

BEARING FRUIT THAT REMAINS

20:20 VISION NUMERICAL GROWTH GOAL:

“By 2020 we see 100% growth in the number of cell members and the number of cells”

INTRODUCTION

This is about quality as well as quantity

- “fruit that remains”
- Multiplying disciples not just making converts
- 3 John 4 “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

Your disciple making capacity

- You are called to be a disciple-maker
- Jesus has given you the capacity to do it
- It brings glory to the Father

John 15:8

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ESV

John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ESV

The disciple-making process

- You are seed-bearing fruit
- This produces the nature and character of Christ in you (formation)
- Then it reproduces that nature and character of Christ in others (multiplication)

PREPARING YOURSELF TO BEAR FRUIT

1. REACH OUT

- It takes conscious effort, a decision to reach out to those who do not yet know Jesus
- It is costly because you lay yourself on the line
- It is about loving others enough to be concerned about their spiritual destiny

2. HAVE CONFIDENCE

- Be encouraged! Jesus said, “I am with you”
- The Holy Spirit will guide you and empower you

3. BE EQUIPPED

1 Peter 3:14-16

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ESV

- Be prepared for rejection (as well as a good response)
- Honour Christ above all
- Know what you believe (how to make a good gospel presentation)
- Know why you believe it (be able to defend it)
- Know how to communicate the gospel with others (start with where they are and lead them step by step to Jesus.

4. PRAY CONSTANTLY

- Begin with the Prayer of 3
- Focus on those the Holy Spirit shows you – your friends and those in your circle of influence
- Choose those who are potential cell members – those who you can bring into your cell
- Pray daily, covering the whole process with prayer for these to come to Christ

5. SHARE THE GOSPEL

- Testimony
- Invitation to cell meeting
- Organise special evangelistic moments through the cell group
- Bring people to services and special evangelistic events
- Call them to commit to Christ
- Consolidate the new believers immediately

RESPONSE