

**Dog Training, Fly Fishing & Sharing Christ in the 21st Century**  
Empowering your church to build community through shared interests

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Re-Thinking Discipleship

Every person is a leader and has a God-given group of friends that he or she can influence in a positive way.

Discipleship happens primarily in relationship.

Jesus kept himself free...for the other person.

Goal – to have our relationship be intentional and directional.....then discipleship will happen.

Every small group leader knows that his/her job is to bring the people in his group up one point on the Engel scale every semester...it keeps people purposeful and focused.

I Love the Idea of Small Groups But I Just Don't Want to Attend One.

I want to meet with people I like.

I don't want to study something I 'm not interested in.

I want to be able to get out of the group without making others feel rejected.

If the group is working I don't want anyone to mess with it.

The ministry style of a church is impacted by the pastor's personality.

Pastor – Needs to understand, support and propel the system.

Intentional Discipleship

The various stages of life people go through will serve as a strong discipling environment.

Discipleship programs don't often work because people don't stick with them.

We are responsible to disciple all the people in our sphere of influence, whether or not they have made a commitment to Christ.

Discipleship happens in the context of genuine relationship if the people in those relationships are intentional about becoming people of God...Two pronged...training and modelling.

Everyone is already in a small group...the church's job isn't to rearrange those people' it is to give their groups God's purpose...our job is to encourage those relationships and remind those in the group to be purposeful about helping one another grow in Christ.

Why Free Markets Serve People

The church is at its finest when it is serving people, and it always finds itself in trouble when it tries to use its influence to gain authority over people.

Building a Culture of Opportunity

Segments of a congregation

1. A+ - (Leaders/Involved) 15%
2. Needy (Participants/Involved) 15%

3. Committed (Faithful on weekend/not involved) 70%

In churches we don't know how to grant people permission...we manage our small groups in a way that was permission withholding.

When people don't feel free, they do one of three things:

1. Leave
2. Become passive
3. Or go underground

The role of the management is to find that way (and create it if necessary) which facilitates the entrepreneur's will.

Discipleship requires being intentional about helping people around you right now to grow in their faith.

<b>Like</b>	<b>Dislike / Concern</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Say "yes" to people, permission-giving</li><li>▪ Positive view of their needs</li><li>▪ Add purpose to established "friends"</li><li>▪ "Engle Scale" used as measurement for spiritual growth</li><li>▪ scale includes non-believers and believers</li><li>▪ People don't come to Christ in a "linear" way – McLaren</li><li>▪ More wholistic "Christ in all of life"</li><li>▪ Allows inter-generational opportunities</li><li>▪ Works well with young couples/singles who want informality + postmodern</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Free market theology vs. biblical theology? Is Haggard equating Free Market to biblical theology?</li><li>▪ Need to pay attention to structure</li><li>▪ Control – needed through "contracts"</li><li>▪ Free market freedom vs. sacrificial living for Jesus and church, what's the balanced approach?</li></ul>

Giving adults responsibility for their spiritual growth.

## Free Market Small Group's

### Model

Definition of SG	Three or more people who meet weekly, centred around a common interest or felt need, to do at least one of the following: worship, pray, study and discuss God's Word, or share a testimony. Group topics range from Bible studies and prayer groups to rock climbing & volleyball.
Distinctive components / characteristics	Allows people to be innovative and creative, without unnecessary restrictions. A group meets for one semester (12 – 17 weeks) with opportunity to continue. Small group leaders commit to two consecutive semesters.
Benefits when rightly applied	People serve and grow by using their gifts in their area of passion. Increases retention of church members and leaders; after "free market small groups" were established, annual membership loss went from 20% to 0.7%.
View of the layperson	The responsibility of the church is to facilitate the layperson's ministry. Primary importance placed on dynamic, life-giving solid, long-term relationships.
Role of prayer	Prayer is viewed as foundational to the effectiveness of all ministry; one of the first topics addressed in the orientation of new leaders.
Senior pastor's role	Vision-castor, promoter, coach, enabler; Sunday services are a time to empower and equip people to teach others.
Role of pastoral staff	They develop and train leaders by completing the leadership approval process, approve ideas and curriculum for the variety of ideas that come forth, and provide pastoral care for zone, section, & small group leaders.
Typical infrastructure	A Section Leader oversees 5 – 8 small groups, usually homogenous in nature. A Zone Leader oversees 5 – 8 sections. A district Pastor/Leader oversees 3 – 5 zones. Multiplication happens by demand. All leaders are required to have assistant leaders.
Promotion / recruiting	Rally Well is held at the beginning of each semester, with special events to highlight the variety of groups. A "directory" published each semester is made widely available.
Group composition	Groups are a blend of people with similar interests, needs, or stage of life. The purpose of all groups is to move each person in the group one step to the right on the *Engle Scale.
Curriculum	Because the idea's for each group starts with an individual, the variety is extensive. ALL curriculum used must be approved by a District Pastor/Leader.
Initial and ongoing training	New Leader's Orientation class is held 3 times a year. All leaders attend one training meeting on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday night of each month for leadership training and ministry, and a 2 <sup>nd</sup> monthly meeting held by the Section Leader with a fellowship/ministry focus.
Potential / probable challenges	Higher amount of internal administration required to accommodate the on-going leadership approval process and semester cycle.

Other major points from book:

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Keys is a Free-market System

1. Passion – allow people to minister in environments consistent with their passions
2. Depth – People will be more eager to learn as they need to use your information to teach others.
3. Maturity – Force personal application of scripture...Godliness needs to be embodied to truly lead others.
4. Practice
5. Process – the problem with growing up is the same as the problem with maturing in Christ” It's a process that regularly deceive us...We need variety, diversity and new challenges.
6. Interaction – Power comes through the connectivity between people who are working through life together...Human beings are created to be relational at every stage of life...\*\*\*The river of God's love leads us to be with people to whom we are drawn or whom we love the most, and our system should facilitate it.
7. Multifaceted.
8. Lifelong.
9. Christ-likeness.
10. Free-Markets – help make it so that every part of our lives – even our hobbies – have spiritual significance.
11. Our lives are like rivers. They flow according to a series of points of least resistance.

Six Steps to Leadership.

1. Four hour orientation – authority structure, commitment required, basic theology of church.
2. Meet with a second leader, zone leader or district leader.
3. DISC and Gift-Quest tests.
4. Section leader works with them and approves their material.
5. Section leader visits group periodically.
6. Attend training each month.

Other info:

Ted Haggard's New Life Church in Colorado Springs [www.newlifechurch.org](http://www.newlifechurch.org)

Book: “Dog Training, Fly Fishing and Sharing Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” Ted Haggard