

Let My People Grow – Chapter Summaries

1: Let my people grow – Mark Greene

What are the driving forces that are increasingly focusing the UK Church on this key issue of contemporary disciple-making? Why is whole-life disciple making so crucial for mission in 21st century UK? How do we approach this challenge of helping people grow and live integrated, transformative lives of faith wherever they are? In starting to address these questions Mark sets the context for this collection of essays.

Mark is Executive Director of LICC.

2: What did Moses do? Discipleship BC - David Firth

In this chapter David opens up the Old Testament to provide a context in which discipleship in the New Testament can be more meaningfully understood. He argues that discipleship can never be the goal itself. It is only meaningful when seen within the framework of God's mission. Old Testament leaders are called by God to help his people live out his mission among the nations. This provides a pattern both for New Testament discipleship and for us today.

David is Old Testament tutor at Cliff College, Derbyshire.

3: Ephesians 4 ministries and spiritual formation - Greg Haslam

In this chapter Greg explores the five-fold ministry of Ephesians 4 and their radical agenda for building up the people of God. He emphasises that it's in the context of Christian unity that God intended for these ministries to function effectively to help God's people grow towards maturity and to equip them for the works he has prepared for them in advance to do.

Greg is senior pastor at Westminster Chapel, London.

4: From darkness to light: lessons in disciple-making from our great-grandparents in Christ - Martyn Atkins

In this chapter Martyn describes the process of disciple-making prevalent in the early church that was known as catechesis. He identifies ways in which the characteristics of this pre-modern world have significant parallels in our twenty-first century UK culture. He goes on to suggest, therefore, that an appropriately innovative implementation of catechesis may once again be God's anointed tool for disciple-making.

Martyn is Principal of Cliff College, Derbyshire.

5: The 'end' of discipleship: John Wesley's vision of real Christianity - Philip Meadows

Wesley has made an excellent guru for scholars and leaders in search of general principles and universal techniques for ministry. But the heart of what Wesley has

for us today lies in his compelling vision of the Christian life itself. It was his vision of forming a holy people, capable of being a living witness to the gospel in uncertain times that captured his imagination and directed his own search after 'whole-life discipleship'.

Philip is Director of Postgraduate Studies at Cliff College, Derbyshire.

6: Shaping the disciple's mind - Graham McFarlane

We live in times of unprecedented change and therefore incredible opportunity. The good news for the early twenty-first century is that for the first time in its modern history the church has been liberated from the dualisms, which have bound it. Abstract theology is no longer viable – it has to work! In this chapter Graham explores the pastoral function of doctrine, of thinking Christianly, in shaping the motivations, desires and ultimately the priorities and behaviour of a follower of Jesus today.

Graham is senior lecturer in systematic theology at London School of Theology

7: Why do churches resist disciple-making? - Steve Davie

It's not hard to get people to agree that disciple-making is crucial to the growth of Christians and their church. But it's rare to find a church where whole-life disciple-making is core their culture, where it shapes everything they do. There are dynamics at work that resist disciple-making. In this chapter Steve reflects on his experiences to understand why.

Steve is team rector at St Bartholomew's, Horley.

8: Empire or Kingdom: the pastor's dilemma - John S. Smith

Local church leaders are naturally passionate about helping their churches to become places where they do what they do well. Though commonly motivated by an evangelistic vision, building the local church often has the effect of using the time, energy and resources of its members to run the church's activities and 'keep the show on the road'. Writing from hard won experience, John explores the mindset needed to release people into whole-life discipleship.

John is senior pastor of Milton Baptist Church, Weston-super-Mare.

9: What are leaders for? - Paul Weaver

'What are leaders for?' is probably the most important question that could be asked in the context of making disciples who make a difference in today's world. Paul is convinced that the challenge of mobilising God's peoples is primarily a challenge to leadership. In this chapter he explores seven areas to provoke thought in responding to this crucial question for disciple-making today.

Paul is General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God.

10: Leadership matters: developing leaders for the disciple-making church - James Lawrence

If we're to invest in growing healthy disciple-making communities we'll need to invest in growing healthy disciple-making leaders. Leadership matters. In this chapter James explores the issues in developing effective leadership and highlights some directions for regenerating leadership training today.

James is CPAS Director for the Arrow Leadership Programme and creator of 'Growing Leaders', a practical training resource adapted from the Arrow Leadership Programme, to help churches grow leaders.

11: The human disciple - Brian Draper

Human discipleship is not simply an academic exercise or an ecclesiological enterprise. It's only truly fleshed out, incarnated through our complex relationships with each other, the planet, ourselves and our God. In this chapter Brian explores a vision for communities that long to become more fully human in Christ and to help others start living life ... to the full.

Brian is Lecturer in Contemporary Culture at LICC.

12: As a young person, what would Jesus do? - Jason Gardner

It's vital that we embrace a vision of disciple-making that encompasses every area of life - and young people need to be disciplined too. In this chapter Jason explores the importance of intergenerational, holistic disciple-making, presenting an alternative perspective on youth work and highlighting the critical importance of adult role modelling.

Jason Gardner is youth researcher at LICC.

13: Learning to live: can adult education best practice contribute towards the making of Christian disciples? - Margaret Killingray

In this chapter Margaret explores the ways in which our understanding of how adults learn could help us construct more effective models of disciple-making. She introduces some principles and practices of adult learning and teaching, outlines how adults learn best and highlights some implications of these for disciple-making today.

Margaret is a tutor at LICC, where she teaches on interpreting the Bible in today's world, specialising in ethics and relationships. She is also responsible for LICC's weekly Word for the Week email service.

14: What does disciple-making look like in the emerging church? - Jason Clark

In this chapter Jason suggests that if the church is to facilitate the formation of disciples in our emerging culture we cannot rely on standard growth practices but must develop new ways of understanding and enabling growth. He focuses on

the need for holistic strategies and unpacks some of the experiments he has been involved in with the church he's planted.

Jason and his wife, Bev, planted an 'emerging church' linked to the Vineyard movement in Sutton, Surrey. He also coordinates the UK activities of Emergent.

15: Lessons from Cell - Laurence Singlehurst

In this chapter Laurence explores the cultural context in which Cell has sought to contextualise its evangelism and discipleship. He identifies the lessons they have been learning through the cell church model about how to help Christians deepen and mature in their discipleship in the light of the mission in the UK today.

Laurence has been with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) for nearly thirty years and is also Director of Cell UK Ministries.

16: Experiments in 21st century disciple-making - Jan McCuin

Many Christians long to make a difference for Christ in their everyday world but aren't sure how to go about it. They don't want more programmes or activities but they do want to engage meaningfully with God in the world and with the people they meet. In this chapter Jan unpacks some early thinking on an innovative new coaching process for church leaders aimed at creating a positive, intentional disciple-making environment in local churches.

Jan is on the staff of The Navigators UK and working with their Life Discipling ministries, focussing on Church and Workplace.