

“Why am I a Catholic?”

The Relationship between Catechesis and Evangelisation

Revd Dr Gareth Leyshon

Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism

Priest of the Archdiocese of Cardiff

“Why am I a Catholic?”

The Relationship between Catechesis and Evangelisation

Resources: CatholicPreacher.wordpress.com/olc

Part One

Catholic In Name Only?

The State of the Church Today

How many Catholics in Britain?

Baptised – canonical Catholics?

“I’m a Catholic” – self-identifying

7.3% of British population in 2019 (4.7 million people)

Attending Mass: 1/3 of “I’m a Catholic” in 2019 (1.56M)

But... what does it mean to say “I’m a Catholic”?

“Tell me the story of where God is in your life.”

I am/was connected
to the CHURCH

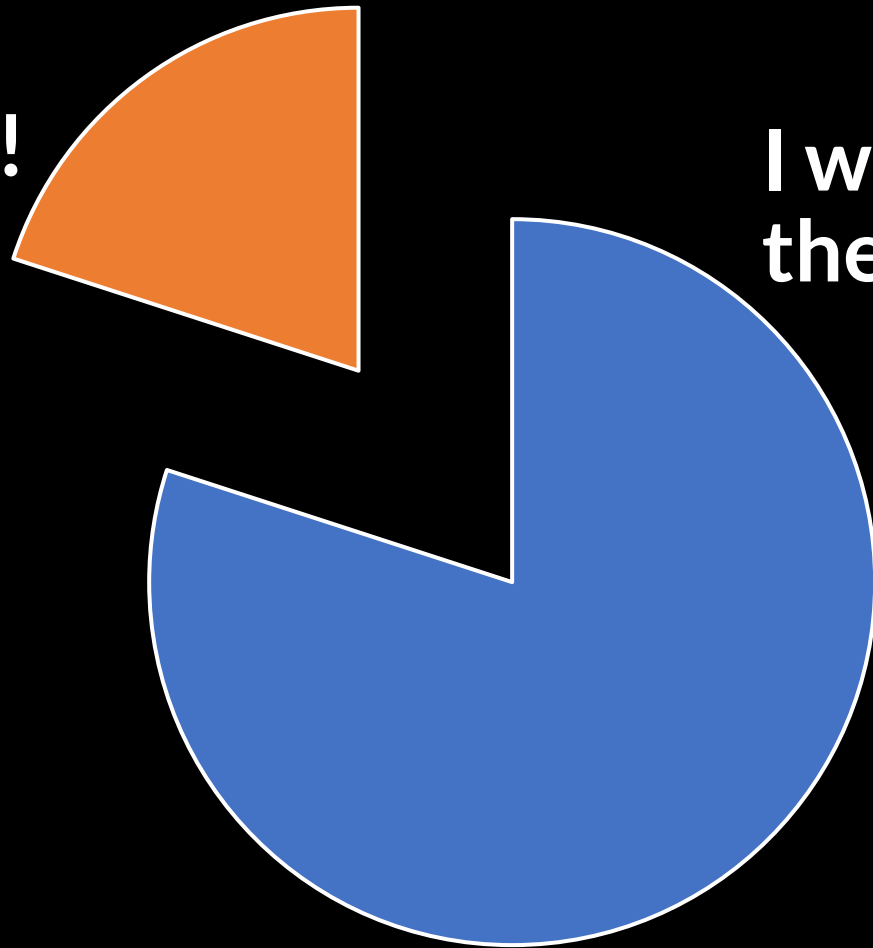


God is always there
for me when I pray



“Why are you becoming a Catholic?”

I believe!



I want to belong to these nice Catholics

2019 Survey Weekly Massgoers if “I’m a Catholic”

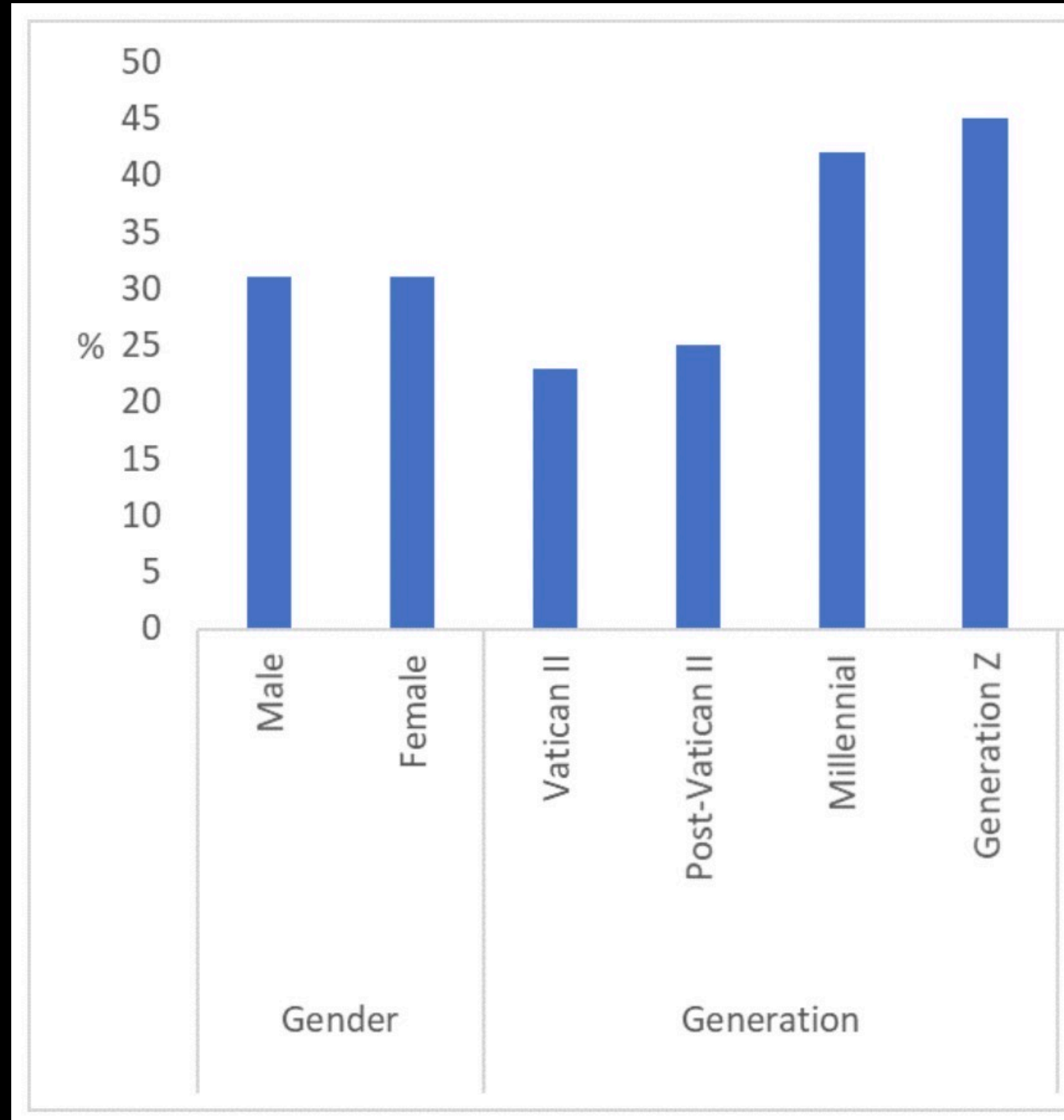
33% of men
33% of women

Vat II 1941-60

Post 1961-79

Mill 1980-96

GenZ 1997+



2014 Data

If you were brought up Catholic...

38% "I have no religion"

1% "I joined a different religion"

5% "I joined a different Christian denomination"

33% "I am still a Catholic" – never go to Mass

8% "I am still a Catholic" – seldom go to Mass

5% "I am still a Catholic" – go to Mass each month

10% "I am still a Catholic" – weekly Mass

Because of the Pandemic...

Enough income to keep the building open?

Shortage of priests?

Shortage of volunteers? Stewards, safeguarding....

COLLAPSE OF CATHOLIC STRUCTURES?

Paired Dioceses – Ireland, Wales

“Don’t merge, but pair parishes.” – Vatican, 2020

Even where we have Massgoing Catholics...

“Raise funds for the building!”

“We must do something for the young people!”

“Let’s help the homeless/hungry/refugees.”

Let’s invite resting Catholics to come “home”

Let’s invite lots of people who aren’t Catholic to join!

“Why am I a Catholic?”



Unam Sanctam, 1302, Pope Boniface VIII

...we are obliged to believe and to maintain that the Church is one, holy, catholic, and also apostolic. We believe in her firmly and we confess with simplicity that outside of her there is neither salvation nor the remission of sins...

...we declare, we proclaim, we define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff.

Quanto Conficiamur Moerore, 1863, Pius IX

There are, of course, those who are struggling with invincible ignorance about our most holy religion. Sincerely observing the natural law and its precepts inscribed by God on all hearts and ready to obey God, they live honest lives and are able to attain eternal life by the efficacious virtue of divine light and grace. Because God knows, searches and clearly understands the minds, hearts, thoughts, and nature of all, his supreme kindness and clemency do not permit anyone at all who is not guilty of deliberate sin to suffer eternal punishments.

Eternal salvation cannot be obtained by those who oppose the authority and statements of the same Church and are stubbornly separated from the unity of the Church and also from the successor of Peter, the Roman Pontiff...

Vatican II teaching (1964)

Lumen Gentium: Many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside of [the Catholic Church's] visible structure.

Unitatis Redintegratio: The brethren divided from us also use many liturgical actions of the Christian religion... These ... must be regarded as capable of giving access to the community of salvation.

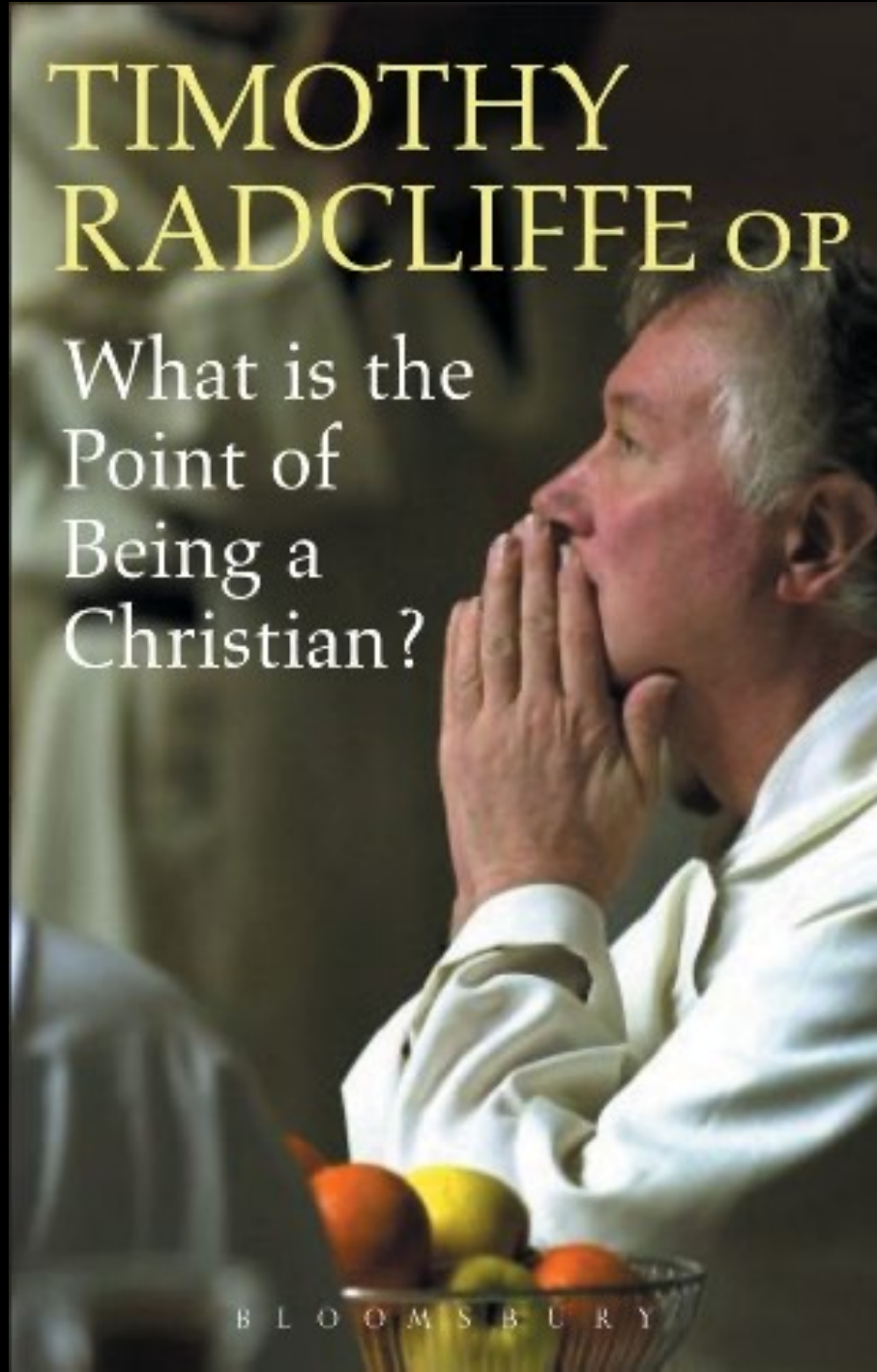


Matthew 28:19-20a

**Therefore go and make
disciples of all
nations, baptizing them
in the name of the
Father and of the Son
and of the Holy
Spirit, and
teaching them to obey
everything I have
commanded you.**

TIMOTHY
RADCLIFFE OP

What is the
Point of
Being a
Christian?



BLOOMSBURY



“All the baptised are called to go and share God's love. We are all called to be ‘missionary disciples’.”

Evangelii Gaudium, §120



**“Madam,
evangelisation yes,
proselytism no.”**

*5 Sept 2019,
Maputo, Mozambique*

Evangelisation yes, proselytism no

DON'T disrespect other beliefs

DON'T be manipulative (exploit weakness, offer incentives)

DON'T be passive. Talk about Jesus!

Proclaim the Gospel at all times, and use words to make Jesus known.

“Why are you (still) a Catholic?”

“Why do you want to catechise?”

“Why am I a Catholic?”

The Relationship between Catechesis and Evangelisation

Part Two

Making Disciples in Theory and Practice



Mgr Georges Lemaître
The Father of the Big Bang

The Questions We Ask

Pre-1960s: What should I do? (Morality)

A solution to guilt – forgiveness!

1960s-90s: What's the meaning of life? (Psychology)

Discover your true self! Express that without guilt!

St John Paul II (1979):

“Christ the Redeemer fully reveals man to himself.”

2000+: Who am I? (Sociology)

Self-definition, inclusion

*"High on my list of the most important books on evangelism
published so far in the twenty-first century."*

LEONARD SWEET

DON EVERTS
AND DOUG SCHAUPP

I ONCE WAS LOST



What Postmodern Skeptics Taught Us
About Their Path to Jesus



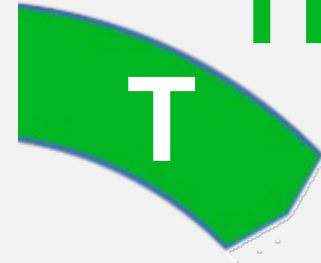
— FORMING — INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES



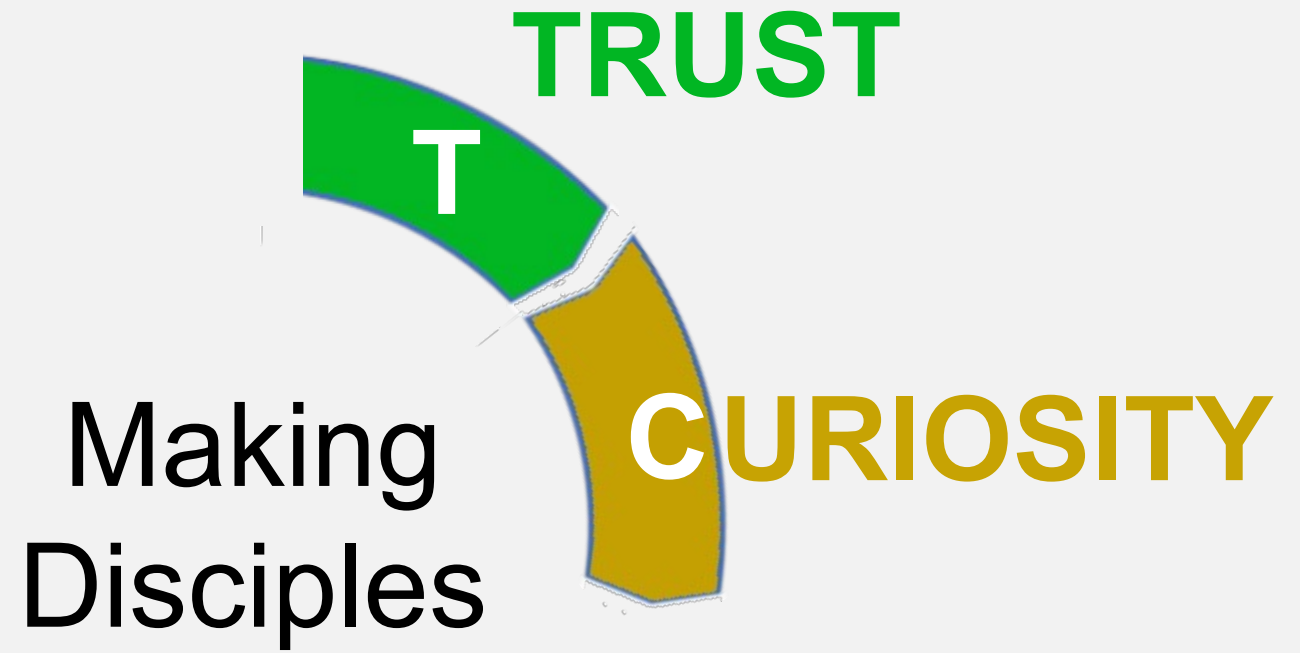
The Path to Knowing
and Following Jesus

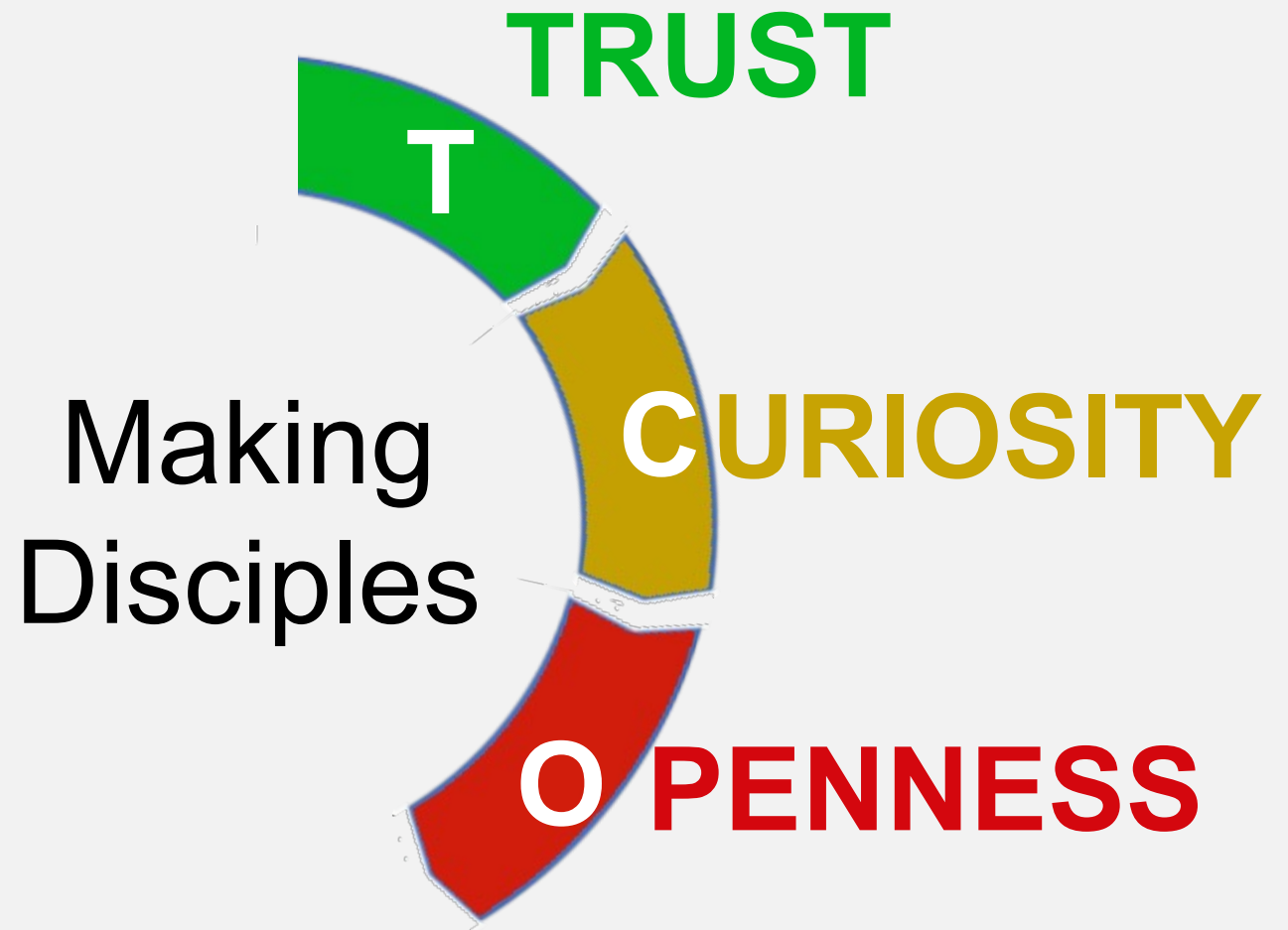
Sherry A. Weddell

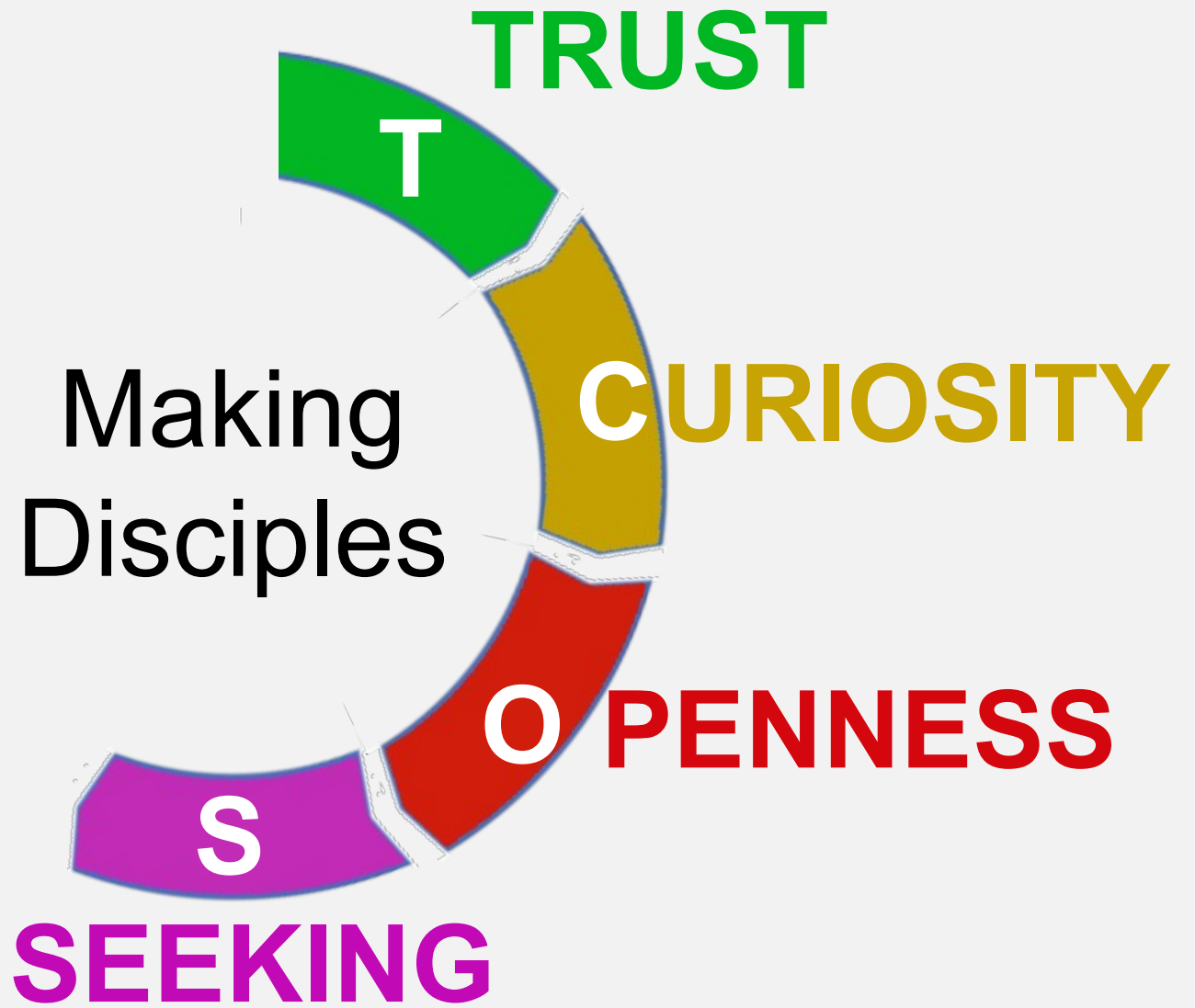
TRUST



Making
Disciples







Making
Disciples

TRUST

T

CURIOSITY

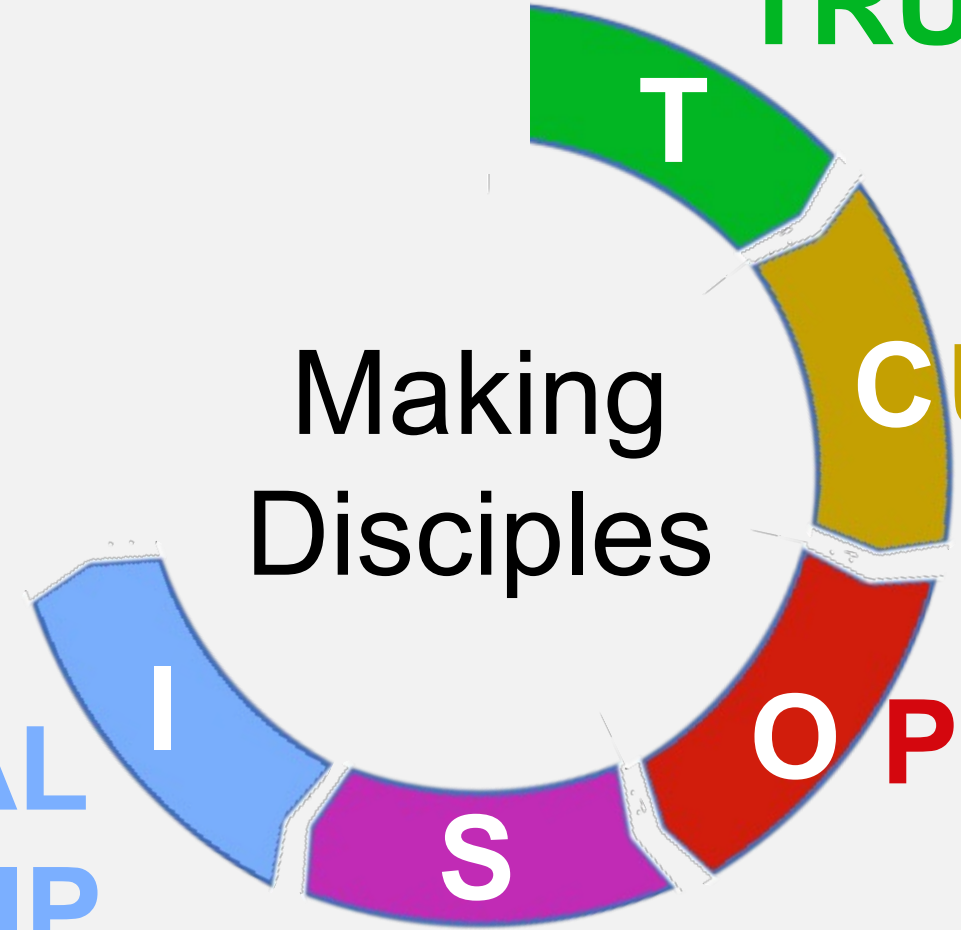
OPENNESS

SEEKING

S

I

**INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLESHIP**



Making
Disciples

TRUST

T

CURIOSITY

OPENNESS

SEEKING

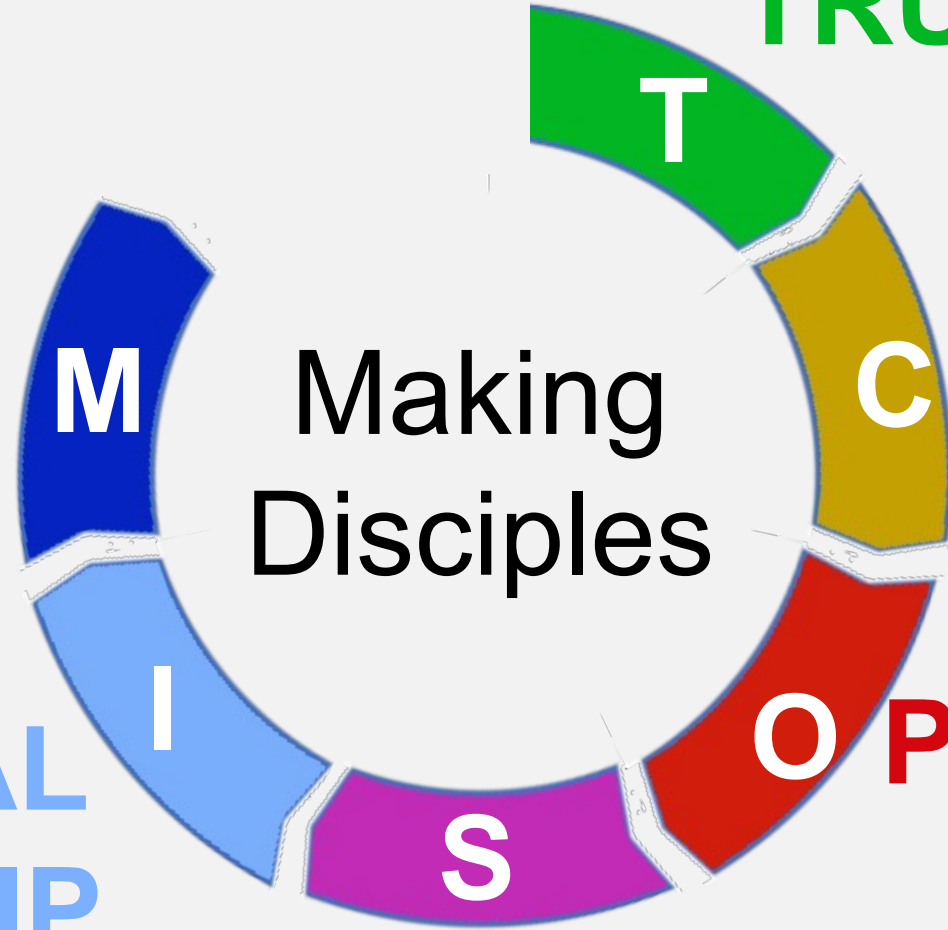
S

**INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLESHIP**

I

MINISTRY

M



VOCATION

TRUST

Making
Disciples

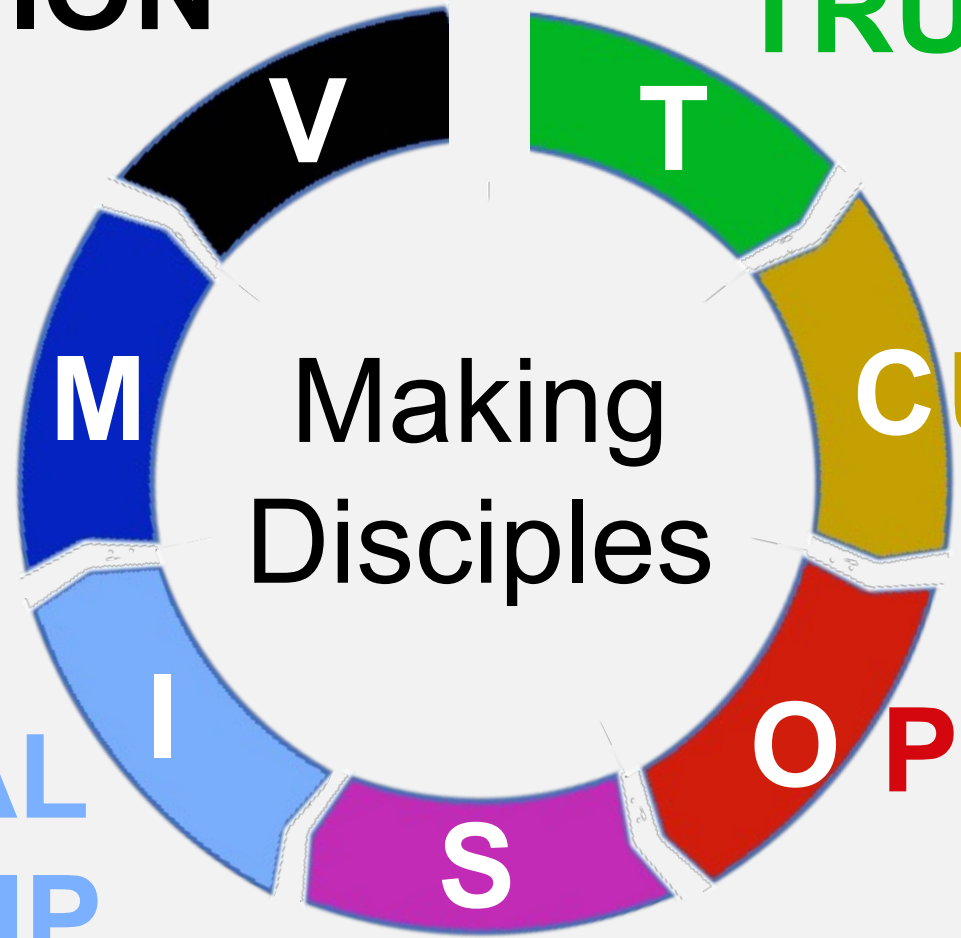
CURIOSITY

OPENNESS

SEEKING

MINISTRY

**INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLESHIP**



VOCATION

TRUST

Making
Disciples

CURIOSITY

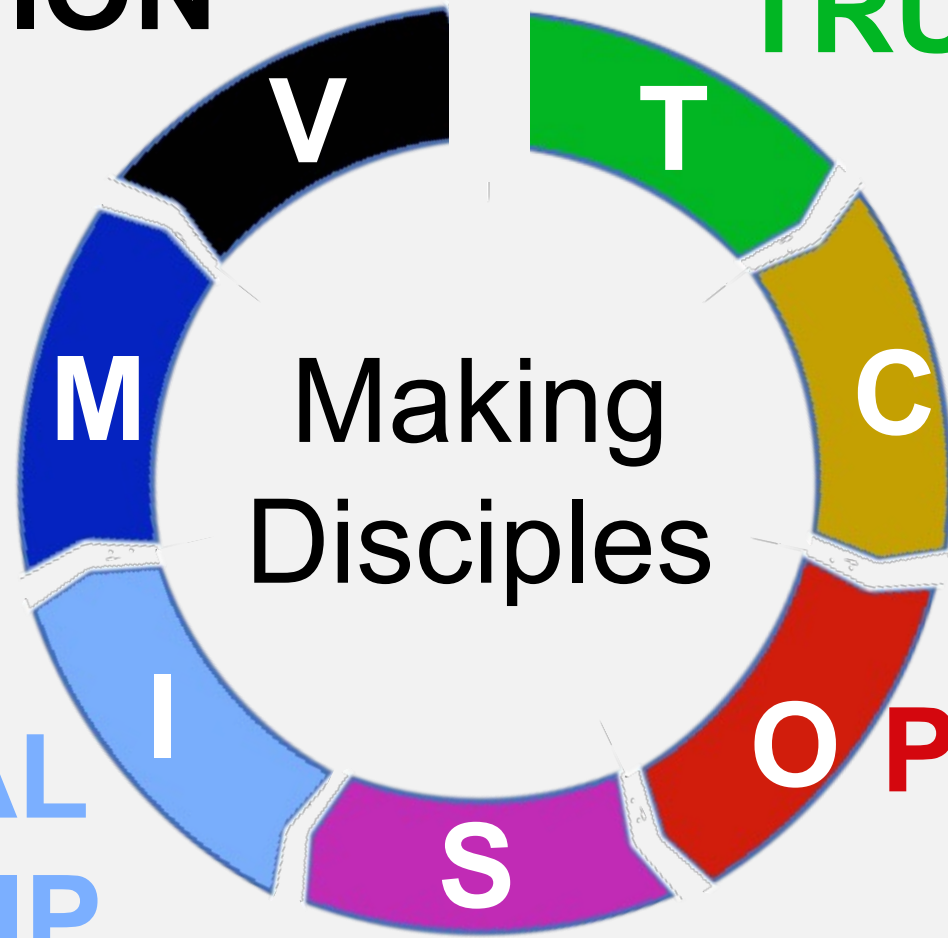
MINISTRY

OPENNESS

**INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLESHIP**

SEEKING

CATECHESIS



VOCATION

TRUST

EVANGELISATION

MINISTRY

Making
Disciples

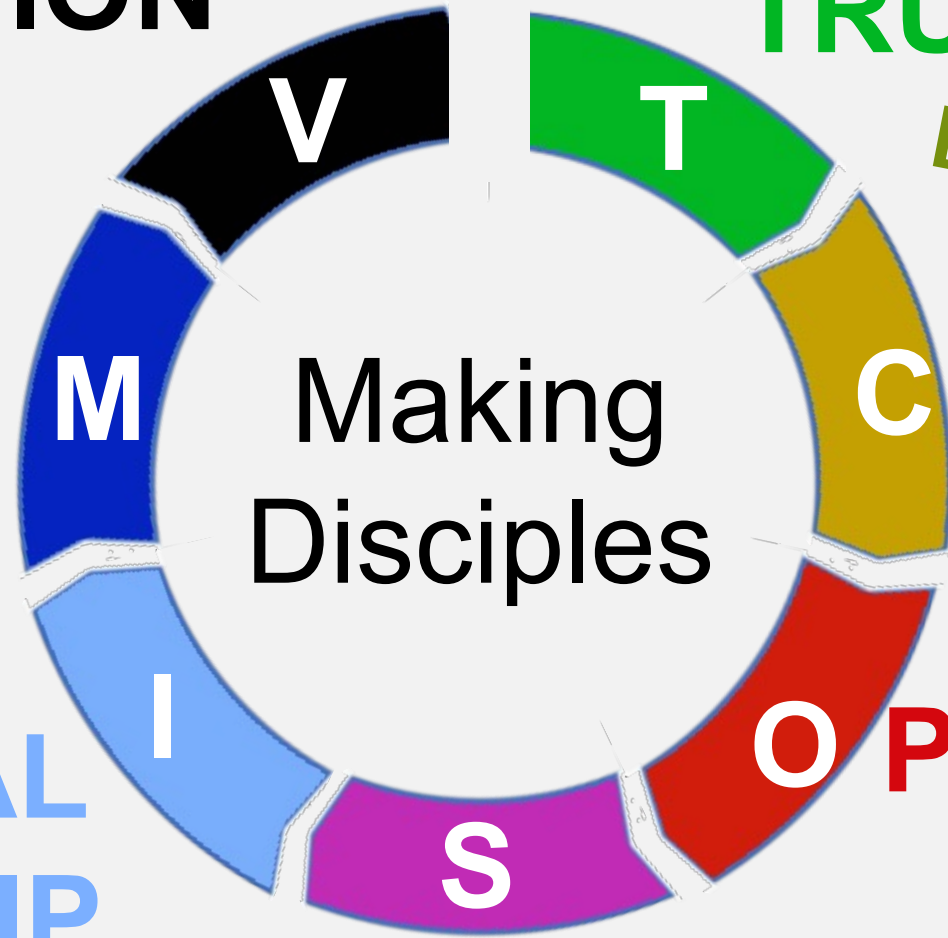
CURIOSITY

**INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLESHIP**

OPENNESS

CATECHESIS

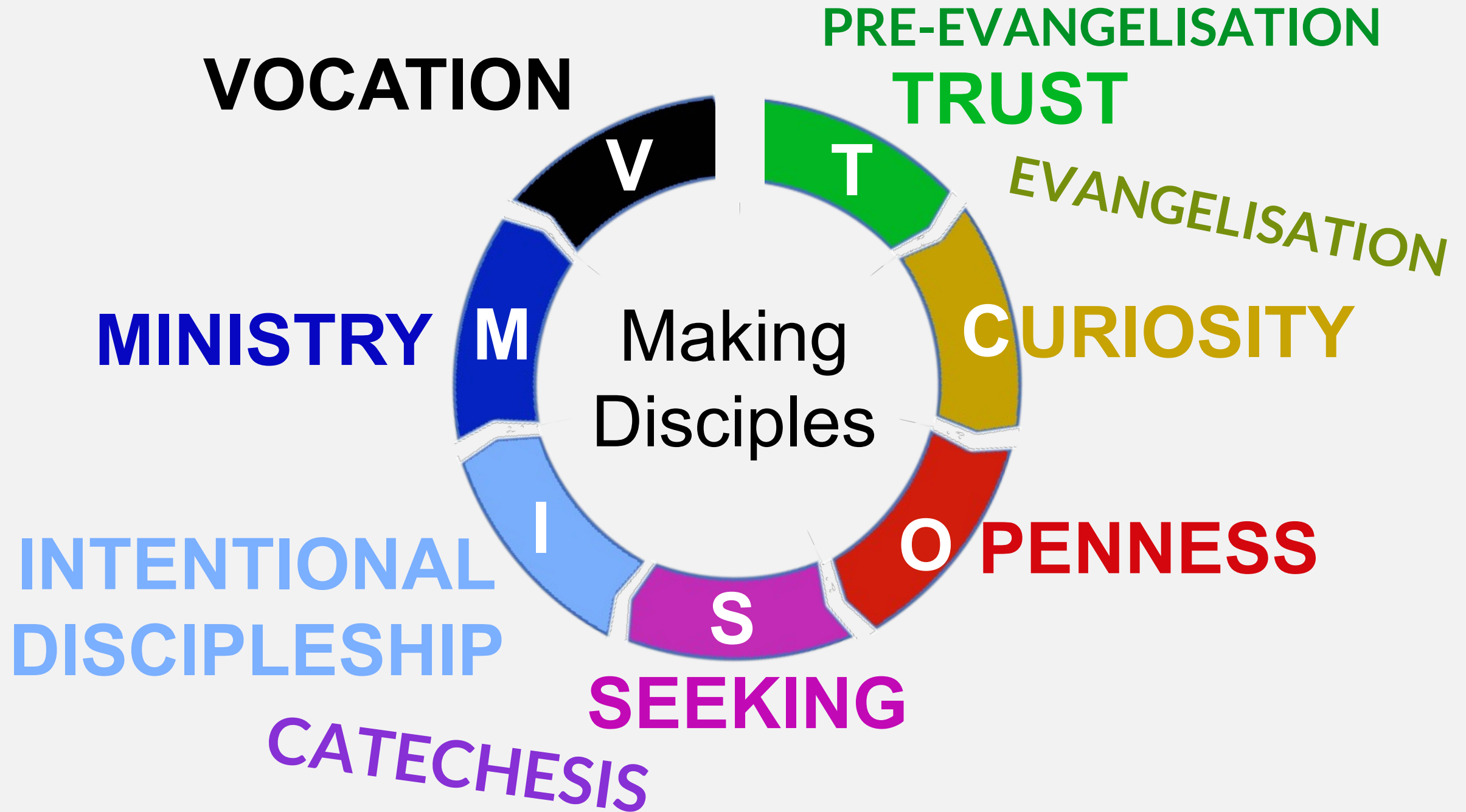
SEEKING





“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”

Evangelii Gaudium, §164



A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs.

Catechism of the
Catholic Church #1319





VOCATION



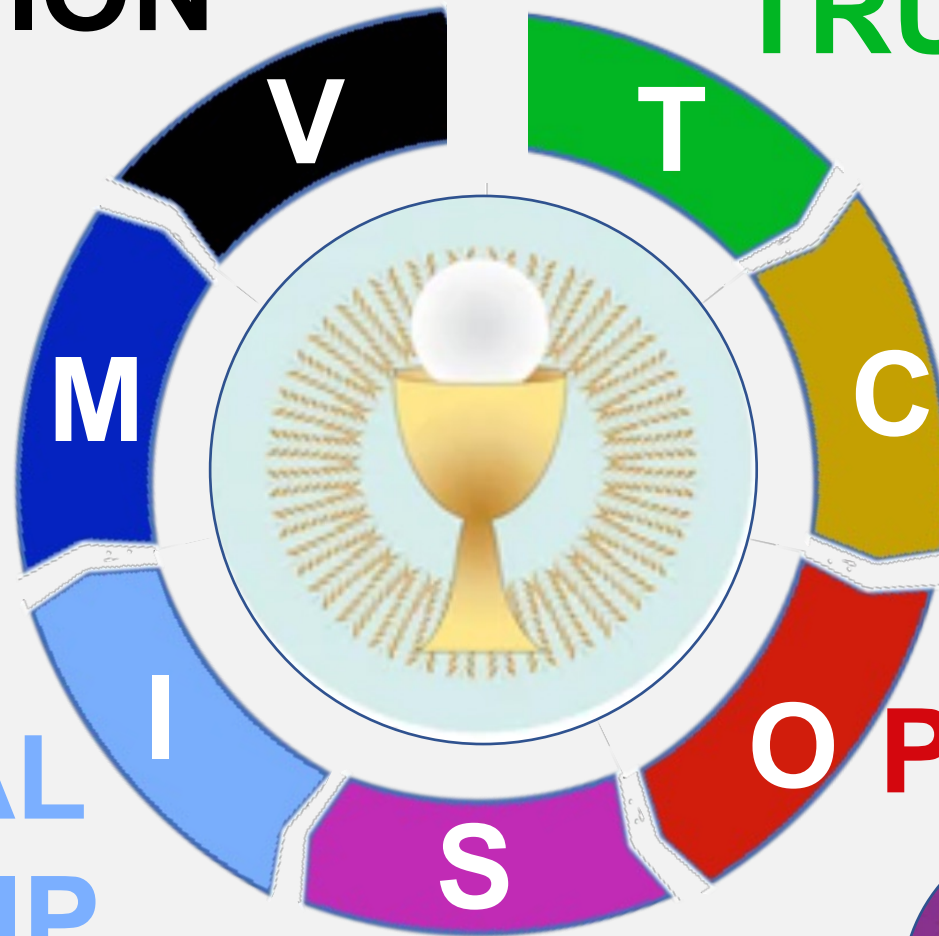
MINISTRY



**INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLESHIP**



TRUST



CURIOSITY

OPENNESS

SEEKING



"A clear and practical vision of how our parishes can move from Confirmation as graduation to the sacrament as a purposeful piece of the full and lifelong call to discipleship."

Craig Gould
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Archdiocese of Baltimore

rebuilding confirmation



Because We Need More
Than Another Graduation

Christopher Wesley
Author of *Rebuilding Youth Ministry*

The Story
of a
Catholic
Parish

rebuilt

Awakening the Faithful
Reaching the Lost
Making Church Matter

Michael White and Tom Corcoran

"Refreshing clarity in the midst of youth ministry craziness."

Chris Stefanick
Founder and president of Real Life Catholic

a rebuilt parish book

rebuilding YOUTH ministry

Ten Practical Strategies for Catholic Parishes

Christopher Wesley

Foreword by Michael White and Tom Corcoran
Authors of *Rebuilt*

THE

rebuilt

FIELD GUIDE

Ten Steps for
Getting Started

Michael White and Tom Corcoran
Authors of *Rebuilt*

"Not only preachers and teachers, but every parish leader and engaged Catholic should read this book."

Most Reverend Thomas Wenski
Archbishop of Miami

rebuilding your message

Practical Tools to Strengthen
Your Preaching and Teaching

Michael White and Tom Corcoran
Authors of *Rebuilt*

"This book is a must-read!"
Cardinal Sean O'Malley
Archbishop of Boston

"A powerful field guide."
Patrick Lencioni
Author of *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*

tools for rebuilding

75 Really, Really
Practical Ways to Make
Your Parish Better

Michael White and Tom Corcoran
Authors of *Rebuilt*

St Benedict's, Nova Scotia, Canada



Fr. James Mallon

@FJMallon

Three years after implementing an engagement-based strategy at Saint Benedict, the number of adults in programs of evangelization and faith formation has tripled.

The number of parishioners in ministry has doubled, and the weekly collection has doubled - the overall number of parishioners in the pews has not grown, though there has been significant turnover.

The Game Plan

50% new leaders every course!
No one leads Alpha for more than 2 years!

Alpha



Invitational Church



Alpha Team



Connect Groups



Ministry



Connect Group leaders are pastored by the core team and spot talent for ministries.

Discipleship Groups



Temporary and topical. Everyone should take part in one each year!

How Saint Benedict Parish forms disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ

Worship



10 Principles

- **Sunday Mass must be the best possible experience**
- **Excellent hospitality – clean venue, greeters, unhurried, explained**
- **Excellent music – including praise & worship; use of visual technology**
- **Excellent preaching – some humour, clear pithy message; in series!**
- **Build community – Massgoers connect by praying for one another.**
- **State expectations – what does it mean to be a member of this parish?**
- **Let volunteers minister according to their strengths**
- **“Connect Groups” fortnightly – 25-30 people who are Alpha graduates**
- **Dependence upon the power and presence of the Holy Spirit**
- **A culture of inviting people to “come and see”.**

Divine Renovation Books



Nativity, Timonium MD



At the start: 1,500 worshippers

Mission statement:
*Welcome the lost
and grow disciples.*

Implemented.

Result: 4,000 worshippers

The *Rebuilt* Story

- Both arrived in affluent Timonium in the late 90s and spent 5 years “meeting demands” ...

The church continued to decline. 1600 worshippers.

- Crisis! (triggered by free food complaint)
- 2003: “What can Protestant megachurches teach us?”
- Lent 2004: only 1/3 of 600 regulars accept “Purpose Driven” message
- Advent 2004: Aim - a healthy, growing, church for others
- 2005: first attempt at Small Groups
- 2008: Small Groups take off
- 2013: At time of publication, 4000 worshippers.

Why Rebuilt?

- **Everything re-tooled with a view to welcoming the lost...**
 - **40-something middle class Dads**
- **What needs adjusting?**
 - **Parking**
 - **Childcare**
 - **Preaching**
 - **Music style**
- **Expect hostility and resistance to change. Growth by attrition!**

What keeps young people connected?

Dads who go to Mass.

Peer groups who take faith seriously.

Informal all-age worship (“Messy Church”) retains evangelicals.

The Richmond model: not a confirmation course but youth activities with periodic confirmation retreats and post-confirmation formation (theAscent)

St Philip Evans Parish – expectations

ADDOLI WORSHIP  ആരാധന pagsamba UWIELBIENIE BOGA	CYSYLLTU CONNECT  കണ്ടുമുട്ടുക ikabit मिलना	ARCHWILIO EXPLORE  സമഗ്രപഠനം galugarin REPASSER	GWIRFODDOLI VOLUNTEER  സന്നദ്ധപ്രവർത്തനം boluntaryo التطوع	RHOI INVEST  നിക്ഷേപിക്കുക mamumuhunan PROVEER	GWAHODD INVITE  ക്ഷണനം mag-anyaya VOCARE
---	---	--	--	--	--

“What does your parish expect of you?”

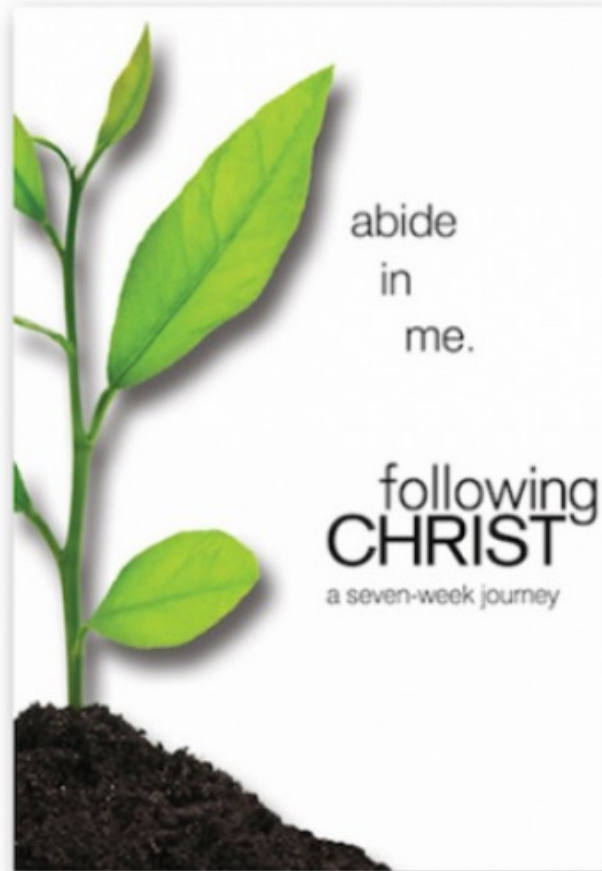
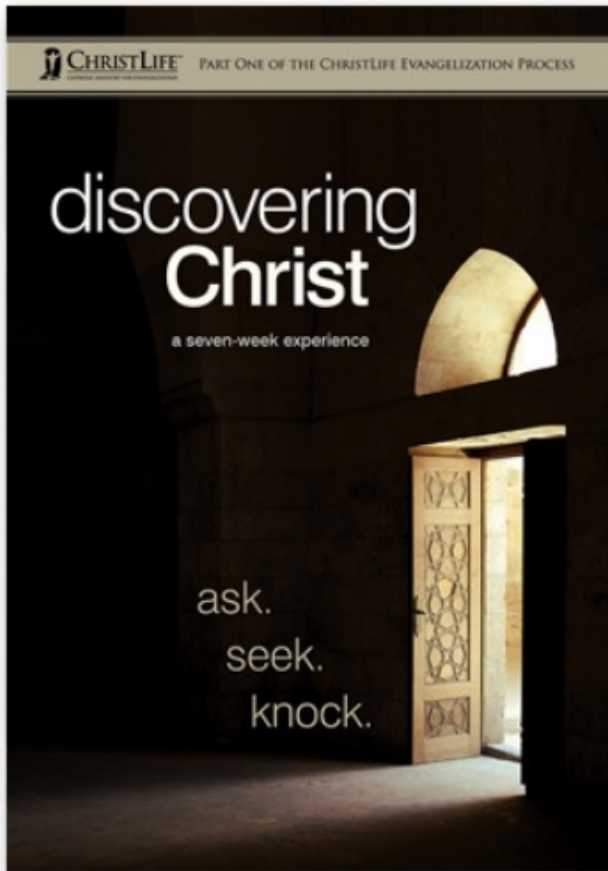
“What does Pope Francis expect of you?”

“What does Our Lord expect of you?”

Implications...

- **Parents & Adults (RCIA)**
 - Do they get “God”?
 - Start with Jesus
- **Children (First Communion)**
 - Believe in Jesus?
 - Trust Jesus?
 - Forgiveness through Jesus
 - Body of Jesus
- **Teens (Confirmation)**
 - Ready to be a witness?
 - Small Group support – mentoring?

Courses to make disciplers



3 courses

**7, 7 & 6
sessions**

ChristLife.org