

***“Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch to assist many others who were teaching and preaching the word of the Lord there.”***

Acts 15:35 (NLT)

To all of you who have responded to Jesus' command to make disciples by inviting people to be part of a Discovery Group: We are so excited and want to celebrate and support what God is doing in and through you!

Discovery Groups are a brand-new concept and learn-by-doing experience for all of us. In the book that someone, someday, will write about Disciple-Making Movements (DMM) in North America, Oakdale's Wildly Important Goal of “sending out 1,200 disciple-makers by Dec. 31, 2020” could even be part of Chapter 1. As we “make the road by walking,” it requires having faith and trust in God and relying on the Holy Spirit like never before.

And particularly because we are pioneers, it also requires **Ongoing Coaching**. Pastor Roy Moran, whose church was an early Discovery Group adopter, says, “Since this is not leading edge but bleeding edge stuff, it becomes vital to have a value of training, coaching and mentoring at the heart of catalyzing a movement. Movements live and die on good mentoring and coaching.” As you help people discover and obey God's Word, you also need to be part of an informal leaders' group that can guide you and troubleshoot difficulties.

We are aware that “coaching” has a negative connotation in our culture. “Americans don't seek nor especially appreciate coaching,” Moran notes. But the kind of coaching we have in mind is entirely different from the unfortunate reality of a screamer with a clipboard on the athletic field or a disciplinary action in the workplace. Our model is based on the biblical principle found in Proverbs 27:17: “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

We're inviting you to get together to tell powerful stories; share victories and challenges; ask and answer questions; encourage, learn from and pray with a group of your peers—some of whom will be a step ahead of where you are, having experienced what you are experiencing, having already seen what you're hoping to see, and can speak from having “been there, done that.”

Feel free to invite anyone else you know who is leading a Discovery Group, and let me know if you have any questions.

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