

## Four Benefits of a Disciple-Making Pipeline

Let's face it; you don't have to have a disciple-making pipeline to make disciples. I would say that very few churches have an intentional pipeline. At the same time, there may be some benefits that you might want to consider when it comes to a disciple-making pipeline.

Let's start by looking at what is a disciple-making pipeline? A disciple-making pipeline is a structure for identifying and moving disciples from one level of development to the next. Our goal in developing and implementing a disciple-making pipeline is more and better disciples. We encourage churches to develop their unique disciple-making pipeline. The table below represents a generic disciple-making pipeline for beginning our conversation and for the development of your own disciple-making pipeline.

Name	Definition
Catalytic Disciples	There are multiplying disciples around a specific kingdom vision.
Multiplying Disciples	They have a plan and are actively making other disciples.
Growing Disciples	They are grounded in the commands of Christ and have established healthy church rhythms.
New Disciples	They have embraced Jesus as the Way and are in need of being fed.
Pre-Disciples	They are open to gospel engagement and relationship with other disciples.

The benefits of an intentional disciple-making pipeline are numerous. Here are a few:

- 1. It depicts a clear pathway for growth.** I can remember being a brand follower of Christ, thinking I want to be a good citizen. I had no clue what it meant to be a disciple or that as a disciple, I needed to grow. Imagine having a clear pathway with clearly delineated measures or competencies at each level of discipleship. Regardless of how you program around a pipeline, just having one would benefit any church serious about making disciples.
- 2. It allows you as a church to evaluate your disciple-making effectiveness.** Once you develop your own disciple-making pipeline based on your disciple-making dream, you have a built-in tool for assessing your effectiveness. For example, if you don't have any pre-disciples, it is a good indication that something is off about your overall disciple-making culture. The same could be true of any level of your pipeline where you may have a deficiency. A healthy disciple-making culture will have disciples at every level of the pipeline.
- 3. It integrates both evangelism and disciple-making.** A common mistake that churches make is separating evangelism and disciple-making, but for Jesus evangelism was always a

critical part of His disciple-making. His disciple-making always began with pre-disciples. Creating a disciple-making pipeline should always begin with pre-disciples.

**4. It encourages the disciple-maker to focus on his/her area of greatest strength.** We all have different passions and giftedness. I may have a passion for working with pre-disciples, while you may be gifted at working with multiplying disciples. Having a disciple-making pipeline gives us multiple areas and places to plug into the disciple-making process as a disciple-maker.

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