



GROW



[YOUR CHURCH]



Discipleship is a process. That process is the **growth cycle**.

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“The fields are . . . already white for harvest” (John 4:35).

“The seed is the word of God” (Luke 8:11).

“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few” (Matthew 9:37).



GROW



[YOUR CHURCH]





1. **PREPARE** = Serve/Befriend
2. **PLANT** = Share/Introduce
3. **CULTIVATE** = Study/Guide
4. **HARVEST** = Appeal/Baptize
5. **PRESERVE** = Mentor/Train



1. **PREPARE** = Serve/Befriend (Trust)
2. **PLANT** = Share/Introduce (Consider)
3. **CULTIVATE** = Study/Guide (Learn)
4. **HARVEST** = Appeal/Baptize (Decide)
5. **PRESERVE** = Mentor/Train (Follow)



Prepare

Prepare the Soil

- ✓ Perform intentional acts of kindness
- ✓ Provide compassionate service and comprehensive health ministry



“Jesus . . . went about doing good.”

Acts 10:38



“The sowers of the seed have a work to do in preparing hearts to receive the gospel. . . . the love of Christ, revealed in personal ministry, may soften the stony heart, so that the seed of truth can take root.”

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 57



“When properly conducted, the health work is an entering wedge, making a way for other truths to reach the heart.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 327



Plant

Plant the Word

- ✓ Engage in spiritual conversation or share testimony
- ✓ Share truth-filled literature and media
- ✓ Invite to church events



“The dissemination of the truth of God is not confined to a few ordained ministers. The truth is to be scattered by all who claim to be disciples of Christ.”



“Satan is now seeking to hold God’s people in a state of inactivity, to keep them from acting their part in spreading the truth, that they may at last be weighed in the balance and found wanting.”



“If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures.”



“More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.”



“The truth must not be muffled now. Plain statements must be made. Unvarnished truth must be spoken, in leaflets and pamphlets, and these must be scattered like the leaves of autumn.”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 231



Cultivate

Cultivate Interest

- ✓ Give ongoing Bible studies
- ✓ Bring to small group Bible studies or evangelistic meetings



History of Bible Studies

Stephen Haskell preached a sermon in 1882 that launched the question and Bible answer format to be used in Bible studies.



“In visions of the night representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God’s people. ... Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them

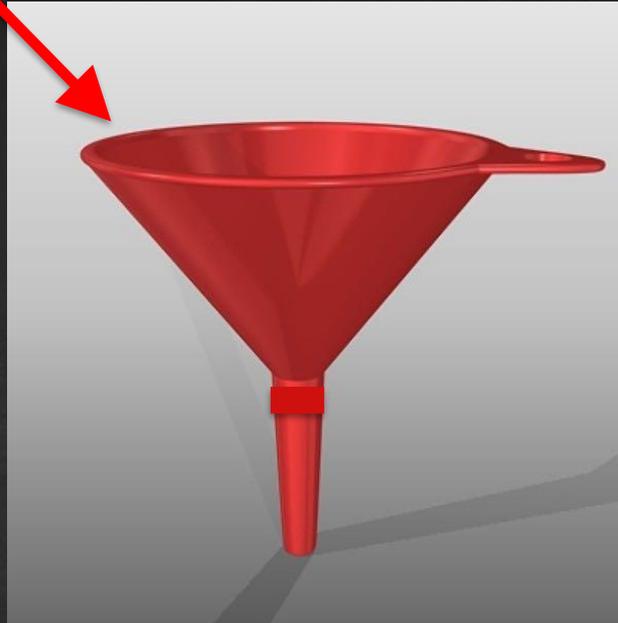


“the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth.”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 126



Cooking
School



Cooking
School

Church
Social



Cooking
School

Church
Social

Concert



Cooking
School

Church
Social

Concert

Community
Service



Cooking
School

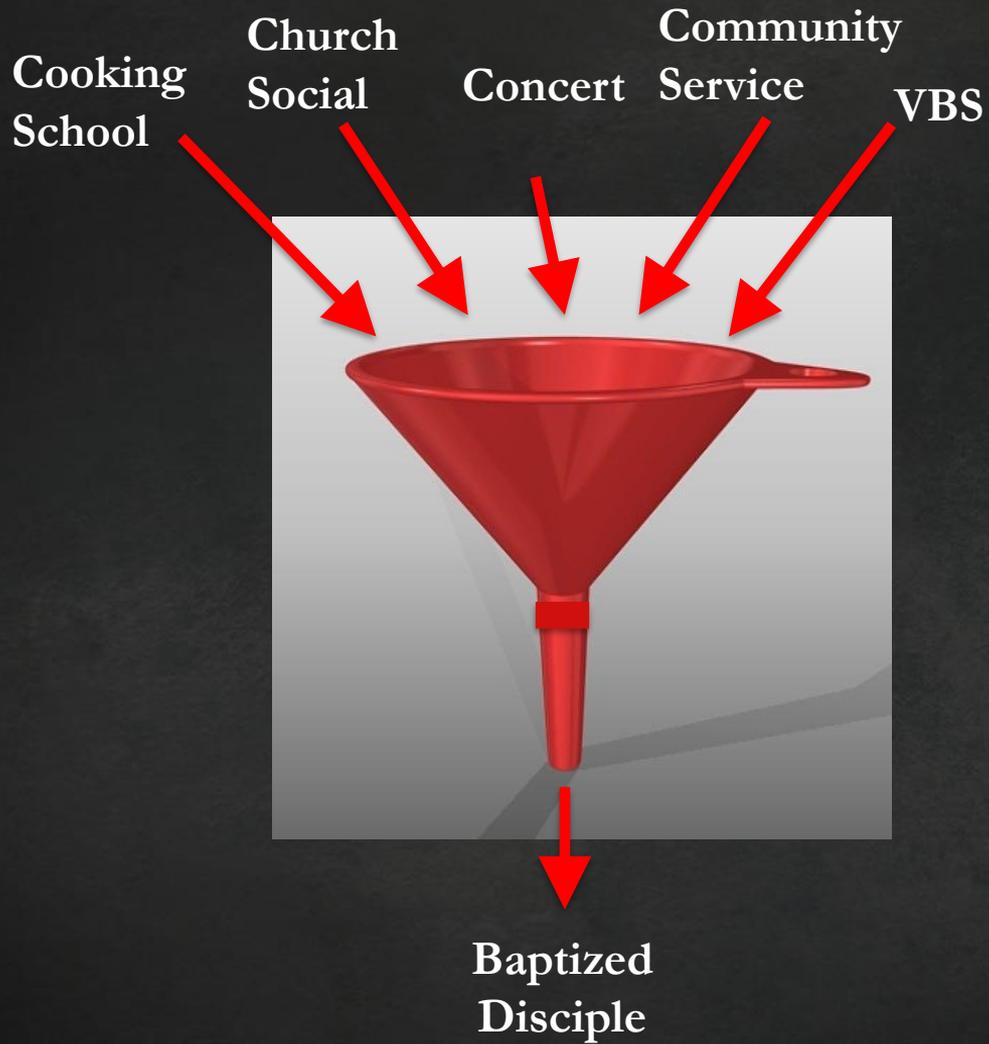
Church
Social

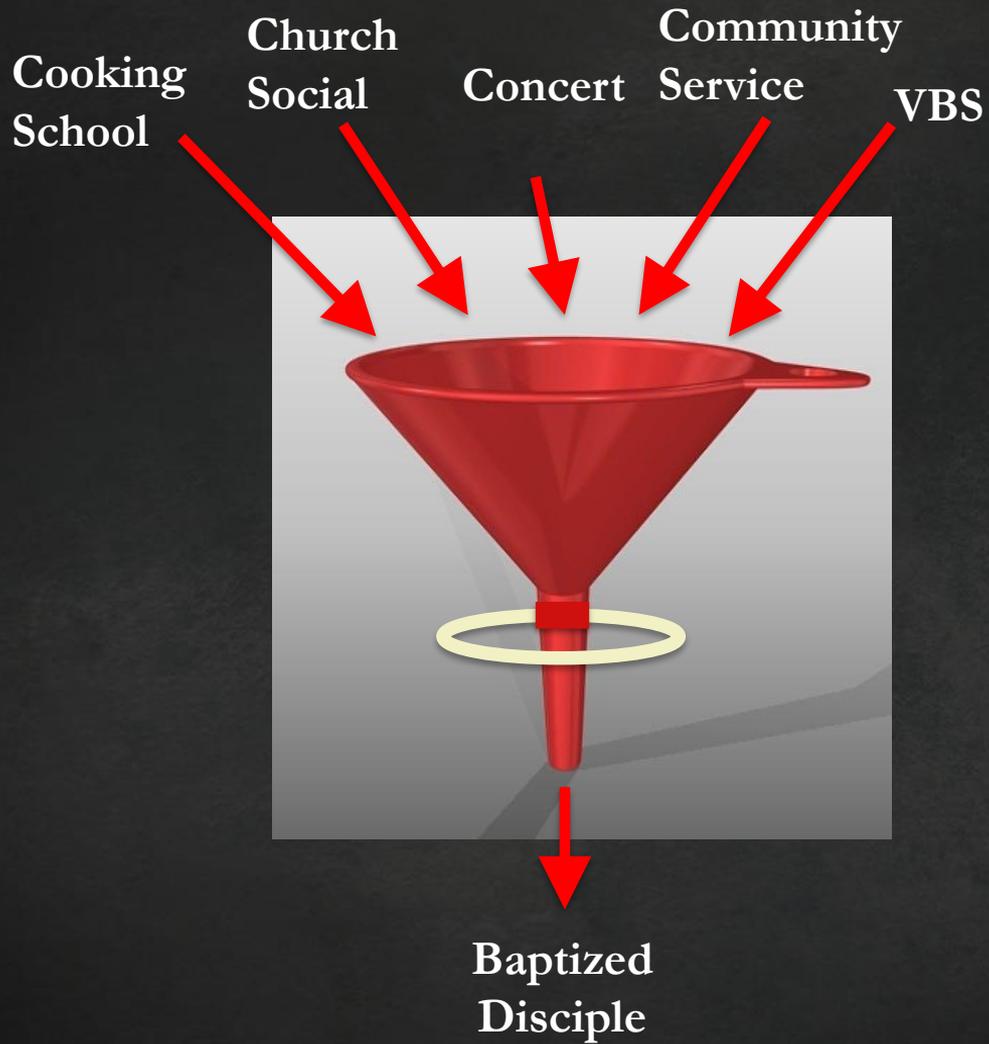
Concert

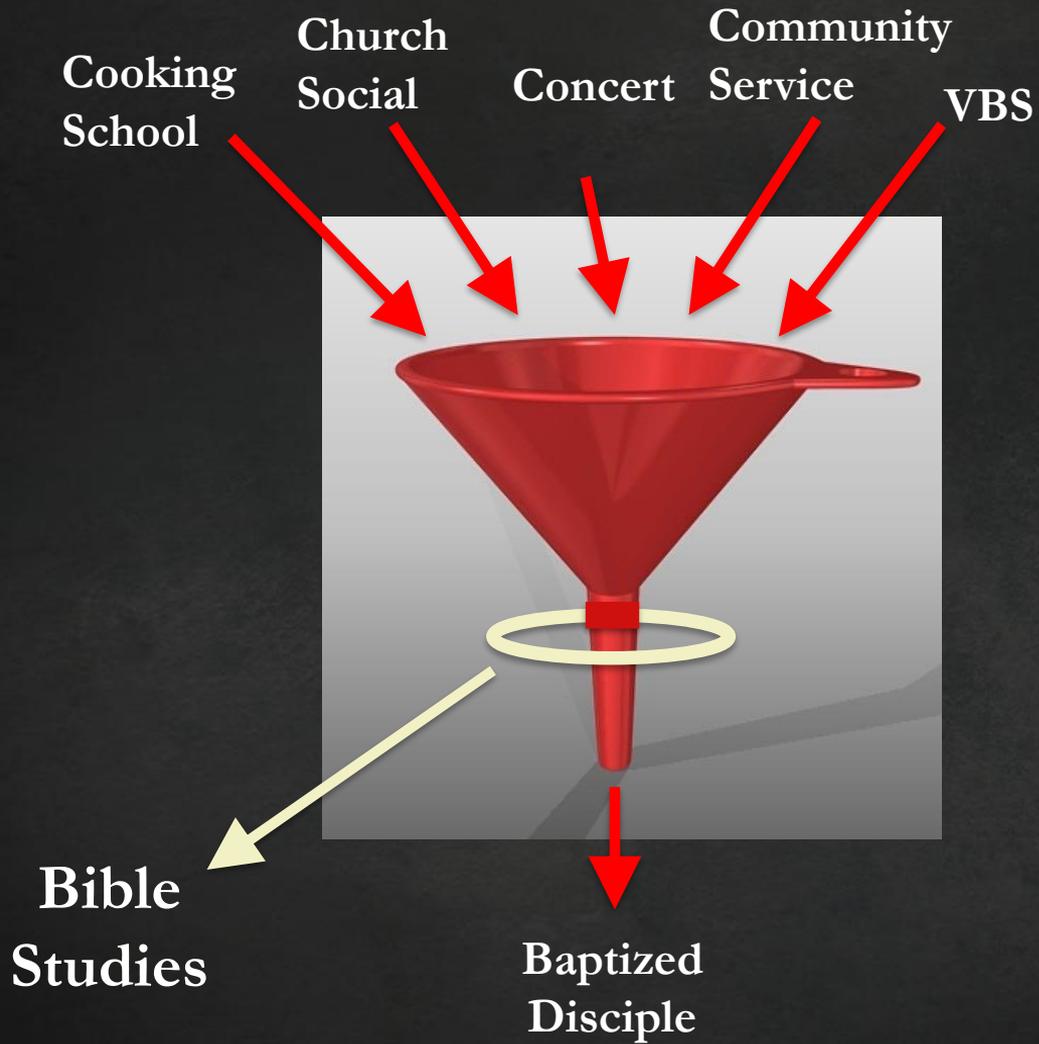
Community
Service

VBS











“There are those in the world who are reading the Scriptures, but who cannot understand their import. The men and women who have a knowledge of **God are needed** to explain the word to these souls.”

Christian Service, p. 142



“Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.”

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 109



“Let ministers teach church members that in order to grow in spirituality, they must carry the burden that the Lord has laid upon them,—the burden of leading souls into the truth.”



“The plan of holding Bible readings [*studies*] was a heaven-born idea.”



Harvest Decisions

- ✓ Appeal for decisions in **personal** Bible studies
- ✓ Appeal for decisions in **public** evangelistic meetings and other sermons



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Luke 10:2



“Your work may accomplish more real good than the more extensive meetings, if they lack in personal effort. When both are **combined**, with the blessing of God, a **more perfect and thorough work** may be



“wrought; but if we can have but one part done,
let it be the individual labor . . .”



“If there is not a decided application of the truth to their hearts, if words are not spoken at the right moment, calling for decision from the weight of evidence already presented, the convicted ones pass



“on without identifying themselves with Christ, the golden opportunity passes, and they have not yielded, and they go farther and farther away from the truth, farther away from Jesus and **never take their stand on the Lord’s side.**”



Preserve & Train

- ✓ Provide systematic discipleship plan for mentoring new members
- ✓ Train members in soul-winning service
- ✓ Nurture members



“After individuals have been converted to the truth, they need to be looked after. ... These newly converted ones need nursing, watchful attention, help, and encouragement.”



“When souls are converted, set them to work at once. And as they labor according to their ability, they will grow stronger.”



“One soul, won to the truth, will be instrumental in winning others, and there will be an ever-increasing result of blessing and salvation.”



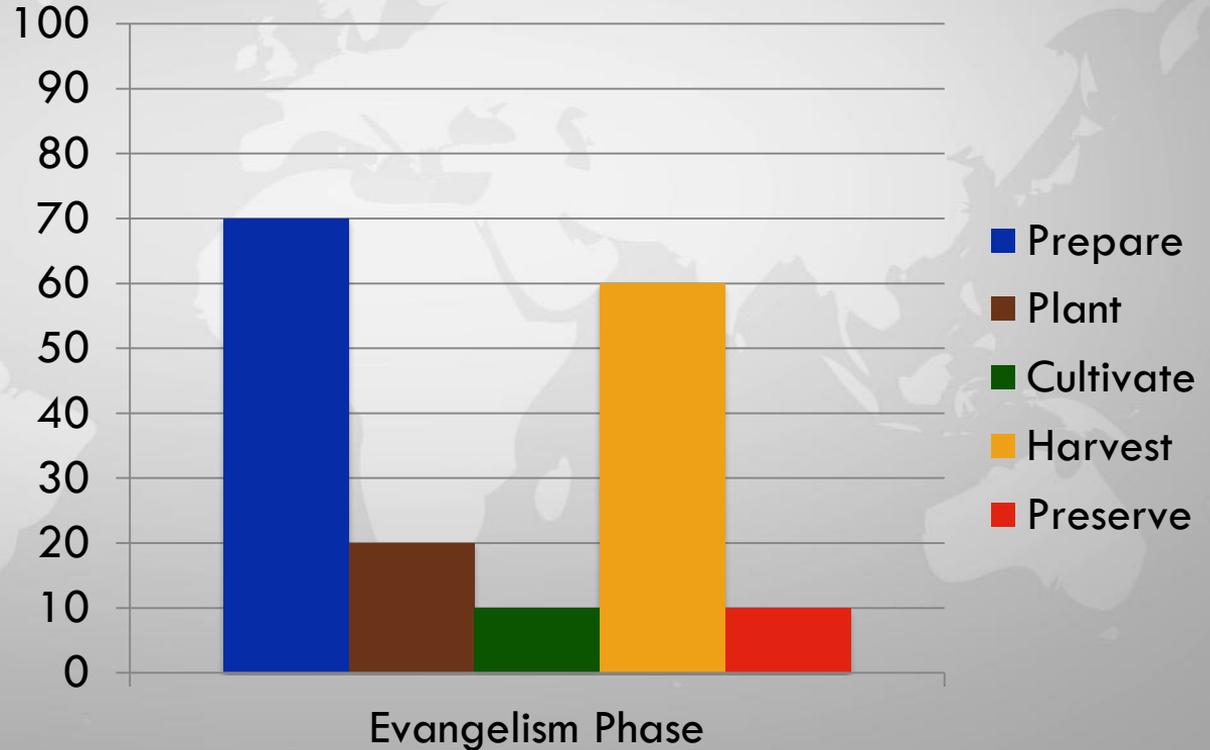
5 Ministry Goals

for every local church

1. **CHURCHWIDE** Community Ministries
2. **ACTIVE** Literature & Media Ministry
3. **VIBRANT** Bible Study Ministry
4. **REGULAR** Evangelistic Meetings
5. **SYSTEMATIC** Discipleship Ministry

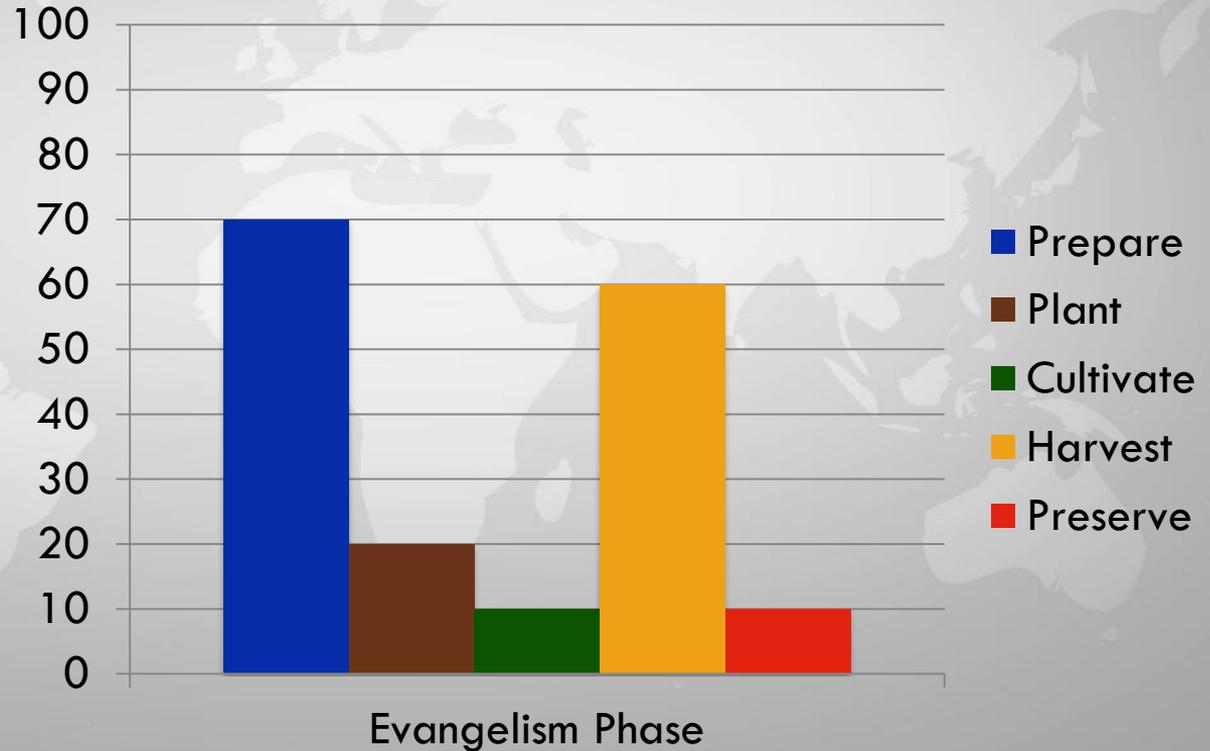
Local Church Growth Potential

Every Church Has Different Strengths & Weaknesses



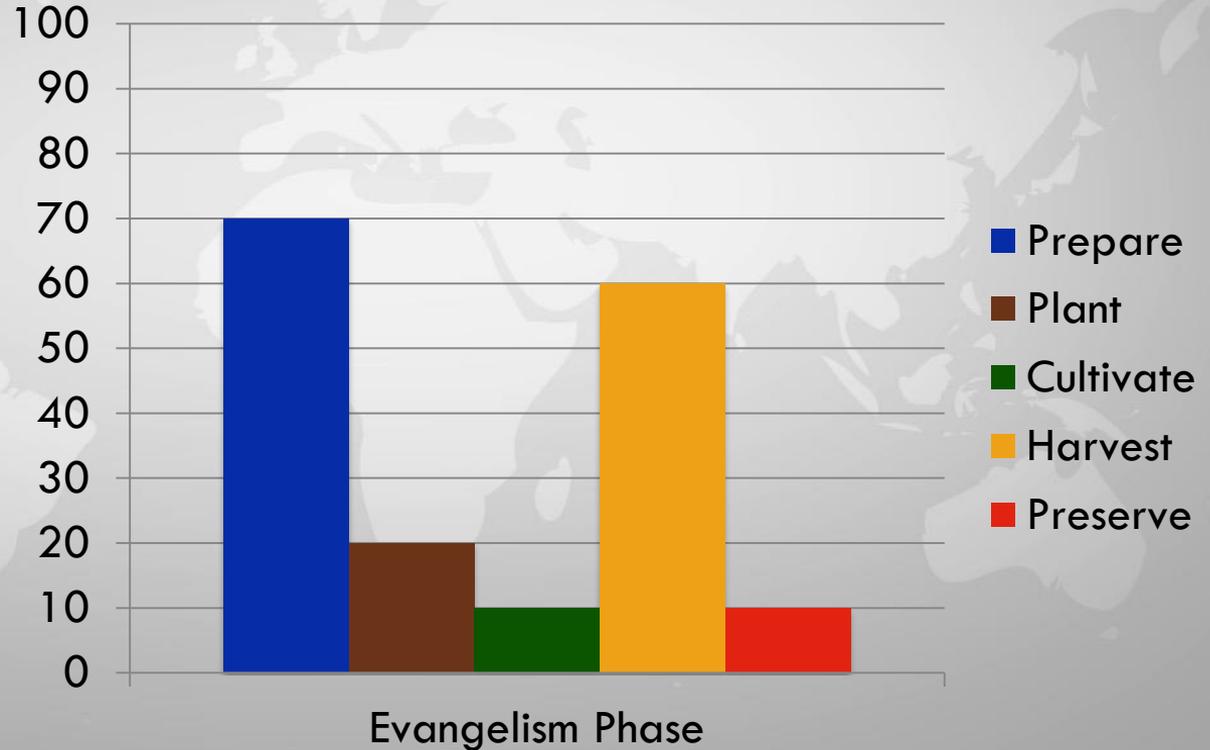
Local Church Growth Potential

We should evaluate the strength or weakness of each phase



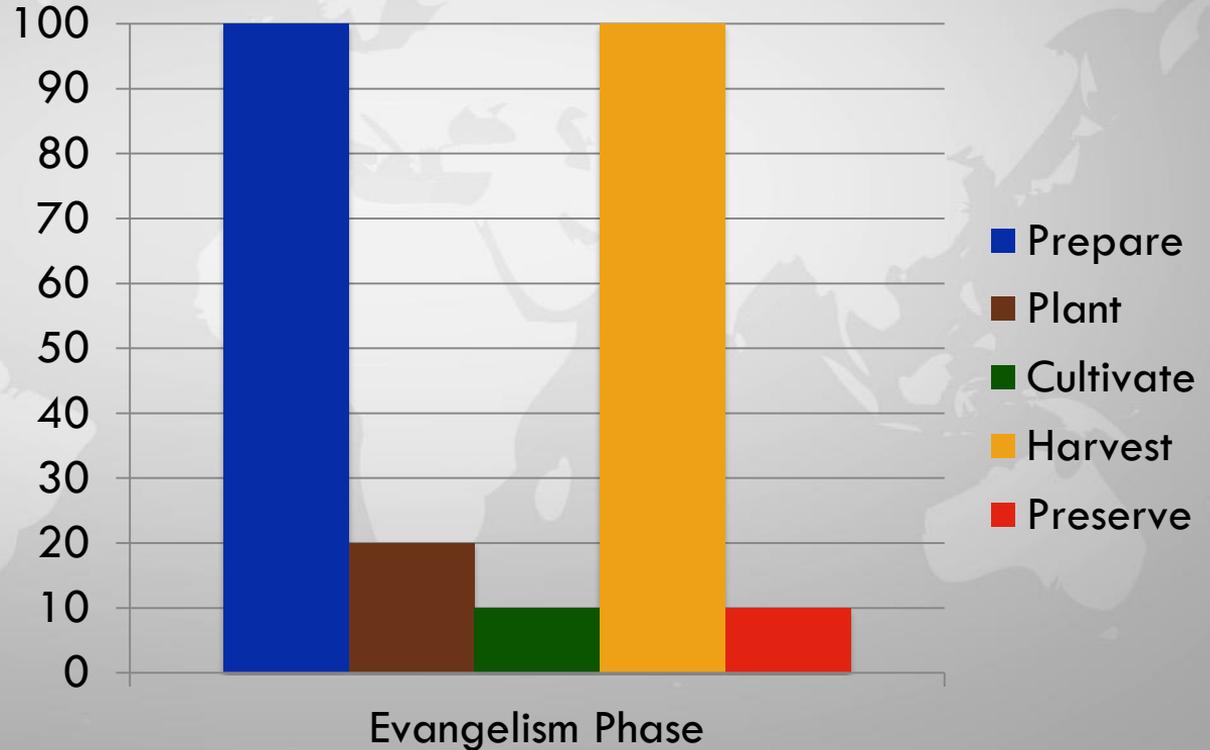
Local Church Growth Potential

The key is to recognize that every phase of soul-winning is essential



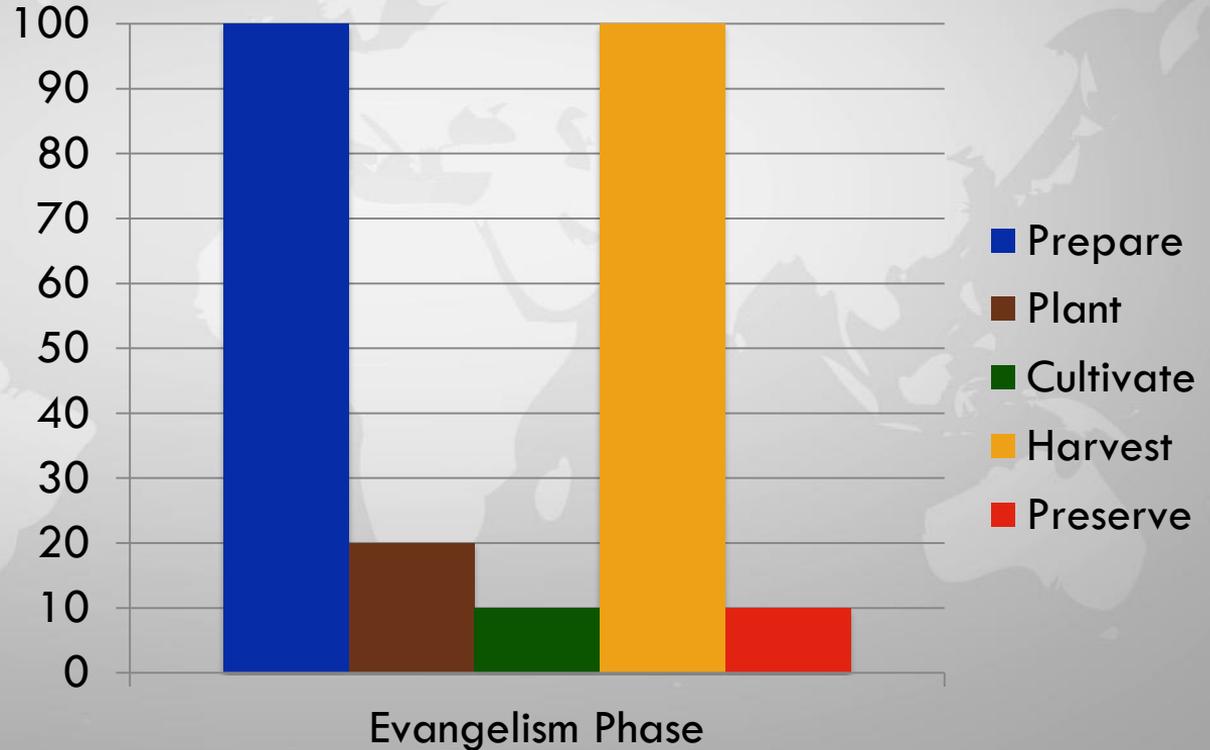
Local Church Growth Potential

We can't just focus on **one or two** areas and neglect the others



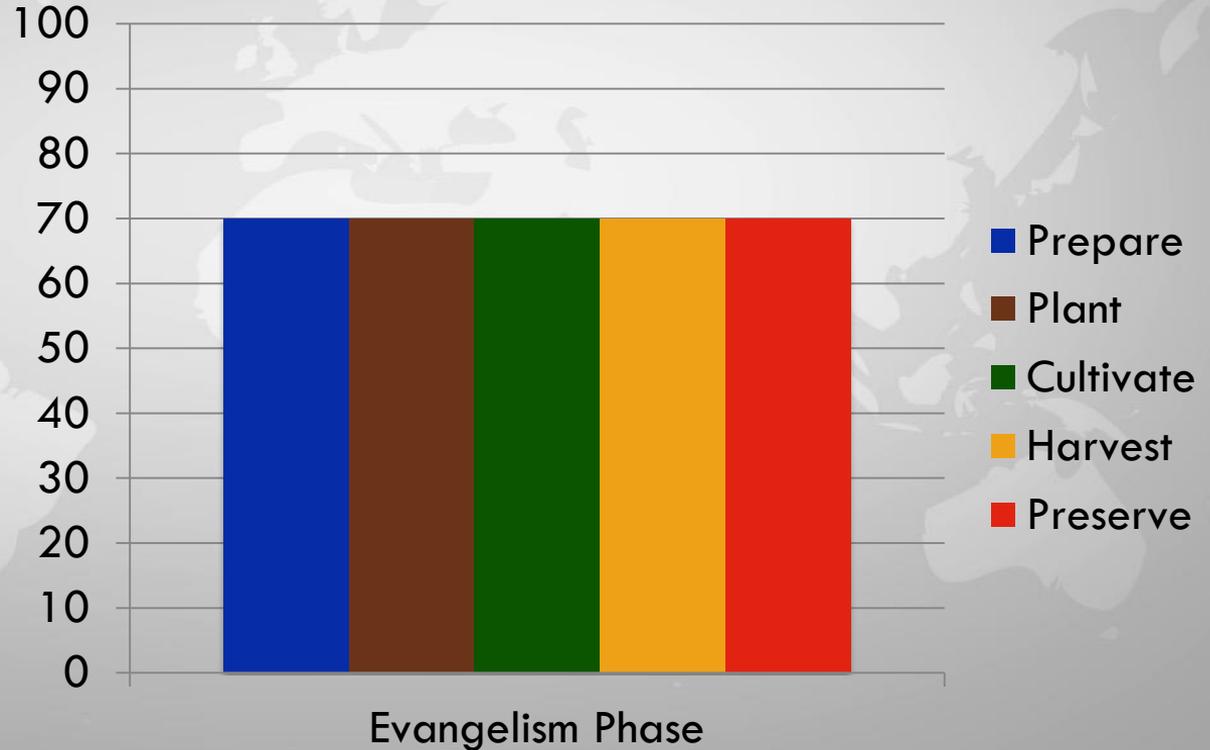
Local Church Growth Potential

This results in a growth bottleneck that limits church growth.



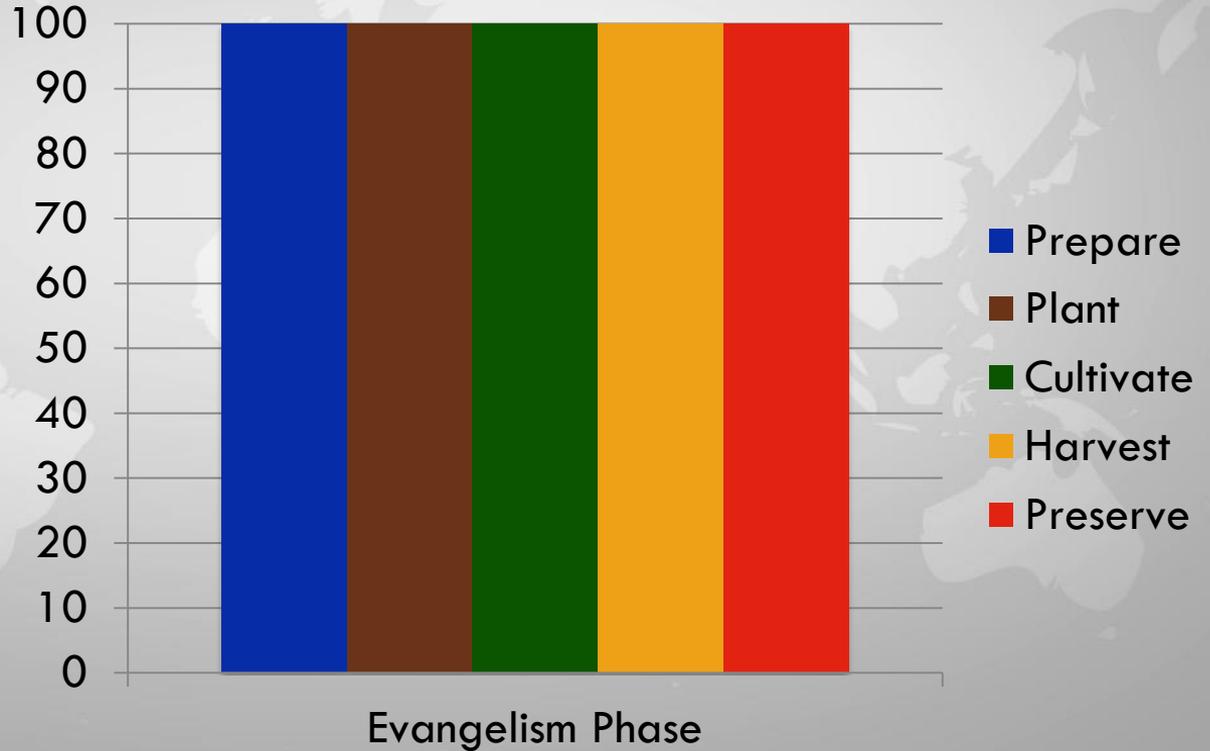
Local Church Growth Potential

We must
strengthen
every phase,
always aiming
for...



Local Church Growth Potential

Total Member
Involvement





Question: If every member was involved in some form of personal outreach service, would the church grow?



Question: If every member was involved in some form of personal outreach service, would the church grow?

Not necessarily.







Identifying “No Grow” Areas



Church A

Church A is very busy. It holds cooking seminars, VBS and evangelistic meetings every year. It also has an active community service center and a mentorship program for new members. Why is it not growing as much as it could?



While holding many church events, Church A is weak in the vital aspect of personal witnessing through literature and consistent Bible studies. Without these, it will experience modest growth at best.

GROW	Church A
Prepare	Health, VBS, Community Services
Plant	NO GROW!
Cultivate	
Harvest	Evangelistic Meetings
Preserve	Mentorship Program



Church B

In the fall of every year, Church B holds an evangelistic series and baptizes new members. Within two years, however, most of these have no involvement in the church or have left the church altogether. What can be done to help Church B?



Church B is making church members but falling short of making disciples. It needs an intentional plan to disciple new members into active and spiritually grounded laborers in God's cause.

GROW	Church B
Prepare	Felt-Needs Ministries
Plant	Literature Distribution
Cultivate	Bible Studies
Harvest	Evangelistic Meetings
Preserve	NO GROW!



Church C

The members of Church C share literature and give Bible studies. They also have an intentional plan for mentoring new members, but very few interests actually become baptized members of the church. What can Church C do to grow?



Church C has failed to build trust by ministering to the health and other needs of the community. It also fails to capitalize on the power of public evangelistic meetings to harvest decisions for Christ, including baptism.

GROW	Church C
Prepare	NO GROW!
Plant	Literature Distribution
Cultivate	Bible Studies
Harvest	NO GROW!
Preserve	Mentorship Program



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The GROW Series





“Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin. They need to be instructed and encouraged. Every church should be a training school for Christian workers.”

GROW
[YOUR CHURCH]



GROW.adventist.org

**Training Videos, Study Guides, and
other resources**

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Your Own Logo**



Customize
Your Own Logo



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TMI
2.0



**IN EVERY LOCAL
CHURCH!**

ONE MISSION OR TWO?

A FALSE DICHOTOMY

COMMUNITY

Evangelism

Outreach

Soul-winning

Numerical Growth

CHURCH

Nurture

Inreach

Mentoring

Spiritual Growth

EVANGELISM, P. 355

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CHRIST'S OBJECT LESSONS, P. 354

“The more one tries to **explain the Word of God to others**, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes to himself. The more we use our knowledge and exercise our powers, the more knowledge and power we shall have.”

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CHRISTIAN SERVICE, P. 69

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TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

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without training and equipping them to **win souls**.

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if we don't **love and care** for one another.

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We can't truly **win souls** . . .

if we don't **love and care** for one another.

There is **no such thing** as nurture without evangelistic outreach . . .

or evangelistic outreach without nurture.

We have only *one mission*. It is both the best strategy for church growth *and* the best strategy for the nurture and retention of our members.

Discipleship is *one continuous process* that begins before baptism, continues after baptism, and leads the disciple to become more like Jesus and to carry on His mission of winning souls.



Go make disciples!