

Reset: Discipleship



As good news people in our place, the church has been called and empowered to embrace our identity as followers of Jesus, whose whole lives are being formed in the ways of His kingdom.

As you consider how to re-root the identity of your church, these questions will help you to consider how discipleship is connected to the various strands of church life. They will also help you to identify new opportunities for whole-life formation of your people as you reset in a post-COVID world.

These questions are informed by data collected from our Changing Church surveys. More information about the surveys is available [here](#).

Gathering

Despite church gatherings looking different online, almost all Christians (99 per cent) said they engaged with a church service at least once per month at the height of the pandemic. ➡ In what ways could you help move people from being 'consumers' to 'contributors' within in your gathering, especially considering the digital aspect of church gatherings?

Gathering (cont.)

➔ In what ways does your weekly gathering contribute to the spiritual formation of those present and how clear is the implication that this is a core purpose for gathering?

➔ In the last six months, how often have you created opportunities to share personal stories of transformation during your gatherings?

Small groups

➔ Where are the entry points into a small group for everyone connected to your church, and how regularly do you refer and invite people to these?

➔ Are your small groups sessions weighted more towards content delivery or reflective discussion?

Content delivery ↔ **reflective discussion**

➔ How could you better equip every Christian in the small group to see their role as disciple-makers, both within the times the group meets and outside of that as well?

Programme

➔ How might participation within the programme be a core part of a Christian's spiritual formation?

➔ How do you measure the effectiveness of your programme in reaching, shaping and sending disciples? If you could do one thing to improve this, what might you do?

Consider the activities in your programme that serve children and young people.

➔ How could your programme support and supplement family discipleship?



Leadership

➔ Which formational activities do you prioritise as you seek to lead a church – Bible teaching, praise, prayer, active service, mentoring, fellowship? Do you need to consider a more balanced approach in your discipleship strategy?

➔ To what extent is the leadership team identifying, developing and mentoring the faith and gifting of other leaders within the church?

At the height of the pandemic, around 38 per cent of church leaders said that their emotional wellbeing was average to very poor. ➔ What structures are in place for the strengthening and equipping of those on your leadership team?

Scattered

➔ What are some of the key factors or concerns that people in your church deal with in their daily lives that are important to consider from a discipleship perspective?

Thirty-three per cent of church leaders have potentially underestimated the value of books, podcasts and articles in their congregation's discipleship. ➔ How could you develop a more strategic resourcing of discipleship in the home, around the table and in the workplace?

Culture

➔ How might you help your church engage wisely, faithfully and effectively with the culture around them?

➔ What trends are you noticing in the culture that might be subtly forming disciples in your church, either positively or negatively? How effective is your discipleship at countering this?

Civic life

➔ To what extent does your church understand the gospel as a public truth that is meaningful for every societal issue? What specific issues could your church speak into, to demonstrate this truth at work and as a part of the spiritual formation of your people?

➔ How could engagement with advocacy work or public consultations contribute towards the formation of your people?

Local community

➔ Considering how localised we have been over lockdowns, in what ways do you encourage your church to follow Jesus in their local community? For example, offer hospitality, care for serve in local charities, engage with local business community or pray for their local area.

➔ How might an emphasis on the local place we inhabit lead to a deeper spiritual formation?

Local churches

➔ How could you better model a love for and shared identity with your local churches rather than competition and comparison?

➔ Are there any resources, programmes or models for discipleship that you are aware of in local churches that you could seek to learn from?

As you have reflected on the good news people in your place graphic, identify three key action points as you reset the place of discipleship within your church:

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