onto their reflections to bring back to the second meeting. We also recommend that you add time at the beginning of the second meeting for prayerful reflection on individual and group insights from the previous session.

Three 45 min Meetings: Use each of the Part A, B and C videos to facilitate three separate meetings over a course of several weeks or months. Participants will need to record and hold onto their reflections more carefully to bring insights from previous meetings forward. We also recommend that you add time at the beginning of the second and third meetings to prayerfully reflect on individual and group insights from the previous sessions.

3. Individual

Journey and Journal Alone: Play the video and interact with the content at your own pace. During the group sharing components, make sure you journal your thoughts for your own record, with the possibility of sharing with others in the future.

Journey and Journal with a Friend: Share the video with a friend. Next, process the content individually and then book a time to share the highlights, and pray for God to reveal how you can encourage one another in potential next steps.

Preparation:

Content:

Go to <https://www.rekindle.tv/start-the-conversation> to access video content and supporting documentation.

- Leaders can access both the full length and three part video version
- Leaders and participants will benefit from downloading this guide, as well as the coinciding pdf slide deck.

Prepare Your hearts and minds for the journey

Because this is ideally a group journey towards a focused and unified disciple making approach, there are a few tension points that require highlighting to manage your expectations.

- 1) This tool is created to stir up dissonance within participants. It's designed to be uncomfortable. Don't shy away from the discomfort or assume you aren't receiving it correctly if you are uncomfortable. That's the intention of the tool. We aim to create a **safe place** for participants to **embrace** the discomfort and welcome the Holy Spirit to teach into that space.

- 2) Not all people process at the same speed. Some in your midst will make the discovery quickly and may at times feel like the tool is repeating the same point. Others may feel like you might not be getting the point. The journey of discovery takes time, and this tool honours the need for a slow journey with incremental increases in understanding. For those who process quickly, we acknowledge that it could feel redundant and repetitive to you. There are a few things we encourage for you.
- a. To become a part of a movement of multiplicative disciples, it is important that the community embraces and discovers these truths together. This is a time for the quick processors to participate in creating a space where others can discover these truths in their time. Disciples are made in community. We encourage you to use this space to learn what it looks like to disciple those who don't process rapidly and trust the Spirit to bring you as a community to a unified space of greater understanding. Many people, if not most, will need numerous exposures to the same ideas before they can confidently embrace and engage the shifts. It takes time.
 - b. Jesus likes to take what we've already learned and apply in new dimensions within our lives. I'm sure we'd all agree that we've learned the humility lesson for example more than once. As you participate in making space for others to embrace and engage the shifts, ask Jesus to saturate you with the truths you have already learned more deeply. Where could you tangibly engage relational disciple making practices within this group journey?

Group Prayer

Spend some time praying out loud together. Somethings to consider as you pray.

- May this be a prayer of surrender and openness to the work of the Holy Spirit in each one of you.
- Invite the Holy Spirit into the potential discomfort and thank Him for joining you and leading you on this journey of discovery.
- Ask for love and patience for self and others.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to unify the group.
- Anything else the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

Notes from Group Sharing (Slides 12 & 13)

Best Thinking

A good definition of **DISCIPLE** includes the following:

- **Inclusive** and **expectant** of **evangelism, pre-conversion** activity.
- Following/**obeying** Jesus from the heart,
- Relationship not religion or duty,
- Joy/delight/confidence in relationship with God
- And **multiplication**/replication

Disciple Making

“Relationally engaging with others to lead them to faith and maturity in Christ and equip them to do likewise.”

Slide 17 – Group Discussion

How do your existing practices you came up with from the last section, reflect the key points and definition of Disciple and Disciple Making in the box above?

2. How does this teaching challenge what I presently believe about disciple making?

Slide 25

1. What ONE thing jumps off the page so significantly that I must share it?
2. Share ONE way that this teaching resonates with what you already believe and act upon?
3. Share ONE sentence that starts as follows: If what we've just learned is true, I will need to stop _____ and start _____.

How are We Doing?

Slide 27 & 28

1. What one thing jumped out at you about this video?

2. Did anything Tim say strongly resonate with you?

3. Did anything Tim say confuse you or leave you with more questions?

Slide 31

1. What percentage of your local church are making disciples **who are making disciples?**

2. What percentage of your leadership team (staff and elders) are personally making disciples **who make disciples?**

3. Can you list the names of people you've discipled, **who've made disciples?**

Slide 33

1. Are you seeing a regular pattern of transformed lives in your congregants?

2. Does your church have a clear, consistent definition of disciple and disciple making across all departments?

3. Are followers of Christ in your congregation actively making disciples who make disciples?

Slide 39

While listening to the Holy Spirit about personal and group next steps, use this space to take down anything you think you may be hearing from God.
