Making Disciples

Notes for Group Session Nineteen

Ministries in the Church

Session Goals

1. The disciple will increase awareness of ministries within churches and will be able to name at least three of those ministries.
2. The disciple will increase awareness of the manifestations of the church. He/she will describe two or three of those.
3. The disciple will describe the type of ministry to which he/she is drawn.

Begin the session praying together and reviewing the Action Steps from the previous week. Pray with individuals who had difficulty applying the information from last week. Thank God where there were successes in the application.

Define Terms.

Ministries.

Services provided to the church because of the gifting God has given.

Romans 12:4-8 "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts, differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophecy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches; in teaching; he who exhorts in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

1 Corinthians 12:5 "There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord."

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The Church.

The Church is not the building, it is the people. The word church is translated from “ekklesia” which is defined as “an assembly” or “called out ones”.

Romans 16:5 “Greet the church that is in their house.” Paul was talking about the people that met in a house.

The Church is the body of Christ. It can refer to any group that comes together or as a whole of all that have believed in Jesus.

Colossians 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church…”

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 “Just as a body, though one has many parts, but all its parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body-whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free-and we were all given the one spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made of one part but of many.”

Fivefold Ministry Offices

Ephesians 4:11-13 “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”

- The Apostle oversees and governs, he and all the other five-fold ministers must be called, appointed, and anointed by God himself, they are not self-appointed, and they are not titles to be used carelessly.

Jesus chose His disciples; they became the first apostles, but others too were appointed in the early church.

In Acts 1:26 Matthias was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot.

Galatians 1:1 Paul describes himself as "Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the father who raised him from the dead),"

- The Prophet guides, he is the eyes and ears of the body. Through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the body hears what God has done, is doing, and will do.

Acts 11:27-28 "Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch and one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world."

1 Timothy 4:14 "Do not neglect your gift which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you."

- The Evangelist shares the gospel in large meetings like Billy Graham or to individuals, either way people get saved. Frequently 'signs and wonders' accompany their ministries, authenticating their message about Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:12-13 "But when they believed Phillip as he proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ they were baptized both men and women."

Acts 8:35-36 "Then Phillip began with that very passage of scripture and told him (an Ethiopian eunuch) the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road they came to some water and the Eunuch said, 'Look here is water what can stand in the way of me being baptized?'"

- The Pastor is probably the most familiar ministry, he/she guards, loves, feeds, encourages, cares for and protects the flock. Jesus appointed Peter as a pastor when He said, "Feed my sheep."

John 21:17 "Jesus said to Peter the third time, 'Simon son of John do you love me?' Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time 'do you love me,' and he said to him, 'Lord you know everything you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him 'Feed my sheep.'"

- The Teacher explains and clarifies the truth from the Bible. Usually, they are people who study the Bible and get revelation through the Holy Spirit. They can simplify complex subjects and help other members of the body understand the scriptures. Paul considered himself both an apostle and a teacher.

1 Timothy 2:7 "And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle – I am telling the truth – I am not lying – and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles."

Some individuals may operate in more than one of these ministries, some individuals may operate in other ministries, like Paul did. The fivefold ministry's role is to "equip God's people for works of service," so we all have ministries even if we do not identify in this group of five.

Our variety of giftings that may lead to ministries.

Paul, in both these passages, lists a variety of giftings that we receive through the Holy Spirit. He encourages us to use the gifts we have been given.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 "To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit to another gifts of healing by the same by the that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues."

Romans 12:6-8 "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches in teaching; he will exhorts in exhortation; he who gives with liberality; he who leads, with diligence he who shows mercy with cheerfulness."

Other Ministries and Works of Service

- Worship-ministering to God

Acts 2:47 "Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. "

Psalm 95:1-3 "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord. Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with Thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the Great King, above all gods."

Some churches have dance, drama, or prophetic art as part of their worship team.

- Serving

Matthew 23:11 "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant."

Hebrews 6:10 "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which you have shown towards his name, in that you have ministered to the saints and do minister."

- Helping others

Acts 2:45 "They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need."

Romans 12:13 "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

- Prayer

Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer."

1 Timothy 2:1 "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people."

- Children's and youth ministries

Psalm 78:4 "We will not hide them from their children, telling the generation to come the praises of the Lord and his strength and his wonderful works that he has done."

Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it."

Deuteronomy 6:7 "Impress them (the scriptures) on your children."

- Hospitality

Leviticus 19:34 "But the stranger that dwells with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

1 Peter 4:9 "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling."

- Greeter

1 Peter 5:14 "Greet one another with a kiss of love." (Or a hug or a handshake) Show others warmth and welcome.

- Feeding the poor

Acts 11:29 "Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea."

Proverbs 22:9 "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."

- Gathering collections for those suffering

2 Corinthians 8: 3-4 "For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes. and beyond their ability, they were freely willing and imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of their ministering to the saints."

Romans 15:25-26 "But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. For it please those from Macedonia and kicking Acacia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the Saints who are in Jerusalem."

- Comforting those that are alone.

James 1:27 "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Romans 15:1-2 "We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good and to build him up."

- Encouragement

Hebrews 10:24 "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,"

1 Thessalonians 5:14 "And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."

How do you know what you could do in the church?

What are you interested in? Help in a ministry you think you might like to be part of.

Philippians 2:13 "For it is God who works in you, both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

Serve where you can, find out who needs help and with what. Whatever you do, do it with the right attitude.

Philippians 2:14-15 "Do all things without complaining and disputing that you may become blameless and harmless children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." Pray about it and ask The Lord to give you opportunities.

How do we treat those who work in the Church?

- Honor them.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 "Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work." NLT

- Support them.

Galatians 6:6 "The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him."

1 Timothy 5:18 "For the scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle the ox while he's threshing,' and 'the laborer is worthy of his wages.'"

- Pray for them.

1 Thessalonians 5:25 "Brethren pray for us."

Action Steps

- Ask God to give you a ministry opportunity among the people that you consider your church this week. Share the experience with us next week.

- Make a list of those you consider Christian leaders in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit how you should pray for each one. Describe next week how the Holy Spirit led you to pray without sharing their names.