

# MC Fast Track- Week 1

*Vision for Missional Communities*

*Key Scripture-* John 17:6-26; Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-8

## Why Missional Communities at Redeemer?

Missional Communities are not just the newest trend in the church or a new way of church growth. Missional communities are rooted in the scripture. The church in the West is at a cross roads, and we think missional communities take us back to a biblically rooted way of organizing the church around *Gospel, Community, Mission*.

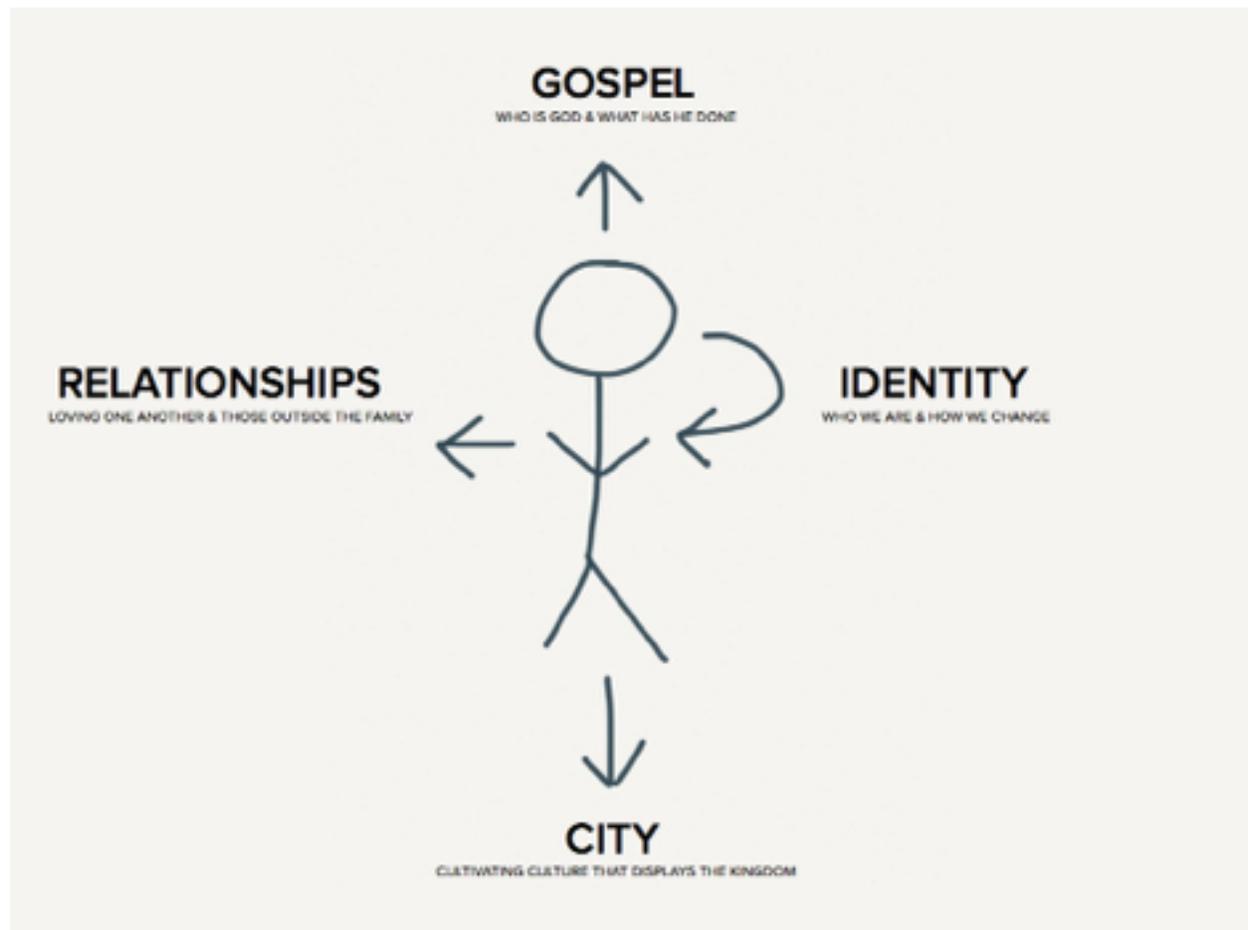
## Missional Communities are About Making Disciples of Jesus

What is a disciple of Jesus?- (an imperfect definition, but one that we like) A disciple is someone who worships Jesus, is changed by Jesus, and obeys Jesus. Increasing submitting all of life to the lordship of Jesus.

## What Does This Look Like More Specifically?

Picture of a Disciple: A Distinctive Way of Life in Christ

**What is a disciple of Jesus?** A disciple is someone who worships Jesus, is changed by Jesus, and obeys Jesus. Increasing submitting all of life to the lordship of Jesus. Throughout the New Testament we see the Apostles teaching on what this looks like more specifically. To help us internalize the Apostles teaching we have summarized this in what we refer to as the **'Essentials of a Disciple'**. Through the gospel, Jesus is restoring the way we relate with God, ourself, others, and the world.



**\*\* For more on “Essentials of a Disciple see Appendix 1**

If this is the picture of a disciple of Jesus (the whole person and all of life being redeemed through the gospel), how do we make disciples?

### **How Do We Make Disciples (Discipleship Environments)?**

How do we see Jesus making disciples in the scriptures? What about Paul? It is impossible to make disciples in a classroom. It is impossible to make disciples with a book study and discipleship material. These aren't bad, they are just insufficient. Making disciples of Jesus means moving far beyond learning new information about Jesus. Consider these three environments where discipleship happens: Life on Life, Life in Community, and Life on Mission.

- *Life on Life*- “knowing the real you and having the real you known”. Jesus models for us what life on life discipleship looks like. Paul didn't just drop in to new cities and pass out discipleship material to the churches. He lived among them, worked among them, ate among them, and slept among them. Teaching and passing on the normal, gritty, everyday things of life being submitted to Jesus as Lord.
- *Life in Community*- “may they be completely one, so they will know you have sent me”. Jesus prays for a unity and love among his future disciples, so that the world will see him through this “new body”. Life in community is critical to discipleship. We learn about Jesus in/from community, we experience Jesus in/from community, and we can only truly obey Jesus when we are living in community.
- *Life on Mission*- “*the sent ones (John 17:18, Matthew 28:18)*” Before going to the cross and after enduring the cross and raising from the dead, Jesus makes it clear...his disciples are the sent ones into the world to display and declare God's good news. In fact, he sends the Spirit of God to dwell within us to empower this activity. Life on mission isn't optional for a disciple, it is what it means to be a disciple.

**Missional communities are designed to be a vehicle that gets us to these discipleship environments.**

### **Missional Community Defined**

*A family of servant missionaries committed to growing as disciples and making new disciples.* This cannot be captured in one night a week. It is about increasingly submitting all of life to the Lordship of Jesus. It is about life on life, life in community, and life on mission. We don't learn how to do this over-night. We need starting points. Starting points give us a space to begin to learn how to grow as a disciple and make disciples, but the goal is to see these things become normal life.

## **Missional Community Starting Points**

### *1. The Family Meal (Regular Meeting)*

The family meal is the time when the missional community gathers to share a meal together with Jesus at the center. This meal is intentional in every way. We must make it clear that Jesus is who we are gathering around and he is the one who makes us a family.

### *2. Missional Living (Intentional Space)*

Missional living is showing and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with those who are not yet believers. In order to ensure that missional living is happening in your missional community, you will need to create a “space” where you are intentionally looking to share and show the gospel to those your missional community is trying to reach.

### *3. Serving*

Serving isn't just something we do and check off of our list. In fact, serving is a part of who we are as believers. We are servants of our King Jesus who calls us to care for the “least of these”, and reminds us that his Kingdom is for the poor, the sick, the needy. Every missional community should be regularly serving and meeting the needs of the needy.

### *4. DNA*

DNA is where we dig down deep in our care for one another as disciples. DNA it is the place where we are formed by God's word, confess sin, and are committed to one another's personal growth as followers of Jesus. DNA groups read the scriptures together, meeting weekly, and caring for one another in an honest and sincere way.

### *5. Sunday Gatherings*

Sunday gatherings are not just the “front door” of our church as others have said before. Sundays are a place for people who have been being the family of God and living on mission in a broken world to retreat and be renewed by the power and presence of God. We desperately need to be reminded of the truth of God's word as it is preached. We need to be ministered to by the Spirit as we declare truth through singing. And we need to be reminded of the gospel as we share the Lord's Supper with the greater Redeemer church. Sundays aren't optional or second rate, they are the place where missional communities are encouraged, shaped by the Word of God, and recommissioned to the mission of making disciples every week.

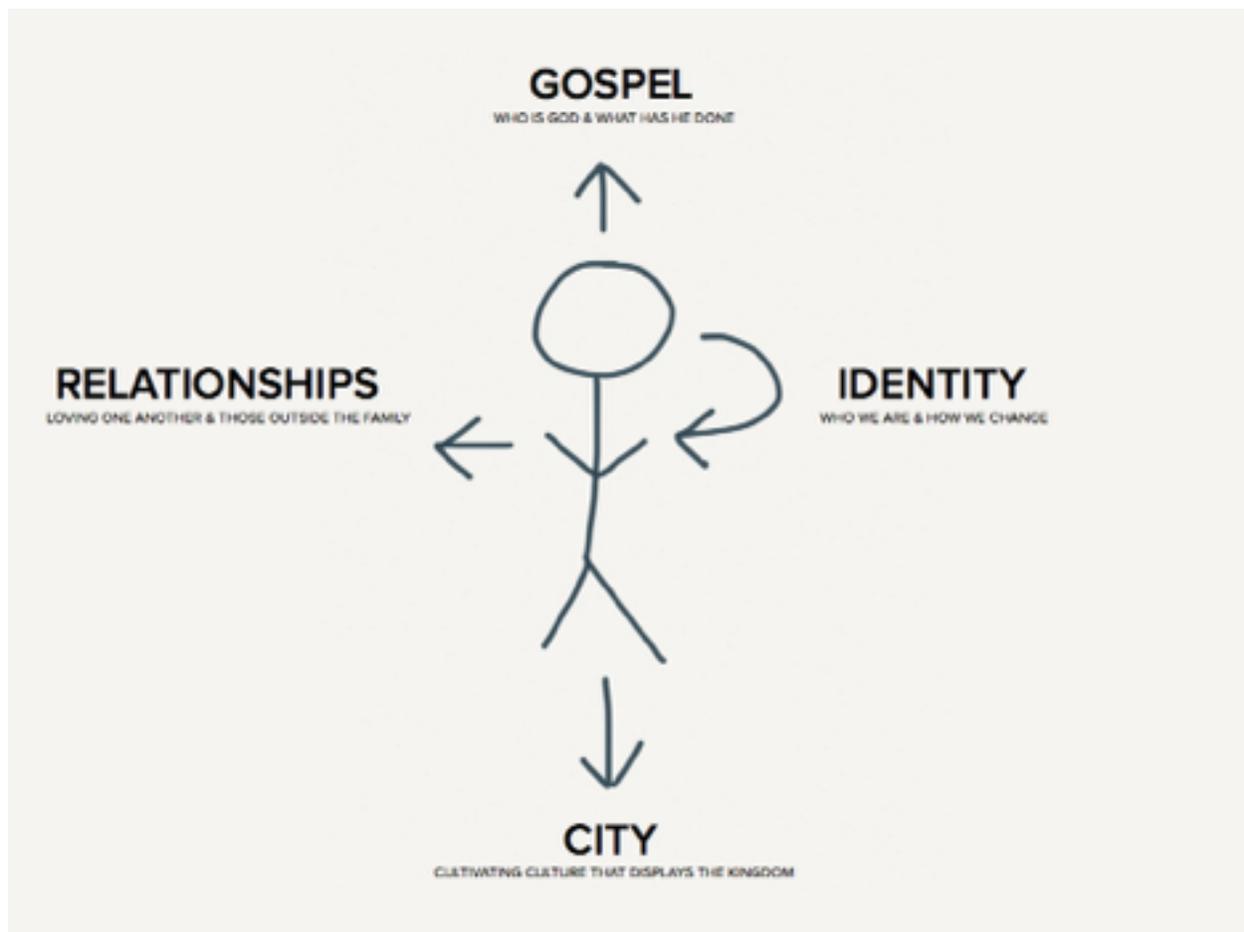
## **Reproducing Missional Communities and Gospel Saturation**

Our desire is to see missional communities planted and reproduced all across the northern suburbs of Austin until we reach gospel saturation. Gospel saturation is 1 MC for every 1,000 people in our cities. Our goal is not to plant new “worship services”, but to plant new missional communities where men, women, and children are encountering a gospel witness in everyday life. As missional communities are reproduced in a region and leaders are developed and established, new churches are born.

## Appendix 1- Essentials of a Disciple

### ESSENTIALS OF A DISCIPLE: A DISTINCTIVE WAY OF LIFE

What is a disciple of Jesus? A disciple is someone who worships Jesus, is changed by Jesus, and obeys Jesus. Increasing submitting all of life to the lordship of Jesus. Throughout the New Testament we see the Apostles teaching on what this looks like more specifically. To help us internalize the Apostles teaching we have summarized this in what we refer to as the 'Essentials of a Disciple.'



1. **GOSPEL** - It is of first importance that a disciple is formed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We want to establish disciples who know the Story of God, understand the historical message of the Gospel, the power of the Gospel, and the purpose of the Gospel.
  - a. **Story of God** - *Do you know the story of God and how Jesus is the fulfillment of God's plan of redemption? Genesis to Revelation*
  - b. **Gospel Message** - *Do you know and have you responded to the Gospel message proclaimed by the Apostles? Galatians 1:1-5; 3:1-18; 1 Corinthians 15;*

Romans 1:1-7; 4:24-25; Ephesians 1:1-3:21; Colossians 1:9-14; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1:1-5, Acts 10:34-38

c. **Gospel Power** - *Do you know the power of the Gospel that saves you from the penalty, power, and presence of sin?* Romans 1:16, Romans

d. **Gospel Purpose** - *Do you know how the Gospel gives us a new purpose and shows us God's redemptive plan for the world?* Ephesians 1:10; 14-22, 2 Corinthians 5:15-21, Revelation 21

2. **IDENTITY**- Because of Jesus those who are in Christ are a new creation. As disciples we are learning to live out this new identity (Family of Servant Missionaries) by the power of the Holy Spirit. Each believer is instructed to lay aside his old life, having his mind renewed, and live out his new identity in Christ according to the will of God.

a. **Who We Are** - *Are we learning to live out our new identity as a Family of Servant Missionaries? Do we understand who we are in Christ and how this changes what we do?* 1 Peter 2:9, Ephesians 1:3-6, Romans 12:10-16, John 1:11-13, Galatians 2-4, Romans 8, Phil. 2:5-11, John 13:1-17, Colossians 1:19, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

b. **How We Change** - *Are we committed to renewing our minds by the power of the Spirit? Are we setting our minds on Christ and things above? Are we addressing the issues of our hearts with the power of the Gospel? Are we learning to walk obediently in the power of the Spirit (putting off the old man and putting on the new)?* Colossians 3, 1 Peter 3, 2 Peter 1, Galatians 2-5, Ephesians 4-5, Romans 12:1-2, James 4:1-10

3. **RELATIONSHIPS** - The primary place we live out our new identity in Christ is in the context of relationships. God has changed us and we are learning to relate to others in a new way. This is a distinctive way of relating to others based on Christ. It is primarily characterized by love.

a. **Covenant** - God has ordered our relationships in a particular way. While we are called to love even our enemies, there is a sense of priority in how we order our relationships. We relate to our families and those in our church community people in covenant relationship (deep commitment). The scriptures give us clear instruction on how we are to relate to our immediate family and our church family.

i. **Family {Marriage, Singleness, Parents, Children}** - Individual households must be ordered properly, consistent with God's created design for man and for the Church. *Does each person in the household know and living in line with the roles God has given them?* Ephesians 5:22-6:9, Colossians 3:18-4:1, 1 Peter 3:1-7

ii. **Church Family** - A pattern of relationships within the church must be observed, characterized by love, brotherhood, mutual acceptance and respect, in which each is to diligently pursue unity in the bond of peace. *Are*

*your relationships with others in the church family characterized by love, brotherhood, mutual acceptance and respect? Are you diligently pursuing unity with the body? Are you speaking the truth in love to your brothers and sisters in Christ? Are you honoring and submitting to your leaders?*  
Romans 12:3-16, 1 Cor. 12:4-6, Titus 1:5-2:15, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6, Ephesians 3:1-13, Acts 2-5

b. **Outward {Neighbors & Networks, Authorities, Enemies}** - As God's display people we are called to have relationships with those outside of the church characterized by respect for government, employees and other authorities, and love and good deeds toward neighbors and those in need. We are called to continue doing good works to all and to love our enemies. *Are you living with respect to the authorities in your life (government, work, other authorities)? Are you regularly serving those in need around you (neighbors, coworkers, marginalized)? Does the way you interact with those outside of the church display a accurate picture of Christ to outsiders?* Romans 13:1-7, Titus 2:14; 3:1-14

4. **CITY** - As God's display people we are called to live distinctively in our city. We care for those in need, work as those working for Christ, and we steward God's resources as good managers of the gifts he has given us.

a. **Work** - Disciples must lead a responsible and sober life, working hard, providing for his own, making the most of the time (because the days are evil) and keeping on the alert for Satan and his strategies. Our work is not seen as a way to become something but as a way to display the glory of Christ. *Are you working hard as if for Christ and regularly resting in Christ? Are you managing your time appropriately and keeping alert to Satan's strategies in your life? Are you making decisions based on a biblical understanding of your priorities?*  
Genesis 1-3, Ephesians 6:10-18, Colossians 3:23, 1 Thess. 4:9-12

b. **Stewardship** - Each disciple is committed to using their time, talent, and treasure for the building up of the body and the good of their city. This is reflected in how they spend their time, money, and talents. *Are you committed to using the gifts and abilities God has given you to serve others in the church family? Are they giving their time, resources, and finances to support the mission of making disciples? Do you have a clear understanding of your gifts and know how they fit within your local church family?* Psalm 24:1, Genesis 2:15, 1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 6:33

c. **Mercy** - As we display the coming city disciples are called to care for the poor, widows, and orphans in our city. We especially take care of those within our covenant community but we also work to help those in need around us. We serve those who have nothing to offer us just as we have been served by Jesus. *Are we aware of the needs in our city? Are we using our resources to care for the least among us? Are we caring for the widows, orphans, and poor?*  
Luke 12:33, James 1:27, Galatians 2:10, Acts 2:45

