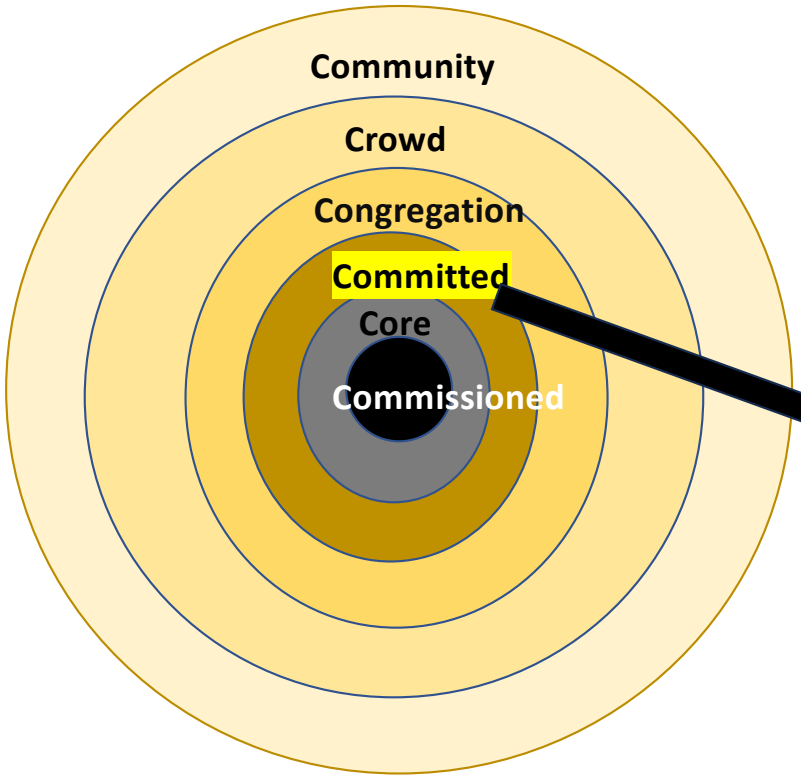

Ambassadors
of Christ (8)
https://www.shalomgrove.net/our-services

Ambassador Songs



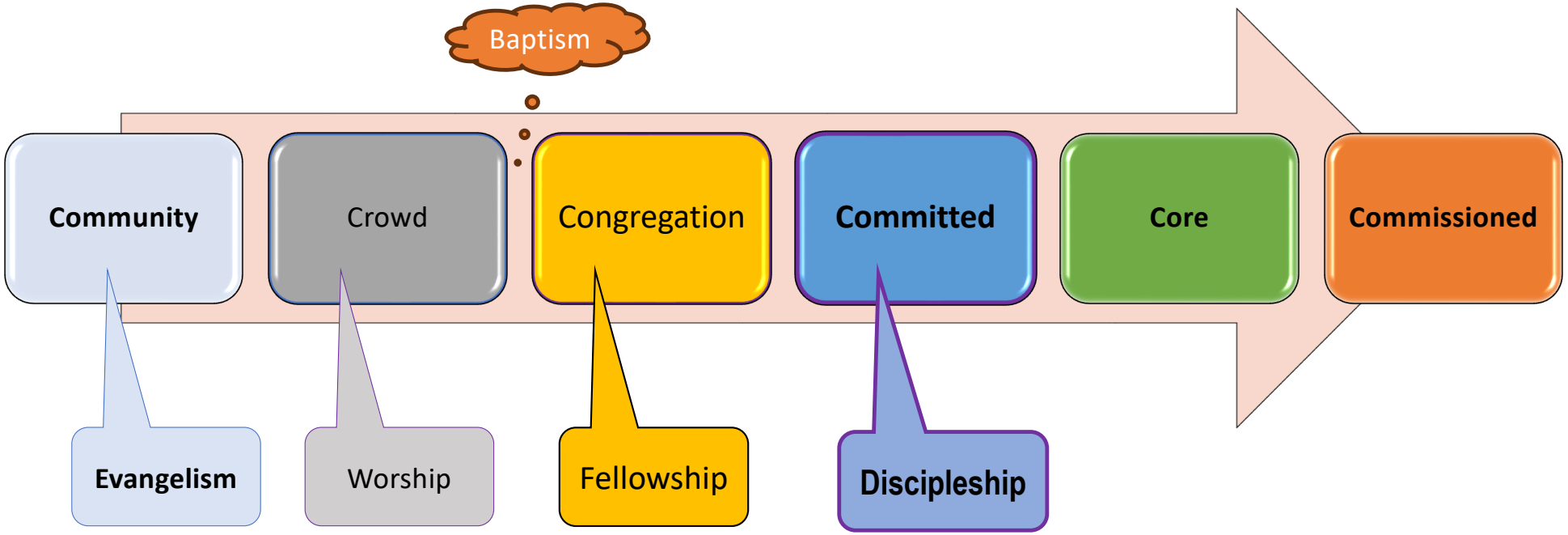
Ambassador Song

Identifying the Target



The Community	The uncommitted people who live within your ministry area
The Crowd	The people who are committed to attending worship each week
The Congregation	Those who have committed to membership
The Committed	Those who have committed to maturity
The Core	Those who have committed to ministry
The Commissioned	Those who have committed to their mission

Different Strategies Needed to Each Target



Developing Committed (Mature) Disciples

- Moving people from the congregation into the committed
  - Our greatest wish and prayer is that you will become mature Christians (2 Corinthians 13:9, LB).
  - God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity (Ephesians 4:12, LB).
  - Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity until finally we all believe…and become full-grown in the Lord…to the point of being filled full of Christ (Ephesians 4:13, LB).
- God's will for every believer is spiritual maturity (Discipleship)
  - We are not meant to remain as children at the mercy of every chance wind of teaching…but we are meant to speak the truth in love, and to grow up in every way into Christ, the head (Ephesians 4:14, Philips).

Discipleship: Metanoia and Imprinting

- Disciple (mathetes): Learner, apprentice
  - It isn't about head knowledge; it is about becoming like the Master.
  - A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher (Luke 6:40).
  - The goal of a disciple is to become like the teacher, requiring an ongoing re-patterning of the mind (*metanoia)*.
- Metanoia continues throughout the disciples' journey
  - Metanoia: transformation of mind, heart and direction.
  - Metanoia is not just a one-time event at conversion; it is a continuous posture for a disciple.
  - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God (Romans 12:2).
  - A disciple is the practitioner, and metanoia is the ongoing mental and spiritual reorientation that shapes their walk.

Why Discipleship Matters?

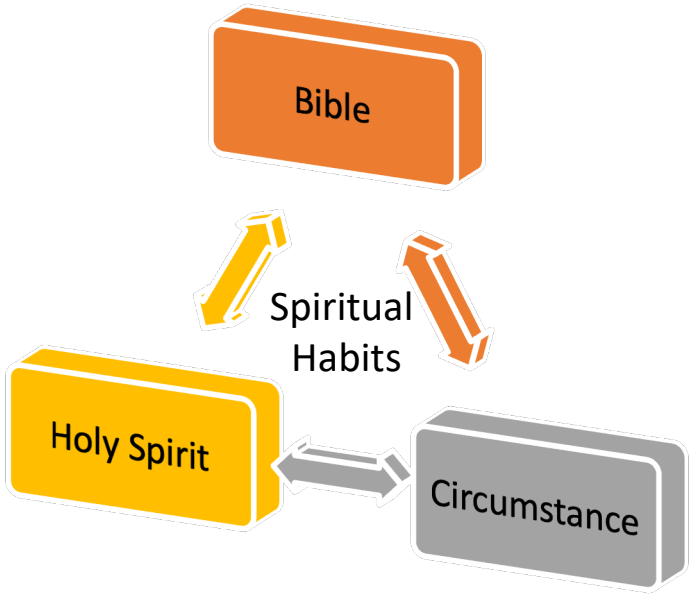
- Discipleship: The heartbeat of God's glory and maturity
  - Discipleship is the primary vehicle through which the church reflects God's character and brings Him ultimate glory.
  - By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples (John 15:8).
  - Glorifying God means moving beyond mere profession to a holistic life of acknowledging, honoring, and actively reflecting His majesty, holiness, and love in every sphere of existence.
- Being a disciple: Loving the Lord
  - Discipleship is the process of learning from, following, and becoming like Jesus, with its foundation rooted in a loving relationship with God.
  - A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another (John 13:34-35).
  - True disciples demonstrate this love through radical, sacrificial love for others, active obedience to God's commands, and by abiding in His Word, making love the primary mark of their faith.

Dangerous Myths About Discipleship

- Myth 1: Discipleship is automatic once you are born again.
  - Biblical Reality: Just as physical birth is only the beginning of a long journey of growth, spiritual birth initiates a lifelong process of transformation.
  - Believers are to "work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12).
- Myth 2: Accumulating biblical knowledge equates to spiritual maturity.
  - Biblical Reality: While sound doctrine is essential, the demons "know" theology and tremble (James 2:19). True discipleship transforms the heart and actions.
  - Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says (James 1:22).
- Myth 3: Discipleship occurs instantly if you find the "right key" or formula.
  - Biblical Reality: Spiritual maturity requires endurance, pruning, and time.
  - This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows...first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head (Mark 4:26-28).
- Myth 4: Discipleship is a purely personal and private matter.
  - Biblical Reality: While faith is personal, it is never private. Biblical discipleship happens in community, characterized by mutual accountability, serving one another.
  - As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17).

Designing Strategies for the Committed

- Provide classes
  - Class 101 (Who we are); Class 201 (GREAT Leadership); Class 301 (SHAPE); Class 401 (Ambassadors Training).
- Providing tools through which the committed grow their faith
  - The Bible;
  - The Holy Spirit;
  - The Circumstances.
- Develop their spiritual habits
  - Reading the Bible, prayer, fellowship and tithing.



Tools God Uses to Make Them Like Jesus

- God uses **the Bible** the for the committed to be like Jesus
  - All scriptures is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives (2 Timothy 3:16).
  - Provide thorough Bible classes (on Sundays and mid-week) through which the committed can learn, reflect on, and apply Bible passages in their lives.
  - 5 ways to spoon it in.
    - Read,
    - Study,
    - Memorize,
    - Meditate,
    - Apply.

Encourage the Committed to be Led by the Holy Spirit

God uses the Holy Spirit to be like Jesus

- As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him (2 Cor. 3:18).
- Once the Spirit lives within you, He will bring to your whole being more strength (Romans 8:11).

Ways the Hoy Spirit guides the committed

- He guides to the truth (John 1:13)
- He guides away from sin (Galatians 5:16)
- He guides to the will of God (Psalm 143:10).

How to be led by the Holy Spirit?

- Encourage to develop a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to their personal guide and teacher in their life.
- Do not resist, rebel, grieve or quench the Holy Spirit.

Their Circumstances Shape Their Discipleship Journey

God uses **circumstances** to help the committed to advance their faith

- God uses problems, pressures, difficulties, and stress to mold and shape their character.
- We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God… according to His purpose for them (Romans 8:28).
- Not everything in our life is good, but God uses bad things for a good purpose.
- Encourage them to thrive spiritually even in difficult circumstances, relying on His faithful guidance.

Cultivate Spiritual Habits

Habits	Descriptions
The habit of time with God's Word	• The committed follow God's Word • Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path (Psalm 119:105).
The habit of prayer	• The committed pray and bear fruit • If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, that you bear much fruit (John 15:7-8).
The habit of tithing	• The committed are not possessed by their possessions • In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples (Luke 14:33)
The habit of fellowship	• A express love for other believers • Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another (John 13:34-35).

Discipleship: Practical Suggestions

Make sure everyone has a Bible;	Have an authentic walk with God;	Model the importance of having a quiet time; Shared quiet time;	Ask them to devote a certain amount of time to studying the Bible each week/day;
Ask them to share their spiritual practices;	Reading the Word aloud;	Day of retreat;	Participate in a ministry or mission project;
Encourage Scripture memorization and meditation;	Celebrate and learn from their life journey;	Fast together as a group;	Encourage them to mentor someone else;