
REVIEWING OUR PRACTICES: BECOMING CREDIBLE, COMMITTED DISCIPLES

MID-ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE
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**PRACTICE MAKES
PERFECT**

PRAC · TICE

- The actual application or use of an idea, belief, or method as opposed to theories about such application or use.
- Repeated exercise in or performance of an activity or skill so as to acquire or maintain proficiency in it.
- Perform (an activity) or exercise (a skill) repeatedly or regularly in order to improve or maintain one's proficiency.

CRED · I · BLE

- Capable of being believed
- Worthy of belief or confidence; trustworthy
- Able to be believed; convincing



THINK OF ONE
PERSON THAT
YOU CONSIDER
CREDIBLE.

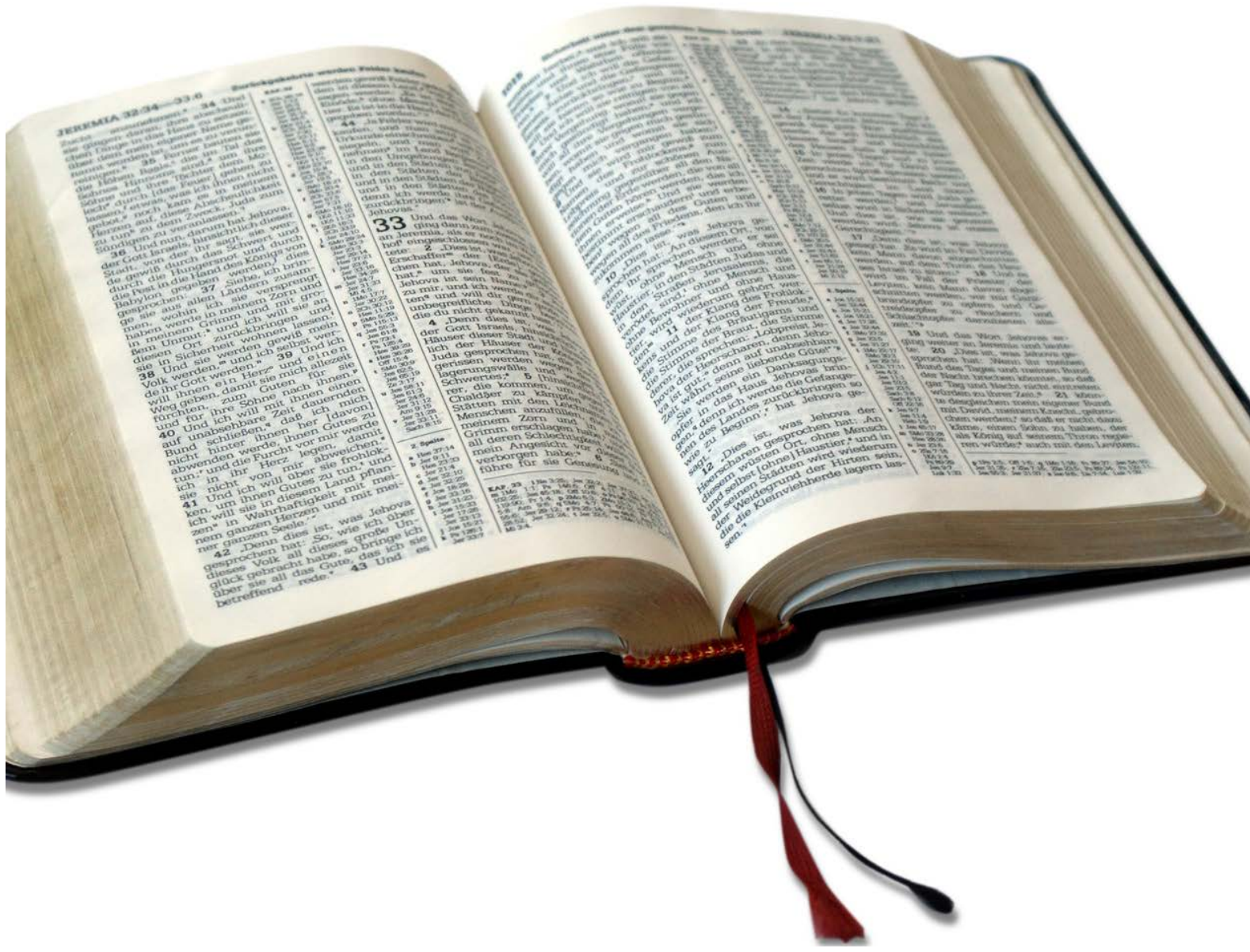
WHAT'S MAKES
THEM CREDIBLE?

COM · MIT · TED

- Bound or obligated to a person or a thing; as by pledge or assurance.
- To pledge, obligate, or devote one's own self

MATHÉTÉS

A pupil who attaches him/herself to the teacher so that the teacher's behavior becomes his/hers.




THE WORD
“DISCIPLE”
IS FOUND
269 TIMES IN
THE NEW
TESTAMENT.
“CHRISTIAN”
IS FOUND
THREE TIMES.

IT'S URGENT

- When it comes to morality and lifestyle issues, there is little difference between the behavior of Christians and non-Christians.
- Divorce rates are about the same.
- Domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and most other problems are just as prevalent among Christians as among non-Christians.

“I am more and more convinced that the devil himself desires nothing more than this, that the people of any place should be half-awakened and then left to themselves to fall asleep again.”

-John Wesley



**“Whoever claims to live in him must walk
as Jesus did.” (1 John 2:6)**

MATTHEW 4:19 (KJV)

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

MATTHEW 4:19

Follow Me

- Acknowledging that Jesus is in front and we must place ourselves behind him.

And I will make you

- Jesus molds our hearts to become more like his.

Fishers of Men

- Joining Jesus in his mission to love and reach a lost and hurting world.

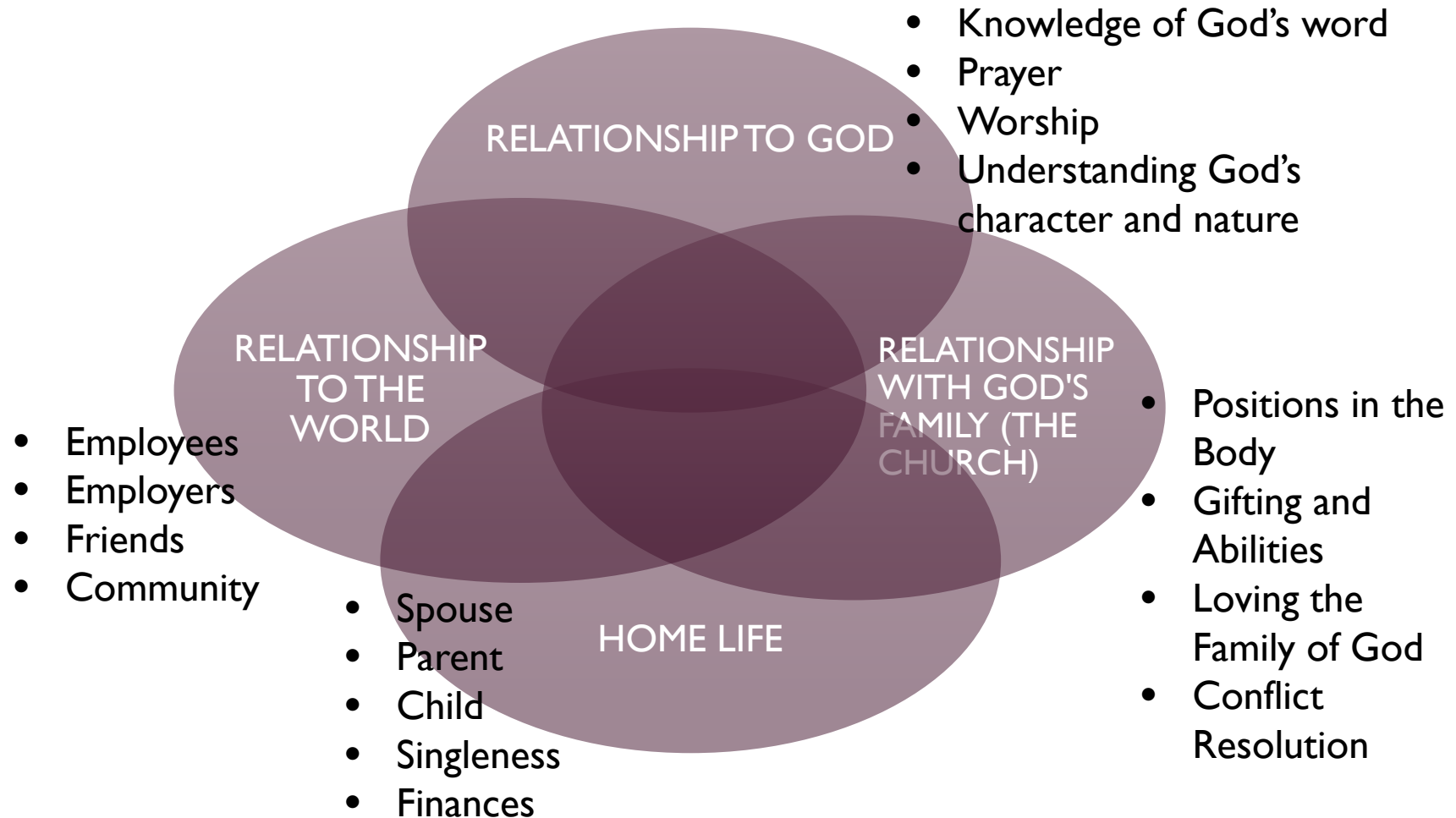
Most Christians have divorced the teachings of Jesus from the methods of Jesus, and yet they expect the results of Jesus. Jesus' methods are just as divine as His teachings. He showed us that the fundamental methodology in making disciples is relationships grounded in truth and love.

From "DiscipleShift: Five Steps That Can Help Your Church Make Disciples Who Make Disciples" (Putnam & Harrington)



- AUTHENTICITY
- ACCESS
- ANSWERS

4 MAIN AREAS OF LIFE IN WHICH DISCIPLES SHOULD GROW



PRACTICES WE MUST REVIEW

- Leadership Development
- Teaching
- Small Group Discipleship
- Worship

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- How do we identify leaders?
- How do we equip leaders?
- How are we nurturing leaders?
- What are we doing to build relationships with leaders?
- What are we teaching leaders?
- How are our leaders being disciplined?

TEACHING

- What are we teaching about Christ?
- What are doing to teach people how to live holy lives in a hellish world?
- How do we overcome “itching ear” teaching and preaching?
- Is our teaching leading to mature, stable Christians?

SMALL GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

- How are our small groups organized?
- Are our small group leaders equipped to nurture?
- Do our small groups create “safe space?”
- Are we prayerfully seeking others that we might nurture through small groups (young couples, singles, seniors, caregivers, new believers, pastors, etc.)

JOHN WESLEY'S 22 QUESTIONS

- Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
- Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
- Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
- Can I be trusted?
- Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
- Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
- Did the Bible live in me today?
- Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?
- Am I enjoying prayer?
- When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?

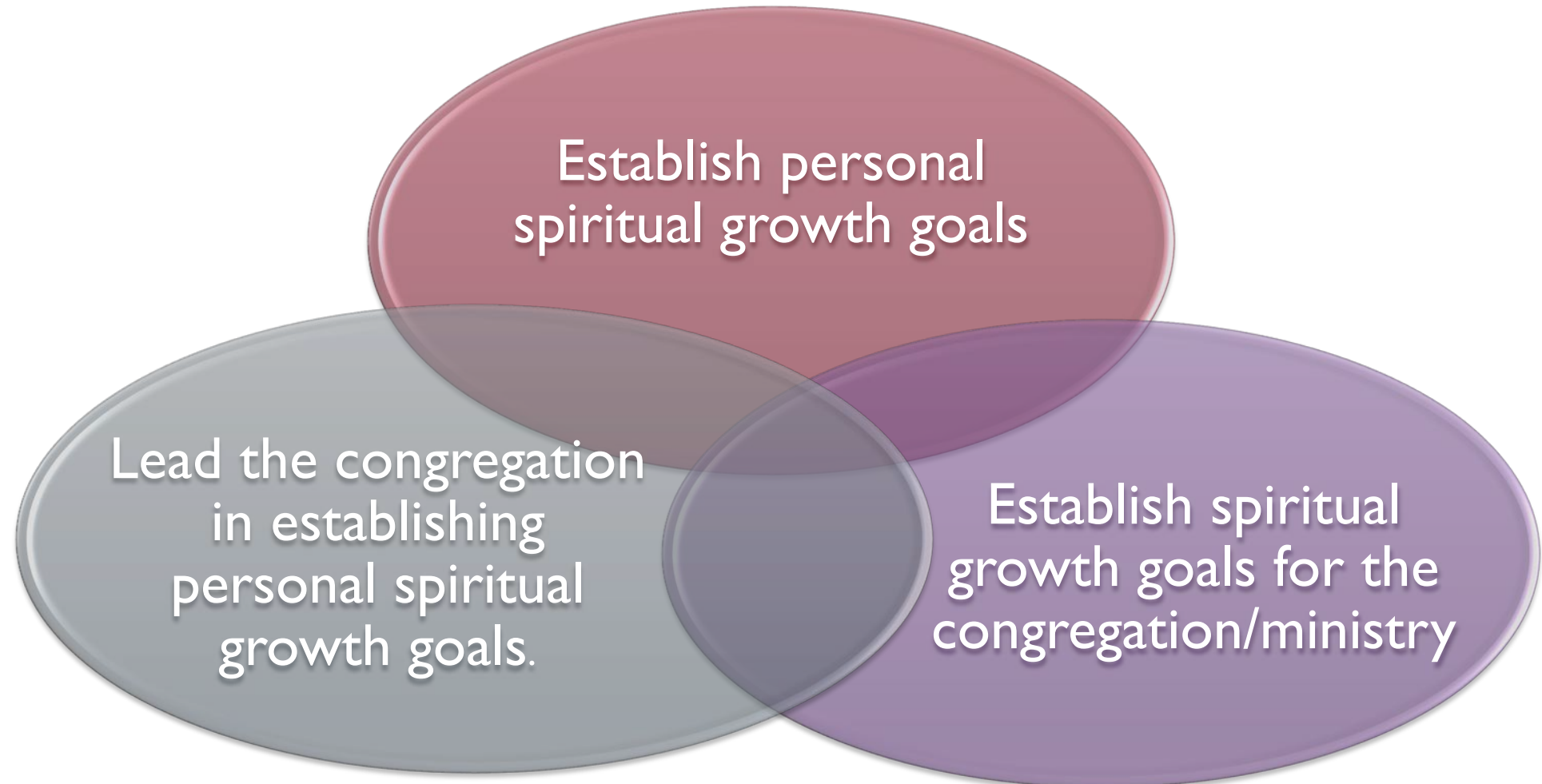
JOHN WESLEY'S 22 QUESTIONS

- Do I pray about the money I spend?
- Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
- Do I disobey God in anything?
- Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
- Am I defeated in any part of my life?
- Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
- How do I spend my spare time?
- Am I proud?
- Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
- Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
- Do I grumble or complain constantly?
- Is Christ real to me?

WORSHIP

- What are the goals for worship?
- What do we learn about God through our worship experiences?
- Are worshippers able to connect with God through the worship experience?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE



PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE: DISCIPLESHIFTS

- From Reaching to Making
- From Informing to Equipping
- From Program to Purpose
- From Activity to Relationship
- From Accumulating to Deploying

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

-Matthew 28:16-20

