



Reflective Questions on ‘Let my People Grow’

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These questions are supposed to enhance your reading of various parts of the book. Each chapter in the book already has a couple of reflective questions, here are some further questions on selected chapters. In choosing these chapters, it is in no way a reflection on the ones we didn't select. It is just that some of the chapters lend themselves to group discussion more than others.

The simple suggestion is that each member of the group (housegroup or leadership group) reads the chapter before the meeting and then comes ready to reflect on the questions. Of course, as is the wonderful way with these things, new questions will come to mind, new avenues will be explored, and this should be encouraged.

It would be good if the conversations led to action at the end of the time together. For that to happen, it needs someone brave enough to say ‘so what?’ at the appropriate time. Who knows what might happen then!



Chapter 1: Let my People Grow

1. On page 18, the challenge is presented to churches that they could:

‘affirm and support church members in their desires to see God’s ‘kingdom come’ in local government, in the arts, in transport, amongst the poor and elderly, in concern for the environment. Concerns for missions and emissions are not mutually exclusive.’

Do you think people in your church have thought about what the kingdom might look like where they are? Do they see themselves as part of the process of encouraging the kingdom to come? What are the hurdles to their seeing this?

2. ‘Paul wants people to grow not just to know Christ but to be ‘perfect in Christ’. He wants them to grow. Not just for their own sake, as a kind of self-focused, self-indulgent exercise in self improvement. No, the biblical concern for growth in discipleship is rooted in mission...’ (p19)

How does this growth happen in your church? Do people understand that this is what you are doing together?

3. ‘True disciple-making is about liberating people to become more fully human, even as we become more like Christ.’ (p21)

Do you agree?

4. Look at the common themes that are listed on p22-23. Do you see these developing in your own church?

5. What else struck you as significant?



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

1. Martyn Atkins outlines the process of growing mature believers:

1. Gathering seekers
2. Growing catechumens
3. Preparing the elect
4. Developing disciples.

How do you react to the process described? Does it sound too rigid? Does it feel realistic? Would it be helpful as a type of thinking for the growth that could take place in your church?

2. He outlines the reasons for the need to grow disciples systematically (p61-67). He suggests that it takes about three years to get to grips with becoming a Christian. Do you agree? Why/why not?

3. What would you want a disciple of Jesus to know after 3 years and what would you want them to be able to do?

4. What have you got in place in your church to make this a reality?

5. What else struck you as significant?



Chapter 5: The 'end' of discipleship: John Wesley's vision of real Christianity

In all our talk of becoming whole-life disciples, we need some idea of where we are heading. We need to be able to articulate what a 'good' Christian life looks like, in realistic language, in a way that gives us a vision worth staking all upon.

As so often, Wesley's view of perfection has become a battleground for theological skirmishes rather than a motivating force for good.

1. Having read the chapter, are you clear what Wesley's expectations of a 'good' life were? (p72-77)
2. How would you describe a mature Christian believer?
3. What experiences does one need to have had to become this kind of mature believer?
4. Where do these experiences take place?
5. How do we allow them to form us in a positive way?
6. What would holiness look like in your everyday life? What difference would it have made today at home/work/in your spare time?
7. Wesley encouraged people to meet together to encourage one another into holiness. What are the barriers to this happening? How can you overcome them?
8. What else struck you as significant?



Chapter 6: Shaping the disciples' mind

1. What have been the major means of you growing in your understanding of the Christian faith?
2. Have you ever felt that there has been a resistance to honest questions being presented in church? Why might this have been the case? What did you do with the questions?
3. In your experience, what are the major intellectual problems that people have with the Christian faith? How would you respond to these questions?
4. What are the areas you would like to understand in more depth?
5. Can you remember occasions where greater understanding has led to enhanced worship? How can we create communities of faith that encourage this to be a regular pattern?
6. Are there books or issues that you could investigate together as a group?
7. What else struck you as significant?

Chapter 7: Why do churches resist disciple-making?

1. Notice the sentences on p. 98:

‘Disciple-making is neither a panacea nor a method. Rather, I understand disciple-making to be a vision, a heartbeat, an emphasis, a process – a longing to see men and women not only become Christians but grow in Christ and reach others. It is the Christ-centred, Spirit-filled desire to see others contribute to the Great Commission in their own context, their work-place, family or church.’

Do you find this a helpful summary of the work we are involved in? Do you think that people in your congregation would think that this is the goal of your church’s ministry?

- 2. On page 100 he talks about one-to-one relationships and their significance in disciple-making. What stops these relationships developing?
- 3. Why are courses not enough (p103)?
- 4. Try filling out some of the table below. Outline what you think the benefits and limitations of the church activities:

Activity	What are the benefits?	What are the limitations?
Large-scale services (Sundays)		
Small groups		
1-to-1 relationships		

5. ‘The key to multiplying disciples is to aim for a few, high-quality relationships’. (p105) Is he right? What are the hurdles to this style of disciple-making in your context? Who could you do this with?



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

1. Who are the leaders (they don't have to be just Christian leaders!) you respect and admire?
2. What qualities do they have?
3. To what extent do you think these qualities were intentionally developed and which were natural?
4. Are leaders born or made?
5. What sort of qualities do you look for in leadership in church? Are these qualities different from those you look for in the workplace? Why?
6. How does the way you develop leaders in your shape the way you make disciples today?
7. What else struck you as significant?