



APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY
OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS

STRATEGY OF JESUS SIMPLIFIED

strategy S

PHASE 1

How to implement the Apostolic Assembly's cellular model in new works, missions and churches that desire to grow



THE EVANGELISTIC
CYCLE



THE CELL
GROUP



THE DISCIPLESHIP
SCHOOL

Strategy of Jesus

Simplified / Phase 1

© 2019

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THE BISHOP PRESIDENT'S PRESENTATION

The Bishop President's Presentation

Dear Pastors and People of God,
Praise the Lord!

In my Presidential Message at the Joint Bishops' Meeting of September 2017, when speaking of the future of the strategy of Jesus, I referred to its history. I spoke of a very rich history of successes and failures; ups and downs; relaunches, beginnings, and endings of this program. In that year, we presented the Strategy of Jesus 2.0 (2017), but not before talking about the "Original" Strategy of Jesus (2007) and the Strategy of Jesus "Now" (2010).

Over the years, we have seen how this evangelistic tool and church growth model has had to go through the crucible of acceptance. We have also seen that churches that understood the vision have become well-nourished congregations of people passionate for the salvation of the lost.

Dear brothers, God wants your Church to grow and for sinners to come to repentance. Therefore, we need to preach the Gospel, and we need to do it strategically, with a vision for growth. The Apostle Paul asked, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14).

Our answer to this question is The Strategy of Jesus "Simplified" (2019). The new step we are taking is to help our churches, even those who for some reason have struggled to understand the vision, or have simply failed to apply it. Now, the plan will be presented in stages. There will be material for those churches that are advanced, as well as for those churches that have launched the vision and have some active cell groups. Finally, we are creating new material for those churches that have not yet started.

The SIMPLIFIED model simply aims to reach every one of our churches, regardless of their level of development. There will be material for all. Take advantage of these resources. There are many hours of work, dedication, and prayer behind everything that has been done since 2007. Everything is focused on the salvation of souls, which is the most important task of the Church. Therein, is the life of the Apostolic Assembly!

United, expanding the Kingdom with power.

Fraternally,

Bishop President John Fortino

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Initially, the Pastors of our church received the vision of the Strategy of Jesus with enthusiasm. At the convention where the vision was presented for the first time, the Bishops confirmed their commitment to that vision with their signatures.

The plan originally had seven gears. The purpose was to present a comprehensive plan for the development of the mission of the church, which is to evangelize the world and make disciples. An important benefit was that the plan had the full support of the Apostolic Assembly, internationally.

Since the vision was launched, a number of significant modifications have been made. Among them, was the addition of the eighth gear, called GROWTH. The objective was to launch new works throughout the Assembly. Later, another modification was made to further clarify the vision. This change attempted to clarify the vision, focusing the strategy on four natural purposes: Birth, Growth, Maturity, and Multiplication.

The intention was that each believer would go through four purposes necessary for their development in the Kingdom of God. The unconverted would first go through the Birth purpose, in which they would participate in five activities: The Evangelistic Cycle, Friendship Groups, Spiritual Retreat, New Birth Discipleship School, and the Celebration of Baptisms. The goal of these elements is conversion.

In the following purpose, Growth, the new convert would continue his spiritual development by attending the Growth discipleship class. He would then be encouraged to continue attending both the cell group and the church's Sunday celebration service.

For the third purpose, Maturity, the new member would be sent to the third level of the Discipleship School. Additionally, he would be encouraged to integrate into the leadership of a cell group and to the cell leaders meeting called MEET. The intention of this level is for the disciple to focus on the cellular vision.

Finally, the new disciple would advance to the fourth purpose, Multiplication. There, he would be "saturated" with the cellular vision; the new disciple would assume leadership of a new cell and participate in the other processes that would confirm him as a cell group leader. This plan, as it was established, still stands. We have received reports from Pastors that the Strategy of Jesus, with all its gears and purposes, has brought very positive results in their congregations.

The Strategy of Jesus with all its functions remains – we reiterate – the model we use in the Apostolic Assembly to move towards the fulfillment of our mission as a church. In this new manual, we are presenting the next update, which we have called the **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY**.

In Christ,

Bishop Felipe Salazar
Vice President

FIRST SECTION

HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY

I. WHY THE "SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY"?

The Strategy of Jesus Committee is proposing a simplification of the Strategy of Jesus vision that will help local churches overcome the obstacles many of them have been dealing with in carrying out the program. The Committee has come to understand that the implementation of the eight gears was a great challenge for many pastors whose churches are small. According to a recent report presented at the General Convention, the average size of the congregations of the Apostolic Assembly is from 70 to 80 members. In addition to this challenge is the reality that in our church there are a significant number of bi-vocational pastors.

Analyzing the existing challenges, we decided that it was vital to take the program back to its essential components, back to its DNA. To this end, we arranged for the Strategy of Jesus to be organized in three stages of implementation. We believe that this simplification will facilitate the implementation of the Strategy of Jesus in each congregation of our Assembly, regardless of its size.

The plan will be implemented locally in three stages. The first stage is comprised of three gears: Cell Groups, the Evangelistic Cycle, and Discipleship level one. These three elements are the essence – the DNA – of the mission of the Church. The second stage includes three more gears: The Leaders Meeting, the Spiritual Strategy, and Excellence in Ministries. Finally, the last stage will add the two remaining gears, which are Spiritual Retreats and Church Planting; thus covering all of the gears of the Strategy of Jesus.

In this first manual, we are initiating the simplified plan of the Strategy of Jesus, in the hope that in the near future, every church, mission or new work of the Apostolic Assembly will embrace our model of cellular church growth and discipleship development.

II. THE MISSION OF OUR CHURCH

The body of Christ, the Church, (1st Corinthians 12:27), has the inescapable task of going into all the world and making disciples. The church's main business is to become a discipling body for the Kingdom of God.

Biblically, our mission is clear: We must evangelize the world and make disciples (Matthew 28:19–20). These two things should occupy most of our efforts and activity as a church.

If someone made a careful analysis of the calendar of your local church, what would it reveal? Would it show that the church is focused on evangelism and making disciples of the lost? History teaches us that growing churches are mission-focused. Their activities and calendars reflect their commitment to the mission. On the other hand, there are congregations that are very active, but focus on other things. These congregations, despite their business, do not see much fruit for their labors.

The danger with producing little or no fruit is that it often results in congregational frustration and discouragement. What is the antidote to this problem? The answer is to become a fruitful church that is focused on its mission. In John 15:8 Jesus said, ***"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples."*** (NKJV). Jesus' words are direct. Our mission is evangelism and the fruit of our efforts is souls. In Matthew 4:19 Jesus said, ***"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*** (NKJV).

The Strategy of Jesus is a model that aims to direct the Church to her mission, so that she will fulfill the purposes for which she was created. The application of the Strategy of Jesus will result in much fruit.

"The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come" Mark 4:26-29 (NKJV).

In this verse, we find the four purposes of our cellular model: sprout (New Birth), grow (Growth), ripen (Mature), and harvest (Multiply). Through the **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY**, we aim to give hungry leaders the tools to help them fulfill their mission and ministry in the Kingdom of God.

Our plan is directly connected to the vision of the Apostolic Assembly, which is to **unite us for the expansion of the Kingdom**. In other words, our aim is to be a Jesus-name church that brings people from every community into the Kingdom of God through the Strategy of Jesus.

Luke 10:1: ***"...the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go."*** (NKJV) Fulfilling this mission and achieving our vision requires that each of us be involved in the task of bringing the lost to Christ through the four purposes of the Strategy of Jesus. For that to become a reality, we want to do at least three things:

(1) Clarify the vision

Every successful organization has a clear vision for realizing its purposes and plans. However, all too often, churches do not have clarity regarding their mission. They have no clear process for making disciples. Consequently, their efforts often do not produce the expected results. Instead, some of those churches begin to decline. The key to progress is having a clear vision of how the mission is going to be fulfilled.

(2) Focus the people

Focus enhances effectiveness because it refuses to do things that are not furthering the mission. Focus is very important. The traditional programs of local churches that were good in their time, at some point, may stop producing the desired results that is to make disciples.

Stagnant churches are only driven by their activities and not by God's purpose. Instead of having activities-driven, traditional programs, by refocusing on the mission of the Apostolic Assembly, the **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY** seeks to FOCUS the church to its main task and mission, which is to win the world for Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15).

(3) Impassion the congregation

The Apostolic Church was born with a great passion for taking the good news of Jesus Christ to the whole world (Acts 1:8). In the upper room, the Holy Spirit took possession of the 120 disciples as they spoke in new unknown languages; the result was the evangelization of thousands of souls who were in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. On that day, Jesus Christ was revealed to many in that multitude and 3,000 souls were saved (Acts 2:38–41).

People who are not focused on the mission say they are leaving the results "*in the hands of God.*" They think that, "God will bring those who he wants to come into the church." In other words, "I don't have to bring anyone, God will." However, while it is true that God is the one who gives the increase, it is also true that He will not sow our land. Paul, 1st Corinthians 3:6 says that, "**God gave the increase.**" However, prior to that it says, "**I planted, Apollos watered.**" Clearly, it is the Lord's business to give life to the seed, but the task of sowing is ours! The task of planting is ours!

III. A Simple and Practical Model

The four purposes we found in the seed analogy of Mark 4:26–29 are vital to a great harvest. These purposes (that represent four stages of development) lead new believers through the teachings of Jesus so that they may experience birth, growth, maturity, and multiplication.

The intention of these four purposes is for our friends to experience the new birth, grow in their relationship with the body of Christ, mature in their service to the Lord, multiply by winning others for Christ, and to fully use their God-given gifts to serve Him.

Through the **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY**, we propose a simple and practical program that any church can use to transition to the cellular model with greater ease. It will also be applicable to start-up churches (New Works). The SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY can be applied at any stage of development of a congregation: New Work, Mission, or Church.

This model can be applied in a cell group where the leader is committed and its members are supportive. It does not take masses to start winning souls. It only takes a small group of Christ's disciples who are committed to the task He has entrusted to us: "Go and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

The New Birth Cycle

How can we implement the New Birth Cycle? The **New Birth Cycle** is a 16-week cycle. This cycle may be repeated up to three times a year in a local church. The goal of the New Birth Cycle is to bring the largest number of people possible into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The New Birth Cycle has three stages. First, the cycle begins with each member of the congregation or New Work praying, fasting, and attempting to evangelize ten souls each. This part of the New Birth Cycle ends with Friends Day, either in a home or at the church. Second, the church members then work so that the souls who attended the Friends Day connect to a cell group. Third, after attending the cell group they will be encouraged to receive discipleship classes. This can happen in a classroom setting at the church property. If the new birth discipleship class takes place in a cell group, it should be on a different day from the day of the weekly cell group meeting. In that case, it will be person

to person. The goal is that they surrender their lives to Christ and be baptized in water and in the Holy Ghost (John 3:5). Subsequently, the newly baptized person will continue to be mentored until they become a soul winner themselves.

Below, are the three key **processes** of the New Birth Cycle in detail, which, if well executed, will eventually produce a harvest of souls:

- The Evangelistic Cycle
- Cell Group Meetings
- The School of Discipleship (Levels 1,2,3,4)

The Evangelistic Cycle

The Evangelistic Cycle consists of a 5-week synchronized effort, in which all the baptized members of the cell or church work to bring ten new souls to Christ. Each week, a specific task is performed:

- (week 1) Write down the names of ten friends,
- (week 2) Contact them by phone,
- (week 3) Visit them,
- (week 4) Invite them to Friends Day, and
- (week 5) Take them to Friends Day so that the Word of God can be sown in their hearts.

The Cell Group

Over the next three weeks, the church members who brought their friends to Friends Day will attempt to integrate them into the Cell Group. There they will develop new friendships and continue to hear God's Word. The power of the Word and their new-found friends will lead them to an encounter with God. It is essential to continue praying for them. This will be helpful in permanently integrating them into a cell group.

The School of Discipleship

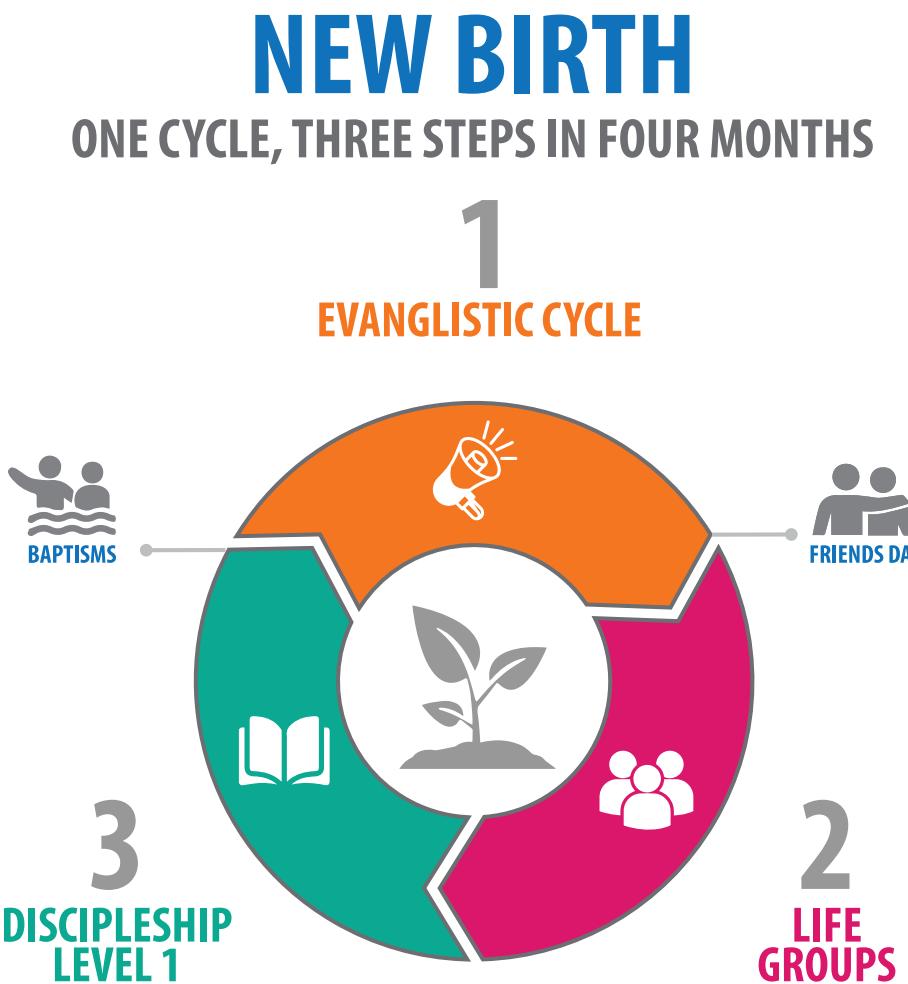
The visitor will then be discipled. For the next two months, the new visitor will attend a discipleship class. The weekly lesson will be given to the New Cell group member from the Discipleship Level One Manual. If the discipleship class is given in the cell group, it should be held on a different day from the cell meeting. The purpose of these studies is to lay a biblical foundation in the heart of the persons visiting so that they will make the decision to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38). During this time, prayers should be made so that the visiting friend receives the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

The New Birth Cycle culminates with a baptismal celebration; an event that can be called "**Harvest Festival**", "**Festival of Baptisms**", or something similar. *In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty.*" **Proverbs 14:23.**

The **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY** purposed much more than bringing people to the church, its purpose is to train Christians to become disciples that sow the Word of God in others. We are praying that through the Strategy of Jesus a great revival will come to the Apostolic Assembly. Our willingness to sow the seed of God's Word will determine the extent of our growth. The greater the sowing; the greater the harvest.

IV. THE EVANGELISTIC CYCLE

1st Corinthians 3:6-8: *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor."* (NKJV).



As we have previously stated, the Evangelistic Cycle is a **five-week** period where each church member is focused on ten souls, which he is trying to bring to Christ. During this time, the hearts of our friends and family are being prepared to receive the Word of God.

Everyone in the church, mission or New Work join the five-week evangelistic effort. **Each member** is encouraged to participate. Everyone has family members or friends who need Christ. This reality should motivate every member to become involved in the Evangelistic Cycle. It is the responsibility of the Pastor or leader to motivate the church or cell group to become completely involved in the work of evangelizing. In addition, everyone will be motivated to **pray and fast**. This will give spiritual support and effectiveness to the efforts that are being made. Before and during the Evangelistic Cycle, the church must be consecrated. The Evangelistic Cycle is a spiritual effort that must be supported spiritually.

What will be done during the five weeks of the Evangelistic Cycle?

First week: IDENTIFY

In the first week, the names of ten friends will be recorded in a bookmarker. The church member will pray for each of the person that he is trying to evangelize during the five weeks of the Cycle. He will also fast one day a week for them asking the Lord to free them from the chains that enslave them. "**No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.**" Mark 3:27 (NKJV).

Second week: CONTACT

In the second week, each friend on the list will be contacted by phone. During the call, the church member will let their friends know that they are praying and fasting for them. He will also inquire about their needs so that he and the church can pray specifically for them. During the prayers, it is very important to bind the spirit that has blinded them to the light of the Gospel: "**whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.**" 2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV).

Third week: VISIT

On the third week, the church members will physically meet with their friends. During the visit, the church member will carry on a casual and friendly conversation with the goal of sharing the Word of God and personally praying for them before their time is over. They should be ministered to with words that will build them up: "**Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.**" Colossians 4:6 (NKJV).

Fourth week: INVITE

In the fourth week, the church members will be given an invitation card to attend a specially prepared meal in the cell group or at the church. They must confirm their attendance so that appropriate preparations can be made. The members of the cell group must attend as well.

Fifth week: BRING

On the fifth week, the church member will **take their friends to Friends Day**. This activity may be celebrated in the home where you have your cell group or at the church property. An extraordinary reception should be prepared for the souls coming for the first time. Each guest will be warmly received and introduced to the other attendees. The Word of God will be presented to all in attendance. During the entire activity, the guests should enjoy the fellowship of the cell members, and finally, the meal that has been prepared for them.

The agenda for the entire meeting should revolve around those who come for the first time. The cell members should be exhorted to make a great impression on the guests. An atmosphere of love and service should prevail in your cell group. No one should be left unattended. There may not be a second chance to make a good impression on their lives. The prayer at the beginning should be simple and brief. The songs should be about God's love. Doctrinal themes or language that is foreign to the guests and should be avoided. The teaching must be clear, easy to understand, and relevant to the needs of the guests. The goal is that the guests will open their hearts to Jesus Christ.

The entire program should not be too extensive, an hour and a half, two at most. The guests should leave looking forward to coming back. You must ensure that all guests fill out a registration card with his or her contact information and with their prayer petitions. Before you dismiss them, invite them to come to the next meeting and to the church services.

Every member who is involved in the evangelistic cycle will eventually come to see themselves as being a productive member of the church. Those who know about agriculture know that a person who sows must wait patiently. Seeds have their cycle and their time. If a seed is planted out of season, it is very likely that the plant will not sprout. The gospel does not need complicated processes to produce its results; it just needs to be sown in a heart, and then in another, and so on. The gospel itself has power to save: ***"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."*** Romans 1:16 (NKJV). ***"receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls."*** 1 Peter 1:9 (NKJV).

V. THE CELL GROUP

Cell Groups are an essential element of the **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY**. Generally speaking, Cell Groups meet in the homes of the members of the members of the congregation. The book of Acts teaches us that the Christians of the apostolic era used their homes as the primary meeting place for ministry. They strategically used their homes for evangelistic purposes as we can see in the following scriptures:

Acts 5:42: ***"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ."*** (NKJV). Acts 12:12: ***"So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying."*** (NKJV). Acts 16:32: ***"Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house."*** (NKJV). Acts 20:20: ***"how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house."*** (NKJV). Romans 16:5: ***"Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the first fruits of Achaia to Christ."*** (NKJV). Romans 16:10: ***"Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus."*** (NKJV). Romans 16:11: ***"Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord."*** (NKJV). 1 Corinthians 16:19: ***"The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house."*** (NKJV).

As we have seen in these passages, the homes of believers were central to the work of the church. The homes of the first century believers were very important because they offered people the opportunity to discover and develop God's plan for their lives. There, they grew with prayerful support, the study of the Word of God and in the context of close, loving, personal relationships. Cell Groups do five things to help people grow in their relationship with God and each other.

EVANGELISTIC CYCLE

FIVE WEEKS OF PRAYER, FASTING AND EVANGELISM TO BRING 10 PEOPLE TO FRIEND'S DAY IN THE CELL GROUP



Fivefold Activities Of A Cell Group

1 – Worship

Worship draws people close to God. Through the songs that the members of the Cell Group sing, the unconverted and the believers draw near to the presence of God. In worshipping God, visitors become aware of the accessibility and warmth of our savior. "... breaking bread from house to house...praising God and having favor with all the people." Acts 2:46-47 (NKJV).

2 – Discipleship

Those attending the weekly Cell Group meetings learn important biblical truths, and some, even become leaders! Cell groups are a great means for making disciples, because cell groups transcend theory they involve practice: "...**teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk, and the work they must do.**" Exodus 18:20 (NKJV). Teaching and modeling biblical doctrine is vital to the development of strong convictions. Word of God and the close proximity of the cell members to one another facilitate the communication of biblical convictions and values.

3 – Ministry

Members of cell groups serve each other by becoming aware of and then meeting each other's needs and by praying for each other. These things greatly boost the development of a ministry mindset in the Christian. "...**through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**" Galatians 5:13-14 (NKJV).

4 – Fellowship

It can be challenging to develop close relationships in our church gatherings, particularly, as the congregation grows. In the large group context, relationships are usually casual. In contrast, true fellowship develops in the cell. There, people learn to relate to each other for who they are. Cell Group members learn to accept one another and to support one another in their struggles, hurts and defects, which are much more evident in the intimate setting of our homes. God has made us relational. Effective Cells put a high value on loving relationships.

5 – Evangelism

Cell groups are the basic unit for evangelism in the church. Every member in the cell must be committed to inviting their friends and family to the cell meetings. In the New Testament, the best way to win the lost was by taking them to Jesus, or in the case of the New Testament church, by taking them into their homes. There, the love of God was evident. Much in the same way, evangelism in the cell church is not just about telling people God loves them, but rather about taking them where the love of Christ is evident, the Cell Group.

The Cell Group leader must encourage every member to be an evangelist. He understands that the cell is where people will come to Christ and are cared for until they develop and become productive members of the church. The goal is to do for others what others have done for us. Here again, we can appreciate that evangelism in the Cell Group helps believers fulfill what Christ commissioned them to do, which is, **to go and make disciples of all nations.**

The Importance of the Cell Group

We are convinced that working with cell groups has been and continues to be a powerful strategy that our Lord Jesus Christ employs to bring the lost to himself. The cell group offers an excellent opportunity to fulfill God's call. Cell Groups, thus, fulfill two very important functions in the Kingdom of God that result in multiplication. One, the lost are won, and two, baptized members are lovingly cared while they develop spiritually and are released into Christian service. This sets a safeguard against sliding back into the world.

Cell Groups also foster the development of spiritual gifts. In the Cell Group, members discover the God-given gifts they received through the baptism of the Holy Ghost. These gifts are developed in the small group while ministering to one another. It is therefore not surprising that often in the activities of a cell group there is healing,

FIVEFOLD ACTIVITIES OF A CELL GROUP



deliverance, edification and conversions. These things happen because of the power of the Spirit of God who operates in the Church.

How many people are required to begin a Cell Group?

A cell can be opened with as little as three people: the leader, the assistant, and the host. The host offers his home as the meeting place. If the host also serves as a leader or assistant to the leader, the group can even begin with the two persons.

Order of the Weekly Meeting

(1) Fifteen minutes of praise

First, the leader should welcome everyone. Then the group should pray. The Cell Group should then enter a time of worship and praise. It is important that someone who can sing well direct the songs. Be creative regarding the worship time. Use whatever means you have available to make the worship time significant for the cell members.

- A projector or screen to show the lyrics of the songs.
- Music videos showing the lyrics of the songs. These can be played from the Internet, for example, from the popular YouTube site.
- Copies may be passed out of the praise songs on paper or electronically.
- Have live music when possible.

(2) A thirty-minute lesson

Teaching is a central part of the cell. People grow through the teaching of the word. They come under the conviction and converted by the Holy Ghost through the teaching of God's Word. The teacher should only teach the lessons authorized by the Pastor of the church and the lesson should be timely and relevant.

Regarding the 30-minute lesson, we recommend:

- The designated leader or teacher must study the lesson well in order to avoid reading the lesson during the meeting. The printed lesson is only to be used as a study guide by the teacher.
- The lesson should not take longer than 30 minutes. If the lesson is too long people may get tired or bored, particularly first-time visitors. People's time must be respected.
- Allow for questions during the lesson to motivate participation. The lesson should be interactive.

In the last pages of this manual, we give the pertinent information about the 52 lessons for cell groups 2020, as well as other resources available from the **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY**.

(3) Ten minutes of prayer

A call to prayer must be made. The prayer should emphasize the lesson topic. The group should also pray for the sick and for other needs. This section is essential, because it opens an opportunity for the saints to minister and for God to move. This time, will undoubtedly produce testimonies of the power of God.

(4) Five minutes of planning

Before the meeting comes to a close, the leader together with the baptized cell group members should plan the next cell group meeting. The following responsibilities may be delegated to others:

- Welcome and prayer.
- Worship
- Childcare
- Prayer for the member's needs and the prayer of dismissal.
- The snack
- The lesson

(5) Announcements

After planning the next meeting, the week's announcements are made. A cordial invitation to the Sunday celebration service is also made, ensuring that everyone agrees to attend.

(6) Fellowship

This is a very important part of the life of the cell group, since it is during fellowship that the bonds of companionship are strengthened, and the guests feel accepted. The snack time is an excellent icebreaker for new friends and a very good opportunity to spend quality time with those attending the cell. The duration of the fellowship will vary depending on the culture and chemistry of the group. We recommend between 30 and 40 minutes.

The Friendship Factor

The cell meeting is comprised of a group of friends who meet on a weekly basis a weekly to learn more about God and grow together. That is why in many churches they are called "**Friendship Groups.**" Friendships results in unity and strength, and therefore growth. Friendships are crucial to making the cell groups flourish. Friendships facilitate wining people to the Lord. A person who visits a church but does not develop friends there, is much more likely to stop attending than others who do make friends. Friendships are a remedy to desertion. In other words, friendships are a great retention factor. The reality is that people are looking for significant connections. People who are looking for friends find them in Cell Groups. "**Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.**" Proverbs 27:9 (NKJV).

People fear rejection. Everyone desires acceptance. Most people will return to the places where we feel accepted. Friendships provides an emotional rest for people. Being in a place where you are loved is soothing. Being able to share a burden with another person of confidence is like talking a weight off your shoulders. "**A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.**" Proverbs 17:17 (NKJV). "**For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.**" Ecclesiastes 4:10 (NKJV). Here are some ways to foster friendships among those who attend the cell:

- **Phone calls.** Phone calls can express interest in a person and in their friendship. We should not only demonstrate interest in a person when attending official church functions.
- **An invitation to eat.** Eating together is a great way to show friendship. The early church practiced this manner life. (Acts 2:46).

- **An outing.** Group activities outside of the weekly meeting encourage unity. Our new friends discover an alternative to their social life when they socialize with cell group members. This promotes gradual integration and becoming comfortable in the church.
- **A time of fellowship.** Hanging out together for no special reason is a significant and productive. Friendships outside the cell group deepens relationships and accelerates the conversion process.

Who is Who in the Cell Group?

Each member of the cell must know their function in order to participate effectively in the vision. Below, is a brief description of the functions of the three key persons of the cell group:

- The Leader
- The Assistant to the Cell Group leader
- The Members of the Cell Group.

THE CELL GROUP LEADER

"Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." Luke 9:1-2 (NKJV).

"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." Isaiah 40:11 (KJV).

Cell group leaders care for and commission the people of God under their care. Cell group leaders are under-shepherds of a small group of believers whom their Senior Pastor has entrusted to them. They are not the shepherd, but under-shepherds. That is, they are assisting the Pastor care for the people God has put under his care. The Cell Group Leader must make sure he understands the vision of his Pastor and is committed to transmitting that vision to the small flock he has been assigned. He must care for them, commission them, and make sure they are being fruitful as the Senior Pastor would. It is imperative that a leader be fully aware of his responsibilities. The following is a list of the responsibilities of the Cell Group Leader, they are found in the acrostic **C. A. F. E. S.**

Responsibilities of the cell group leader:

Connection

- Connect people with the cell group.
- Connect those who only attend church services to the cell.

Administration

- Carefully plan each week's cell group meeting.
- Follow the agenda for the meetings approved by the local church leadership.
- Involve as many members as possible in the cell group ministry.

Faithfulness

- Have a good testimony inside and outside of the church.
- Faithfully attend the cell group meeting and the cell group leaders meeting.
- Be a good example of a follower by submitting your cell group reports to the corresponding authority in a timely manner.

- Be willing to receive criticism and complaints.
- Teach your people to be accountable.

Evangelism

- Be an example by bringing souls to the cell group meeting and encourage other members of the Cell Group to bring their friends, neighbors, and family as well.
- Plan evangelistic activities: Parks, public places, door-to-door evangelism, prayer for the sick, etc.

Spirituality

- Love people.
- Have a strong relationship with God.
- Set times aside every week to fast and pray for the needs of his cell group.
- Establish mentor-disciple relationships with those cell members who are called to leadership.
- Be patient, committed, and firm.

Proverbs 24:6: "*for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers.*" (NIV). Luke 9:56: "*For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.' And they went to another village.*" (NKJV). John 12:47: "*And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.*" (NKJV). 1 Corinthians 1:21: "*For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.*" (NKJV). 2 Corinthians 12:15: "*And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.*" (NKJV). 1 Timothy 1:15: "*This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*" (NKJV).

Being a Cell Group leader is a mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ himself to advance the kingdom. The commission requires that we "**fly with two wings.**" What do we mean by flying with two wings? The idea is that two wings are necessary for making progress. Attempting to fly with one wing means going around in circles and not making any progress. One wing represents winning the lost. The other wing represents keeping those we win for Christ. Successful cell group leaders must give their attention to both things. Those that do will grow and advance the mission of the church. "**Flying with both wings**" will produce a revival in the local church. The result will be the multiplication and consolidation of disciples.

THE LEADER'S ASSISTANT

The Auxiliary or Cell Group Assistant, also called a "Timothy", is the leader's closest co-laborer. The Assistant is a leader in training. He is someone who is preparing to serve as a leader in a cell group. The Cell Group Leader's Assistant must cultivate the following characteristics:

Love people

- Like his Leader, the assistant must have a passion for the lost. He must be an evangelist—a soul winner. He/ she must model what it means to be a person focused on the mission of the church, that is, to win the lost and make disciples.

Be a servant

- The assistant's progress in the cell group structure depends heavily on that he/she learns the importance of being a servant. Servants ascend, while the obstinate descend. Strive to earn the honorable degree of becoming a servant leader.
- Be willing to serve whenever called to do so. The assistant must work as a team member.

Be teachable

- The assistant must be teachable. He must look to his cell group leader for direction and instruction.

Be a team player

- The cell group leader must work well with others. He must work to make the cell group members feel like a team and connected to the greater vision of the church. He motivates others with his attitude.
- Great leaders are obedient leaders. Those who seek to lead teams must first be team players. They must be great at following instructions.

Be faithful

- The Assistant leader must be faithful to his local church, its leadership, and the church's vision. He/she must fulfill all the tasks assigned to him/her on timely bases and with excellence.
- The Assistant to the leader must recognize and be subject to authority.

THE CELL GROUP MEMBERS

The Great Commission, given to all believers, is to go and make disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Matthew 28:19 NKJV. The Church exists to win the world for Christ. That is our most pressing task. We can organize and celebrate events that do not generate growth and think that we are pleasing God and not be pleasing him at all. We cannot forget that the primary reason Jesus Christ came to this world was to save the lost.

Proverbs 11:30: "*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he who wins souls is wise.*" (NKJV). Every member of the church must be committed to a Cell Group and involved in evangelism. The Cell Group member must always keep in mind that winning souls is the main task of the Kingdom of God. He who wins souls is wise! As cell group members, we do not have a more important task than to win souls to expand the Kingdom of God. The Church of Jesus Christ exists to Exalt God, Equip the Church and Evangelize the World.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All the members of the cell group must understand and be committed to the New Birth Cycle and discipleship process. If the purpose and process of the New Birth Cycle is clear, members will be motivated to assist the new converts move through all the stages of the Cycle and rejoice when they become established members of the church. Without a clear understanding and commitment to the New Birth Cycle, the cell group will not become productive and eventually stagnate. People are motivated by success and progress. When the cell group has caught the vision and begins to see their unconverted friends and family move through the process and ultimately give their lives to Christ, the results will keep them motivated to continue the work. Stagnant, unproductive groups die because the sacrifice and effort it takes to sustain a cell group seems pointless.

VI. THE DISCIPLESHIP SCHOOL

The third component of the New Birth Cycle is Discipleship Level One. It is important to note that during the first year of the believer's life as a Christian, there are four levels of discipleship in the Strategy of Jesus. Discipleship Level one is related to the New Birth, while the other three are focused on other areas of spiritual development. We will discuss these later in this study. The Discipleship courses of the Strategy of Jesus are focused and purpose oriented. The Strategy of Jesus is insistent that the church's task is not only to teach its people about ministries, but also to make them fully functioning productive members of the church.

2 Timothy 2:2: *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* (NKJV) Acts 6:1 *"Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying..."* (NKJV) Acts 6:7 *"Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly..."* (NKJV) Matthew 28:19 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..."* (NKJV)

The main task of the discipleship courses is to recover the ministry of the saints. Disciples are students that seek to imitate the behavior and values of another. That's what we want. People who look to Christ and seek to become like him. We are not interested in only bringing people to the church but rather in truly making them into disciples of Christ. Acts 6:7: *"Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly..."* (NKJV) The Church needs to focus on making disciples, not just believers. If we are going to accomplish this end our educational system urgently needs a paradigm shift. All too often, the educational systems of our local churches do not serve to form disciples who win souls. They are ordered to teach without any specific direction or purpose. Our educational systems all too often lack purpose.

Today's Sunday school no longer fulfills the original role for which it was created, to win souls through teaching people to read and write. Robert Raikes (1735–1811), known as the "Father of Sunday School," lived in Gloucester, England, and as a Christian longed to serve God. In the second half of the eighteenth century, around the year 1780, he began his work serving the community. He and William Fox set the purposes of Sunday School. They were:

- To prevent vices.
- To encourage industry and virtue.
- To dispel the darkness of ignorance.
- To spread the light of knowledge.
- To help man understand his place socially in the world.

In essence, in a time when ignorance and illiteracy was pervasive, Raikes and Fox, invented Sunday School as an evangelistic tool to reach the ignorant masses. Their intent was evangelistic.

The **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY**, through the School of Discipleship, restores to the Apostolic Assembly "**Evangelistic Discipleship**". The School of Discipleship offers an education that leads the new believer through a growth process. The New Convert will move from new birth to winning souls; He will learn to have a mission in the world and a ministry in the Church.

The School of Discipleship of the Strategy of Jesus consists of four sequential levels of development until he achieves the goal of being a productive member of the church. **The four levels are: (1) New Birth, (2) Growth, (3) Maturity, and (4) Multiplication.**

How Discipleship takes place in the Cell Group

Cell Group Meeting. People first come into contact with the church and Christ in the Cell Group. People become disciples in the cell group context. Cell groups are where we take people we want to win for Christ.

Discipleship Level 1 New Birth in the Cell. Discipleship 1 may be given in a home or at a prearranged meeting place. This meeting does not follow the usual format of a cell group; the lessons of the Discipleship School, New Birth Level 1 are used. In the Cell Group, the Cell Group leader has these two tasks:

- 1) Lead the group's weekly meeting and
- 2) Teach the lessons of the Birth Level 1 School of Discipleship. (You can find information about the Birth Level 1 Discipleship book and other **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY** resources in the last pages of this manual.)

The leader may opt for having a member of the cell group that he thinks is able to teach the class give the Discipleship studies.

Starting the Discipleship School

The Discipleship School starts when members of the cell group are encouraged to bring their visiting friends to the Discipleship School. The class does not need to be composed of more than a few people. The goal of the Discipleship Level One class is to lead the prospective convert(s) to the new birth experience. The Cell Group Leader may give the classes, or he can assign another Cell Group members to give the classes. There are four levels to the school: New Birth, Growth, Maturity, and Multiplication.

The New Birth Cycle should be repeated every four months in the cell group. If the Pastor decides to go through the New Life Cycle three times a year, the cell group could potentially reap a harvest of souls every four months.

Three basic steps for a person to become a disciple:

- Be baptized in water: "*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man is born of the water...*"
John 3:5 (KJV).
- Be baptized in Spirit: "...*you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*"
Acts 1:5 (NKJV).
- Bear fruit –win souls: "*But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*"
Matthew 13:23 (NKJV).

Believing in Christ saves us, becoming a disciple makes us fruitful. Too many believers have been left at the "belief" stage without further training, that has resulted in their remaining "spiritual babes." Believers who are not developed into disciples will always need others to drive them to live the "Christian life." The moment no one is present to motivate them, they will simply stop living for Christ. Conversely, if believers become disciples, instead of

depending on the support of others, they will in turn offer their support to other developing Christians. These new disciples will then carry part of the weight that others would otherwise have to carry.

The Four Levels of the School of Discipleship

Level 1 NEW BIRTH. *"Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3 NKJV).

At this level, 16 doctrinal lessons related to salvation will be taught to the prospective. The New Birth level has its purpose to teach the basic doctrines of salvation. All the lessons are focused on leading the individual to salvation. One or two lessons will be given per week, the course will last eight weeks, or two months. The goal is baptism.

Level 2 GROWTH. *"till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:13 NKJV).

In the second level, the new believer will be given 24 lessons that will help him develop a deeper relationship with God as well teach him how, as a Christian, he should relate to the people in his life and to the church. The new convert will learn about the Christian disciplines and other topics that are of great importance to a well-rounded Christian life. The goal is that the disciple improves his human relationships and develops a relationship with God.

Level 3 MATURITY. *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also"* (2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV).

At the third level of discipleship, Maturity, the disciple will receive 24 lessons. The objective is for the believer to mature in his responsibilities in the Kingdom of God. He will learn what it means to serve in the cellular vision. At this level, the disciple may take the first steps to becoming a host and even an Assistant Leader. Through theoretical and hands on training he will learn to be a priest of the Kingdom of God; a soul winner committed to his cell group and his church.

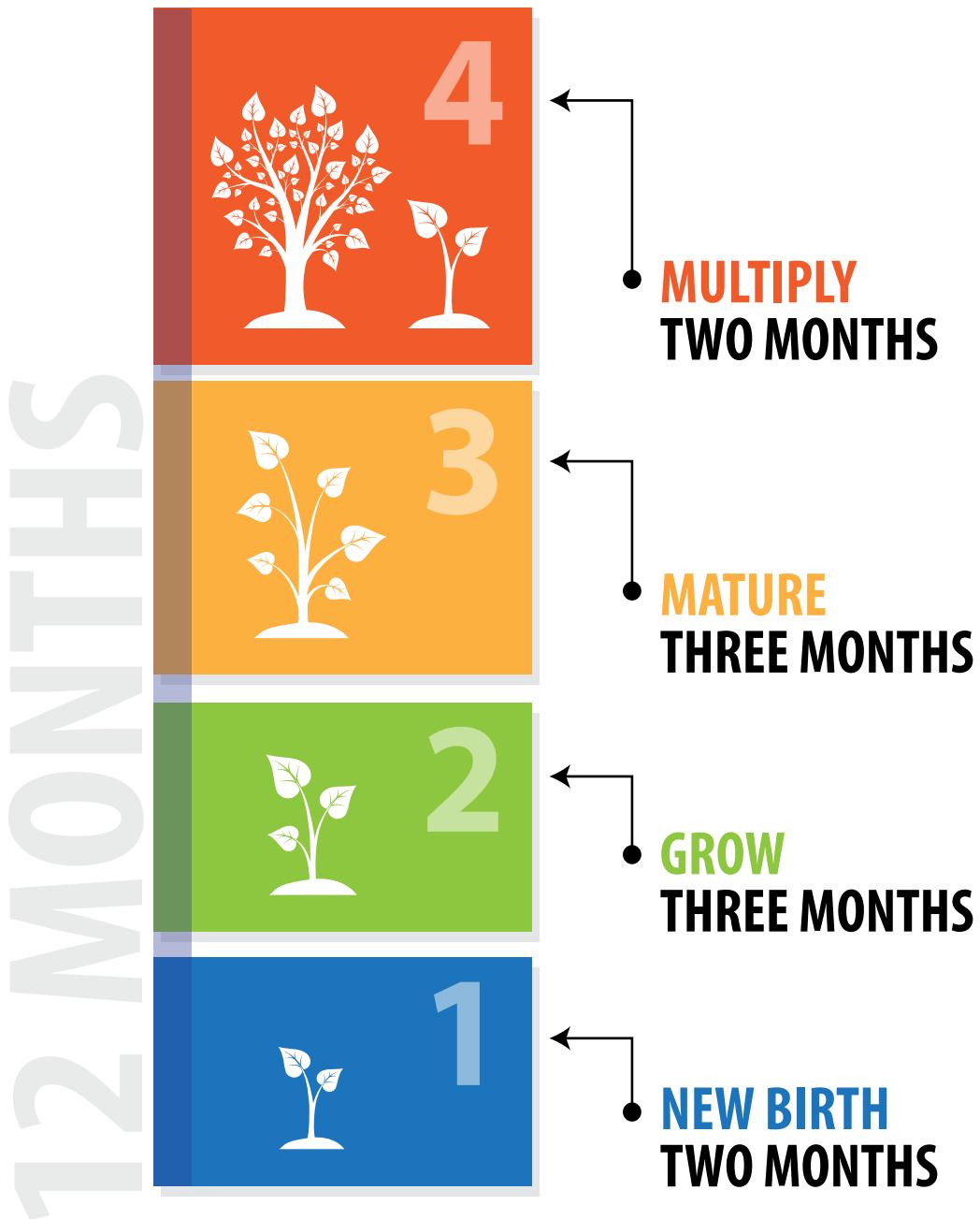
Level 4 MULTIPLICATION. *"Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith"* (Acts 6:7 NKJV).

At the fourth level, after becoming involved serving in a cell group, the disciple will then begin preparation to become a cell group leader. At Level 4 Multiplication, the disciple will receive 16 lessons that provide a more complete view of the vision of the Strategy of Jesus. This step will fully immerse the disciple in the vision of the church teaching him, step-by-step, how the Strategy of Jesus works.

The School of Discipleship is key to the success and growth of the local Church. This school, that is in reality a disciple-making process, must be understood by the whole church to be fully successful. The congregation needs to understand that the local church is no longer giving Bible Studies just for the sake of learning. The church is putting people through a process that will produce people that are trained for ministry and fruitfulness.

(You can find information regarding the books about the Discipleship Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4, as well as other available SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY resources on the last pages of this manual.)

FOUR LEVELS OF THE SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP



VII. JESUS AND DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus was committed to making disciples. He saw the process of discipling as central to the advancement of the Kingdom. That's why he converted his followers into disciples and then instructed them to do the same.

Never in the history of Christianity have so many people been converted as in our time. Every week, thousands upon thousands of people in the world, receive Christ and are baptized. At the same time, many Christians are giving up on their faith. According to some statistics, that percentage is very high. Why? A significant contributing factor must be that they never became disciples. They believed in the Lord but no one took the time to disciple them.

How did Jesus make disciples?

(1) Jesus modeled and taught his disciples how to live and minister

Acts 1:1: "... *Jesus began...to do...*"

Luke says that Jesus "**began both to do and teach,**" In other words, Jesus' discipleship was both theoretical and practical. Jesus taught what He lived. The lesson is that complete discipleship happened in close proximity. The disciples did what they saw Jesus do and they came to believe what he taught. When we read the word disciple, we are to understand that two things are at play, living and teaching.

The twelve Apostles were discipled by Jesus for three and a half years. His impact on their lives resulted in many years of fruitful ministry. So much so that at the end of their ministries, all but one of them willingly offered up their lives for the cause of Christ.

The training of far too many members from traditional churches has been limited to within the four walls of the temple. It has been removed from the real needs of the unsaved for too long. It's been theoretical and not practical or hands on. That kind of education has not led believers to their mission in the Kingdom of God. The church needs balance. It needs to offer its membership ministry, both in the church and in the mission field. Our focus should be for every believer to regain the priesthood of the saints.

In the **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY**, the disciple's training occurs not only in the classroom, but also by watching his teacher do the work. Acts 1:1; 4:4: "*The former account I made...of all that Jesus began to do and teach..." (NKJV)* "...*you heard from me...*" (NKJV) In the Strategy of Jesus, the person involved in making a disciple models what he wants his disciple to become and he teaches him the things that are important for him to know. A strong foundation based on the solid knowledge of the Word of God is important. This is fundamental to their maturity and will help them become great soul winners.

(2) Jesus gave his disciples Commandments

John 14:21: "*He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me...*" (NKJV).

Discipleship has to do with commandments, doctrines and disciplines. Disciples are commandment keepers. Many "**Christian**" groups today are attempting to free Christians from keeping biblical commandments. They have rejected following Christian doctrines and disciplines saying that they cause believers to become legalistic and pharisaical. They argue that because salvation comes through grace, good works are unnecessary.

That way of thinking is why many Christians are lacking the spiritual values and the necessary foundation for a lasting spiritual life. These erroneous beliefs have caused many in the church to live more like the world than as Christians: **"My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge."** Isaiah 5:13. While it is true that salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned by anything we do, it is also true that the commandments of the Lord are necessary. Good works are a necessary safeguard from the world, providing a safe zone for our Christian life. Ephesians 2:20: **"Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone."**

(3) Jesus made disciples by speaking truth to them

Acts 1:3: **"To whom He also presented Himself alive after his suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."** (NKJV)

A lot is communicated by just talking: love, anger, passion, disappointment, hope and many other things. The word "speaking" in this text is not the same as the word "commanding" in the previous text. It is wider in its scope. It is relational. This word was carefully chosen to communicate the idea that, during the forty days after his resurrection, Jesus was not just teaching to his disciples, he also strengthening his relationship with them.

The Lord continued to disciple his followers sharing his heart with them and teaching them the importance of serving in His Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is at the center the Gospel message. For Jesus, the Kingdom was about a lifestyle that is aligned with the will of God and not just about a list of things to do. A disciple becomes the King's subject, meaning that he/she no longer lives to do his/her own will, but the will of Him who accepted them into his Kingdom.

(4) Jesus empowered his disciples

Acts 1:4: **"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father..."** (NKJV).

Everything Jesus did with his disciples was with the purpose of releasing them into significant ministry. It is not enough to teach and train a Christian disciple; a disciple must be empowered and then released. At some point, the person discipling leads the disciple to an empowering experience. Then, he must delegate significant responsibility to him. All the training of a disciple is with this end in mind. The infilling of the Holy Spirit together with the process of discipling is our empowerment. **"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"** (Acts 2:4 NKJV).

Without the power of the Holy Spirit operating in the life of the believer, the believer will not have the strength to be a true witness of Jesus Christ: **"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"** (Acts 1:8 NKJV).

SECOND SECTION

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER

I. THE PASTOR: KEY TO SUCCESS

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jeremiah 3:15 KJV). The role of the local Pastor in the development of the SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY is crucial. Below we will see the most important functions of the Pastor in this cellular model.

The Pastor Provides the Vision

Commitment to the vision begins with the Pastor. The Pastor must clearly understand the vision of the Strategy of Jesus in order to be the primary vision caster. He must master the mechanics of the model. The vision is like a living seed. For it to grow in the life of the church, it must be planted in the hearts of the leaders. This is the Pastor's main task; receive the vision and clearly transmit it to his leaders. Without the Pastor's direction, the cells become just another program within the church and not the primary element of the church.

The Pastor is the main communicator of the vision. The success of the Strategy will depend on how effectively he does this job. The Pastor must live his vision openly and clearly. He must transmit it with passion to his sheep. Transmitting a vision is like lighting a fire in the middle of a dark night. Anyone that is near is attracted to the source of light and heat. If the Pastor manages to ignite the vision in his church, the people around him will draw near and then see clearly what lies ahead. They see what he sees and do what he does. The Pastor's passion and focus enlightens the congregation. Whatever has a hold on the Pastor will eventually get a hold on them.

The Pastor should think creatively about how to effectively communicate the vision. He should include it in his sermons as often as possible. He should acknowledge those cell leaders who have baptisms as well as those who have completed the discipleship process. He may put up posters, banners and other materials in the sanctuary to keep the vision before the people. He must consistently bring up the vision to the congregation. People should come to expect that when they talk to Pastor, they are going to get an ear full of the vision of the church.

The Pastor Demonstrates Commitment

The Pastor must be involved with the cells. This is vital because the cells are the basic structure of the church where evangelism and discipleship take place. People will always be interested in what interests the Pastor. Therefore, the Pastor must be fully involved in the cell groups and have a passion for what is being done in them. If a pastor is not involved and does not become passionate, leaders will not either. Vision, as well as modeling commitment, cannot be delegated. These are the responsibility of the Pastor. The best example of commitment is for the Pastor to lead a Cell Group himself.

In what other ways does the Pastor demonstrate commitment to the cellular vision of his church? The Pastor motivates his leaders when he prays for them to be effective in the work they are doing. He motivates his leaders by coordinating and organizing the study and administrative material that will be used in cell groups. He does so by frequently visiting the cell groups, and by regularly requiring accountability from his leaders for the work they do.

The Pastor's Personal Development

The Pastor must care about his personal development. This is very important in every church, and especially for Pastors that have embraced the cellular model. A congregation will never grow more than its pastor grows. Therefore, the Pastor should devote a significant amount of his time to study and preparation. Aside from investing resources in the church programs and ministries, the Pastor should invest in his own personal development. This is highly recommended for all Pastors. The growth of the church depends on it.

The Pastor's Relationship with God

The Pastor's prayer life is a fundamental element to the Strategy of Jesus. His spiritual life is crucial to the success of the vision. The Pastor must know his God. The growth of a church is the work of God and not of man. Jesus said, "I will build my church. . ." Church members and leaders must have the confidence that their Pastor is a man of prayer and consecration. It is important to note that pastors of growing cellular churches around the world are known to be men of prayer; men who are passionate about God and reaching the lost.

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF TEAMWORK

Teamwork is central to accomplishing anything great. John Maxwell says, "Teamwork makes the dream work". The truth is that growing churches are great at building teams. The better the team the greater the potential for growth. Small churches often promote the idea that the Pastor alone is responsible for caring for the people and for dealing with their affairs. Church members are taught not to involve themselves in those areas. However, what does the Bible say about this? The story of Jethro' advice to Moses is enlightening. "***Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself.***"(Exodus 18:18 NKJV).

God taught Moses through Jethro the importance of proportional delegation. He taught Moses that the task of caring for the people of God was not exclusively his and of a few good men. The delegation had to be proportional to the number of people being served. Men, well trained in the Word, could help him attend the people's needs. ***And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace. So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves***"(Exodus 18:22, 23, 26 NKJV).

The principle that the Word teaches us here is that pastoral work has to be shared. Caring for a growing congregation is not a one-man job. God has provided leaders to assist him. God's work can be very difficult and intense at times and it is always challenging, no man can do it alone. It is for this reason that Jesus Christ gave diverse gifts to his Church. He put gifted people in the church so that the whole body would function together, every member working in its proper place. Working in this manner the church would achieve its very important mission of going "...***into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature***"(Mark 16:15 NKJV).

Again, when the Hebrews, led by Moses, left Egypt, the number of people in the exodus was so great that God sent Jethro to teach Moses the principles of delegation of responsibilities and tasks—the principle of teamwork. "***So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, 'What is this thing that you are doing for the people'***"(Exodus 18:14 NKJV)?

Jethro was a priest of Midian, who may have learned the principle of delegation in his religious order. Moses needed instruction. For the last forty years, he had spent his life as a shepherd. In order to lead at this new level, he had to learn new skills. Leading hundreds of thousands of people, as opposed to a few hundred sheep, required a leadership paradigm shift. If our desire is to grow the church, we will have to shift our way of thinking about church leadership. The Pastors authority must be delegated in a way that is proportional to the size of the group he is leading.

When questioned about the leadership model Moses exercised, he responded to Jethro saying, "***the people come to me***" (Exodus 18:15 NKJV). This leadership philosophy does not encourage participation by the whole Body of Christ; it tends to focus the authority on only one person or a small group of people.

Jethro could see that Moses was struggling with his divine calling as the leader of Israel by exercising an autocratic leadership style. Moses was headed for failure because the only leadership model that works in God's Kingdom is the theocratic model, the model provided by God himself.

Theocratic Government

The word theocratic comes from two Greek words teos (God) and kratos (Government). Thus, theocracy is defined as the government of God. A theocratic society is one where authority emanates from God; it is a group that operates under divine order. In the Church, this type of government is not chosen by pastoral preferences but on ministerial gifts. The Lord is the one who gifts men and consequently the one who determines who belongs in what ministries. The pastor only manages them. The Church must establish people in authority according to God-given gifts. "***There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all***" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6 NKJV).

Jethro skillfully presented this concept to Moses while emphasizing the consequences of the leadership method he had been exercising to govern Israel. Jethro told him, "***The thing that you do is not good. Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out***" (Exodus 18:17-18 NKJV). It is very difficult for leaders to hear this. Thankfully, for Moses, it was not.

The New Testament shows us that the Apostles understood the work of the Kingdom is not for a few to complete. When the work multiplied, the Apostles added to their leadership team. Acts 6:3 states: "***Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.***" (NKJV)

One man can never meet all the needs that exist in the local body of believers. Consequently, it is highly important that we decentralize the local church government. Generally, our local churches maintain a conservative ecclesiastical model of church leadership that was established several decades ago. This model is usually comprised of departments organized by gender, marital status, age and ministerial category.

While it is true that these groups were once helpful they now pose the following problem: they work almost exclusively within the walls of the temple and very rarely do they motivate us to go and "***preach the Gospel to every creature.***" (Mark 16:15 NKJV).

Of course, those programs have been good, but many times they do not have a close relationship with the Great Commission. The local church needs to be activated in the Great Commission, reorganized with it as the main axis or task. That's what we were commissioned and sent to do. We must delegate authority to those the Holy Spirit has anointed and granted spiritual gifts. Only then will the body of Christ rise to its full potential as the members of the local church demonstrate concern for each other and for lost souls, thus fulfilling the law of Christ, that is, the Christian priesthood.

III. THE ADMINISTRATION OF CELL GROUP

The occupations of the Pastors are many. The truth is that pastoral work can be fatiguing. In addition to handling the problems and challenges that life presents, the Pastor must also navigate the problems of others and the challenges of church leadership. Delegation is the solution to a good number of the challenges of the local church leadership. The **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY** does not add to the work of the Pastor: it defines it, it structures it. This simple structure allows the Pastor to delegate responsibilities to faithful church members so the local church will function smoothly. Pastors who delegate responsibility are more effective. One of the important questions that pastors ask has to do with cell group management. Who should do what? Although there are many ways to manage cell groups, here is a simple idea that can be applied to the **SIMPLIFIED STRATEGY**. Essentially, there are three positions with three areas of responsibility. They are the following:

The Shepherd

- 1) Projects the Vision.
- 2) Motivates and teaches his leaders.
- 3) Reads the weekly reports and hold his leaders accountable.

The leader of the cell group:

- 1) Gathers statistics (cell assistance)
- 2) Submits his group's report to the administrator or pastor
- 3) Attends pastor's meetings with the cell group leaders.

The administrator:

- 1) Receives weekly reports from cell group leaders
- 2) Organizes the information in global reports
- 3) Delivers the organized reports to the Pastor for review.

The responsibilities are detailed below.

THE PASTOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE

(1) Casts the Vision

The Pastor is the primary vision caster of the church. This we have already stated, but it's worth repeating. What is on his mind and heart will eventually be caught by his people. As we have already stated, this responsibility cannot be delegated. It is the Pastors alone. By vision casting, we mean that the vision (Strategy of Jesus) is always on his heart and in his conversations. He is always promoting the vision among the leadership and congregants.

(2) Motivates and instructs his leaders

The Pastor leads the leaders weekly meeting. There he reviews with his leaders the lesson that they will give at their cell group meeting. He prays for them and motivates them to continue doing the work.

(3) Reads the weekly reports and holds his leaders accountable.

The Pastor must appoint an administrator that be responsible for giving him weekly reports. The Pastor will receive and read the weekly, monthly, and overall reports that have been produced by the administrator of the cell groups. The reports will give him an overall idea of how the cell groups are functioning. He must read the reports. It is crucial for him to stay informed about the condition of his groups. Are they growing? Are cell members inviting their friends? What areas need attention? In order for him to be effective, he must not only be aware of the statistics, but he must be willing to lovingly, but firmly, hold his leaders accountable for the work they are doing. Leaders that are not required to give an account of their work will soon lose motivation. During special activities like the Evangelistic Cycle, the Pastor must stay informed of the progress that is being done. Accountability is key to the success of the cell group. Although, calling volunteer leaders to give an account is difficult, it is a necessary task that, if done consistently, will in time bear its fruit.

CELL GROUP LEADERS ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE**(1) Gathers statistics (attendance at cell)**

Aside from the many "care" responsibilities of the cell group leader, administratively, the cell group leader is responsible for making sure all information required by the Pastor is submitted in his Weekly Report. The cell leader may delegate this data gathering responsibility to someone else in the group, but at the end of the day, he is responsible to make sure it is gathered and submitted.

(2) Submits his/her reports to the Administrator or Pastor

The cell leader, or whomever is assigned the task, must submit the Weekly Report to the cell groups administrator or to the Pastor. The report should be submitted on time. This is fundamental to assisting the Pastor stay on top of the health and the growth of the church. If reporting is inconsistent or sporadic, it will be very difficult to keep track of the overall advance of the ministry.

(3) Attends the MEET meetings.

Cell Groups leaders must attend a weekly meeting with the Pastor. There he/she will receive instruction and be accountable to the leadership for the work that is being done in the cell group.

CELL GROUPS ADMINISTRATOR'S ROLE**(1) Receives the weekly reports from the cell group leaders**

The administrator is responsible for gathering all the information from the cell groups. His/her work is not complete until all the reports have been submitted. The Pastor should not have to concern himself with gathering information. This is the responsibility of the cell groups leaders and the administrator.

(2) Organizes the information into different reports

Once the administrator has the information, he/she has to organize the information in such a way that the Pastor has a global view of the entire cell group system. The size of the church will determine how the weekly reports are organized. They may be organized in a weekly, monthly and yearly basis. The important thing is for the Pastor to have a clear picture of how the cells are operating. The reports will not only inform the Pastor of the present status of the church but also of its potential for growth in the future.

(3) Gives the organized reports to the Pastor for review.

Once the information from the cell groups has been organized, the administrator should make sure the Pastor gets the information.

CONCLUSION

The urgency today is to reorganize the Church with the Great Commission in mind, only then will we reach our potential and become the church Christ intends for us to be: a reaching church, a discipling church, a spirit enabled and empowered church, a church that is impacting our communities and the nations. We are living in a very special time. God has placed in our hands the tools to accomplish the mission of the church. Let us work with passion for the greatest cause in the world – the Gospel.

REPORT SAMPLES

CELL GROUP MEETING

CELL GROUP _____

CELL GROUP ADDRESS _____

LEADER'S NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

DATE & TIME OF MEETING _____

HOST'S NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ASSISTANT'S NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

No.	BAPTIZED NAME	CHAPTERS READ
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
TOTAL CHAPTERS		_____

DATE	DAY	MTH.	YEAR
_____	_____	_____	_____

OFFERING	_____
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No.	VISTORS NAME	CHAPTERS READ
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
TOTAL CHAPTERS		_____

No.	CHILDREN'S NAME
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

TOTAL SUM OF CHAPTERS _____

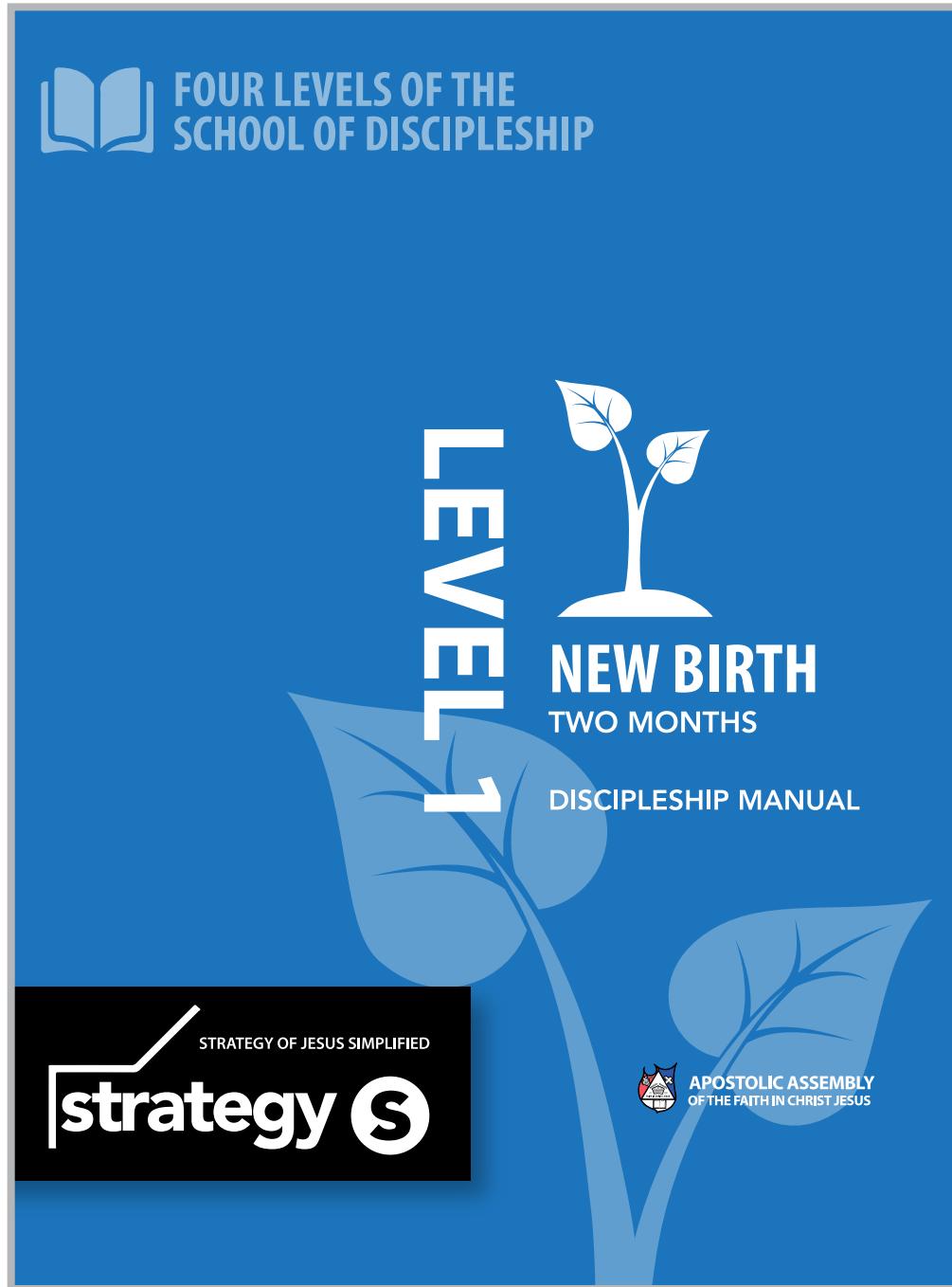
OBSERVATION _____

REPORT SAMPLES**ZONE SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

SEMESTER	_____	YEAR	_____
CELL GROUP	_____		
ZONE	_____		
AREA	_____		
LEADER'S NAME	_____		
ZONE SUPERVISOR	_____		
AREA COORDINATOR	_____		

ID	SUPERVISORS SIGNATURE	DATE	ID	SUPERVISORS SIGNATURE	DATE
1		14			
2		15			
3		16			
4		17			
5		18			
6		19			
7		20			
8		21			
9		22			
10		23			
11		24			
12		25			
13		26			

Other Resources



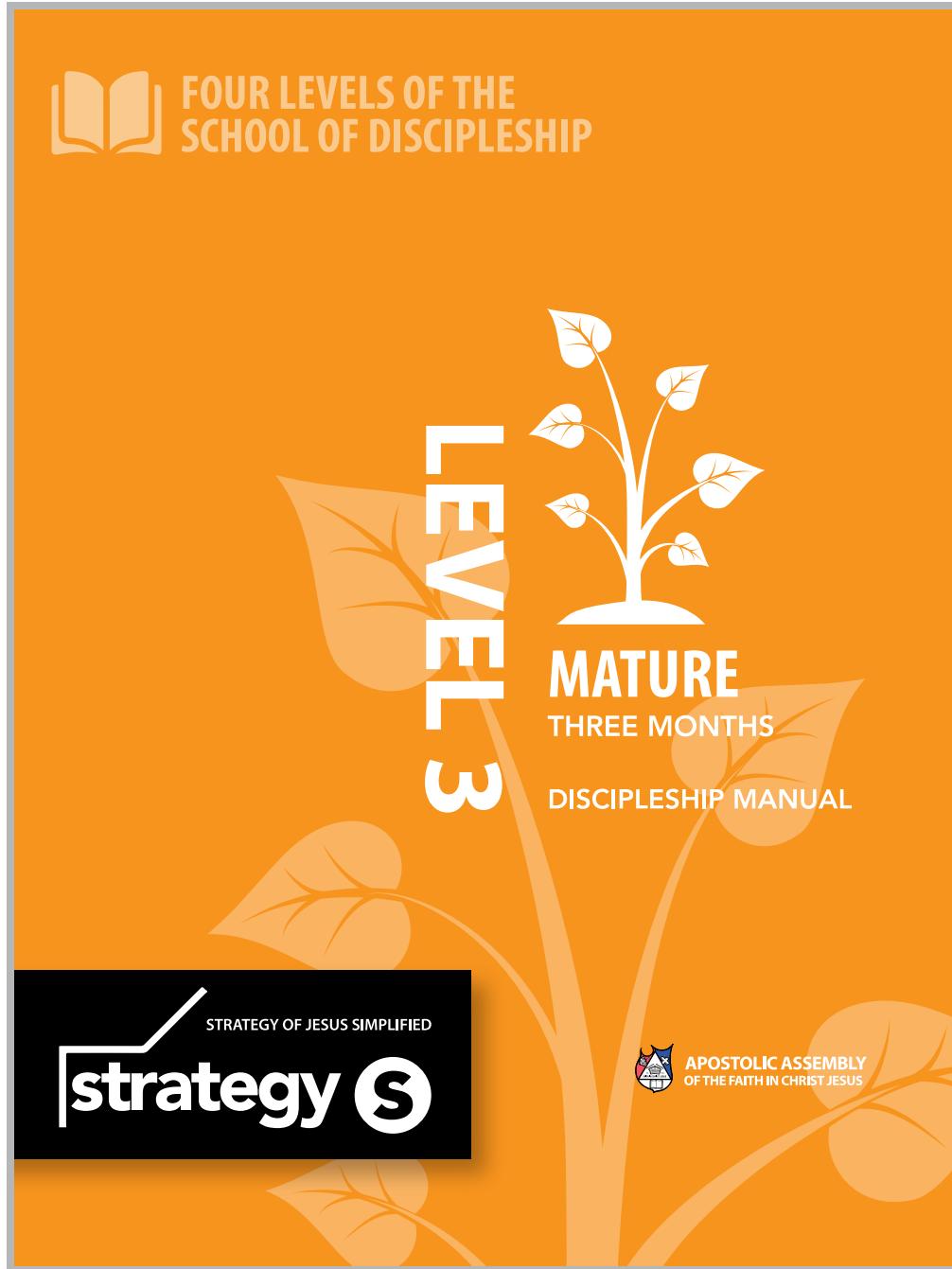
16 Discipleship Lessons Level 1

Preparation for water baptism and commitment to local membership



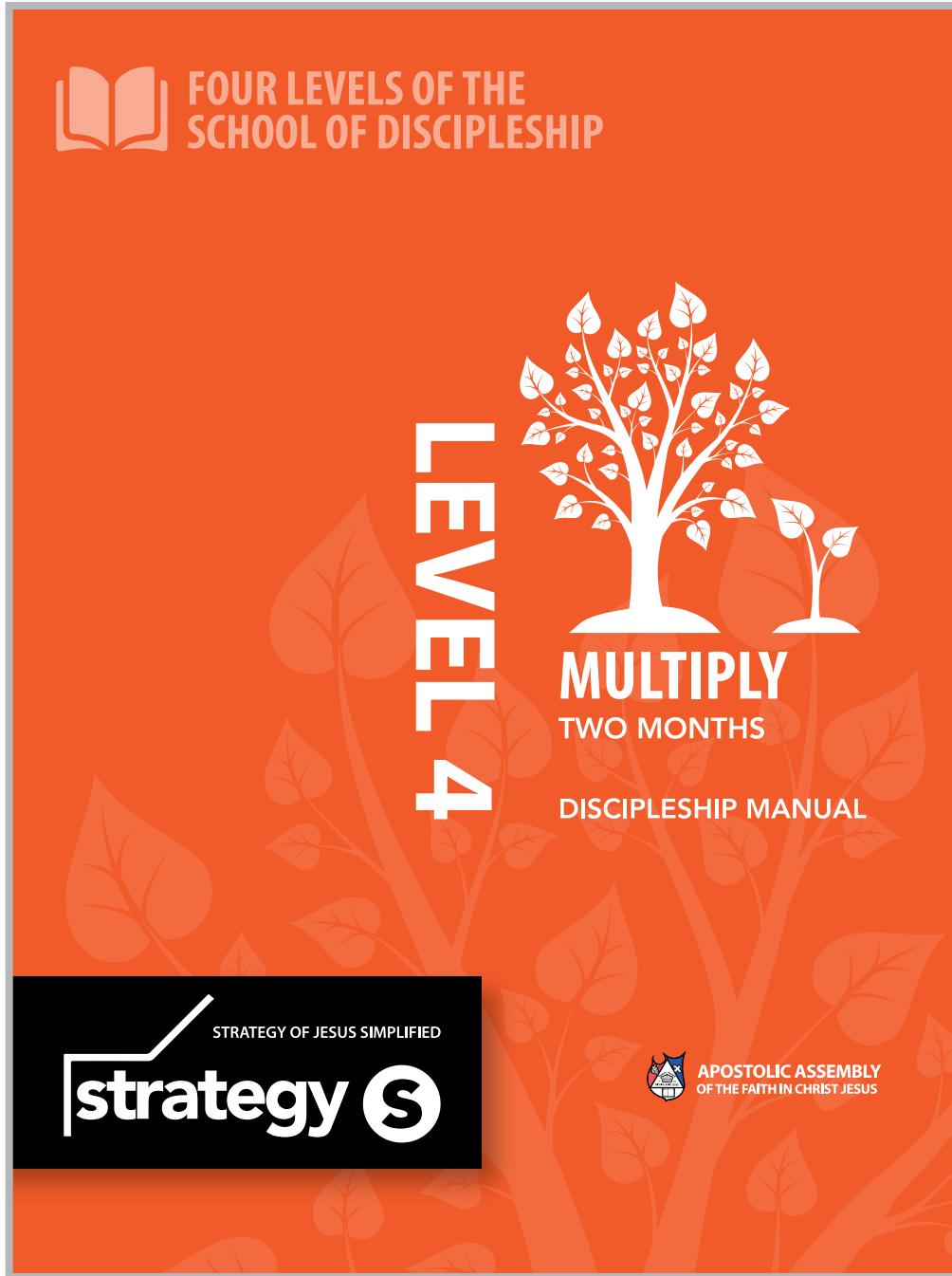
24 Discipleship Lessons Level 2

To help the new believer develop their relationship with God and other people.



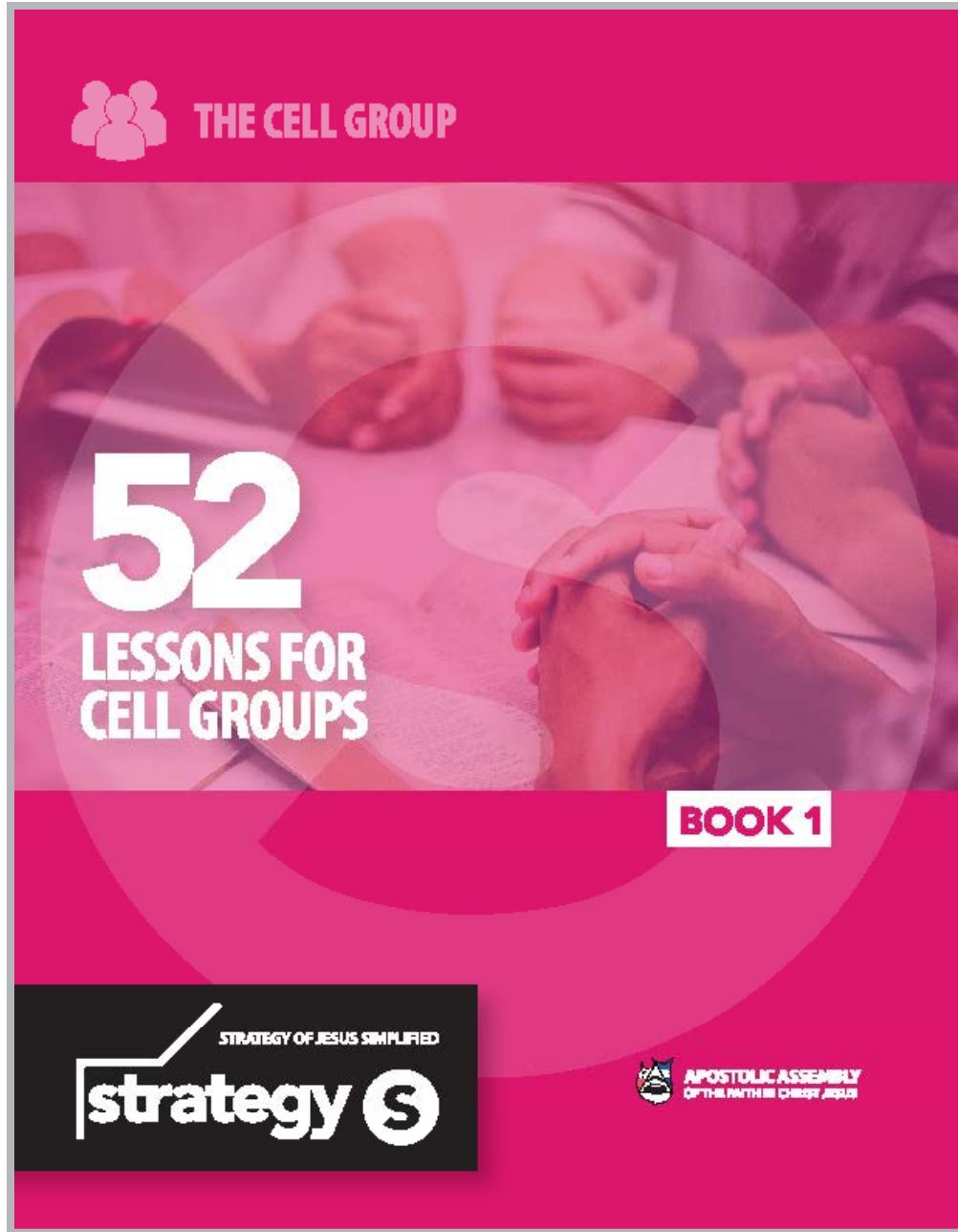
24 Discipleship Lessons Level 3

To guide the disciple towards excellence in service to the Lord and His Church.



16 Discipleship Lessons Level 4

To introduce the disciple to the cellular vision of the Church and commit them to it.



52 lessons for cell groups
Evangelistic Bible studies and edification for the whole year.

Three New Birth Cycles

1st
2nd
3rd

	DATES	ACTIVITIES	DURATION
JANUARY - APRIL	January 6 – January 26	21 days Fasting and Prayer	3 weeks
	January 6 – February 9	Evangelistic Cycle	5 weeks
	February 9	Friends Day	
	February 10 – February 29	Integration into Cell Group	3 weeks
	March 1 – April 30	Discipleship Level 1 New Birth	2 weeks
	May 3	Baptism in Water	
	May – June	National Evaluation	
MAY - AUGUST	May 4 – May 24	21 days Fasting and Prayer	3 weeks
	May 4 – June 7	Evangelistic Cycle	5 weeks
	June 7	Friends Day	
	June 8 – June 27	Integration into Cell Group	3 weeks
	June 28 – August 29	Discipleship Level 1 New Birth	2 weeks
	August 30	Baptism in Water	
	September – October	National Evaluation	
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER	August 31 – September 20	21 days Fasting and Prayer	3 weeks
	August 31 – October 4	Evangelistic Cycle	5 weeks
	October 4	Friends Day	
	October 5 – October 24	Integration into Cell Group	3 weeks
	October 25 – December 26	Discipleship Level 1 New Birth	2 weeks
	December 27	Baptism in Water	
	January – February	National Evaluation	

Notes

Notes

STRATEGY OF JESUS SIMPLIFIED

strategy S

If you are a Pastor, Minister or Evangelist
and you need assistance or training seminars regarding this manual,
you can contact us at:

soj@apostolicassembly.org

with the subject title:

"Simplified Strategy"

It will be our pleasure to serve you.

STRATEGY OF JESUS SIMPLIFIED

strategy S

The Strategy of Jesus is the model of evangelism that we use in the Apostolic Assembly to move towards the fulfillment of our mission as a Church.

In this manual, we present the fourth update of the program since it was launched in 2007.

What is offered here is a simplification of the method with the purpose of helping churches that have had difficulties applying the Strategy of Jesus now implement it with relative simplicity.

In this first stage, we teach three gears: Cycle of Evangelization, Cell Groups, and School of Discipleship; processes that can be implemented in any New Work, Mission or Churches that want to start using it.

Our desire and prayer is that this manual becomes a useful tool that helps churches of the Apostolic Assembly successfully embrace the Strategy of Jesus model.

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." Acts 5:42

For more resources
visit our website:



APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY
OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS