

@Discipleship in 140 Characters

Twitter insights from #Verge13...

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- @Mike_Breen
- @JohnWBryson
- @FrancisChan
- @MichaelFrost6
- @Neil_Cole
- @JeffVanderstelt
- @JackieEHill
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- @DaveGibbons
- @Matt_Smay
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compiled by
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@Discipleship in 140 Characters: Twitter Insights From #verge13

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Foreword by Dave Ferguson

In recent months, Exponential has been part of a conversation that has given way to a renewed understanding of movements and how they start. As we examine the epicenter of a Jesus movement, each and every time we find that the crux is always disciple making. This vital conversation is finding new legs as conferences like Verge and Exponential put discipleship front and center. It is a conversation that's leading new and existing churches to transition their ministry to focus on making disciples—apprenticing people in the ways of Jesus. And when apprenticeship starts to reproduce, we start to see the beginnings of movement that accomplish the mission of Jesus.

To provide leadership to that conversation, over the last year Exponential has developed resources and initiated conversations around five shifts churches can make to be better at discipleship. We believe the church needs to experience a DiscipleShift.

DiscipleShift begins when churches and leaders see their primary task as making and mobilizing disciples. When churches and leaders fulfill Jesus' Matthew 28 commission, the church becomes a movement advancing and accomplishing His mission worldwide. Here's a broad overview of all five shifts:

DiscipleShift 1: *From Reaching to Making*

DiscipleShift occurs when church leaders move away from only reaching people and toward relational disciple making that apprentices people in the ways of Jesus.

DiscipleShift 2: *From Leading to Being Led*

DiscipleShift occurs when church leaders move away from leading and toward being led by Jesus. Because leaders reproduce who they are, if we want to make strong, mature disciples, then we as leaders must first be strong, mature disciples.

DiscipleShift 3: *From Teaching to Modeling*

DiscipleShift occurs when church leaders shift their role from teaching to modeling, making disciples like Jesus did. Jesus' strategy for influencing the world was apprenticing and equipping 12 disciples—as He modeled faith, service and leadership—and then commission these disciples to do the same with their lives.

DiscipleShift 4: *From Assimilating to Creating Community*

DiscipleShift occurs when we as leaders move away from assimilating people into programs and move toward creating missional communities. Communities created around a cause foster environments of encouragement, accountability and risk-taking where disciple making happens best.

DiscipleShift 5: *From Attracting to Deploying*

DiscipleShift occurs when leaders shift their focus from drawing in masses of people to leading churches who send equipped Christ followers to the masses. Our scorecards must change from simply counting the number of people we attract to counting the number of people we deploy.

As you read the quotes in this eBook and think about the speakers' words, my hope and prayer is that you will experience a shift in your thinking and leadership that will ultimately apprentice more people in the ways of Jesus. This is a DiscipleShift that will accelerate movements and accomplish His Great mission!

Dave Ferguson

President of Exponential, lead pastor of Community Christian Church in Chicago and founder of the NewThing Network.

Introduction

Discipleship is all about being drawn into the purposes of God found in Jesus Christ. –Alan Hirsch, at Verge 2013

At the Verge 2013 conference presented by the Verge Network, more than 50 national leaders, including missiologist Alan Hirsch, came together for three days to talk about discipleship to crowds of thousands.

Led by headlining speakers Francis Chan, Dave Gibbons, David Platt, Jo Saxton, Jeff Vanderstelt, Hirsch, Michael Frost and Dr. John Perkins, the conversation at Verge 2013 centered on “getting to the core of the content, context, culture and process of making and multiplying Gospel-centered, reproducing disciples.”

With this eBook, we’ve attempted to capture the conversation begun at Verge 2013 in 140 characters—the fresh ideas and insights that resonated with individuals nationwide as they tweeted and retweeted them to their communities and tribes. Exponential’s Ron Furgerson combed the Web searching through thousands of #verge13 hashtags to come up with this collection of hundreds of poignant, discipleship-focused quotes from Verge 2013.

Each of the following five chapters presents the tweets in the context of five discipleship shifts we must make to become better at making and releasing disciples:

From Reaching to Making
From Leading to Being Led
From Teaching to Modeling
From Assimilating to Creating Community
From Attracting to Deploying

In the appendix at the back of the book, you’ll find the quotes alphabetically organized by the speaker who said them.

At Exponential 2013, the conversation continues, focusing on these five “discipleshifts.” With both Exponential and Verge having sold-out attendance, both having a high-quality webcast reaching an estimated 30,000 and both focused on discipleship within a couple months of each other, clearly the Great Commission and how we become better at carrying it out is on the hearts and minds of many in the church.

Indeed, Hirsch believes this discipleship conversation is integral to the church extending the purpose and mission of God in the world. “The fact that we’re having these conversations on these national platforms is very good news. I think we’re onto it.”

He points out that while discipleship is not a quick solution (it won't happen in two to three years), the shift begins with the conversation. "In five years, I guarantee you that any church taking discipleship seriously and approaching it strategically will be a world-changer church. We've got to go in that direction, and to do that we need to be talking about it."

Our hope is that by spotlighting these tweets and leaders, we offer another free eBook in the Exponential Resource Series to help you sort out how God is leading you in your individual discipleship journey and possibly the DiscipleShift He may be calling you to lead in your church—as you're drawn into the purposes of God found in His Son.

The Exponential Team

Chapter 1:

DiscipleShift 1: From Reaching to Making

Biblical discipleship requires us to shift our focus from reaching people with the Gospel to convert them to making disciples conformed to the image of Christ.

A proper understanding of what it means to follow Jesus leads to proper obedience in making disciples—David Platt, at Verge 2013

Teach them to observe everything I have commanded you. (Jesus)

If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. (Jesus)

Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. (Jesus)

Everybody has a plan, until they get punched in the face. ... Rehearse for the day when it all goes off script. ... (William “Duce” Branch)

Will you stick with disciples when they punch you in the face? (Branch)

Truth transferred in the context of relationship ... nothing is more transformative. (John Bryson)

You CANNOT call yourself a disciple of Christ and NOT be a disciple maker. (Matt Carter)

Our disciple making is always going to be this inseparable overflow of our walk with Jesus Christ. (Carter)

We are to be window cleaners to help people see more & more the wonder, magnificence and grace of God through Christ. (Michael Frost)

Commit yourself to cleaning the windows of the lives of those who have not yet been set free. (Frost)

Disciples have dirty and calloused hands. Their eyes are filled with fear and wonder. (Frost)

Imagine the disciples saying, “Jesus, can we get a little joy joy joy joy down in our hearts rather than plowing?” (Frost)

There is no place for half-hearted discipleship among Jesus followers. (Frost)

Home is where meaningful relationship happens. You don't think about a mass of people; you think about the individual. (Frost)

If we are not careful, we can spend our lives justifying why God's power is not seen in our lives. (Francis Chan)

Jesus loved everybody, but He invested in the 2 or 3. That's where discipleship happens—life on life. (Neil Cole)

Jesus loved everyone but invested in 2 or 3, walked with 12, and had a team of 72. (Cole)

When God wants to start a movement, He doesn't start with the best people. He starts with the broken. (Cole)

Bad people make good soil because there is a lot of fertilizer in their life. (Cole)

If you really want something to grow, look for people with lots of "fertilizer" in their life! (Cole)

Life is too short to invest it working bad soil. (Cole)

Discipleship is investing in people who will live longer than I do and go farther than I go. (Cole)

Most of us don't make disciples because we don't delegate like Jesus did. (Todd Engstrom)

The beauty of third place is that it creates a space where someone can belong before they believe. (Engstrom)

Mission is about people, not projects. (Engstrom)

A missionary is someone who sacrifices everything but the Gospel for the sake of the Gospel. (Engstrom)

When you think about discipleship, just think about home and treat everyone how you would treat your family. (Dave Gibbons)

It's really fun to associate with the Father, be on mission with friends, and hang out with those far from God. (Hugh Halter)

Jesus was friends with notorious sinners. Jesus got this reputation because He was with “those” people. He loved them. (Halter)

People will always be drawn to the Good News ... the Kingdom of God is Good News demonstrated. (Halter)

Missional, incarnational life is not a bummer; it’s awesome. Start enjoying the rest of your life. (Halter)

You’ve got to associate with the worthy to be found: the lost and the least. (Halter)

Jesus’ disciples were His schedule. (Jackie Hill)

Let us make war with the ticking in our minds before our time runs out. (Hill)

Good news is shared as you disciple. You have to reframe evangelism as part of what happens with discipleship. (Alan Hirsch)

We have to understand evangelism within the context of discipleship. Jesus had pre-conversion disciples, and so do we. (Hirsch)

Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ. (Hirsch)

You can’t teach a man what he thinks he already knows. (Hirsch)

We don’t need more deep teaching if we haven’t figured out how to live out the last thing we’ve heard. (Caesar Kalinowski)

What if everything we’re already doing is a perfect opportunity for discipleship? (Kalinowski)

The apologetic of our day is authenticity. (Dhati Lewis)

The way we are to impart God’s love is through hand-to-hand combat, person-to-person. (Lewis)

Our home is not simply our safe haven. It is a tool for discipleship. Use your house as a weapon for the Gospel. (Lewis)

How can one be faithful to making disciples if we are not faithful in showing hospitality? (Lewis)

We can’t just redeem the conceptual reality; we have to redeem all of reality. (Lewis)

The Gospel is simplistic in nature, but supernatural in application. (Lewis)

We are secure. We belong to God. We ought to be a little bit courageous! (Dr. John Perkins)

The lack of discipleship is the reason we're not discipling others. (Perkins)

Discipleship is the way we confirm the Word of God is in our lives (Perkins)

Lift up Jesus and His kingdom and leave the results to God. (Perkins)

Stop being a victim! You say: "I can't do discipleship." Well, get in a discipleship group. (Perkins)

Discipleship is a sacred trust. (Perkins)

A privatized faith in a resurrected Savior is practically impossible. (David Platt)

Because self is no longer our God, safety is no longer our concern. (Platt)

A proper understanding of what it means to follow Jesus leads to proper obedience in making disciples. (Platt)

There is no casual or nominal response to Jesus. We either turn and run, or we bow down and worship. (Platt)

There are a whole lot of people in our country who think that they are Christians, but they are not (Matthew 7:21). (Platt)

All you have to offer is Jesus. And what an incredible thing to offer! (Jo Saxton)

Every generation has to decide what their response will be to the call of God. If not us, then who? If not now, then when? (Jo Saxton)

Materialism and consumerism are some of the biggest barriers in discipleship. (Matt Smay)

Leave out the resurrection & you have people with a clean record but no power. (Jeff Vanderstelt)

If you want to disciple people for Christ, you cannot give them something other than Christ. (Vanderstelt)

Devote yourself to being so Gospel-fluent that you have a hard time giving another answer. (Vanderstelt)

If God could be in control as Jesus suffered and died, He can be in control in your situation.
(Vanderstelt)

Devote yourself to learning to apply the truths of the Gospel to every aspect of your life.
(Vanderstelt)

Speaking the truth in love means speaking CHRIST in love. (Vanderstelt)

It's never going to be your obedience that grants God's favor. It's Jesus' obedience on your behalf! (Vanderstelt)

Don't do ministry to get the Father's love. Do ministry because you have the Father's love.
(Vanderstelt)

We're not about giving books on discipleship; we're about giving our lives. (Vanderstelt)

Giving theological answers that are not Christological answers is not Christian – it's theistic.
(Vanderstelt)

General Tweets From #verge13 (no speaker attributed)

Discipleship is the process of moving people from unbelief to belief, in the Gospel, in every area of life.

Are we willing to engage in suffering or do we settle for comfortable leadership instead?

Judas did things for and in the name of Jesus, and yet He betrayed Him in the end.

Discipleship brings the sickness out of you and leads to eventual healing in the One who is Unshakable.

It's disobedience to not teach obedience.

Feels like I've been held down in God's river until I am drowned in new revelation of what being a disciple of Jesus is!

We've been redeemed to redeem the world around us. We've been loved to love one another. We've been pursued to pursue Your Kingdom.

If we are going to disciple women well, we have to get over our fear of tears and drama.

Women feel loved when you don't make them uncomfortable—that can't be your highest goal. Pushing them to Jesus must be.

It's cool to see trending ... taking discipleship out of the box and letting it permeate everything you are and do!

We should do what Jesus purchased us to do.

Uh Oh—John Perkins is coming up. Looks like he's been around the block and he's gonna tell us what's round the corner. C'mon Doc!

Chapter 2:

DiscipleShift 2: From Leading to Being Led

Biblical discipleship requires us to shift our mindset to being led by Christ before we effectively lead others. If we want to make strong, mature disciples, leaders must first be strong mature disciples.

Our primary calling is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. –Matt Carter, at Verge 2013

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. (Jesus)

Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant and whoever wishes to be first shall be your slave. (Jesus)

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine. (Jesus)

Follow me. (Jesus)

In the valley, we learn to recognize the Shepherd. We stop talking about the Shepherd and start talking to the Shepherd. (Mike Breen)

Every man either walks in the Shadow of the 1st Adam or the Light of the 2nd Adam. (John Bryson)

There is an eternal difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus. (Matt Carter)

If you love your mission over your Savior, your Savior won't be with you. (Carter)

We cannot let our disciple making occur at the expense of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. (Carter)

Our primary calling is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. (Carter)

One of the evidences of knowing you're a disciple is that you're willing to give up everything in order to gain Jesus. (Carter)

What is the most valuable thing in my life right now? What is that one thing that if I had it, I would still be OK? (Carter)

The Holy Spirit doesn't need us to set up a safety net in case He fails. Trust Him to do His job. (Francis Chan)

Your "safe zone" may assure your service won't be terrible, but it also assures you won't reach new highs. (Chan)

If we are not careful, we can spend our lives justifying why God's power is not seen in our lives. (Chan)

Life is messy. Jesus had Judas. Paul had Demas. And some day, somebody's going to break your heart or you aren't doing it right. (Neil Cole)

Don't invest in potential. Invest in proven-ness and obedience to Jesus. (Cole)

I want to be an influence for Christ beyond driving distance from my church and beyond my eulogy. (Cole)

Men are looking for better methods, but God is looking for better men. (Cole)

We exhale our sins via confession and God breathes His Word into us, which cleanses and transforms us. (Cole)

You can't buy a movement with a dollar or a million dollars. It's fueled by a changed life. (Cole)

Practices without the foundation of the Gospel and the Word of God will produce self-righteousness & self-loathing and set you up for failure. (Todd Engstrom)

The primary reason we struggle to delegate is fear. Delegation and risk are inseparable, but what if delegation is God's mercy to us as leaders? (Engstrom)

Delegate ownership of problems and opportunities, not just simple tasks. (Engstrom)

Our crazy, hectic schedules are indicative of our failure to give ministry away. (Engstrom)

We don't really want Jesus as our pastor, do we? (Michael Frost)

Who is driving the car? The church leaders and people or The Spirit? It's a question that requires serious reflection. (Frost)

If you are in the boat with the Messiah, do you have anything to worry about? Where is our wonder of God? (Dave Gibbons)

Could it be that in the messiness of life we actually invite the Holy Spirit in to do the supernatural? (Gibbons)

I don't want to be able to pass on truth that I haven't let press into my own soul. (Jackie Hill)

In their own ability and expertise, they caught nothing. Then the Maker of the Sea of Fish showed up! (Hill)

Discipleship is all about being drawn into the purposes of God found in Jesus Christ! (Alan Hirsch)

Christianity without Christ is ... well, the correct theological term is s**t. (Hirsch)

Our job in discipleship is to become like Christ, not Christ. He alone is the head of all things. (Hirsch)

If you think you're Jesus, then take your pill. You need your pills. (Hirsch)

Content of discipleship must come from the teaching and life of Jesus. Anything else is a reduction of the Gospel. (Hirsch)

Jesus' agenda is to sum up all things in Himself, not just to bring me personal salvation. (Hirsch)

If your life is too hectic to join in God's rhythm and live on mission, something needs to change about your life. (Caesar Kalinowski)

When people sin in our communities, they don't make life more difficult; they make discipleship much easier. (Kalinowski)

We have to listen to the Spirit and teach others to listen to Him. The Spirit is the primary discipler, not us. (Kalinowski)

Spirit not only convicts us of sin, but also convicts us of our righteousness. He convinces us we've been made right. John 16:8. (Kalinowski)

Pastors, don't take the job description of the Spirit, but rather listen and submit to the Spirit. (Kalinowski)

This God who said, "Let there be light!" has shined His light in our hearts. (Dr. John Perkins)

Jesus said He would draw men as He is lifted up. We are lifting up too many different things. (Perkins)

The Holy Spirit's function is to make Jesus Christ real in our lives. (Perkins)

Jesus doesn't set out to show us our path to follow—He says, I am the path. (David Platt)

Are we cultural Christians or biblical Christians? (Platt)

I think we are in far greater danger of being safe than being reckless in contemporary Christianity. (Platt)

In a world that says promote yourself, preserve, comfort & entertain yourself, Jesus says “slay yourself.” (Platt)

To follow Jesus is to live with urgent obedience to His mission. (Platt)

To be a disciple of Jesus is to live with radical abandonment for His glory. (Platt)

Followers of Jesus don't always know where they are going, but they always know who they are with. (Platt)

He is worthy of far more than nominal adherence or casual association. It's either turn and run, or bow and worship. (Platt)

Discipleship does not come about by superficial cajoling but supernatural indwelling. (Platt)

When you get hit by a Mack truck, you're gonna look different. Everything in you changes when you follow this King. (Platt)

If I am not satisfied with my identity in Christ, I will never be satisfied with anything. (Jeff Vanderstelt)

You don't get to real repentance until you get honest. (Vanderstelt)

Scripture alone won't keep you from temptation and help you defeat sin. You need the Spirit to apply the truth of Scripture to the heart. (Vanderstelt)

You can't tell people about the power of Jesus if you don't have the power in you! (Vanderstelt)

General Tweets from #verge13 (no speaker attributed)

I've been thinking how Jesus has me in a loving headlock and will never let go, even if I squirm.

Maybe more than anything else, we need the Lord to protect us against our delusions of grandeur.

There is a great deal of difference between trusting in Jesus for what He can do and trusting Him for who He is.

Chapter 3

DiscipleShift 3: From Teaching to Modeling

Biblical discipleship requires us to shift from seeing our roles as teaching about discipleship to making disciples like Jesus did—influencing the world by apprenticing and equipping 12 disciples through modeling faith, service and leadership.

If discipleship can't be given through your life, it is not transferrable. –Jeff Vanderstelt, at Verge 2013

I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. (Jesus)

Let your light shine before men so they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Jesus)

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. (Jesus)

Fruitfulness is not simply about reproduction. Fruitfulness is about multiplying yourself into the life of another. (Mike Breen)

Fruitfulness is more important than success. (Breen)

We can imitate and emulate if we learn the art of invitation and challenge. It's not meant to be comfy. (Breen)

Wouldn't it be neat to meet Jesus and find an orchard that bears your name? (Breen)

Invitation and challenge should be continuously calibrated. Horse whispering at its finest. (Breen)

You don't need to be a perfect example. You do need to be a living example. (Breen)

Authenticity is the apologetic of today. Hypocrisy is the heresy of the day. (Neil Cole)

Do not delegate to someone who wants a title. Delegate to someone who wants to do the work. (Todd Engstrom)

Real-life conversations happen in real-life situations. (Engstrom)

Experience really is the best teacher. (Engstrom)

Discipleship is what happens to us so that others can be alerted to the fact that our God reigns. This is our mission. (Michael Frost)

You're not even close to Jesus. But you might be the closest thing to Jesus that some people ever see. (Frost)

We do not need more rogue evangelists. We need more friends to go on mission with. (Hugh Halter)

Are you guilty by association? Do you associate with the Father? With friends on mission? With the least and the lost? (Halter)

Jesus had true friends who were far from God. (Halter)

Influence without association is not possible. (Halter)

If we do not associate with the lost and the least, we cannot influence. (Halter)

Demonstrate the good news in the way you live your life, and you will get a chance to share the good news with others. (Halter)

We reduce our understanding of discipleship when we consider it just a Bible study. (Brandon Hatmaker)

Red words bleed from our speech, but do we see them resurrected in our actions? (Jackie Hill)

Christianity without Christ is toxic and dangerous ... take Him out of the picture and there is nothing to become like. (Alan Hirsch)

All theology must inform our methodology. (Hirsch)

If authenticity is the apologetic of our day, how do we expect to disciple others without exposing our lives to them? (Dhati Lewis)

"Life on life" is not meeting @Starbucks once a week & me asking you about your life. (Lewis)

The apologetic of our day is transparency. (Lewis)

The way to expose the counterfeit is by showing/displaying the real thing. (Lewis)

May we not just be informed but also transformed by the great Gospel. (Kevin Peck)

The biblical statement of faith is them looking at us and saying, “What can I do to be like you?” (Dr. John Perkins)

We shouldn't be asking, “Do you want to be saved?” They should be asking us, “What must I do?” because we're living Jesus. (Perkins)

A witness is one who presents Jesus Christ to others through their lives and leaves the rest to God. (Perkins)

You may have someone who can teach you information, but what you really need is someone whose life you can imitate. (Jo Saxton)

Look at Jesus as a Rabbi: It's all about being a person worthy of imitation. It's about imitation and innovation. (Saxton)

We are giving people lots of fun steps for getting better at life, but we're not giving them Jesus. (Jeff Vanderstelt)

If discipleship can't be given through your life, it is not transferrable. (Vanderstelt)

You can live out and show someone disciple making even before they believe. (Vanderstelt)

New believers class ought to be lived, not taught. (Vanderstelt)

Don't hide what Jesus is saving people TO. Show it to them. They need to see it. (Vanderstelt)

Ask the Holy Spirit to do it. It's His job!! And He's really good at it! (Vanderstelt)

Better sex in marriage is not the reason we wait. We wait because we portray Jesus waiting for His bride in purity. (Vanderstelt)

If you want to train your kids up in Jesus, then you just need to give them Jesus. Just Jesus. (Vanderstelt)

General Tweets from #verge13 (no speaker attributed)

How do you authentically eat lunch? Homey, just live! Do what you do and invite people with you.

Ever wondered how your “communication” comes across to the very people you want to reach?

Discipleship makes people ask us, “What must I do to be like you?”

Your baptism informs all of who you are, what you do, and why you do it.

To bless someone, you see them, you get to know them, you affirm their destiny and you give of yourself radically to them.

Christians should be the bringers of best wine to parties.

The Gospel is not an articulate message, it is a lifestyle that Jesus called us to and the message should come out of the lifestyle.

We all transmit something & make disciples of someone. Are we transmitting the right message?

Chapter 4

DiscipleShift 4: From Assimilating to Creating Community

Biblical discipleship requires us to shift from just assimilating people into programs to creating missional communities that foster environments of encouragement, accountability and risk-taking where disciple making happens best.

Discipleship is not a program; it's life. –Dave Gibbons, at Verge 2013

This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. (Jesus)

If I, the Lord and Teacher, washed your feet You ought to wash one another's feet. I gave you an example. (Jesus)

The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one. (Jesus)

Moving from low challenge to high challenge tends to lead us through the valley of the shadow of death. (Mike Breen)

SOLEMN WARNING – “Don't pastor a church that Jesus has left!” (Revelation 2) (Matt Carter)

I want to be part of a gathering where there is supernatural love. (Francis Chan)

I would love to see a loving, unified community be the apologetic. (Chan)

I'm not talking about strategy, but there are clear truths. The church should love one another and be a family. (Chan)

When there's not a single needy person among them, it will attract the world. (Chan)

What if our love became our apologetic? (Chan)

If we seek to make churches, we'll never make disciples. If we seek to make disciples, we'll always make churches. (Neil Cole)

To take off the old and put on the new, we have to get naked and confess our sins one to another. (Cole)

Scripture becomes real in our lives when we become vulnerable and transparent. (Cole)

No matter how good your Sunday show is, your church is only as good as your disciples in groups of 2s and 3s. (Cole)

The question is not, “What ministry can I give away?” but “What ministry dare I keep? What ministry will I let die with me?” (Todd Engstrom)

Delegation is both a blessing to us and a ministry multiplier. (Engstrom)

Delegation means giving away a platform of leadership and expecting greater things to come. (Engstrom)

Missional community doesn't have to be complex, but may mean thinking outside the box. (Engstrom)

Introverts get full of people a little quicker than extroverts. (Michael Frost)

Trust Jesus for who He is, not for what He can do for us. (Frost)

Do you allow messy in your discipleship process? (Frost)

Pastors, do you see people or your outline? (Frost)

Could it be that this generation is asking [us, the church]: Is there something more than your show? (Frost)

Discipleship is not a program; it's life. (Dave Gibbons)

Our churches should be filled with wonder & mystery. “Am I trippin?” should be more common! (Gibbons)

When a disciple is loving someone different than them, that is divine and supernatural. (Gibbons)

We MUST stop looking at the church as Bridezilla & remember that the Church is the glorious BRIDE OF CHRIST fueled by the Spirit! (Gibbons)

People have to buy a movie ticket to see something amazing because the church is full of unamazing, logical, linear and predictable. (Gibbons)

They loved Jesus because they knew if they could just get close to the man, something good would happen. (Hugh Halter)

In a postmodern culture people hear with eyes, believe with hearts & don't buy into things unless it's a preferable reality. (Halter)

Jesus never gave us the keys to the church. He gave us the keys to the Kingdom.
(Brandon Hatmaker)

Christianity is more than the Gospel of sin management and cosmic fire insurance. It is Kingdom AND Covenant. (Alan Hirsch)

Consumerism is an alternative religion. (Hirsch)

When I say “church,” you guys think you know what it is. That’s the problem. (Hirsch)

The church growth movement catered to the very thing we should be working against—consumerism. (Hirsch)

Accountability is watching each other’s heart to identify where we are living in unbelief.
(Caesar Kalinowski)

The church should throw the best parties. (Kalinowski)

We’ve reduced Christianity to church services, conferences and concerts. (Dhati Lewis)

Discipleship is about the intersection of lives. Think intersection instead of addition. (Lewis)

Authenticity is the apologetic of our day, only accomplished when we actually let people into our lives. (Lewis)

Discipleship is lifting up Jesus into the world. (Dr. John Perkins)

We have the power to burn through racial and cultural barriers. We have it in the Gospel.
(Perkins)

I’m looking at a generation that has almost grown past racism! And we need to live like it is history. (Perkins)

Joy is fulfillment of long-term expectations and longing. (Perkins)

The church is the continuation of the incarnate body of Christ. (Perkins)

If you don't have the Spirit and the Word, you are not going to overcome sin. You need both. (Jeff Vanderstelt)

If we only teach obedience because “the Bible says it,” we’re teaching moralism ... not Jesus.
(Vanderstelt)

General Tweets from #verge13 (no speaker attributed)

Unleash beauty, bless people and think about home.

The church is both the end and the means of the mission.

What is sitting on the throne of your church's heart? Is it you? Or is it Jesus? Who are people talking about when they leave?

Discipleship is not just face-to-face; it's also shoulder-to-shoulder. You need comrades in the mission together, running with you.

The Gospel shouldn't be locked into a system that can only be done with upper-middle class white people. It needs to be pandemic.

Whatever you do, don't pray to remove our suffering. Our worst nightmare is to look like the U.S. church—a Christian in Turkey.

Chapter 5

DiscipleShift 5: From Attracting to Deploying

Biblical discipleship requires us to shift our attention and energies from drawing masses of people to leading churches that send equipped Christ-followers to the masses. Our scorecards must change from simply counting the number of people your church attracts to counting the number of people your church deploys.

The goal is not to grow the church, etc. It is to alert everyone to the universal reign of Christ.
–Michael Frost, at Verge 2013

Go and make disciples of all nations. (Jesus)

As You have sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. (Jesus)

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. (Jesus)

Do not fear for from now on you will be catching men. (Jesus)

“Come” and “Go” were two big words Jesus used with the disciples. (Mike Breen)

Jesus frames His ministry around two big words ... come & go (invitation & challenge). Everything starts with “come” and ends with “go.” (Breen)

We need to see a transition from running the church as the operating system to making disciples as the system. (Breen)

If you want to see the big stuff that God has, you’ve got to take some risk and trust only in the Gospel. (Francis Chan)

It is easy to settle, however, as a church we need to take risks. We need to put all our trust in the Gospel. (Chan)

Ultimately, your church is evaluated by the quality of its disciples. (Neil Cole)

Jesus did not tell us to make a church. He told us to make disciples. (Cole)

Discipleship is not an end unto itself. Discipleship is what God does in us to make us useful to the kingdom. (Michael Frost)

The goal is not to grow the church, etc. It is to alert everyone to the universal reign of Christ. (Frost)

We as a church are supposed go into the world, not bring the world into the church system we've made. (Frost)

Babel Building—it's all about us. Our churches, our programs, our fans. So wrong! (Frost)

Don't stay where you are and build up; go and build out. Bless the world. (Frost)

Discipleship is about the church helping the world find its destiny. (Dave Gibbons)

Anything that is healthy will grow and replicate itself. (Hugh Halter)

Whatever you have created a structure to do, you will do and be that. (Brandon Hatmaker)

Christology is the key and answer to all questions. All theology must inform our methodology. (Alan Hirsch)

The way we do evangelism today is blocking our capacity to do disciple making. (Hirsch)

The church growth movement was built on a faulty interpretation of one verse. (cf. Matthew 28:19) (Hirsch)

We have strained gnats and swallowed camels and forgotten what's important. (Hirsch)

There is no discipleship, which is not missional. We should not have to qualify discipleship with adjectives. (Hirsch)

Discipleship should be a stand-alone term. That we feel a need to add adjectives to clarify it indicates we have a problem. (Hirsch)

The key is not more evangelism, but more discipleship. (Hirsch)

The Great Commission is about discipling the nations. As you make disciples, evangelism will happen. (Hirsch)

The key to the health, sustainment, extension and renewal of the church is not more evangelism, but more discipleship. (Hirsch)

If we stop with the cross, it gives a person a new heart, but no agenda for the future. (Hirsch)

We've created consumers not disciples. (Hirsch)

We could get everything else right but if we don't get discipleship right, we fail. (Hirsch)

The clergy-laity divide is a huge bottleneck keeping us from sending out the people of God. (Hirsch)

Leadership development is just discipleship further up the slope. (Caesar Kalinowski)

The Gospel changes people, and people change the world. (Dhati Lewis)

Bonhoeffer was right. The cost of discipleship is high. But the cost of non-discipleship is even higher. (David Platt)

How we answer the question, "What is a disciple of Jesus?" will have every implication on HOW we make disciples. (Platt)

If you're a church, planting churches, you're already starting in the wrong place. (Jeff Vanderstelt)

Churches don't reproduce churches. They reproduce disciples who make churches. (Vanderstelt)

Don't measure how many people are staying, but measure how many people are going out and making disciples! (Vanderstelt)

Our baptism is not just an introduction into the church but a commission to engage in the mission of God. (Vanderstelt)

If you don't rethink your metrics, you won't rethink your behaviors. (Vanderstelt)

You should be a disciple-making church and let churches come out of disciples who know how to make disciples. (Vanderstelt)

Your church should have a back door. If people aren't leaving your church, there is something wrong. (Vanderstelt)

Don't be a church-planting church; be a disciple-making church. (Vanderstelt)

Afterword

The Conversation Continues

Clearly, the speakers for both Verge and Exponential 2013 gatherings vehemently believe that the focus of these conversations you've just read—discipleship—is one of the greatest issues facing the church today. As David Platt says in these pages, “Bonhoeffer was right. The cost of discipleship is high. But the cost of non-discipleship is even higher.”

From Matt Carter's poignant reminder that “Our primary calling is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ,” to Michael Frost's sobering question, “We don't really want Jesus as our pastor, do we?” these conversation streams give us a window into the future as we define how the Great Commission encompasses everything our churches are and do.

With that truth in mind, the question then becomes, “How does discipleship inform and impact our efforts to evangelize? So often, we view and pursue evangelism separate from discipleship: The evangelist proclaims the Gospel to make converts, and the discipler teaches converts how to grow into disciples.

But if we believe what these speakers are saying—that, as Alan Hirsch says, “Discipleship is all about being drawn into the purposes of God”—then the Great Commission to “make disciples” includes both making Christians and maturing Christians. In the previous pages, Hirsch says that we must “reframe evangelism in the context of discipleship.”

He expands on his quote: “We are called to be a disciple-making people. We've won a lot of people to faith through a seeker-sensitive model, but we just got decisions, not disciples. If we look at both the person of Jesus and how He lived His life, His teachings, His example, it's the whole Jesus phenomenon that is the Gospel—not just one or the other. We have no right to separate the two, to extract one from the other. That's why we can't separate evangelism from discipleship. As we recalibrate the church at this critical time in history, what we do now has radical ramifications for the church in the future.”

As Exponential looks toward what's next in our mission to accelerate the multiplication of healthy, reproducing faith communities, we're continuing the discipleship conversation at Exponential 2014, focusing on Jesus' core mission on earth: to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:9-10)—and how we as His disciples can look to Jesus' example to join Him in this mission. Scripture shows us that as we apprentice people in the ways of Jesus, we will make disciples who will make disciples who will make disciples. Robert Munger says it well, “Evangelism is the spontaneous overflow of a glad and free heart in Jesus Christ.”

As you let these 140-character insights sink in and think toward the future of what it means to you and your church to pursue the Great Commission, our sincere prayer is that you will be a leader and a church who is both a disciple of Jesus and a disciple maker.

The Exponential Team

Appendix

(#Verge13 tweets organized by speaker)

William “Duce” Branch

Everybody has a plan, until they get punched in the face. ... Rehearse for the day when it all goes off script. ...

Will you stick with disciples when they punch you in the face?

Mike Breen

Fruitfulness is more important than success.

Fruitfulness is not simply about reproduction. Fruitfulness is about multiplying yourself into the life of another.

Fruitfulness is not simply about reproduction. Fruitfulness is about multiplying yourself into the life of another.

Jesus frames His ministry around two big words: “come & go” (invitation & challenge). Everything starts with “come” and ends with “go.”

“Come” and “Go” were two big words Jesus used with disciples.

We can imitate and emulate if we learn the art of invitation and challenge. It’s not meant to be comfy.

Invitation and challenge should be continuously calibrated. Horse whispering at its finest.

Moving from low challenge to high challenge tends to lead us through the valley of the shadow of death.

In the valley, we learn to recognize the Shepherd. We stop talking about the Shepherd and start talking to the Shepherd.

Wouldn’t it be neat to meet Jesus and find an orchard that bears your name?

We need to see a transition from running the church as the operating system to making disciples as the system.

You don't need to be a perfect example. You do need to be a living example.

John Bryson

Truth transferred in the context of relationship...nothing is more transformative.

Discipleship is Truth transferred through the context of relationships.

Every man either walks in the Shadow of the 1st Adam or the Light of the 2nd Adam.

Matt Carter

There is an eternal difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus.

If you love your mission over your Savior, your Savior won't be with you.

You CANNOT call yourself a disciple of Christ and NOT be a disciple maker.

We cannot let our disciple making occur at the expense of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Our primary calling is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

One of the evidences of knowing you're a disciple is that you're willing to give up everything in order to gain Jesus.

What sits on the throne of your church's heart?

Judas did things for and in the name of Jesus, and yet he betrayed Him in the end.

SOLEMN WARNING – “Don't pastor a church that Jesus has left!” (Revelation 2)

Our disciple making is always going to be this inseparable overflow of our walk with Jesus Christ.

What is the most valuable thing in my life right now? What is that one thing that if I had it, I would still be OK?

Francis Chan

The Holy Spirit doesn't need us to set up a safety net in case He fails. Trust Him to do His job.

I'm not talking about strategy, but there are clear truths. The church should love one another and be a family.

When there's not a single needy person among them, it will attract the world.

Your "safe zone" may assure your service won't be terrible, but it also assures you won't reach new highs.

If we are not careful, we can spend our lives justifying why God's power is not seen in our lives.

If you want to see the big stuff that God has, you've got to take some risk and trust only in the Gospel.

What if our love became our apologetic?

It is easy to settle. However, as a church we need to take risks. We need to put all our trust in the Gospel.

I want to be part of a gathering where there is supernatural love.

I would love to see a loving, unified community be the apologetic.

Neil Cole

Authenticity is the apologetic of today. Hypocrisy is the heresy of the day.

Ultimately, your church is evaluated by the quality of its disciples.

Life is messy. Jesus had Judas. Paul had Demas. And someday somebody's going to break your heart or you aren't doing it right.

Jesus loved everybody, but He invested in the 2 or 3. That's where discipleship happens—life on life.

Jesus loved everyone but invested in 2 or 3, walked with 12 and had a team of 72.

Don't invest in potential. Invest in proven-ness and obedience to Jesus.

Discipleship is investing in people who will live longer than I do and go farther than I go.

When God wants to start a movement, He doesn't start with the best people. He starts with the broken.

Bad people make good soil because there is a lot of fertilizer in their life.

If you really want something to grow, look for people with lots of "fertilizer" in their life!

Life is too short to invest it working bad soil.

You can't buy a movement with a dollar or a million dollars. It's fueled by a changed life.

No matter how good your Sunday show is, your church is only as good as your disciples in groups of 2s and 3s.

A church is only as good as its disciples, no matter how good the "show" is on Sunday.

If we seek to make churches, we'll never make disciples. If we seek to make disciples, we'll always make churches.

I want to be an influence for Christ beyond driving distance from my church and beyond my eulogy.

Jesus did not tell us to make a church. He told us to make disciples.

Men are looking for better methods, but God is looking for better men.

To take off the old and put on the new, we have to get naked and confess our sins one to another.

Scripture becomes real in our lives when we become vulnerable and transparent.

We exhale our sins via confession, and God breathes His Word into us, which cleanses and transforms us.

Todd Engstrom

Do not delegate to someone who wants a title. Delegate to someone who wants to do the work.

The primary reason we struggle to delegate is fear. Delegation and risk are inseparable, but what if delegation is God's mercy to us as leaders?

Delegate ownership of problems and opportunities, not just simple tasks.

Most of us don't make disciples because we don't delegate like Jesus did.

Our crazy hectic schedules are indicative of our failure to give ministry away.

The question is not, "What ministry can I give away?" but "What ministry dare I keep? What ministry will I let die with me?"

Delegation is both a blessing to us and a ministry multiplier.

Real-life conversations happen in real-life situations.

Delegation means giving away a platform of leadership and expecting greater things to come.

Practices without the foundation of the Gospel and the Word of God will produce self-righteousness & self-loathing and set you up for failure.

The beauty of third place is that it creates a space where someone can belong before they believe.

Missional community doesn't have to be complex, but may mean thinking outside the box.

Mission is about people, not projects.

Experience really is the best teacher.

A missionary is someone who sacrifices everything but the Gospel for the sake of the Gospel.

Michael Frost

We are to be window cleaners to help people see more & more the wonder, magnificence and grace of God through Christ.

Discipleship is what happens to us so that others can be alerted to the fact that our God reigns. This is our mission.

Discipleship is no end unto itself. Discipleship is what God does in us to make us useful to the kingdom.

If you are in the boat with the Messiah, do you have anything to worry about? Where is our wonder of God?

Commit yourself to cleaning the window of the lives of those who have not yet been set free.

Disciples have dirty and calloused hands. Their eyes are filled with fear and wonder.

Introverts get full of people a little quicker than extroverts.

Imagine the disciples saying: “Jesus, can we get a little joy joy joy joy down in our hearts rather than plowing?”

We don't really want Jesus as our pastor, do we?

There is no place for half-hearted discipleship among Jesus followers.

The goal is not to grow the church, etc. It is to alert everyone to the universal reign of Christ.

You're not even close to Jesus. But you might be the closest thing to Jesus that some people ever see.

Trust Jesus for who He is, not for what He can do for us.

We as a church are supposed go into the world, not bring the world into the church system we've made.

Do you allow messy in your discipleship process?

Who is driving the car? The church leaders and people or The Spirit? It's a question that requires serious reflection.

Pastors, do you see people or your outline?

Could it be that this generation is asking [us, the church]: Is there something more than your show?

Babel Building—it's all about us. Our churches, our programs, our fans. So wrong.

Don't stay where you are and build up; go and build out. Bless the world.

Home is where meaningful relationship happens. You don't think about a mass of people; you think about the individual.

Dave Gibbons

Discipleship is not a program; it's life.

Our churches should be filled with wonder & mystery. "Am I trippin?" should be more common!

When a disciple is loving someone different than them, that is divine and supernatural.

Discipleship is about the church helping the world find its destiny.

We MUST stop looking at the church as Bridezilla & remember that the Church is the glorious BRIDE OF CHRIST fueled by the Spirit!

Could it be that in the messiness of life we actually invite the Holy Spirit in to do the supernatural?

In a world that says, "Promote yourself, preserve, comfort & entertain yourself," Jesus says, "Slay yourself."

When you think about discipleship, just think about home and treat everyone how you would treat your family.

People have to buy a movie ticket to see something amazing because the church is full of unamazing, logical, linear and predictable.

Hugh Halter

We do not need more rogue evangelists; we need more friends to go on mission with.

They loved Jesus because they knew if they could just get close to the man, something good would happen.

Missional, incarnational life is not a bummer; it's awesome. Start enjoying the rest of your life.

It's really fun to associate with the Father, be on mission with friends, and hang out with those far from God.

Jesus had true friends who were far from God.

Influence without association is not possible.

If we do not associate with the lost and the least, we cannot influence.

You've got to associate with the worthy to be found: the lost and the least.

Are you guilty by association? Do you associate with the Father? With friends on mission? With the least and the lost?

Jesus was friends with notorious sinners. Jesus got this reputation because He was with "those" people. He loved them.

In a postmodern culture, people hear with eyes, believe with hearts & don't buy into things unless it's a preferable reality.

People want to know the hope in you ... not your doctrine.

People will always be drawn to the Good News ... the Kingdom of God is Good News demonstrated.

Demonstrate the good news in the way you live your life, and you will get a chance to share the good news with others.

Anything that is healthy will grow and replicate itself.

Brandon Hatmaker

We reduce our understanding of discipleship when we consider it just a Bible study.

Jesus never gave us the keys to the church. He gave us the keys to the Kingdom.

Whatever you have created a structure to do, you will do and be that.

Jackie Hill

Red words bleed from our speech, but do we see them resurrected in our actions?

Jesus' disciples were His schedule.

I don't want to be able to pass on truth that I haven't let press into my own soul.

Let us make war with the ticking in our minds before our time runs out.

In their own ability and expertise, they caught nothing. Then the Maker of the Sea of Fish showed up!

Alan Hirsch

Discipleship is all about being drawn into the purposes of God found in Jesus Christ!

We could get everything else right but if we don't get discipleship right, we fail.

We have to reframe evangelism within the context of discipleship.

The key is not more evangelism, but more discipleship.

The Great Commission is about discipling the nations; as you make disciples, evangelism will happen.

We have to understand evangelism within the context of discipleship. Jesus had pre-conversion disciples and so do we.

Good news is shared as you disciple. You have to reframe evangelism as part of what happens with discipleship.

The way we do evangelism today is blocking our capacity to do disciple making.

If we stop with the cross, it gives a person a new heart, but no agenda for the future.

The key to the health, sustainment, extension and renewal of the church is not more evangelism, but more discipleship.

Christology is the key and answer to all questions. All theology must inform our methodology.

Christianity without Christ is ... well, the correct theological term is s**t.

Christianity without Christ is toxic and dangerous ... take Him out of the picture, and there is nothing to become like.

Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.

Content of discipleship must come from the teaching and life of Jesus. Anything else is a reduction of the Gospel.

Jesus' agenda is to sum up all things in Himself, not just to bring me personal salvation.

Our job in discipleship is to become like Christ, not Christ. He alone is the head of all things.

If you think you're Jesus, then take your pill. You need your pills.

Christianity is more than the Gospel of sin management and cosmic fire insurance. It is Kingdom AND Covenant.

The church growth movement catered to the very thing we should be working against – consumerism.

Consumerism is an alternative religion.

We've created consumers, not disciples.

The church growth movement was built on a faulty interpretation of one verse. (cf. Matthew 28:19)

We have strained gnats and swallowed camels and forgotten what's important.

When I say "church," you guys think you know what it is. That's the problem.

You can't teach a man what he thinks he already knows.

There is no discipleship that is not missional. We should not have to qualify discipleship with adjectives.

Discipleship should be a stand-alone term. That we feel a need to add adjectives to clarify indicates we have a problem.

The clergy-laity divide is a huge bottleneck keeping us from sending out the people of God.

Caesar Kalinowski

If your life is too hectic to join in God's rhythm and live on mission, something needs to change about your life.

What if everything we're already doing is a perfect opportunity for discipleship?

When people sin in our communities, they don't make life more difficult; they make discipleship much easier.

Leadership development is just discipleship further up the slope.

Accountability is watching each other's heart to identify where we are living in unbelief.

We have to listen to the Spirit and teach others to listen to Him. The Spirit is the primary discipler, not us.

The church should throw the best parties.

Spirit not only convicts us of sin, but also convicts us of our righteousness. He convinces us we've been made right. Jn.16:8.

Pastors, don't take the job description of the Spirit, but rather listen and submit to the Spirit.

We don't need more deep teaching if we haven't figured out how to live out the last thing we've heard.

Dhati Lewis

The apologetic of our day is authenticity.

If authenticity is the apologetic of our day, how do we expect to disciple others without exposing our lives to them?

Authenticity is the apologetic of our day, only accomplished when we actually let people into our lives.

The apologetic of our day is transparency.

The way to expose the counterfeit is by showing/displaying the real thing.

The way we are to impart God's love is through hand-to-hand combat, person-to-person.

Our home is not simply our safe haven. It is a tool for discipleship. Use your house as a weapon for the Gospel.

How can one be faithful to making disciples if we are not faithful in showing hospitality?

"Life on life" is not meeting @Starbucks once a week & me asking you about your life.

We've reduced Christianity to church services, conferences and concerts.

The Gospel changes people, and people change the world.

We can't just redeem the conceptual reality; we have to redeem all of reality.

The Gospel is simplistic in nature, but supernatural in application.

Discipleship is about the intersection of lives. Think intersection instead of addition.

Kevin Peck

May we not just be informed but also transformed by the great Gospel.

Dr. John Perkins

This God who said, "Let there be light!" has shined His light in our hearts.

Discipleship is lifting up Jesus into the world.

Lift up Jesus and His kingdom and leave the results to God.

Jesus said He would draw men as He is lifted up. We are lifting up too many different things.

We have the power to burn through racial and cultural barriers. We have it in the Gospel.

I'm looking at a generation that has almost grown past racism! And we need to live like it is history.

We are secure. We belong to God. We ought to be a little bit courageous!

The lack of discipleship is the reason we're not discipling others.

Discipleship is the way we confirm the Word of God is in our lives.

The biblical statement of faith is them looking at us and saying, "What can I do to be like you?"

We shouldn't be asking, "Do you want to be saved?" They should be asking us, "What must I do?" because we're living Jesus.

Joy is fulfillment of long-term expectations and longing.

The Holy Spirit's function is to make Jesus Christ real in our lives.

A witness is one who presents Jesus Christ to others through their lives and leaves the rest to God.

Stop being a victim! You say, “I can't do discipleship.” Well, get in a discipleship group.

Discipleship is a sacred trust.

The church is the continuation of the incarnate body of Christ.

David Platt

A proper understanding of what it means to follow Jesus leads to proper obedience in making disciples.

Jesus doesn't set out to show us our path to follow—He says, I am the path.

Are we cultural Christians or biblical Christians?

I think we are in far greater danger of being safe than being reckless in contemporary Christianity.

Bonhoeffer was right. The cost of discipleship is high. But the cost of non-discipleship is even higher.

A privatized faith in a resurrected Savior is practically impossible.

To follow Jesus is to live with urgent obedience to His mission.

To be a disciple of Jesus is to live with radical abandonment for His glory.

Because self is no longer our God, safety is no longer our concern.

Followers of Jesus don't always know where they are going, but they always know who they are with.

He is worthy of far more than nominal adherence or casual association. It's either turn and run, or bow and worship.

In a world that says, “Promote yourself, preserve yourself, entertain yourself,” Jesus says, “Slay yourself.”

How we answer the question, “What is a disciple of Jesus?” will have every implication on HOW we make disciples.

Discipleship does not come about by superficial cajoling but supernatural indwelling.

When you get hit by a Mack truck, you're gonna look different. Everything in you changes when you follow this King.

There are a whole lot of people in our country who think that they are Christians, but they are not (Matthew 7:21).

Jo Saxton

You may have someone who can teach you information, but what you really need is someone whose life you can imitate.

All you have to offer is Jesus. And, what an incredible thing to offer!

Look at Jesus as a Rabbi: It's all about being a person worthy of imitation. It's about imitation and innovation.

Every generation has to decide what their response will be to the call of God. If not us, then who? If not now, then when?

Matt Smay

Materialism and consumerism are some of the biggest barriers in discipleship.

Jeff Vanderstelt

You should be a disciple-making church and let churches come out of disciples who know how to make disciples.

Churches don't reproduce churches. They reproduce disciples who make churches.

If you're a church planting churches, you're already starting in the wrong place.

Everyone makes disciples. The question is, "What are you making disciples of?"

Leave out the resurrection, and you have people with a clean record but no power.

Don't measure how many people are staying but measure how many people are going out & making disciples!

If you want to disciple people for Christ, you cannot give them something other than Christ.

Our baptism is not just an introduction into the church but a commission to engage in the mission of God.

If I am not satisfied with my identity in Christ, I will never be satisfied with anything.

Devote yourself to being so Gospel-fluent that you have a hard time giving another answer.

We are giving people lots of fun steps for getting better at life, but we're not giving them Jesus.

If you don't rethink your metrics, you won't rethink your behaviors.

You don't get to real repentance until you get honest.

If God could be in control as Jesus suffered and died, He can be in control in your situation.

If discipleship can't be given through your life, it is not transferrable.

Devote yourself to learning to apply the truths of the Gospel to every aspect of your life.

You can live out and show someone disciple making even before they believe.

New believers class ought to be lived, not taught.

Don't hide what Jesus is saving people TO. Show it to them. They need to see it.

Speaking the truth in love means speaking CHRIST in love.

It's never going to be your obedience that grants God's favor. It's Jesus' obedience on your behalf!

Ask the Holy Spirit to do it. It's His job!! And He's really good at it!

If you don't have the Spirit and the Word, you are not going to overcome sin. You need both.

Scripture alone won't keep you from temptation and help you defeat sin. You need the Spirit to apply the truth of Scripture to the heart.

You can't tell people about the power of Jesus if you don't have the power in you!

Don't do ministry to get the Father's love. Do ministry because you have the Father's love.

If we only teach obedience because "the Bible says it," we're teaching moralism... not Jesus.

Better sex in marriage is not the reason we wait. We wait because we portray Jesus waiting for His bride in purity.

If you want to train your kids up in Jesus, then you just need to give them Jesus. Just Jesus.

Your church should have a back door. If people aren't leaving your church, there is something wrong.

Don't be a church-planting church; be a disciple-making church.

We're not about giving books on discipleship; we're about giving our lives.

Giving theological answers that are not Christological answers is not Christian—it's theistic.

About the Speakers Featured in this eBook

@WillDuce (William “Duce” Branch) has been ministering the Gospel of Christ through Christian hip-hop ministry, as well as teaching, preaching and mentoring worldwide for more than 15 years. He is the co-founder and primary spokesperson of Christian hip-hop ministry group The Cross Movement and served as founder and president of the non-profit organization Cross Movement Ministries. Branch is also founder/co-pastor of Epiphany Fellowship.

@Mike_Breen and his wife, Sally, have been innovators in leading missional churches for 25-plus years. At St. Thomas Sheffield in the United Kingdom, they were one of the original pioneers of missional communities. The result, less than six years later, was Sheffield becoming England’s largest church. Today, the Breens lead 3DM, helping established churches and church planters move toward missional.

@JohnwBryson is a founder, pastor and elder of the multicultural church Fellowship Memphis. He also serves on the board of Acts 29 and as a church planting coach with Fellowship Associates. Bryson is the lead writer and co-presenter of the curriculum *33 The Series with Authentic Manhood* and travels the country consulting and investing in churches, leaders and great ideas.

@_Matt_Carter serves as the lead pastor of The Austin Stone Community Church. His desire to see the church become an advocate for the welfare of the city of Austin has led to the creation of a network that exists to actively pursue the redemption and renewal of the city for the advancement of the Gospel. The For the City Network provides a platform for organizational collaboration. A cancer survivor and co-author of *For the City*, Carter speaks nationwide.

@FrancisChan is the best-selling author of multiple books, including *Crazy Love*, *Forgotten God*, *Erasing Hell* and the host of the *BASIC* series (“Who is God” and “We Are Church”). Chan is the founding pastor of Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, Calif., and also sits on the board of directors for Children’s Hunger Fund and World Impact. Currently, he is working to start a church planting movement in the inner city of San Francisco and launch a countrywide discipleship movement.

@Neil_Cole is an experienced church planter, author and pastor. He is credited as a key catalyst in the organic church movement and is also a founder of Church Multiplication Associates (CMA), which has helped to start thousands of churches in 50 states and 40-plus nations in only 13 years. Cole is also an international speaker and has authored *Organic Church*, *Church 3.0* and *Journeys to Significance*, among multiple other titles.

@Toodus (Todd Engstrom) serves as the pastor of missional communities at The Austin Stone Community Church. He leads out in strategic direction for engaging the city of Austin through small missional communities and develops leaders who are willing to follow Jesus and proclaim His gospel to their neighbors in the city.

@MichaelFrost6 is an internationally recognized Australian missiologist and one of the leading voices in the international missional church movement. Frost is the vice principal of Morling College and the founding director of the Tinsley Institute, a mission study center in Sydney, Australia. He is the author/editor of 12 popular Christian books, including the award-winning *The Shaping of Things to Come*, *Exiles* and *Re:Jesus*. Frost is also a church planter, having launched the missional community Small Boat Big Sea in Sydney.

@DaveGibbons intersects with numerous domains (the fringe, the misfits, the artists, the poor, urban and rural innovators, business executives non-profit leaders, etc.) in many of the major cities of the world. He is an executive coach, consultant and expert on culture, strategy and social movements. Gibbons is the lead ethos architect of the NEWSONG Global Alliance, serves on the board of World Vision U.S. and as CVO of Xealot, developing movement leaders. In his book, *The Monkey and the Fish*, he addresses one of the most critical aspects of leadership in the midst of change.

@HughHalter is the national director of Missio, a ministry team committed to training, developing and apprenticing incarnational leaders for the church. Within Missio, Halter co-directs the MCAP, an online collaborative training environment for incarnational leaders, pastors and church planters. He is also lead architect of Adullum, a local movement of missional communities in Denver, Colo., and is co-author of *The Tangible Kingdom* and the accompanying *Tangible Kingdom Primer* as well as *AND: The Gathered & Scattered Church* (with Matt Smay), and author of *Sacrilege*.

@BrandonHatmaker is pastor of Austin New Church, author of *Barefoot Church*, co-founder of Restore Communities and a missional strategist and ministry coach with Missio. Together, Austin New Church and Restore Communities have developed a unique network of churches and non-profits that serve in a collective effort to impact their city and world.

@JackieEHill is known as a poet, but she is simply a sinner saved by a gracious God. Through the gift of poetry, Hill witnesses to thousands of people about the grace and power of God! And her life's goal is to see people believe in Jesus for the impossible!

@AlanHirsch is known for his innovative approach to mission, and is considered to be a thought leader and key mission strategist for churches across the Western world. Hirsch is the founding director of Forge Mission Training Network and co-leader of Future Travelers, an innovative learning ministry helping megachurches lead missional movements. He has authored/co-authored multiple books, such as *The Forgotten Ways*; *ReJesus* and *The Faith of Leap* (with Michael Frost); *Untamed* (with Debra Hirsch); *On the Verge* (with Dave Ferguson); and *The Permanent Revolution* (with Tim Catchim).

@CaesarKal (Caesar Kalinowski) is a church planter, missional strategist and one of the founding leaders of Soma Communities. He currently serves as the director of the GCM Collective and is part of the Missio team. Kalinowski is a spiritual entrepreneur and an avid storyteller. At any given moment, he is starting a new missional community and handing over another to a new leader. A certified coach via CoachNet, Kalinowski is currently working to establish new churches throughout several cities in North America and Eastern Europe.

@Dhati (Dhati Lewis) is the lead pastor at Blueprint Church in Atlanta. His passions are church planting and discipleship. In 2011, Lewis launched The Rebuild Initiative to answer the call to see more churches planted in the urban context and currently serves as its president.

@_KPeck_ (Kevin Peck) is the lead pastor and an elder at the Austin Stone Community Church in Austin, Texas. In partnership with founding and preaching pastor Matt Carter, Peck has seen God grow the Austin Stone from a small gathering of young people to a city-loving church of over 7,000. His passion is to equip and mobilize Christ-exalting leaders in the home, church, city and globe.

@JohnMPerkins is a sharecropper's son who grew up amidst dire poverty. An activist, his outspoken nature and leadership in Civil Rights demonstrations resulted in repeated harassment, beatings and imprisonment. In Mendenhall, Miss., Perkins and his wife, Vera Mae, founded the Christian community development ministry

Voice of Calvary Ministries. The Perkins are also the founders of Harambee Christian Family Center and the John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation & Development, Inc., which supports their mission of advancing the principles of Christian community development and racial reconciliation throughout the world.

@PlattDavid (David Platt) serves as pastor at The Church at Brook Hills. Widely regarded as an exceptional expositor and motivator, Platt's first love in ministry is disciple making. He has traveled extensively to teach the Bible alongside church leaders and has written *Radical, Radical Together: Unleashing the People of God for the Purpose of God* and *Follow Me: A Call to Die, a Call to Live*. He is the founder of Radical, a resource ministry, dedicated to serving the church in making disciples of all nations.

@JoSaxton is a director of 3DM, a movement/organization helping churches develop a discipling and missional way of being the church. Originally from the United Kingdom, Saxton was college pastor at St. Thomas Church, Sheffield, England, planting missional congregations among college students and young adults. Since moving to the United States six years ago, she has served on church teams discipling young leaders and planting missional communities.

@Matt_Smay is the co-director of Missio, a ministry team committed to training, developing and apprenticing incarnational leaders for the church. Within Missio, Smay directs the MCAP, an online collaborative training environment for incarnational leaders, pastors and church planters. As co-author of *The Tangible Kingdom* and the accompanying *Tangible Kingdom Primer*, he balances his time and energy between leading Adullum, a local movement of missional communities in Denver, Colo., and working directly with church planters and pastors as a mentor, coach and consultant.

@JeffVanderstelt is one of the founding leaders of Soma Tacoma, a multi-expression, church-planting church. He is the visionary leader of Soma, a family of churches spread throughout North America

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A bit more...

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And more...

@WayneCordeiro. @Chris_Hodges. JimPutman
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Finally...

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