

A close-up photograph of two small green seedlings with several leaves growing out of dark brown soil. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting more plants. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

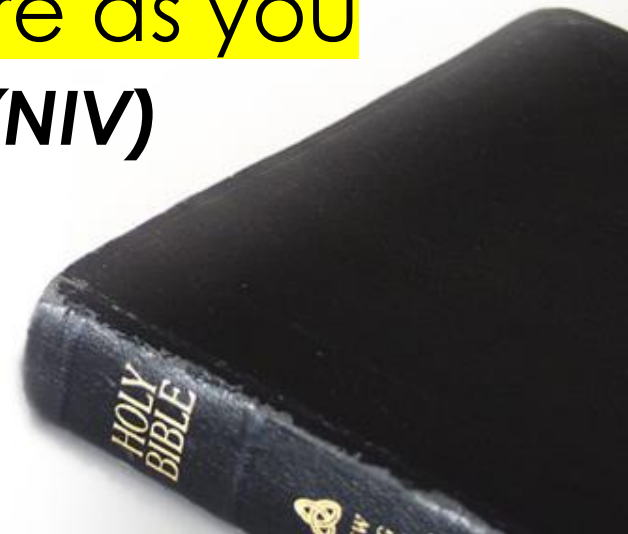
# GROWING DISCIPLES Through Small Groups



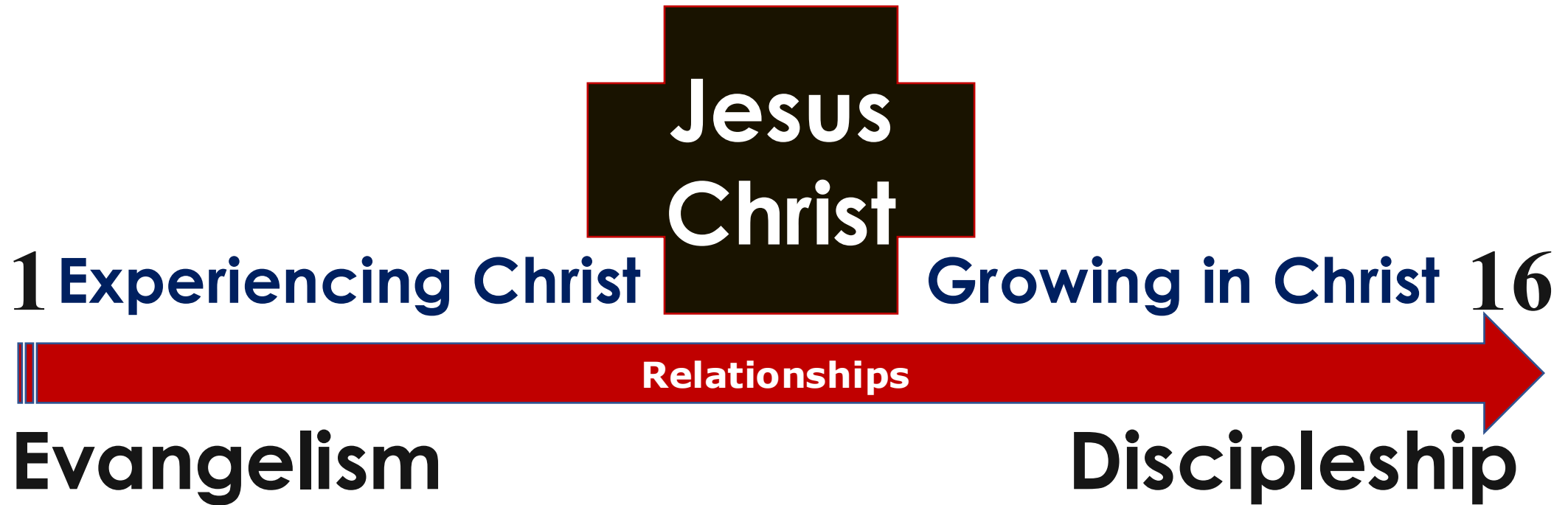
# Disciples Grow In Community

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” **Genesis 2:18 (NIV)**

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching. **Hebrews 10:24,25 (NIV)**



# Making Disciples



# Temple & Homes

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> 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**: the teaching of the apostles was required
- **Fellowship**: believers were together and shared everything
- **Prayer**: the activities of the church was immersed in prayer
- **Small Groups**: disciples met and ate together in homes
- **Worship**: praise and worship was central to the life of the church
- **Evangelism**: worshippers were committed to sharing the gospel
- **Total Member Involvement**: Everyone was involved

In our churches let **companies** be formed for service.

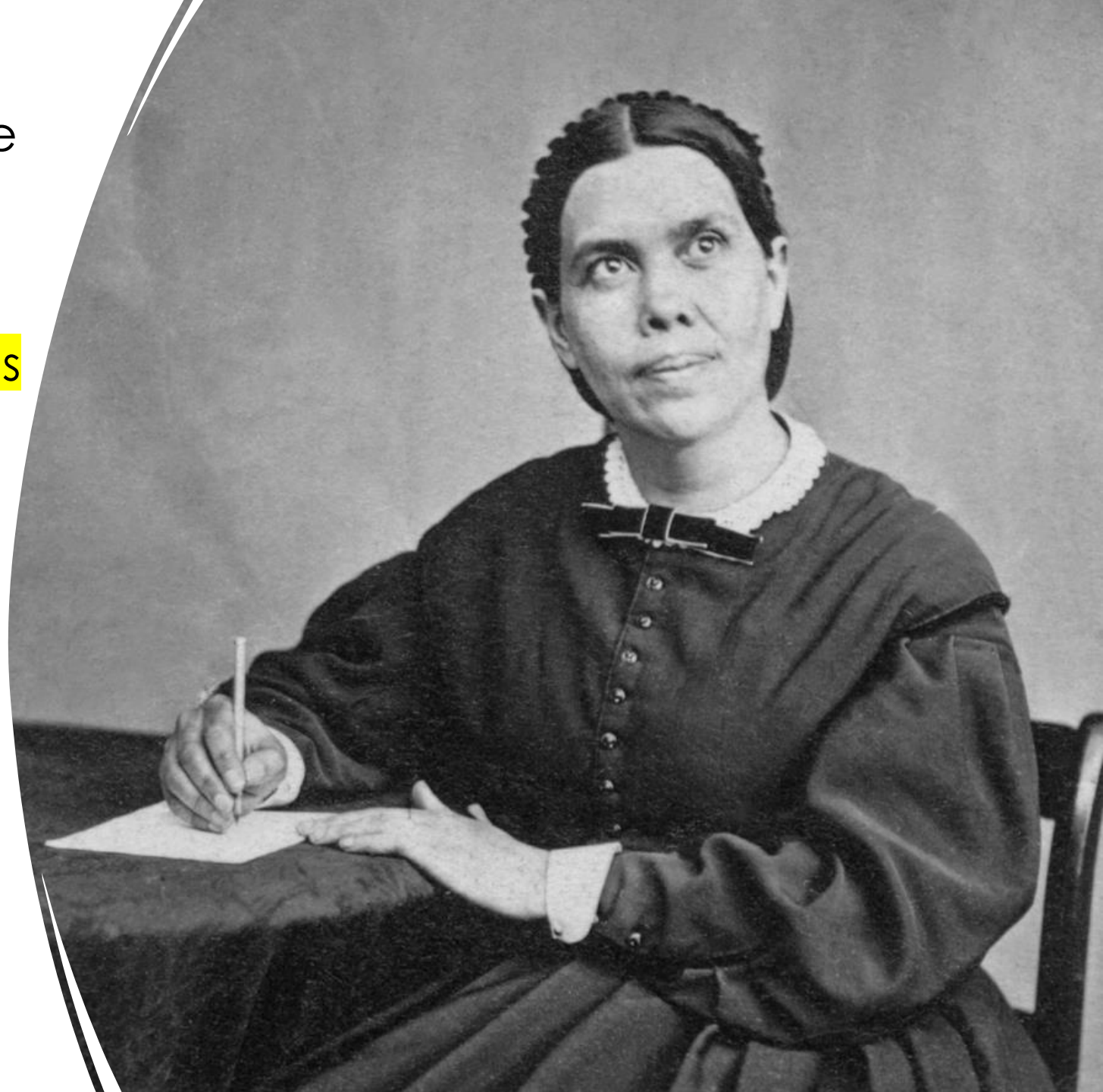
***Testimonies for the Church 7:21***

The formation of **small companies** as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err.

***Testimonies for the Church 7:21,22***

If there is a large number in the church, **let the members be formed into small companies**, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers.

***Testimonies for the Church 7:22***





# 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

# 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)



# Other Considerations

1. Wholistic: nurture/retention & evangelism
2. Basics: fellowship, sharing, prayer, Bible study
3. Numbers Matter: 8-12 (including seekers)
4. Schedule: weekly or bi-weekly over 6 months
5. Commitment: to attend and participate
6. Create safe environment for everyone
7. Respect others' opinion and listen sensitively
8. Develop leaders through delegation



# Learning Through Sharing





# IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!



KNOWING



LOVING



SERVING



SHARING