

For Your Consideration...

That adage, “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks?” I don’t buy it.

As leaders, if we aren’t learning, we aren’t leading. Or we won’t be leading for much longer.

A case in point of this for me has been working in the small group ministry here at The Lakes. I’ve been doing this for a little while (my first church staff position was in 1982). So I’ve learned some things. But in the process, I have discovered that I need to keep learning.

It was with this mindset that I registered for a small group co-lab last summer that was put on by the Barna organization. Good stuff. Learned lots of things. But perhaps the most valuable part of that investment was the survey they provided for me to share with our small group members.

We made the survey available for the better part of a month last fall. We had a good response; 113 people took part in the survey, and provided us with their experiences and opinions. The results were quite helpful: we were able to identify some of the things that we are doing well as a small group ministry, and we can celebrate those things (which we reviewed at the leaders meeting on February 15).

But as with any survey that we might conduct, we also discovered that there appeared to be a lack of clarity as to how we as a church go about the mission of making disciples of all the nations (the Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20, the work of Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known). So we began asking the question, and it is the question I want to pose to you in this article:

How do we, as a church, go about the work of leading a person who comes to our church to become a disciple-making follower of Jesus?

Now, let’s be clear: the Holy Spirit is the One who transforms. The Holy Spirit is the One who calls. The Holy Spirit is the One who does the work; we don’t.

But does that mean that disciple-making happens by accident—there is nothing intentional that we as a church need to prepare to do? Does that mean that if disciples are made in our church, it will be apart from any involvement from us?

And if we **are** to be intentional in our work of making disciples, where is it where that work is happening? Where **could** it be happening?

So we have been wrestling with this. We wrestled with this a bit at the small group leaders meeting. What are we currently doing as a church that might be the best environment for continuing the work of making disciples?

So I'm asking you a small group leader to take some time to think about this. Take some time to pray about this, and listen to what the Spirit of God is saying to you. And as you do, may I offer a thought for you to consider as to where this might be happening and could be happening?

In our small groups. In ***your*** small group.

More to come...