

Equipping the Body of Christ:
Moving from leading to equipping
Ephesians 4:11-12

The Greek word translated for “equip” is KATARTISMOS (καταρτισμός), which means to completely furnish or to fully prepare.

We need to become leaders who equip vs just lead for:

- 1) Church Growth- In order for a church to grow, we are going to have to learn how to equip its members, as pastors/leaders cannot be doing all the ministry.
- 2) Discipleship Opportunity- We often make discipleship about what someone receives or takes, such as classes or teachings, but if you want to engage our church, we need to emphasize the activity of discipleship: applying the things we know to change how we live.

So instead, this is what the perspective of the church **should** be:

- The role of the pastors and church leaders is not to do the ministry, but rather to equip, train, and coach members to do the ministry.
- Every person is a minister. Everyone has a role to play.
- We don't need members to help, rather we have opportunities for members to participate in the mission.

So how do we move from leaders to equippers?

- 1) Put it on your agenda!
- 2) Invite others in!
Yes, I could do this on my own, but who could I bring along? Who could I model this to or help apprentice? Who could I give access to my life? Every leader should have someone they are bringing along and are teaching how to be a disciple of Jesus. Equipping is discipleship!!
- 3) Discern gifts and passions and find opportunities to use them.
Connect people into positions, roles or opportunities that will allow them to excel in the use of those gifts or passions. For instance, in the context of a small group, a ministry team, church outreach, service-learning trip, or a local non-profit. Or if an opportunity doesn't exist, help them to consider starting their own ministry or small group.
- 4) Delegate specific responsibilities within your group or ministry context.
If you want helpers, delegate tasks. If you want leaders, give responsibility.

Assign someone to the role of a host, administrator, special outing planner, etc.

5) Connect them into community, networks, and available resources.

It's not about what we want FROM people, it's about what we want FOR people.

Seek out who are the people or groups you need to connect them to help them grow in a particular area? What classes, books, or podcasts could you recommend? Building a network and community is critical!

Application: Identify 2 people you could begin to help equip in these 5 areas.