



Is Your Church Riding the Acts 6:7 Train?

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly . . . Acts 6:7 (ESV)

You've seen them in movies of the American west. Those smoke-belching, steam-driven locomotives. This simple image captures the dynamic of growing an intentional disciple-making culture where disciples are multiplied. Churches that ride the Acts 6:7 train multiply disciples. To ride this train, we need a drive shaft, the power source that moves us forward. This power comes from a **passion for God** and a **passion for the Gospel**. However, a drive shaft is not enough; wheels are needed for a culture to be built. The first wheel represents **purposeful leaders**, men and women who have an agreed upon vision, values, and mission for disciple-making. Next is a New Testament **picture of a disciple**. The third wheel is a **pathway for discipleship**, a simple and practical plan to move growing believers to mature disciples. Our fourth wheel are the **practitioners**, the disciple-makers who provide life-to-life ministry to the pathway. The last wheel is the wheel of **progress**. What "wins" of the Holy Spirit will we celebrate to mark our discipling progress? Are you riding the 6:7 train? Take the Acts 6:7 Assessment to discover the current state of your disciple-making culture.

Purposeful Leaders

Picture of a Disciple

Pathway for Discipleship

Practitioners for Disciplemaking

Progress for Charting Growth

Passion for God (Matthew 22:37) and the Gospel (Romans 1:16)

Purposeful

Ephesians 4:11-16

Leaders have:

- Vision
- Values
- Mission

Picture

Matthew 28:18-20

Picture is:

- Bible based
- Specific
- Integrated to church

Pathway

Colossians 2:6-7

Pathways move from:

- Large group
- Small group
- One-to-one

Practitioners

Matthew 9:36-38

Disciplemakers who have:

- Vision
- Intentionality
- Means

Progress

Acts 6:1, 7

Celebrate wins:

- Increase number of disciples
- Multiplication of disciplemakers

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Assessing Our Progress in Growing an Intentional Disciplemaking Culture

Rate each statement on a scale of 1 - 5. One indicates a low-level or nonexistent presence in your church. Five indicates a high commitment in your church. Total your scores for each column and note your total for all seven in the categories at the bottom.



| Passion for God | Passion for the Gospel | Purposeful Leaders | Picture | Pathway | Practitioners | Progress |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>___ People openly talk about loving God.</p> <p>___ Many are practicing the spiritual disciplines for growth.</p> <p>___ Our leaders model a love for God and practice the spiritual disciplines.</p> <p>___ Our congregation looks for new ways to love God and walk by faith.</p> | <p>___ We consistently provide basic training in evangelism.</p> <p>___ Our people are actively making non-Christian friends.</p> <p>___ We have a biblical and intentional evangelism strategy.</p> <p>___ Our evangelism strategy is integrated into all our church ministries.</p> | <p>___ We have a written vision and mission statement to make disciples.</p> <p>___ We regularly communicate our vision for making disciples.</p> <p>___ Our leadership models disciple-making.</p> <p>___ The entire church is functioning around our vision to make disciples.</p> | <p>___ We have a biblical picture of a disciple of Christ.</p> <p>___ Most of our congregation knows this picture.</p> <p>___ Our leadership preaches and practices what it means to be a disciple.</p> <p>___ We have organized our ministries around our picture of discipleship.</p> | <p>___ We have a clear biblical picture of the stages of growth.</p> <p>___ We have a simple and intentional strategy for moving a new believer to discipleship and on to effective ministry.</p> <p>___ We regularly communicate our pathway so that everyone can take steps to be involved.</p> <p>___ Our small groups intentionally serve our vision of making disciples.</p> | <p>___ We regularly provide disciple-making training to disciple others life-to-life.</p> <p>___ We have a vision and plan to place disciple-makers in every aspect of our church ministry.</p> <p>___ There is a trained core of people who are discipling others life-to-life.</p> <p>___ We have a group of people trained in following up new converts.</p> | <p>___ Our leadership regularly reviews our disciple-making progress.</p> <p>___ Our wins help us set our goals and determine our priorities.</p> <p>___ We have developed practical "wins" in reaching and discipling others.</p> <p>___ We regularly celebrate our wins among our leadership and with our congregation.</p> |

1 - 40 A discipling culture barely exists in our church.
 41 - 80 We have signs of an emerging discipling culture.
 81 - 120 We are making progress in developing a discipling culture.
 121 - 140 We can celebrate a discipling culture.

