



Missional Community  
New Leader  
Orientation

## **Passage Church Vision**

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*To be followers of Jesus who make followers of Jesus,  
where we live and where he leads.*

## **Missional Community Definition**

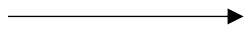
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*A community of Jesus followers on mission with God in obedience to the Holy Spirit  
that demonstrates the kingdom tangibly and declares the gospel of Jesus  
creatively to specific pockets of people.*

## **Reshaping Culture**

### **Sunday Attender**

Individualist



### **Missionary**

Community

Consumerist



Self-Feeding, Self-Leading

Materialist



Generous

## **Missional Communities Defined**

### **A community of Jesus followers**

*“Peace be with you, as the father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” -John 20:21*

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” -Acts 1:8*

We are called and sent to show our hurting world the hope that Jesus brings and the life that is available through him. We are not called to do that on our own, but through Christian community. It is our prayer that your group will in fact display true community to one another and the world around them.

- What are some essential elements of community?
- Was there a time in your life when you experienced Christian community?
- There are a number “one another” commands to believers in the New Testament, can you think of any?

## On Mission with God

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you might proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” -1 Peter 2:9*

- How would you define the mission of God?
- What does it mean to demonstrate the kingdom tangibly?
- How does a community declare the Gospel creatively?

## Specific pockets of people

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” – Acts 1:8*

*“On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, a just as Peter was for the circumcised, since the one at work in Peter for an apostleship to the circumcised was also at work in me for the Gentiles.” – Galatians 2:8-9*

When we think about the ministry of a missional community, we want to consider two pockets of people they will actively declare the Gospel with.

- The first pocket is the individuals and families that make up your missional community. We want to regularly declare the gospel to one another as we regularly gather.
- The second pocket of people are the individuals and families directly connected to mission your group will choose to serve. A missional community will adopt a neighborhood, ministry, or organization where they are actively living as disciples of Jesus.

Remember - while we might partner with ministries or organizations people are always the target of the mission.

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## **Missional Community Values**

Word – We study the Bible together.

Prayer – We talk to God together.

Demonstrate – We meet needs within and outside the community.

Declare – We tell ourselves and others about Jesus.

## **Qualifications of a Leader**

### **1.) A Grasp of the Gospel and Your story.**

We do not want to assume the Gospel in our groups. When we assume the Gospel, it will soon become confused, and eventually lost. We want our leaders to be able to know the Gospel and apply the Gospel to life. (Book suggestion Gospel Fluency)

We also want the Gospel to shape the way we share our stories. As we lead our groups, we want people to share their stories with one another. It is important as leaders we can communicate our story, with the Gospel at the center. Our story is more than I used to do bad things, now I do fewer bad things, but I was dead, and Christ has made me alive.

### **2.) Affirmation of Church Doctrinal Statement and Covenant Membership**

### **3.) Understanding of Mission**

Some groups will have a mission identified before they launch. They will gather and recruit people around that specific mission. While this can be helpful it is not required to begin a group. It is required that leaders understand that the mission they choose should focus on people whom we can serve and declare the gospel.

### **4.) Recruit a core team.**

Expressing a desire to lead doesn't automatically make someone a leader. Leaders have people who follow them. The first step for anyone is to gather 3 or 4 core team members to the vision they desire to pursue. The best indicator of the future success of a leader is if they can rally a core to their mission.

### **5.) Launch**

That is it! time to get started. No final exam, no theological paper, start meeting!

## **The Role of Shepherding**

### **Know**

The first step in being a good shepherd is to know the sheep God has entrusted to you. This involves knowing them personally in a growing relationship.

*Know Their Past.* Get to know their story. It is important that you can share your story so they will feel comfortable sharing their story with you. We have all experienced victories and heartaches, those experiences have shaped who we are, how we think, and how we live. Sharing our stories is one of the fast ways your group will connect with one another.

*Know Their Present.* What are the hopes of the people in your group, what are their fears, what are their needs. Knowing their hopes and fears will give you a window into what they value and believe about God.

*Presence.* There is no substitute for spending time with those in your Missional Community. This is true at all times, but especially in times of crisis. Can you think of a time when you walked through your own crisis? You probably don't remember all the words spoken to you, but you remember who was there.

### **Feed**

A good shepherd will make sure that the sheep are feeding on good food. We want to feed those in our group, but our ultimate goal is that will become a self-feeder. We want to model for them how to engage with the word of God and the role it will play in helping them grow in knowledge and love for Christ.

One thing to keep in mind is people will learn differently. As a shepherd you are changing up your feeding methods so all the sheep are eating and to see what methods are most effective.

### **Lead**

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul says, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." In others words we are saying watch me, step where I step, go where I go. This text will probably give you a little anxiety because you and I are keenly aware of our own struggles and sin, but that is okay. We are to pursue holiness and encourage others to do the same. At some point, as they imitate you, they will get to see the example of confession and repentance as you demonstrate what to do when you fall short.

### **Protect**

We have a responsibility to recognize dangers and protect the flock. We must identify things that can be hurtful to the sheep and speak out against them. We must train ourselves and pray for God's help to distinguish good from evil. Missional Community leaders are the first line of defense in protecting the sheep. This will require compassion, courage, and connection with church leadership. This also requires regular contact with church leadership.

## **Element 1 - Rhythms**

Establishing a routine is important. Carving out time for community discipleship is a weekly challenge. MCG's should operate on a rhythm that is life giving.

### **Finding a Rhythm**

- How often to meet?
- Where do we meet?
- What do we study?
- Is there a meal?
- How often to be on mission?

### **Examples**

- Meet every week
- Host family house
- Group study on Right Now Media
- Snacks Available
- Every Monday at the food pantry

Consider the following:

1. What are the factors that determine the rhythm of your MCG?
2. How might a healthy rhythm benefit the health of your MCG?
3. How might an unhealthy rhythm detract from MCG health?

## **Element 2 - Affinity**

Community is at the core of missional community (it's in the name). Community is fostered, not taught. The bedrock of community is a people who demonstrate biblical love and deep friendships - It's a Love and a Like.

Fig. 1

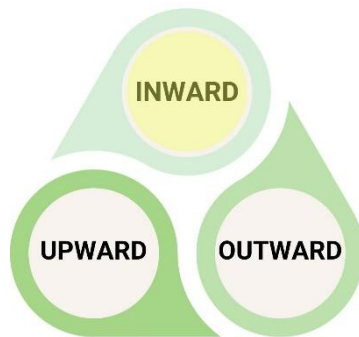


Fig. 1.1



Building Affinity / Inward-Outward-Upward

- Balancing the three components of MCG: Bible, Mission, Community
- Community as a foundation (rather than content).
- Mission as a unifying, movement generating force.
- Bible as the authority and direction of everything.

Think About It:

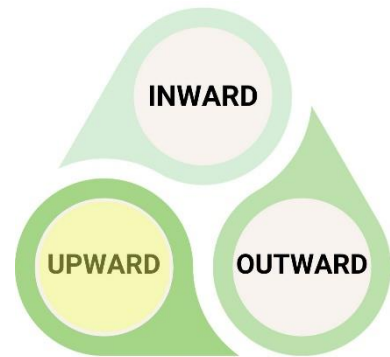
1. Have you ever been a part of a biblical community that you felt deeply connected to? Why?
2. What makes a healthy and loving community in your opinion?
3. How does affinity for one another increase the effectiveness of bible study and mission?

## **Element 3 – Content**

If the MCG meeting is like a meal, content is the main course. It's what we study together. As we've discussed, study is not what we spend all of our time on but the content you choose is crucial to the health of your MCG.

### **Guidelines for MCG Content**

- Content drives the UPWARD direction of your group, therefore, it should be centered around God's word.
- Rather than list every possible resource that could be used to study the Bible in MCG it's easier to apply the Head, Heart, Hands principle. This means every time you gather as an MCG to no matter what study we want to engage these three key areas of our lives:
  - **HEAD** - Our minds are renewed by the knowledge of God, allowing Him to change what and how we think.
  - **HEART** - Our souls are restored by the application of truth to our wounds, stories, suffering, and sin.
  - **HANDS** - Our everyday lives are transformed through the power of the Spirit to call us into obedience to the truth.
- We implement this by asking good questions that get to the core of our struggles and address our sins with the gospel!



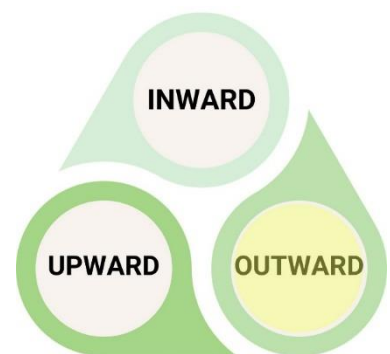
## **Element 4 – Mission**

We defined Missional Community earlier as “A community of Jesus followers on mission with God in obedience to the Holy Spirit that **demonstrates** the kingdom tangibly and **declares** the gospel of Jesus creatively to specific pockets of people.”

Demonstrating and declaring is where we practice living out the mission Jesus gave to us, his followers.

Mission is the Outward component of MCG. This can and often does develop in stages as people begin to connect with one another.

We must make an intentional shift within the first few months to keep the INWARD focus from dominating.



You Must:

- Identify a pocket of people you want to reach. A neighborhood, a people group or a demographic.
- Pray and Plan a way to demonstrate and declare the gospel to them.
- Make your mission a priority and living on mission will become the culture of your MCG.



## **Element 5 – Growth**

When all the ingredients of MCG come together successfully, we believe that growth is inevitable. That is growth in both the number of families being disciplined AND the fruitfulness of individual's lives.

### **Two Types of Growth**

1. Numerical
2. Spiritual

### **Numerical Growth**

- We firmly believe that MCG is one of the best way to accelerate your spiritual growth, therefore, every group should seek to grow by adding new families at all times. There are two primary pools to pull from:
  - Passage Church Families not currently connected to an MC.
  - Families in your community or pocket of people who you want to reach for Christ.

### **Spiritual Growth Outcomes**

- **Gospel Transformation**  
It is our desire that God will use life in community and on mission for the discipleship and growth of everyone involved. As we center our efforts on the Gospel of Jesus and the Word of God, we believe leaders and participants will grow in Christ-likeness. Good leaders are important, but Gospel transformation is a task only God can accomplish.
- **Biblical Community**  
It is our prayer that leaders will facilitate an environment where community can grow. Through sharing your stories, sharing the mission, and sharing meals we pray that encouragement, support, and care will arise as we live alongside each other.
- **Fruitful Mission**  
Through the faithful ministry of those within the group it is our prayer that the hope of the Gospel be declared to those within your mission. Through the work of the missional community we pray that new disciples will be made, baptized, equipped, and sent.
- **Multiplication**  
We won't have this full conversation right now, but it is our hope that as your healthy group grows there will come a day where that mission will multiply. We want to help you identify, recruit, train, and send different leaders to shepherd a community.

## **Element 6 - Multiplication**

Multiplying is the goal of every MCG but in order for the goal to be realized it takes intentionality, prayer and time.

### **When is it Time to Multiply?**

- When there is a clear opportunity to reach a new pocket of people.
- When a new leader(s) present themselves.
- When the group is healthy and growing.
- Count the cost and realize it's always difficult to send people out.

Implement these principles from the beginning to set a groundwork for your groups eventual multiplication:

### **Shared Leadership**

Sharing leadership is the first step in creating opportunities for new leaders to step up and take ownership of the calling we all have – to be a disciple and make disciples. It's not just a good idea to share the burden of leading your MCG with others - it NECESSARY! Below are some roles that need to be filled by others in your group.

- Leader/shepherd
- Missions Coordinator
- Family Meal Coordinator
- Discussion / Teaching
- Childcare Coordinator
- Communication (text/email)

### **Shared Life**

Sharing life is journeying together through our walk with the Lord. Group members will grow and display fruit that shows you (the leader) they are on track to lead in new ways. To encourage this growth we have to share life with them in the following ways.

- Life on life – spending time together intentionally. Walking through good and bad.
- Formal training – studying scripture, reading books, and tackling issues together.
- Informal Training – living a “follow me as I follow Christ” life in front of them.
- Resourcing – sharing books, podcasts, sermons with one another.

### **Shared Launch**

As the opportunity to start new MCG's becomes apparent, follow the four step model below:

- |          |       |   |
|----------|-------|---|
| • Model  | _____ | Teach and display the concept.              |
| • Assist | _____ | Guided leadership that decreases over time. |
| • Watch  | _____ | Background participant/Limited presence.    |
| • Leave  | _____ | Begin again somewhere else.                 |

## Appendix I: Spiritual Leadership

### FOUNDATIONS OF A SPIRITUAL LEADER

*“But Jesus called them to Himself and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many’.” Matthew 20:25-28*

### WHAT IS SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP?

Leadership can be defined and illustrated in a variety of ways (some have estimated there are over 850 definitions of leadership!). However, there is one definition that is widely and generally accepted:

### LEADERSHIP IS INFLUENCE

When it comes to godly leadership, the presence of and reliance upon the Holy Spirit radically differentiates itself from worldly leadership. As the believer responds to the call of leadership, his or her ability to influence others is empowered by the active work of the Holy Spirit.

*“Leadership is the ability to influence others to follow his or her lead.” He goes on to say, “The personality of the spiritual leader influences others because it is penetrated, saturated, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. As the leader gives control of his life to the Spirit, the Spirit’s power flows through him to others.” - Oswald Chambers*

It is the reliance upon the Holy Spirit that God uses in leaders to accomplish His purposes in the world. John Piper says: “Christian leadership is knowing where God wants people to be and taking the initiative to use God’s methods to get them there, in reliance on God’s power.”

What is a spiritual leader? We define a godly leader as:

- A **FOLLOWER** of Jesus who,
- Relying on the **HOLY SPIRIT**
- **INFLUENCES** others to
- accomplish God’s **MISSION** to the world.

As the leadership community of Generation, we want to unite around the common foundation of leadership and further equip leaders for fulfilling God’s mission. We desire that all leaders reflect the life and leadership of Jesus, that we would become like Jesus. We believe that attitude is best summed up as:

## SERVING IS OUR PRIVILEGE

*Service is simply the life of Jesus flowing through us, touching others.*

### **Why do we serve? Because He first served us.**

Here at Generation, we believe that “Serving is our Privilege” and that is why it is one of our values. We serve with a nothing beneath me mentality. Everywhere we turn in the Gospels we see Jesus serving. John 13 gives a powerful picture of the servant nature of Jesus. Here the Teacher and Lord washes the disciple’s feet and then gives this challenge:

“For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”  
- John 13:15

The ultimate example of serving is Christ’s death on the cross. Our response to the gospel is to serve because He served us.

## SKILLS OF A LEADER

Lastly, there are fundamental skills that all leaders should possess. With our character shaped after Jesus and our minds filled with the Word, we can turn our attention to the practical aspects of leaders: what leaders **DO**. There are two categories of skill that a leader needs to demonstrate proficiency in: **task-oriented skills** and **relationally-oriented skills**.

### **Task-Oriented Skills:**

- **CAST VISION AND RECRUIT**
  - Every leader needs to possess the ability to hear from the Lord about a need that needs to be met and tell that story in an authentic way that motivates and inspires people to want to act.
  - Leaders also need to be adept at approaching and inviting people to join them in fulfilling God’s call-in ways that honor people, enabling them to take steps without fear, coercion, or guilt.
- **COMMUNICATE AND DELEGATE**
  - Oral and written skills are a necessary tool for effective leadership. In some roles, leaders will need to teach.
  - We believe the Holy Spirit uniquely gifts each believer, enabling them to have a kingdom contribution to the work of the King. A spiritual leader recognizes that the Lord calls many to help fulfill the vision and uses the leader to invite or delegate responsibilities to others. As leaders delegate, not only is the responsibility of the group shared, but potential new leaders are also identified.

## SHARE YOUR FAITH / DISCIPLE A FEW!

We believe that every leader is not only a disciple, but also disciple-maker. The process of discipleship begins with knowing how to share your faith, presenting the gospel, and helping a person come to faith in Jesus.

We also believe that every leader should personally invest in a few others, helping them to become a disciple who makes disciples.