



Is Your Church Riding the Acts 6:7 Train?

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly . . . Acts 6:7 (ESV)

You've seen them in movies of the American west. Those smoke-belching, steam-driven locomotives. This simple image captures the dynamic of growing an intentional disciple-making culture where disciples are multiplied. Churches that ride the Acts 6:7 train multiply disciples. To ride this train, we need a drive shaft, the power source that moves us forward. This power comes from a **passion for God** and a **passion for the Gospel**. However, a drive shaft is not enough; wheels are needed for a culture to be built. The first wheel represents **purposeful leaders**, men and women who have an agreed upon vision, values, and mission for disciple-making. Next is a New Testament **picture of a disciple**. The third wheel is a **pathway for discipleship**, a simple and practical plan to move growing believers to mature disciples. Our fourth wheel are the **practitioners**, the disciple-makers who provide life-to-life ministry to the pathway. The last wheel is the wheel of **progress**. What "wins" of the Holy Spirit will we celebrate to mark our disciplemaking progress? Are you riding the 6:7 train? Take the Acts 6:7 Assessment to discover the current state of your disciple-making culture.

Purposeful Leaders

Picture of a Disciple

Pathway for Discipleship

Practitioners for Disciple-making

Progress for Charting Growth

Passion for God (Matthew 22:37) and the Gospel (Romans 1:16)

Purposeful

Ephesians 4:11-16

Leaders have:

- Vision
- Values
- Mission

Picture

Matthew 28:18-20

Picture is:

- Bible based
- Specific
- Integrated to church

Pathway

Colossians 2:6-7

Pathways move from:

- Large group
- Small group
- One-to-one

Practitioners

Matthew 9:36-38

Disciple-makers who have:

- Vision
- Intentionality
- Means

Progress

Acts 6:1, 7

Celebrate wins:

- Increase number of disciples
- Multiplication of disciplemakers

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Assessing Our Progress in Growing an Intentional Disciplemaking Culture

Rate each statement on a scale of 1 - 5. One indicates a low-level or nonexistent presence in your church. Five indicates a high commitment in your church. Total your scores for each column and note your total for all seven in the categories at the bottom.



Passion for God	Passion for the Gospel	Purposeful Leaders	Picture	Pathway	Practitioners	Progress
<p>___ People openly talk about loving God.</p> <p>___ Many are practicing the spiritual disciplines for growth.</p> <p>___ Our leaders model a love for God and practice the spiritual disciplines.</p> <p>___ Our congregation looks for new ways to love God and walk by faith.</p>	<p>___ We consistently provide basic training in evangelism.</p> <p>___ Our people are actively making non-Christian friends.</p> <p>___ We have a biblical and intentional evangelism strategy.</p> <p>___ Our evangelism strategy is integrated into all our church ministries.</p>	<p>___ We have a written vision and mission statement to make disciples.</p> <p>___ We regularly communicate our vision for making disciples.</p> <p>___ Our leadership models disciple-making.</p> <p>___ The entire church is functioning around our vision to make disciples.</p>	<p>___ We have a biblical picture of a disciple of Christ.</p> <p>___ Most of our congregation knows this picture.</p> <p>___ Our leadership preaches and practices what it means to be a disciple.</p> <p>___ We have organized our ministries around our picture of discipleship.</p>	<p>___ We have a clear biblical picture of the stages of growth.</p> <p>___ We have a simple and intentional strategy for moving a new believer to discipleship and on to effective ministry.</p> <p>___ We regularly communicate our pathway so that everyone can take steps to be involved.</p> <p>___ Our small groups intentionally serve our vision of making disciples.</p>	<p>___ We regularly provide disciple-making training to disciple others life-to-life.</p> <p>___ We have a vision and plan to place disciple-makers in every aspect of our church ministry.</p> <p>___ There is a trained core of people who are discipling others life-to-life.</p> <p>___ We have a group of people trained in following up new converts.</p>	<p>___ Our leadership regularly reviews our disciple-making progress.</p> <p>___ Our wins help us set our goals and determine our priorities.</p> <p>___ We have developed practical "wins" in reaching and discipling others.</p> <p>___ We regularly celebrate our wins among our leadership and with our congregation.</p>

1 - 40 A disciplemaking culture barely exists in our church.
 41 - 80 We have signs of an emerging disciplemaking culture.
 81 - 120 We are making progress in developing a disciplemaking culture.
 121 - 140 We can celebrate a disciplemaking culture.

