



Community is Essential for Making Disciples

Discussion Questions

THE CONVERSATION

- In the opening of the podcast, we discussed four important characteristics of a disciple-making community. They were joy, hesed (love), group identity, and healthy correction.* As you consider these, please take a few moments to discuss which characteristic is strongest in how your church makes disciples. Then which one would you say needs the most growth.
- There were four shifts discussed that are needed to help churches become more disciple-making communities.
 - From information to transformation
 - From attending to attaching
 - From sage to guides
 - From showing up at a small group to committed life together

When you consider the way that your church seeks to make disciples, which shift would you say needs to be a high priority for you? What are some ideas that you have to help your church make this shift?

- One of the questions asked of Shawn was, how important are the elements of honesty, conflict, and understanding emotion in developing a disciple-making community?

As you listen to his response, what stood out to you? And what aspects of what he said may need to be further explored in your church?

- At one point Shawn says, “If we believe that Jesus really transforms people, then we need to stop putting all of our energy into rows and put a lot more energy into circles.”

In your church, what percentage of your resources and energy (time, money, leadership) goes into services or programs that put people in rows (teacher-focused spaces) and what percentage goes into circles (high group participation spaces)?

- If you could instantly change one thing about your church community, (e.g., more hospitable, more loving, dealt with conflict better), what would it be and why?

* These four characteristics are from *The Other Half of Church* by Michel Hendricks.