Lay Leader Development and the Model of Christ: Intentional Small Group Organization for Multiplying Groups at Green Acres Baptist Church

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Abstract
The purpose of this thesis is to develop a strategic process for leader development utilizing small groups at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas. The development of lay leaders will determine the efforts of starting and sustaining small groups and ministry efforts in the local church. The structure of groups and the strategy to develop leaders should be a replicable system formulated within biblical parameters. The biblical research is concentrated toward the methods practiced by Jesus with his disciples. Biblical discipleship is examined for the purpose of assessing adequate organization that cultivate leader development and group multiplication. Effective small group systems will be identified for the purpose of leader development and group multiplication at Green Acres Baptist Church. The efforts of multiplication will cease to occur if leaders are not adequately equipped and trained to begin new small groups. This thesis will give a replicable system of how to organize small groups in the local church as well as a strategy to equip lay leaders to identify and develop other lay leaders for the purpose of starting new groups.
must want to multiply themselves. When that happens, the entire body of Christ benefits. These leaders will eventually take the tools they learn and begin to affect their campuses, communities and countries for eternity. Daily, leaders in business and government make influential decisions that reverberate through society.

Andrea Buczynski, Cru’s Vice President for Global Leadership and Development, provides an explanation and overview of the roles and responsibilities of a leader that are the foundation of our ministry’s leadership model. Leader Development. The BBFI started in 1950 with a small group of leaders committed to the one simple task of fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as stated in Matthew 28:18-20. These leaders, both young and old, made a difference in the world in which they lived. Over the past 70 years, the BBFI has produced some of the world’s greatest ministry leaders. Since its inception, there have been many chapters written. Today is the day to write the next chapter. The past six months have been unprecedented for the local church. Pastors and churches are listening, learning and adapting to a “new normal.” Eve