



ALLIN

— DISCIPLE MAKING —

For the Next Generation...

To win, build, and send
disciples who make disciples
to fulfill the *Great Commission*.



The Church of Jesus Christ is poised for the greatest harvest of all time. A spirit of revival is building. The Church must be on mission as it was in the Book of Acts. Christians must be ready to walk alongside new believers as they become grounded in the Word of God and live surrendered to the Holy Spirit. This is the season the Church has been praying for—a season to be all in on disciple making.

What follows is a summary of a conversation with three key leaders in the Assemblies of God: General Superintendent Doug Clay, Assistant General Superintendent Rick DuBose, and Chief Ministries and Resources Officer Jay Mooney. Their passion for the Church mirrors what has driven our Fellowship from the beginning and it is what compels our Fellowship into the future.

Q What does it mean to be “all in on disciple making”?

A DOUG / It’s a global invitation for every leader in the Assemblies of God to be strategically focused on a process of discipleship that encourages daily spiritual growth of the believer. Jesus is the ultimate example of spiritual formation, but the goal is for every disciple to be all in on disciple making. It’s a biblical mandate for the Church to equip Christ followers for the work of the ministry.

A RICK / Being “all in” is about teaming in ways we’ve never teamed before. At the national office, it’s the Ministries departments who work with kids, youth, and adults becoming a team. It’s about Ministries and Publishing becoming a powerful team. All in includes strategically partnering with missions, districts/networks, and local church leaders.

A JAY / Something powerful happens when a group of people set their focus on a common goal. The mission we are aiming at is helping people of all ages become everything God designed them to be. This can’t happen without every church and home fulfilling what God established from the beginning. This means we must be strategically invested in a NextGen and Family initiative. When every follower of Jesus Christ is focused on disciple making, we will see the fulfillment of the Great Commission in our lifetime.

Q What does this look like in the context of the vision of the Assemblies of God?

A DOUG / The vision of the Assemblies of God is to see a healthy church in every community that is marked by spiritual and numeric growth. This means every church is a Great Commission church—a body of believers who are engaged in sharing their faith with others, encouraging them to respond to the Holy Spirit, and challenging them to repeat the cycle with those in their circle.

The Assemblies of God began with a dream of doing the greatest evangelism that the world has ever seen. We believe a healthy church is vital to that end.

Q Tell us more about this disciple-making focus.

A JAY / In our Statement of Fundamental Truths, number 10 is titled, “The Church and Its Mission.” Specifically it says, “The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for **the fulfillment of her Great Commission.**” It then gives the fourfold reason for being of the Assemblies of God: To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world; to be a corporate body in which man may worship God; to be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son; and to be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world.

I like to say it this way: The Great Commission is all about empowering people to **win** disciples, **build** disciples, and **send** disciples.

A DOUG / I think of Jesus’ conversation with Peter after the Resurrection. The Scriptures record Jesus asking Peter three times if he loved Him. In the context of our conversation today, Jesus was asking Peter if he was all in. In other words, our love for Jesus is expressed in our focused efforts on disciple making.

Q Are there other important elements?

A RICK / Absolutely! To be all in on disciple making means we must be concerned about investing faith in every generation. This means ministries to adults, families, young adults, teenagers, and children are vital. Additionally, church programming is important, but being filled with the Holy Spirit is essential. As Pentecostals, we believe the empowerment of the Holy Spirit equips the church for any ministry opportunity that comes their way. Recently, we released “The Seven Dimensions of a Spirit-Empowered Disciple” which captures the foundational areas of spiritual discipline that should be present in the life of every believer.

Q What do you mean by a “NextGen and Family initiative”?

A JAY / Every generation has a next generation and it begins with family. According to the ACMR (Annual Church Ministries Report), there are approximately 940,000 people under eighteen years of age who attend an AG church each week. This makes up 31 percent of the total constituency of the Assemblies of God (USA).

That is a sizable NextGen ministry. Comparing that number to the number of juveniles in the United States, nearly 73 million, we have a lot of work to do.* But what if our churches could empower the 69 percent of affiliated adults and families to disciple in the home so that every young person has a spiritual mentor helping them to grow as a disciple maker? Perhaps then the Church could accelerate the expansion of the gospel.

Welcome to a new generation of **DISCIPLE MAKING.**

* Source: <https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/population/qao1104.asp>

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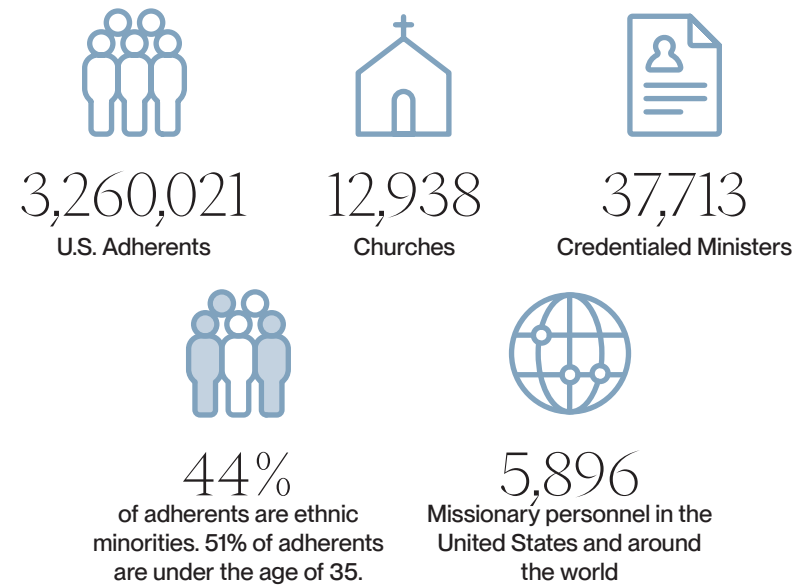
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ALL IN as the AG

Current Statistics*



Goals by 2030



Vital Statistics since 2017



* <https://ag.org/about/statistics> (accessed 5/18/22) ** As reported by Church Multiplication Network



The Church & Its Mission

Every
Assemblies of
God church
should be:

- An agency of God for evangelizing the world;
- A corporate body in which people may worship God;
- A channel of God's purpose to build a body of believers being perfected in the image of His Son; and
- A people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

See our Statement of Fundamental Truths, doctrinal statement 10 at <https://ag.org/beliefs/statement-of-fundamental-truths>



ALL IN Local Churches

The local church has existed for thousands of years and has seen trials and triumphs. It has experienced heartbreak and breakthroughs. It has stood strong through wars, destruction, and cultural shifts over and over again. Through it all, the church remains the greatest means by which men, women, young people, and children can hear the gospel and become part of the family of God.

In Matthew 16:18, we read how Jesus declared that Peter’s confession of Jesus being the Messiah would be the rock that the Church would be built on. Jesus also affirmed that the gates of hell would not conquer His Church. The local church remains the foundation for the spread of the gospel to every city, town, and community around the world.

A healthy church, filled with Spirit-empowered believers living on mission, is the key to seeing the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

There are about thirty thousand cities in the United States and two-thirds of them do not have an Assemblies of God church. About 71 percent of U.S. adults identify as Christian, and a quarter are evangelicals, according to Pew Research Center. Yet only 36 percent of U.S. adults attend religious services weekly. The fields are ripe for harvest! A healthy church that is all in on disciple making is the answer.



*The church is
alive and well
and the gospel
is advancing!*



“Each local church is a unique expression of the body of Christ. In this, we celebrate our unity through diversity.”

-Rick DuBose,
Assistant General Superintendent
of the Assemblies of God

The Need

The reality before us today in the church is that we see a decline of the spiritual health and growth among the next generation.



WHAT WE KNOW

35M

Thirty-five million young people raised in Christian households will walk away from faith in Christ by the year 2050. *Dave Buehring, The Great Opportunity* (Nashville, TN: Morgan James Faith, 2018).

45%

45 percent of teens say they never attend church or any kind of religious service.

8%

Only 8 percent of teens display habits and beliefs of a committed Christian.

53%

53 percent of teens say gender is based on sex at birth.

3 in 5

3 in 5 teens say they never read religious Scriptures on their own, and nearly half (46 percent) of Christian teens say they never read the Bible.

~1 in 5

About one in five divorced fathers has not seen his children in the past year, and fewer than one out of every two fathers sees his children more than several times a year. *David Popenoe, Families without Fathers* (New York: Routledge, 2007), 30.

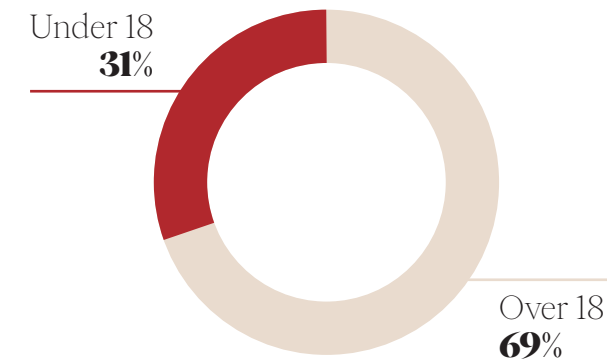
50%

Based on government and private research, last night, approximately 50 percent of America's children went without being able to say "good night" to their biological father. *Jay Mooney*

The Opportunity

The work of the church across the United States has a challenge before it.

The need to reach and disciple the next generation of young people and children must continue. The church must align its mission and passion with the mission and passion found in Matthew 28:19— make disciples!



Nearly one-third of AG adherents are under the age of 18. We have a significant opportunity for the other two-thirds to be all in on disciple making in the next generation.

51%

51 percent of teens surveyed in the United States report they are Christian.



60 percent of teenagers who claim no religious affiliation (nones) say they know Christians and consider them kind and caring.

42%

42 percent of "nones" would change their religious belief if they had a personal experience such as an answer to prayer.



2 in 3 "nones" would consider coming to church if they were invited.

6 OUT OF 10 teens say their faith beliefs or spiritual journey are an important part of their identity.



"The task before us is not easy, but we are worth it!"

*-Cannon Exley
AG Pastor's Kid*

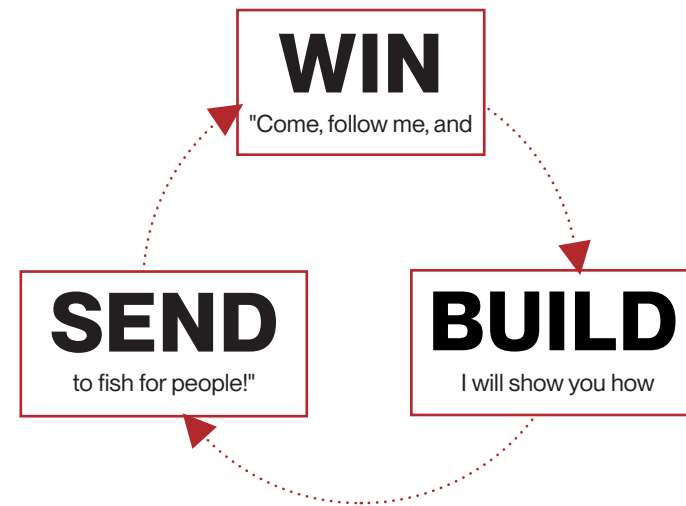


ALL IN on 19

Ministers around the world are all in on Matthew 28:19–20, the Great Commission. Jesus’ words to His disciples, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations” (NLT), have inspired a discipleship movement that has grown from the fledgling church of the first century to a global influence impacting society. Yet, the evangelistic work of the Church is not finished. Today’s Assemblies of God must remain all in on the Great Commission.

As a parallel to the Great Commission, look at a similar verse 19 from Jesus’ words earlier in Matthew.

Matthew 4:19 (NLT) states, “Jesus called out to them, ‘Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!’” Jesus’ clarion call to the first disciples captures a multigenerational journey of discipleship principles. This verse 19 is the opening bookend to the three-and-a-half-year journey of the disciples with Jesus before He ascended to heaven. This timeless call was compelling for the disciples then and remains so for the church now until He returns. It is the discipleship process.



“Come, follow me” is an invitation to be Jesus’ disciple. It is a call to draw close to the Messiah and be with Him. The call is to a relationship with the Son of God. Come see that God is good. Come witness the Messiah **win** the world. What higher **win** can one have in this life and the life to come than to be with Jesus?

Jesus’ statement, “I will show you how,” is a promise to shape you into His image. He was stating the future of His followers. The more one is with Jesus, the more one is like Jesus. The follower begins to reflect the image of the leader. This happens through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. When people follow Jesus, He will **build** in them the dimensions of what it means to be His disciple.

Finally, when Jesus said, “to fish for people,” He was purposing for His disciples to lead others to be with Him too. A disciple does more than reflect the characteristics of Jesus’ lifestyle. A disciple joins His mission for people. Jesus’ aim is to **send** His followers to family, friends, and foreigners. The process of spiritual formation is only complete when the disciple engages others in the process of disciple making. Matthew 4:19 is a call to be all in with Jesus.

The other referenced verse 19, Matthew 28:19–20, encapsulates the same call to win, build, and send. “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (NLT).

Jesus’ call for disciples to win, build, and send becomes even more exciting with the added promise of the Holy Spirit! Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8, NLT).

We can be all in on “19” because God is all in with us and upon us!



Envision a Disciple

A DISCIPLE-
MAKING
PROCESS THAT
ENGAGES THE
WHOLE CHURCH

TO SEE KIDS,
YOUTH, ADULTS,
AND FAMILIES
DEVELOP A
LIFETIME FAITH.



A Spirit-empowered disciple is a lifelong follower of Jesus. All Spirit-empowered disciples are called to practices that identify us as disciples, deepen our relationship with Jesus, and strengthen our effectiveness in making disciples.

*A Spirit-empowered disciple
embodies seven dimensions.*



Learn more at
www.discipleship.ag.org
Or scan QR code above

Download a free copy of the
7 Dimensions guide here:



ALL IN on the Bible

26M

Nearly 26 million Americans reduced or stopped their interaction with Scripture in the past year.*

40%

Nearly 40 percent of Americans say they never read the Bible outside of church services.*

56%

Over half of U.S. adults (56 percent) have no meaningful relationship with the Bible.*

52%

Someone who regularly engages with the Bible is 52 percent more likely to experience joy and peace in their life.**

231%

People who read the Bible four or more times per week are 231 percent more likely to disciple others.***

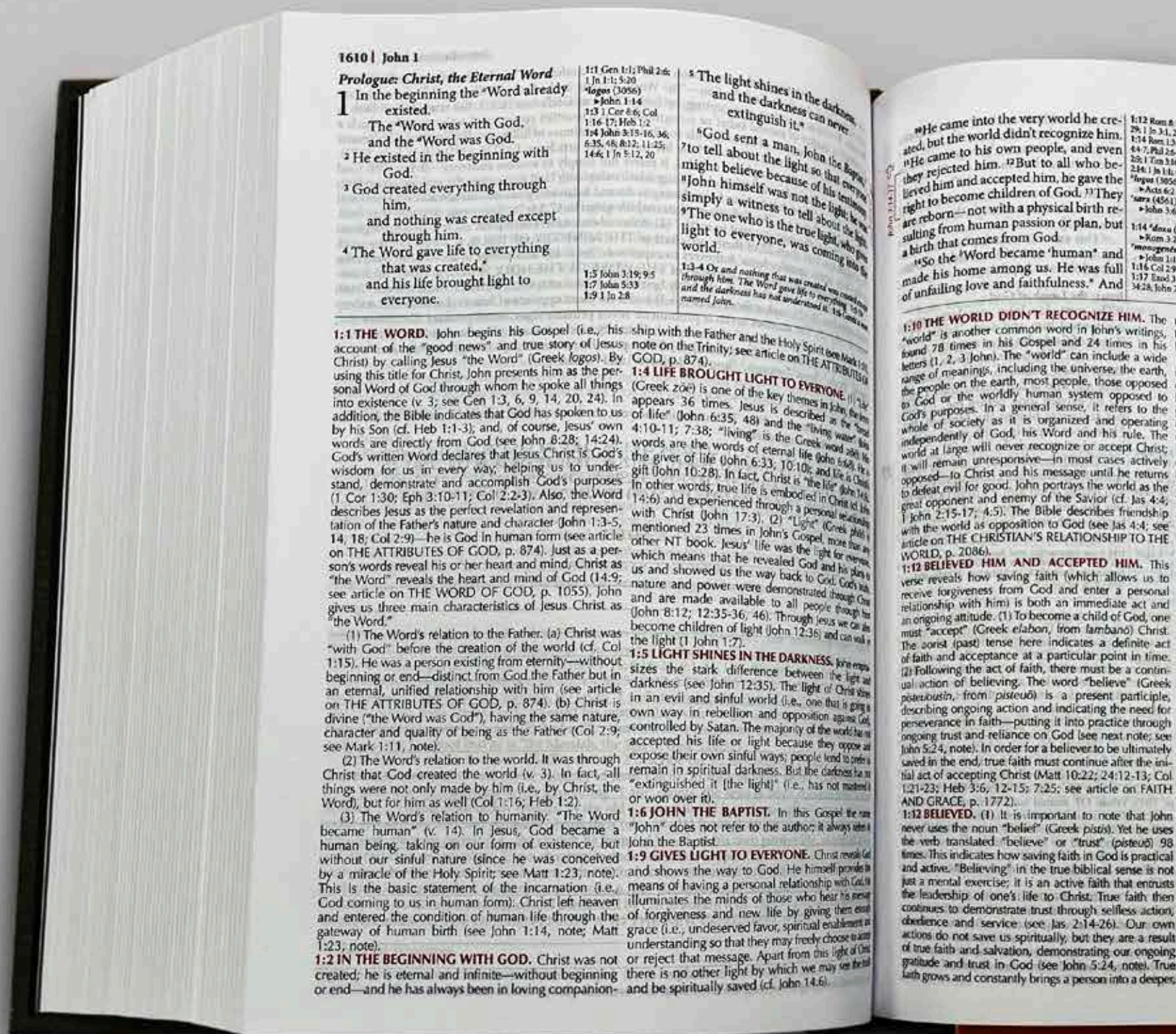
228%

People who read the Bible four or more times per week are 228 percent more likely to share their faith with others.***

*State of the Bible USA 2022. American Bible Society 2022.

**Built on the Bible Research. Barna Group 2019.

***Center for Bible Engagement



Resource Recommendation

Get your church anchored in the Bible

with Bible Engagement Project

- Discipleship curriculum for kids, youth, and adults
- Engaging video content
- Intentional discipleship journey
- Age-aligned scope and sequence
- Family Devotions

[B] BIBLE
ENGAGEMENT
PROJECT

Get your church
started today!

BibleEngagementProject.com



ALL IN on Mission



the Assemblies of God national office, we have strategically aligned Church Ministries and Publishing into one all-in unit. We have focused our purpose, process, products, and programming on the mission of disciple making.

When a church is all in on disciple making, they can be tempted to fill their schedule with anything and everything that seems to contribute to the cause. If a little seems good, then more should be better is often the thinking. But being all in isn't about filling every ministry moment and creating a frantic pace of life. Quite the opposite. Some of the best strategies for being all in will slow down to focus on the individual disciple. These ministries will tune into the needs of the person rather than assuming everyone needs the same thing at the same time.

The graphic on the next page helps church leaders narrow the focus by seeing the individual disciple as the focal point. If leaders, for instance, focus too much on training or programs but never actually engage in the disciple-making process, are they really all in? Additionally, people can get out of balance by focusing exclusively on one dimension of being a Spirit-empowered disciple, like worship, and inadvertently create a lopsided disciple-making environment.

Consider the following tips as your church becomes all in on disciple making.

Focus on the disciple

Build relationship, know their stories, make the spiritual journey as personal as possible.

Understand the process

Every disciple should follow the call of Matthew 4:19 to win, build, and send.

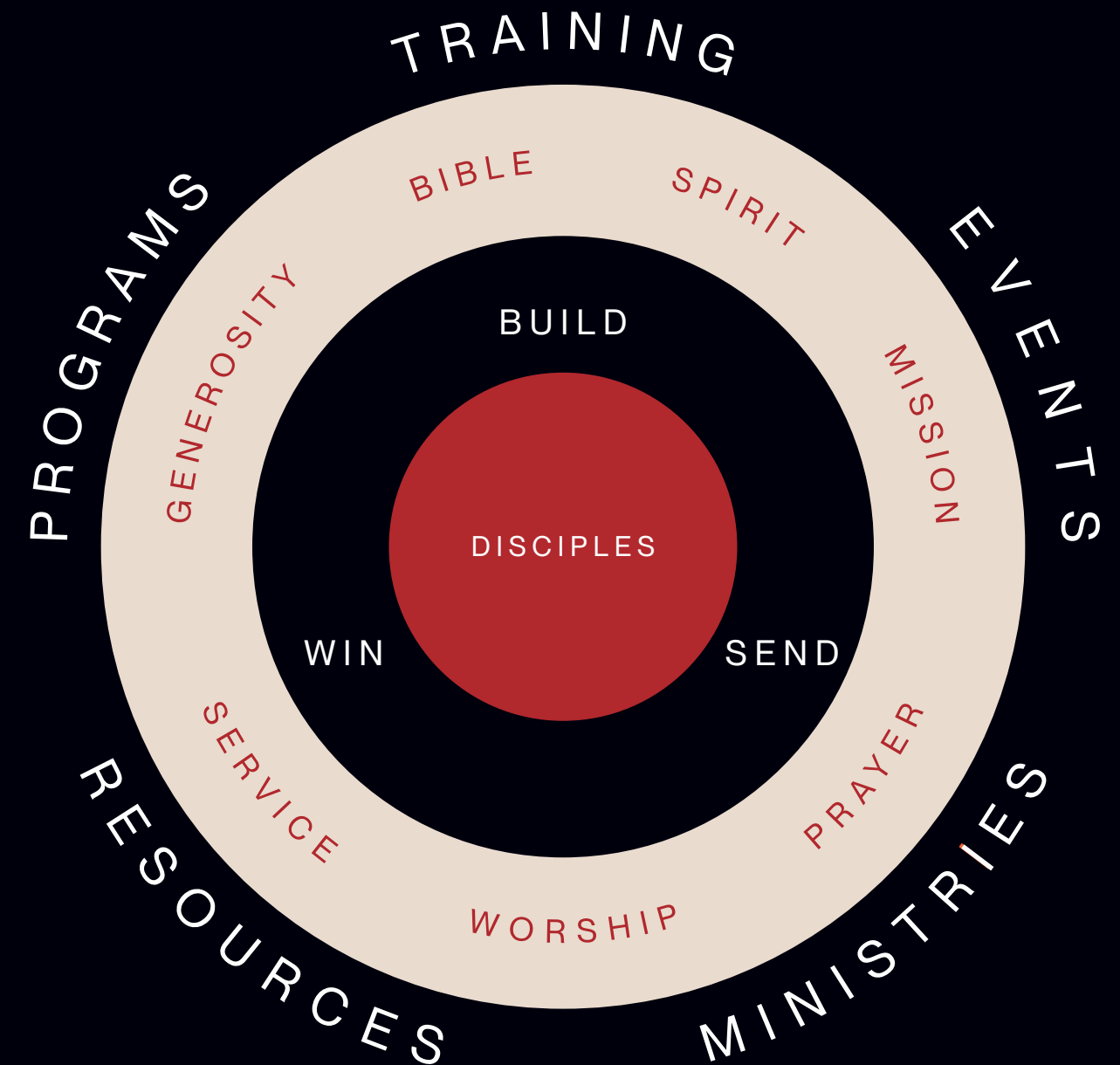
Know what a disciple looks like

Jesus is the ultimate picture of a disciple. To help create simple definitions, use "The Seven Dimensions of a Spirit-Empowered Disciple" as a starting point. (See page 13.)

Get surrounded

Intentionally surround your disciple making with resources, programs, training, events, and ministries that are equally all in.

NextGen & Family



To win, build, and send DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES in seven dimensions to fulfill the GREAT COMMISSION

ALL IN for NextGen

Kids

There is an intense spiritual battle for the heart of our kids who will lead the church in the future. Their faith must hold strong against the world's animosity to absolute truth and moral standards. Being all in means kids move beyond familiarity with the Holy Spirit to a place of intimate personal relationship. This prepares them to live in the culture of the hallways and classrooms in our schools, sports fields, and neighborhoods while maintaining a well-grounded faith in God. We must produce kids who are all in disciples who in turn participate in making disciples.



Youth

This generation of young people has been labeled as lacking resilience, high in emotional need, and those who challenge everything. But this is the type of generation who existed throughout Bible times. God chooses to use people within their generation, with the characteristics of that generation. They are not disqualified as participants in the Great Commission because of a generational descriptor. Being all in on disciple making means the church and the home accept the responsibility of investing in today's teens and seeing them through God's eyes, not the eyes of sociologists. This generation is creative enough, can challenge the status quo, and doesn't have to take no for an answer when the answer can be yes. They can fulfill the Great Commission.



Missions

Every generation has a responsibility to participate in the Great Commission. The youngest in our churches can learn to have a heart of compassion through missions awareness, giving, and stewarding the gifts God has given them. Students today are an unconventional generation who believe giving generously and loving unconditionally results in normalizing the impossible. As kids and youth become all in, they become ambassadors for the mission of God.

ALL IN for Adults & Family



As

young people enter adulthood, opportunities in life grow exponentially. Young adults face choices about college, career, marriage, where to live, how to handle finances, etc. Those established in their adult years face an even more diverse set of realities. But one thing remains consistent for those who follow Jesus: They are called to make disciples. Churches may provide some specific ministries for the various aspects of adulthood, but every church must inspire people to see how God can use their story for the purposes of fulfilling the Great Commission.

One of the most rewarding aspects of disciple making happens in the context of a lifetime of investment. When the older generation mentors the younger, they have an opportunity to teach valuable life lessons. Our culture needs role models in many arenas. Take for example modeling what it means to be a committed man or woman of God, being a living model of a fulfilling biblical marriage, or modeling how to be a godly father or mother.

Churches wanting to excel at generational mentoring may find themselves empowering marriage mentors for engaged and newlywed couples. They will also see the blessing that results from Paul's writing to Titus, "older women must train the younger women" and the men are to "encourage the young men to live wisely" (Titus 2:4, 6, NLT).

God established the home as the first and primary institution of discipleship with the church designed as a lifeline of support. Parents have been, and remain, the most influential people in the discipling of their sons and daughters. Children need godly dads and moms as much as godly neighbors and leaders.

One of the affronts facing our sons and daughters is misguided teaching about gender and sexual identity. In Genesis 1:27, we read that God made human beings in the image of God, male and female. Jesus affirmed this truth in Matthew 19:4. A disciple's identity is never clearer than when one follows and knows Jesus.

A disciple-making church recognizes its responsibility to equip and support a spiritually healthy home.

The good news is God has gifted the church to succeed.



"And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up."

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (NLT)

ALL IN for Ministers

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11–12 (NLT)



The gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors and teachers are essential to disciple making. What if every minister or seasoned saint in the local church would find and disciple one person who exhibited the attributes of God’s call on their life?

The world excels at projecting an identity on the next generation, but often those in the church are afraid to talk about and encourage the spiritual gifts they see in an individual. The apostle Paul told Timothy to “fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you” (2 Timothy 1:6, NLT).



In this moment, Paul was affirming something he saw in young Timothy that he may have not seen in himself.

Our world is in need of mature Christian leaders who will speak positively into the life of each young person, helping them to see gifts, talents, and strengths they may not yet see yet in themselves. Your investment in ministers today matters for tomorrow.



I was raised by a single mom because my dad died when I was nine years old. I never felt the negative impact of being raised by a single mom because I had many godly men in my life who prayed for and believed in me. And those prayers that I heard so frequently about God’s call on my life eventually became a reality.

- Doug Clay
General Superintendent of
the Assemblies of God

If someone had told me when I graduated with a biology degree that I would be an ordained pastor in five years, I would have found it kind of unbelievable. I’ve seen how the Lord opens doors that I don’t think I would have asked to have opened.”

- Alycia Bini
Penn State Behrend
Chi Alpha Assistant Director



After spending nearly ten years praying about when we might go, we had put the dream on the shelf. We thought that surely God would not send us to East Africa with a high school student and two middle school kids, but that is exactly what He did. I am so thankful that He spoke to each member of our family and called us to be here and to serve. His calling has sustained us even when times have been tough.

- The Berkey Family
NextGen missionaries in Kenya

ALL IN for the Called

We must direct attention to equip those called to vocational ministry regardless of their age, gender, or ethnicity. All people called to minister should be supported through their entire ministry through these four steps.

- **Identify:** Train leaders how to steward Holy Spirit moments so the called can be identified and challenged to answer the call that God has put on their life.
- **Equip:** Equip those who are called with resources they need to start their journey. Give them today what will help to prepare them for a lifetime of vocational ministry.
- **Release:** Begin releasing qualified leaders into healthy ministries around the world.
- **Develop:** Provide ongoing leadership development to ensure our vocational ministry leaders stay healthy.



Based on a recent ACMR (Annual Church Ministries Report), the Assemblies of God (USA) has 37,713 credentialed ministers. Of that number, only 1,000, or 3.2 percent, are under the age of thirty. At the same time, 51 percent of our adherents are under the age of thirty-five. The number of our ministers in the younger age groups doesn't align with the face of our congregations.

The Assemblies of God is not alone in seeing a decrease in the number of younger ministers in training. The National Center for Educational Statistics report for the 2019–20 school year reveals the total number of those graduating with a theology degree across all denominations was 6,855, the lowest number since 2006.* We must become more intentional in nurturing the call in the next generation. If we do, in fifty years the Pentecostal church will continue to have an adequate minister supply in every age demographic.

*Based on IPEDS Report 2019 https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d21/tables/dt21_322.10.asp



ALL IN for Leaders



Participating in the Great Commission takes a multitude of leaders. Some lead ministries as their vocation, others work in the marketplace and volunteer in their church. Each leader is stronger with a support community and an ongoing growth plan to help them thrive.

Each leader should have at least three strategic connections:

- (1) a leader to look up to who shows the way;
- (2) a leadership companion who encourages them on the journey; and
- (3) a leader to support and boost.

In the Assemblies of God, each leader should sense they are a member of the team making a difference for the kingdom of God.

ALL IN for Events

Every event must be about making disciples. Whether it is Sunday worship, small groups, children's church, camp, Fine Arts Festival, a missions tour, or a district/network conference, let's intentionally make disciples.



ALL IN for Ministries & Resources

A powerful discipleship dynamic emerges when the ministries of a church and the resources they use strategically and cooperatively connect. Disciples make disciples. This happens on purpose. It is an intentional act.



Churches who strategically align age groups, small groups, family groups, and their supportive resources will experience complementary spiritual growth among their people. When all of a church's ministry and resources aim to win, build, and send disciples who make disciples, they don't just systematically fit; they advance God's kingdom.

The goal of Assemblies of God Ministries & Resources is to empower the Church and its mission as prescribed in the AG's Statement of Fundamental Truths, fundamental truth 10.

Good ministries, resources, programs, training, and events help to grow disciples and the discipleship process. Men, women, pastors, missionaries, parents, children, youth, young adults, senior adults, and all other affinity groups should prioritize Jesus' call and commission. Whether studying Scripture, leading a prayer service, preaching the gospel, testifying of Jesus, teaching other believers, worshipping with others, meeting a physical need, or running routines, the Church can and should be on mission to make disciples. Let's go!

Now is the perfect time to be all in on ministries and resources.

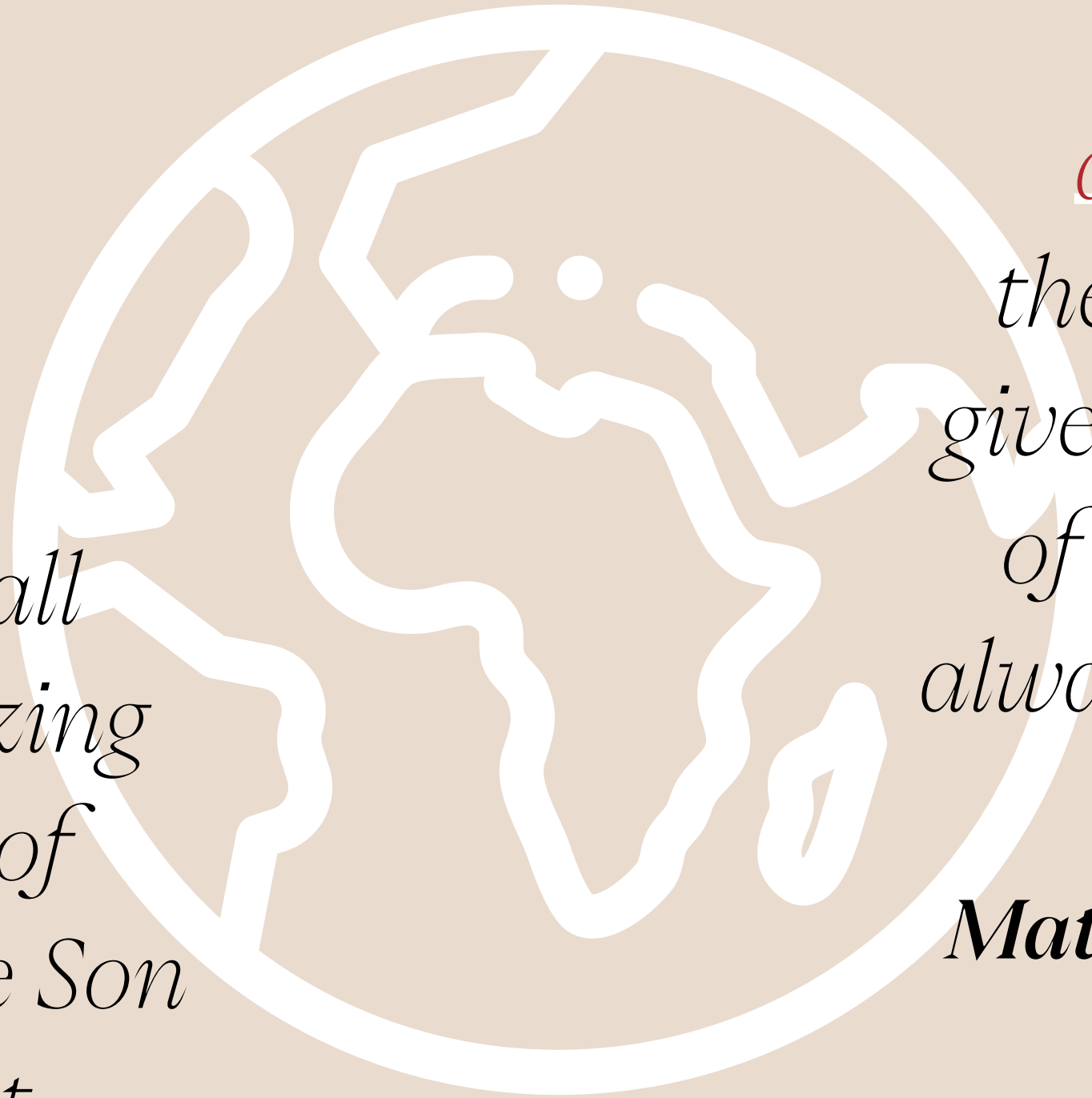


ALL IN *for the Nations*

MAKE DISCIPLES...

Jesus told us:

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.



Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19–20 (NLT)

...WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

Be *ALL IN*



Be *ALL IN* because
every generation has
a next generation.



Are you
ALL IN

on disciple making?

*Be a **MODEL** in the church to win,
build, and send disciples who make
disciples in seven dimensions to fulfill
the Great Commission. **LEAD** the
church, community, and home in the
same fashion. Utilize **RESOURCES**
designed for the church and its mission.
STEWARD the God-given trust.
BE ALL IN FOR DISCIPLE MAKING.*



Assemblies of God
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