

FOUR BENEFITS OF A CLEAR PATH OF DISCIPLESHIP

STUDY GUIDE

Why does the Church exist in the first place?

In 1965, Pope Paul VI said, "The Church was founded for the purpose of spreading the kingdom of Christ throughout the earth for the glory of God the Father, to enable all men to share in his saving redemption, and that through them the whole world might enter into a relationship with Christ."

➔ In your own words, how would you explain why the Church exists?

How does your parish make disciples?

If the fundamental mission of the Church is to make disciples (Mt. 28:18-20), then every parish should be able to demonstrate how it participates in that mission. It should have a clear process for making disciples. What are the places, contexts, and moments where your parish makes disciples?

➔ Where do non-believers already build meaningful relationships with your parish?

➔ Where do people in your parish already hear the Gospel and experience conversion?

➔ Where are people in your parish already formed in the habits of discipleship?

➔ Where are people in your parish already equipped for their personal apostolate?

Basic Definition

A Clear Path of Discipleship is: “a simple, step-by-step strategy for a parish to make disciples and lead people toward full maturity in Christ.”

The four essential steps of a Clear Path of Discipleship are *(fill in the blanks)*:

1. _____: a ministry designed to build relationships of trust with non-believers.
2. _____: a ministry designed to offer an explicit proclamation of the Gospel and foster an initial conversion to Jesus Christ.
3. _____: a ministry designed to support disciples as they grow in the Christian life.
4. _____: a ministry designed to equip disciples as they engage in the mission of evangelization.

Four Benefits of a Clear Path of Discipleship

A Clear Path of Discipleship:

1. Fosters true collaboration.
2. Allows your parish to meet people where they are.
3. Helps people take action for spiritual growth.
4. Focuses parish resources on fruitfulness.

➔ Which of the four benefits do you find most compelling for your parish? Why?

➔ What other benefits do you envision?

➔ How would you give a 1-minute explanation to another parish leader why your parish needs to build a Clear Path of Discipleship?