

## **Module 1: Three Kinds of Grace: Identifying God at Work in Our Own Life Journey.**

**1. Homework Assignment:** *My Neighborhood Map.* Please complete this assignment *prior* to class and bring it with you to class. List the names of 3-4 persons in each corner which whom you have a conversation each week.

**2. Opening Prayer:** The Centering Prayer. *Lord Jesus, today I am far less than the person I want to be or can be with your help. I ask today that you would be more and more the center of my life. Guide me to all that is good, cleanse me from all that is not. Teach me Your ways and form in me Your nature. Help me to serve you as I am gifted. Help me to notice my neighbor; work through me to redeem my neighborhood. I am a sinner; please be my Shepherd, my Savior and my Lord. Amen.*

**3. Breakthrough Learning:** after a breakthrough, everything is obvious. We wonder why we did not see this new reality earlier. In this class, our method will be to share one breakthrough after another, hoping that as we learn everything will seem obvious, simple and clear.

4. Wesley defined God operating in Grace using three terms. *Rapidly growing churches raise their level of competence* by working diligently in cooperation with God *in all three kinds of grace.* (A church tends to grow to their level of competence.)



*Prevenient >>>>> Justifying >>>>> Sanctifying>>>>*

**Prevenient Grace** is God working to bring people to Christ; *it's about going and making disciples* (Matthew 28:19). Prevenient grace *prepares us to become disciples.* (BEFORE)

**Justifying Grace** is God making a person a Christian (Romans 3:24, 5:1, 10:9-10). *It usually involves a change of heart and is often emotional.* It is a time of transition.

**Sanctifying Grace** is God working to mature people in Christ; *it's about teaching disciples to observe all that Christ has commanded* (Matthew 28:20). (AFTER)

**5. Video: Cardboard Testimonies** - before & after transformation. (We will view this in class.)

*Cardboard Testimonies ... Hillside Christian Church. 2,765,536 views. Uploaded May 22, 2008.*  
*Life before and after Christ changed them.* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvDDc5RB6FQ>

### **6. Reading #1: The Discipleship System - Craig Kennet Miller:**

The primary evangelistic strategy of the 21st century *is the establishment of new faith communities* that invite people to experience the grace of God *through the practice of the Christian spiritual disciplines, through hands-on experiences of mission and ministry,* and through the celebration of the Christian life in worship. *A faith community is created when a worship experience is tied to a discipleship system.* A worshiping group without a discipleship system is not a faith community; *it is simply a place to worship God.* A faith community

intentionally creates settings ***that link worship to discipleship and spiritual formation***. The primary purpose of this community ***is to reach out to new people to offer them experience of the grace of God that can transform them into disciples of Christ***.

One of the critical steps for turning around an existing congregation ***is to evaluate and improve its current discipleship system***. The way to approach the development of a discipleship system in either case - a new church or an existing congregation - is to ask: ***'What does our faith community need to offer to help a person reach spiritual maturity in the first three years of being a part of the faith community?'***<sup>1</sup>

*Reflection Questions: Yes ... or ... no?*

6.1 *Is your church "simply a place to worship God"? Is worship the priority?*

6.2 *Is the primary purpose of your local church "to reach out to new people to offer them experience of the grace of God that can transform them into disciples of Christ"?*

6.3 *How would your church answer this question: 'What does our faith community need to offer to help a person reach spiritual maturity in the first three years of being a part of the faith community?'*

## **7. Reading #2: Shepherds don't make sheep; sheep make sheep.**

A few years ago I had a conversation with a fellow pastor whose church had rapidly grown after his appointment there. I asked him what he had done that played a part in that growth, and his answer surprised me. "There were two things," he said. "The first thing I stress to them is that ***Shepherds don't make sheep; sheep make sheep.***"

It's a simple idea, but profound: ***Mature Christians make new Christians.***

In shepherding, this could be called the limiting factor. ***How many lamb producing sheep are in the flock?*** How many have reached that level of maturity where lambs become sheep that produce lambs? When we look at the problem this way, it's obvious that few in our flock ever grow up beyond the infancy stage of spirituality. ***(The actual percentage that remains at the infancy stage is close to 83% of church attenders.)*** Lambs cannot make sheep; only sheep can make sheep. ***This is the limiting factor that impedes church growth and why many churches are rapidly dwindling.***

*Reflection Question 7.1: As you consider the flock in which you are a part, do you agree that many are still "lambs" and not very mature?*

*Reflection Question 7.2: Can you list some people who seem to you to still be "lambs" in Christ? What are the "lambs" like in your church?*

*Reflection Question 7.3: Would you agree that the definition of maturity is twofold - to be able to reproduce and to be able to raise offspring to maturity where they can do the same?*

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<sup>1</sup>Craig Kennet Miller, *NextChurch.Now: Creating New Faith Communities* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2000), 114, 116, 108.

### **8. Reading #3: What is the potential of lay driven “sheep make sheep” evangelism?**

T4T (Training for Trainers) is a highly successful, lay driven evangelism movement originating in Communist China from a Chinese-American Southern Baptist missionary by the name of Ying Kai. It is a part of CPM (Church Planting Movements) which became the paradigm for the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist denomination under David Garrison.

In 2000 Ying Kai began to seek God for new ways to be more effective in evangelism and starting new churches. ***He began with 30 lay persons;*** within 7 weeks they had started 20 evangelistic small groups. ***In seven months Ying could count 327*** small groups formed with 4000 newly baptized believers. ***By the end of the first year the movement counted 908*** new house churches with more than 12,000 newly baptized members. ***The following year saw 3,535*** new churches formed with more than 50,000 baptisms ... ***By the end of the second year the movement had added another 104,000*** baptisms and 9000 new churches ... ***by 2008 researchers report that nearly 2 million baptisms have taken place in less than a decade*** and more than 80,000 new churches had been started. ***And this began in Communist China***, an area known for being hostile to the spread of the gospel.<sup>2</sup>

One basic principle of T4T is this breakthrough: “There are two kinds of people in this world:  
***people who need to become disciples,  
and disciples who need to be disciple makers.”***

*Reflection Question 8.1: Which kind are you?*

Our class will begin with this most basic limiting factor and discuss two questions at length:

*How do lambs become fully grown sheep? (Modules 1-3)*

*How do sheep make sheep? (Modules 4-5)*

#### **“Sheep Make Sheep” Litany:**

Shepherds don't make sheep; ***sheep make sheep.***

Buildings don't make sheep; ***sheep make sheep.***

Worship services don't make sheep; ***sheep make sheep.***

Changing the church doesn't make sheep; ***sheep make sheep.***

Sheep happen when sheep make sheep. ***Turn the sheep loose!!!***

Stop trying to ***fix the institution to make disciples.***

Stop trying to ***fix worship to make disciples.***

Stop trying to ***fix the denomination to make disciples.***

Start trying to ***make disciples the way Jesus did.***

Because ... ***Sheep make sheep!***

Let's take a short **Break!**

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<sup>2</sup>Adapted from David Garrison, “T4T: The Ying Kai Story” - Youtube Video  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmXXoMuVPCo&index=4&list=PLE64A6408FFB3377B>