

BIG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

10.18/19.08 // DNA OF THE REPRODUCING CHURCH: REPRODUCING LEADERS

The future of the church depends on God's people embracing the principle of apprenticing new leaders.

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: How were you trained for your current job?

Option 2: What is the best part of your job? What is the worst part?

Option 3: What is the best job you've ever had? The worst job?

// Questions for Discussion _____

Think of the business world, or the craftsmen guild, or the Jedi in Star Wars. How is a "disciple" similar to an "apprentice"?

How is a Christian leader different than a leader in the world (business, government, military, etc.)?

Read Mark 10:42-45 (NLT)

42 So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. 43 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

What is the role of church leaders? How do they carry out that role in practical ways? Read Ephesians 4:11-12 (NLT)

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

The apostle Paul mentored young Timothy in the ministry. Then He told Timothy to train others. We call it: The 222 Principle. Read 2 Timothy 2:2

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

What are the practical benefits of The 222 Principle for the church?

What are the spiritual or theological benefits of this Principle for each person?

How does this relate to the way God has given each of us spiritual gifts? Read Romans 12:5-8

5so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 about qualifications for being an overseer/pastor/elder.

If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer,^[a] he desires a noble task. 2Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4He must manage his own family well and see that

his children obey him with proper respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

While these qualities are not necessarily important for leadership in the world, describe how each of these qualifications is important for church leadership.

What are the dangers in putting someone into leadership too soon?

What is the responsibility of the church to its leaders? Read 1 Timothy 5:17

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

Read Hebrews 13:7 & 17

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ...Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

When should a congregation not follow its leaders?

What are some practical ways you can support the church's leaders?

Does this small group have an apprentice leader currently? If not, why not? If so, is there a plan to someday reproduce this group?

// Prayer _____

Pray about finding someone you can apprentice with in your Christian walk.

Pray about finding someone who can apprentice with you.

Pray for the church's leaders.

Pray that God raises up more and better leaders for the future of the church.

Col. 1:6; 4:12-13.

This mentoring chain quickly reached all of that part of Asia Minor (Acts 19:10)