

# Discover & GROW



TEACH PREACH LEAD  
MEN'S GATHERING

**M**aking disciples has always been part of the mission of the Church under Christ's command in the Great Commission. However, many churches don't have a clear process for a replicable disciple-making strategy. This leaves the Church in a vulnerable position as seniors are unable to hold their positions or pass away, vacating their positions with no one to replace them as elders, deacons, teachers, or even preachers. The effects aren't only in the Church but in the home as well. Strong, healthy families demand strong, healthy, godly men to lead them. Disciple-making does not naturally happen. It takes intentionality to discover, develop, and deploy future leaders, elders, deacons, teachers, preachers, and godly men in our homes.

Last fall, pastors and church leaders gathered from across Southwest Virginia for a leadership development workshop led by SBCV Executive Director Dr. Brian Autry and Director of Church Planting Dr. Josh Turner. The workshop was a resource for helping churches develop church planters. It was retooled by SBCV regional strategists to aid pastors in building a disciple-making strategy for their churches to discover, develop, and deploy healthy, strong disciples of Jesus.

Pastor Shea Shrader of **Harman Memorial Baptist Church** in Buchanan County began to work on a strategy. He wanted to discover men who were ready to grow deeper in their walk with Christ and discover the call of God upon their lives—whether that call was to preach God's Word, teach Sunday School, or lead their families well. Discovery is only part of that strategy. Once you discover who they are, then you must help them develop, pour into, and invest in those men.

Pastor Shrader began to organize panels of pastors, Christian leaders, and lay leaders each month who had a long tenure in various areas: how to prepare a sermon or Sunday School lesson, how to do hospital and home visits, and how to lead your family in devotions and prayer. Other areas included how to lead yourself for a successful ministry, and best practices for marriage and ministry. Resources became a vital part of the strategy. Each month, the group received a book to read and discuss together to help develop well-rounded disciples.

Deployment is what determines success. The Apostle Paul told his mentee Timothy, "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach

others also" (2 Timothy 2:2, NKJV). It is simply giving the encouragement to have confidence to use what you have learned. A simple principle is to transfer what you learn and teach for transformation. Deployment as a disciple growing in Christ is to automatically lead to sharing Christ.

Pastor Shrader received this message via text from a wife of one of the men involved with the program. "Hi Shea, I wanted to thank you for having the teach, preach, lead class. Yesterday we went to visit a guy we know and he gave his life to the Lord after Steve talked to him. I was there, but it was all Steve and God. He was a little nervous beforehand, but once he got started, he went with it and did fine. I am so proud of him and all of the changes he has made have just amazed me. I thank God and thank you for teaching him."

What is your process? Who are you investing in? Who is in your church or ministry that you may discover, develop, and deploy? What areas of leadership will be vacated unless you train up the next generation of those who will preach, teach, and lead? ■