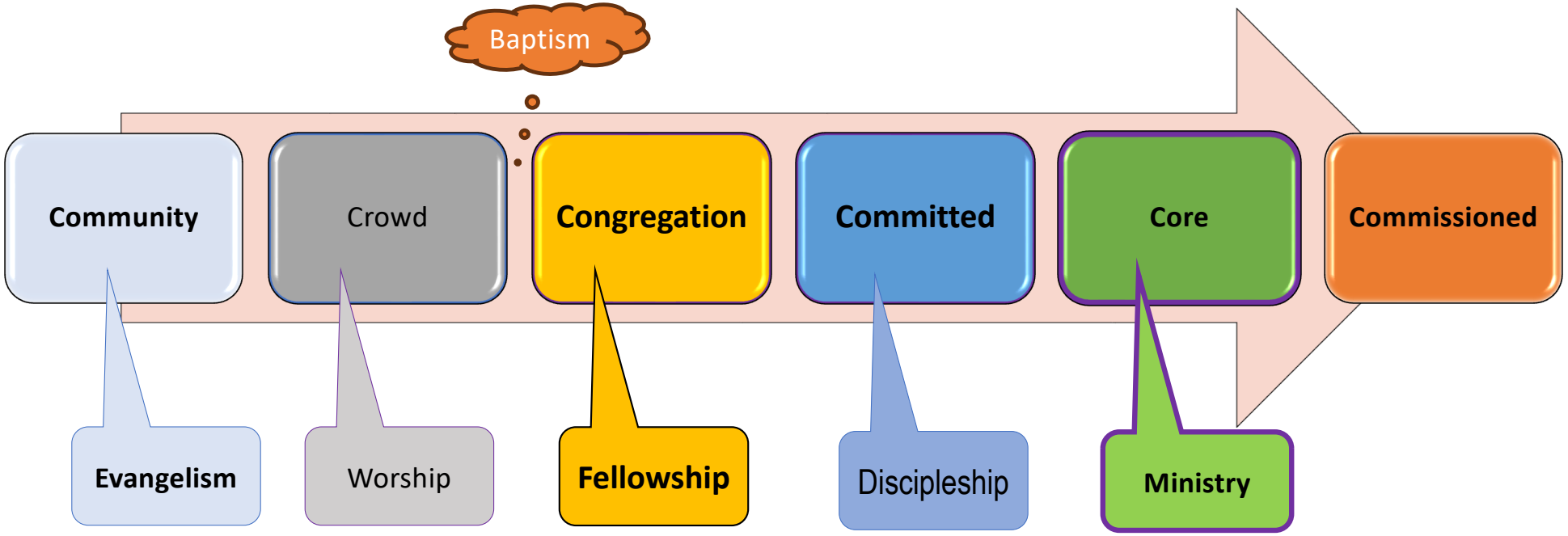

Ambassadors
of Christ (9)

Ambassador Songs

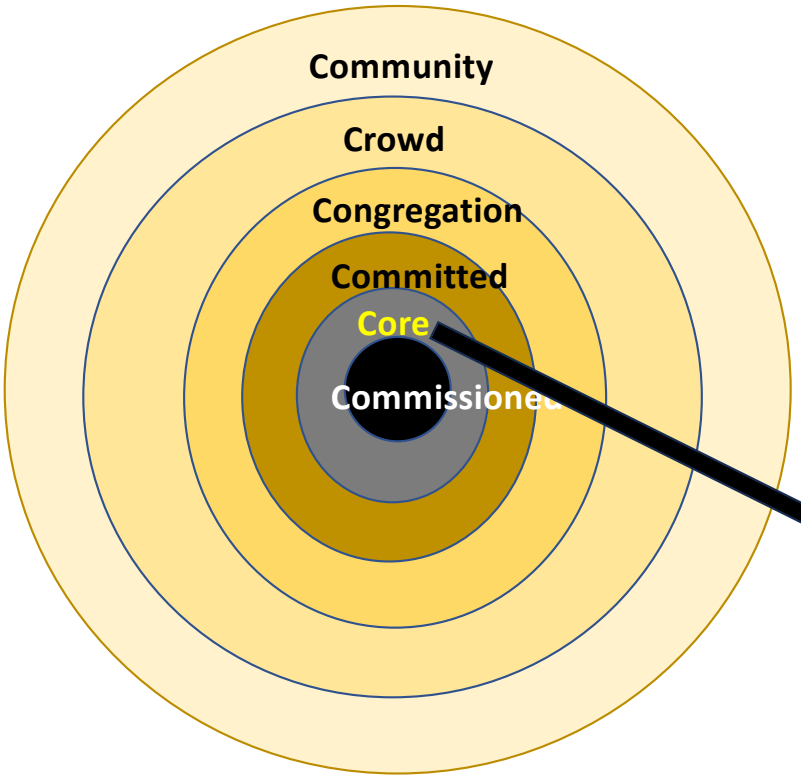


Ambassador Song

Different Strategies Needed to Each Target



Identify 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

From Committed to Core

Who Are They?

A group of spiritually mature, biblically grounded, deeply committed, relationally trusted, and ministry-equipped believers who take increasing responsibility for the mission of the church ministries and reproduce ministry by developing others.

Committed

- When members are growing in their relationship with Jesus and establishing the habits and disciplines of a disciple, they're part of the *committed*.
- They are not only members who attend, they walk with God and are growing up spiritually.

Core

- The **core** are generally those who give their time and their loyalty to the church.
- Without **core** your ministry would come to a standstill.
- Among the committed are people who get involved and **serve others** through the ministries of the church.

Empowering your Core for Ministry

- Statistics say
  - Only 10% of all laymen are active in a ministry and an additional 50% have no interest at all.
  - But 40% said they'd like to be involved but have never been asked or don't know how.
- Biblical roles of the pastors
  - God gave…pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:11-12).
  - The pastors are the administrators (visionaries).
  - The people are the ministers (implementors).

What are the characteristics of the Core?

- Spiritual maturity, character
  - We all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13).
  - The Core should therefore be people who are increasingly: spiritually mature; Christ-centered; teachable; self-controlled; prayerful; biblically grounded; able to discern spiritually
  - Core ≠ simply talented people.
- Biblical knowledge and wisdom
  - The Core does not merely know more Bible. They increasingly live according to Scripture and use biblical wisdom to make decisions.
- Ministry competence
  - To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:11-12).
  - Sequence: Leaders → equip people → people do ministry → body is built up.
- Reproductive leadership
  - The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).

New Paradigm of the Church

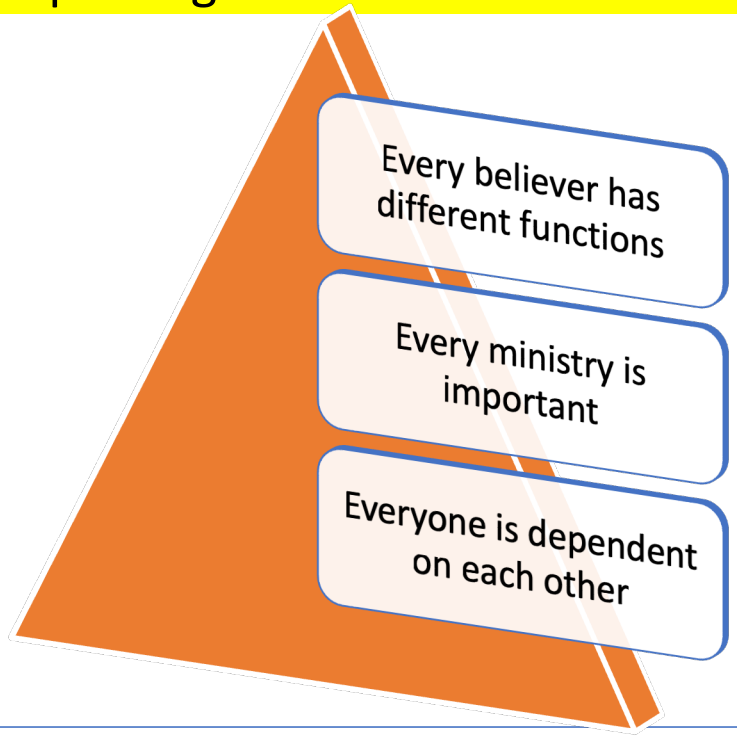
- Church exists for the world
  - Church doesn't exist for the benefit of its members. It exists to equip and mobilize its members for God's mission in the world.
  - The people walking in darkness have seen a great light, on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned (Isaiah 9:2).
- In the church every member is a minister
  - Every Christian is called by God to serve others by using gifts and talents that come from God.
  - God saved us…for this holy work (2 Timothy 1:9).
  - Greek 'diakonos' = to serve.
  - Ministry is using whatever God has given Christians to serve Him and the needs of others. Anytime Christians using their talents and gifts to help others, they are ministering.

Equipping All Members to Be the Core

Church: the serving organization

- Each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function…each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts... If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully (Romans 12:4-8).

New paradigm of the church ministry



Give Core Progressive Ministry Responsibility

- Establish a clear spiritual-development pathway
  - Don't expect people to accidentally become mature leaders but create a visible pathway.
  - Believe → Belong → Grow → Serve → Lead → Multiply.
- Use gradual release of responsibility.
  - Observe (Watch me) -> Assist (Help me) -> Practice (You will do, I'll help) -> Lead (You lead it, I'll coach) -> Multiply (develop someone else to do it).
- Use mentoring and apprenticeship
  - Senior leader -> Core leader -> Emerging leader.
- Give the Core increasing ownership
  - Participation vs. Ownership.
  - A core asks, "What does our ministry need, and how can I help us accomplish it?"

Biblical Evidence for your Core Leadership

- Jesus developed a smaller group for multiplication
  - He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them (Mark 3:14-15).
  - Relationship → Formation → Equipping → Sending.
- Mature believers are supposed to equip others
  - Equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:12).
  - Core leaders are not simply ministry workers; they are equippers of other ministry workers.
- Core leadership should reproduce
  - Entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).
  - Paul -> Timothy -> faithful people -> Others.
- The whole church participates in ministry
  - Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it (1 Corinthians 12:27).
  - the body has many members and different gifts. Therefore the Core should not become an elite class that does all the ministry. The Core equips the whole body to participate in ministry.

We were SHAPED to Serve God

- Discovering sets of SHAPE to understand how God has designed each believer to uniquely serve.
  - Ministry is using what God has uniquely given us to serve God and others.
  - Discover -> Discern -> Develop -> Deploy
  - Whenever God gives us an assignment, He always equips us with what we need to accomplish it. This is called SHAPE.
- Ministry is the expression of SHAPE
  - **S**piritual gifts (1 Cor. 12; Romans 8; Ephesians 4).
  - **H**eart, passion (Matthew 12:34, Proverbs 4:23, Psalm 37:4).
  - **A**bilities (Exodus 31:3, 1 Cor. 12:5).
  - **P**ersonalities (1 Cor 2:11).
  - **E**xperiences (Romans 8:28, 2 Cor 1).



Strategies to Raise the Core

- Create a Core Development Framework
  - The goal of core leadership development is not to create powerful people who lead the church, but mature disciples who are equipped to serve, entrusted with responsibility, and committed to developing others.
  - Connect → Grow → Serve → Lead → Multiply.
  - Received → Entrusted → Faithful → Reproducing.
- Share the power of the success journey
  - Knowing your purpose in life;
  - Growing to reach your potential;
  - Sowing seeds that benefit others.
- Identify each believer's SHAPEs and concentrate on them.
  - Concentrating on your strengths brings a better sense of fulfillment and forward progress.