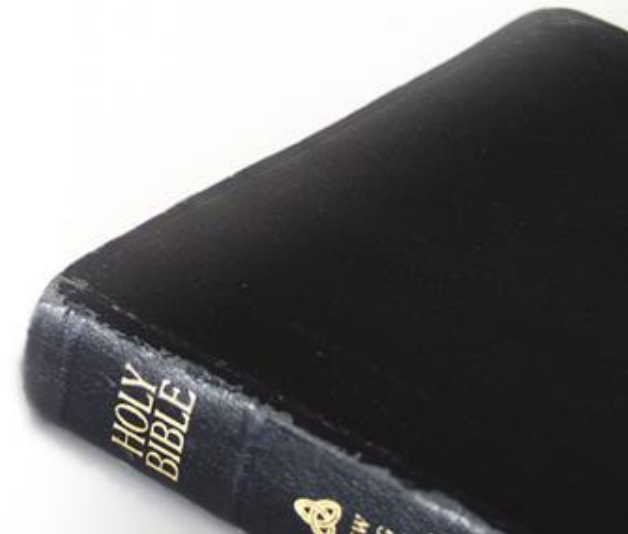


A close-up photograph of two small green seedlings with two leaves each, growing out of dark brown soil. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting more plants. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular box in the upper center of the image.

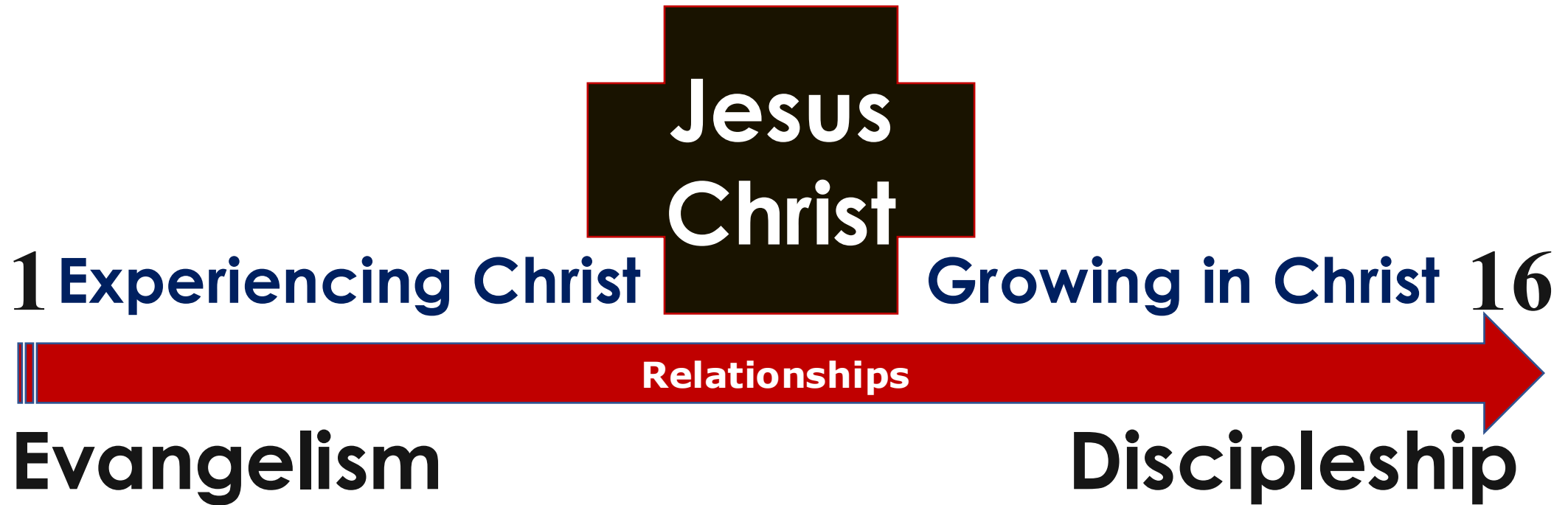
GROWING DISCIPLES Through Small Groups

Disciples Grow

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not
wither—whatever they do prospers. ***Psalm 1:3 (NIV)***



Making Disciples

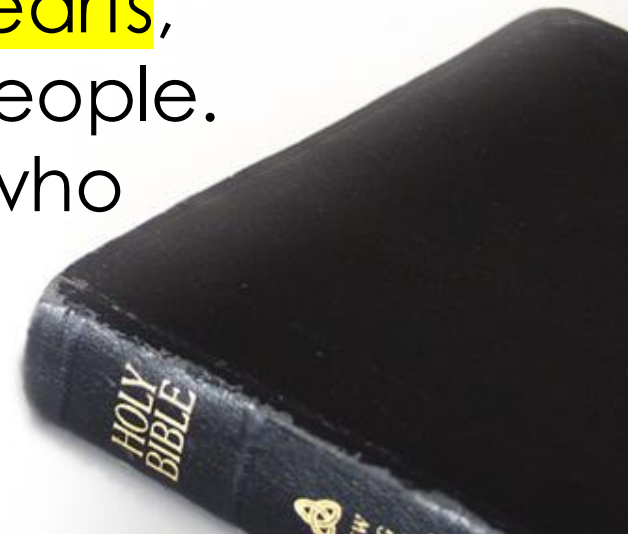


The Church #12

The church is the **community** of believers who confess **Jesus Christ** as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for **worship**, for **fellowship**, for **instruction** in the Word, for the **celebration** of the Lord's Supper, for **service** to humanity, and for the worldwide **proclamation** of the gospel. The church derives its authority from **Christ**, who is the incarnate Word revealed in the Scriptures. The church is **God's family**; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the **body of Christ**, a **community** of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not having Spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish.

Temple & Homes

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)**



The Acts 2 Church

- **Teaching**

discipling through the teachings of the apostles was required and training was important

- **Fellowship**

all the believers were together and had everything in common.
There was a real sense of **community**

- **Prayer**

Everything that happened in the church was immersed in prayer

- **Small Groups**

They met and ate together in homes with glad and sincere hearts

The Acts 2 Church

- **Worship**

They **worshipped** together; praising God and enjoying fellowship with all peoples

- **Evangelism**

They were passionate with the gospel and excited to share their experience with others, and the Lord added to their numbers daily

- **Total Member Involvement**

Everyone was involved. The early church understood that ministry was everyone's calling. Participation was taking place naturally with every member serving according to their giftedness



NCD

Natural Church Development

The Natural Church Development (NCD) is a church growth tool/resource that was to assess the health of a church rather than its numerical growth. The central premise in this assessment process is that “healthy churches grow naturally,” like living organisms, when the right conditions are present.

The NCD research identified eight quality characteristics that consistently correlate with growing vibrant congregations.



NCD

Natural Church Development

1. **Empowering Leadership:** leaders equip others for ministry
2. **Gift-Oriented Ministry:** members serve according to giftedness
3. **Passionate Spirituality:** authentic lived-out faith experience
4. **Effective Structures:** systems exists to support ministry
5. **Inspiring Worship Services:** engage people meaningfully with God
6. **[W]holistic Small Groups:** nurture spiritual growth and community
7. **Need-Oriented Evangelism:** connects with people's needs
8. **Loving Relationships:** genuine caring community within the church



NCD

Natural Church Development

[W]holistic Small Groups

Wholistic small groups are disciple-making communities which endeavor to reach the unchurched, meet individual needs, develop each person according to their God-given gifts and raise leaders to sustain the growth of the church. Like healthy body cells, wholistic small groups are designed to grow and multiply.



NCD

Natural Church Development

[W]holistic groups go beyond discussions of Bible passages; they applying Bible messages to daily life. In these groups, members can raise issues and ask questions that are immediate and have personal relevance.

The NCD Survey measures:

- Atmosphere of transparency, confidentiality, and trust
- Active participation of group members
- Spiritually oriented
- Meeting felt needs
- Relevance to daily life
- Guest sensitive
- Multiplication of disciples, leaders, and groups



기독교 대한 하나님의 성회

여의도순복음교회

YOIDO FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

Founded in Seoul, Korea, by David Paul Yonggi Cho in 1958

- The church is a network of organized small home cell groups fostering intimate Christian fellowship, spiritual growth, accountability, and evangelism; ensuring that members are cared and provided for.
- Each group is led by a woman lay leader
- Group size is limited to 10-15 persons, and then they multiply
- Prayer and fasting is the "lifeblood" of each cell
- Groups meet during the week
- All groups come together to celebrate and worship on Sunday
- Growth: started with 5 persons to 500, to 3000, and now 870K members



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Key Strengths of the Model

- Scalable growth without over-reliance on clergy
- Strong pastoral care through small communities
- High member engagement and ownership
- Effective assimilation of new believers



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Bottom Line

Cho's model presents the church as a vibrant serving community of people where one belongs and leads within a small group.

Its success lies in combining:

- Simple structure (cells)
- Leadership multiplication
- Relational evangelism
- Spiritual intensity (prayer)

Sabbath School Small Groups

 Bible Study

 Fellowship and Nurture

 Community
Outreach

 World Mission



SS Small Group Leadership

1. Bible Teacher/Instructor [BT]

Focus on study and application of Bible study

2. Prayer Coordinator [PC]

Facilitate prayer ministry and nurturing activities on Sabbath – e.g. sharing of personal testimony

3. Outreach Leader [OL]

Promote and coordinate witnessing opportunities



Sample Small Group Program

1. **PC** welcomes class (members and guests)
2. **PC** invite class participation in a fellowship and nurturing exercise (testimonies)
3. **OL** facilitates conversation on witnessing opportunities and class prayer time (vary the focus and method)
4. **BT** leads the Bible study: start from “known” to the “unknown.” Make life applications and challenge the class towards action.



SS Small Group Dynamics

1. Focus is on learning Scripture and personal nurturing (prayer and sharing of testimonies)
2. Promote openness and group support (listen)
3. Encourage participation and involvement
4. Has life beyond the Sabbath: informal get together and visitations (create time to fellowship and meet during the week)



IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!



KNOWING



LOVING



SERVING



SHARING