

how do you train MC leaders?

by: Jason Dukes

Start with a commitment to consistently live the ways of Jesus together while you converse around **four bottom-line questions** for the purpose of drawing some transformational conclusions. **One**, what did the Head of the church intend for the ones He called “church?” **Two**, who is church? **Three**, why is church? And **four**, where is church?

Jesus made His intention clear – “As the Father has sent Me, **so I am sending you**” (John 20:21). The church is a **people** unified-around-Jesus, sent-by-Jesus, and committed-to-live-the-ways-of-Jesus-with-each-other-and-among-the-lost. They exist for the purpose of cultivating and living out the **Gospel** of reconciliation everyday to the ends of the earth in hopes of seeing “on earth as it is in heaven.” “To the ends of the earth” implies more than just the nations abroad. It includes how the church exists in the **everyday** in homes, in neighborhoods, in the marketplace, throughout our cities, and around the world. The conclusions that those missional community leaders-in-training reach through these conversations will determine what they cultivate into the missional community they lead and therefore have influence on what blossoms within and out of their missional community.

Next, converse about those four questions **over time** through the course of a season or two or three or four (as the Spirit leads), and don’t quickly draw conclusions. See the conclusions happen pragmatically among you. Don’t let them remain as hypotheses or ideology, for philosophical conclusions alone have a tendency of stagnating in the head instead of resulting in the daily. The conversation that will center around those questions will not happen in a two-hour session. Rather, it must occur as the trainer is doing life with the trainees, over time, over coffee, amidst their various spheres of influence, through ups and downs, **together**. The goal is that the trainees will model this life-together style with those people they disciple (aka, learn and live the ways of Jesus with). And then those they disciples will model it with those they disciple. And then those they disciple...well, you get the cyclical picture.

Finally, be intentional. **PRAY**, but not that someone else might change or that your city might change. Pray to be cultivators of change who seek God’s Spirit to grant them wisdom on specific ways to love their spouses, neighbors, co-workers, cities, and world. **CONNECT**, but not just with one another and not just by inviting “the lost” to a “church gathering” or to a “church event” that you plan. Rather, connect over real life and common interests so that others can connect with you. Then, the trainer can coach the trainees as they talk with and walk with others in the midst of real life. **SERVE** together, at least one way locally and one way globally, obviously along with the ways you each are serving the people you encounter in the daily. As you serve together, you will be able to invite “the lost” to serve with you. This is an engaging way for them to experience the ways of

Jesus alive in you as they have already experienced through the way that you are their friend. As they see this in the everyday and as they witness the beyond-self purposes of your life, they will begin to **LEARN AND LIVE THE WAYS OF JESUS** with you (aka be made to be disciples).

If that happens, then MC leaders will have been trained, solely based upon the fact that new MC groups will have blossomed right in front of you in the middle of life together between trainer and trainees. Then, release and repeat.