

Worksheets

for Prayerfully seeking

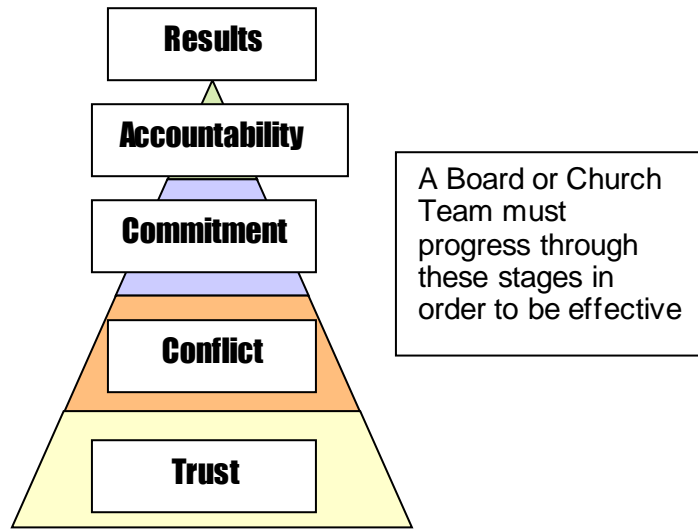
God's Vision for Your Church.

***Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.
Prov. 29:18 NASB***

***When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is
happy. Prov. 29:18 NLT***

*Rob Stewart,
EFCC, Lower Pacific District*

A Cohesive Team



Vision has three components:

1. Mission - what God has called his people to do.
2. Values - who God has created us to be.
3. Vision - where God desires us as his people to go.



Mission - what God has called his people to do.

Values - who God has created us to be.

Vision - where God desires us as his people to go.

1. Mission – what God has called his people to do.

- What is the church?
- What is the main purpose of the church?
- Who does the church serve?

The above questions may seem simplistic and the answers obvious, but are they? Often, we may consider the value of a church as to whether it, “meets my needs and those of my family.” We may “like” a church that has our style of worship, with preaching that we like and has either the pews or chairs that we prefer.

Church is not about you. Church is not about me. Church is Christ’s church. He gave his life for it and has promised to build it. Christ is Lord of the Church. He is Lord of our church too!

We love to talk about church and how we “do” church. How we “do” church, however should not be directed by our personal preferences, but submission to Christ as Lord and obedience to his mission. The Apostle Paul writes:

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. (Romans 15:5-7).

Christ + Mission = Ecclesiology

The mission of the church:

The Great Commandment:

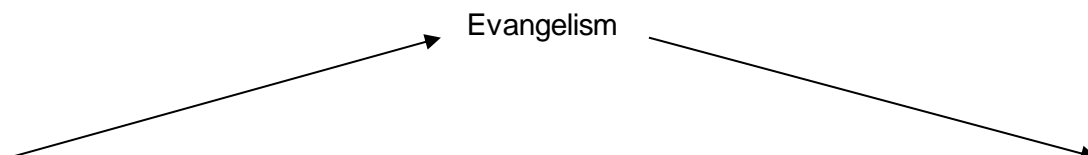
Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

(Matt. 22:34-40)

The Great Commission:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

(Matt 28:18-20)



Force Sheet

This is a list of what we have “going for us” and “against us” as we seek to fulfill God’s plan for us as a church.

Purpose: *“Our commitment is to cultivate a real passion for Jesus Christ and to daily communicate our love for him and celebrate our joy in the gospel of Jesus Christ in a culturally meaningful way.”*

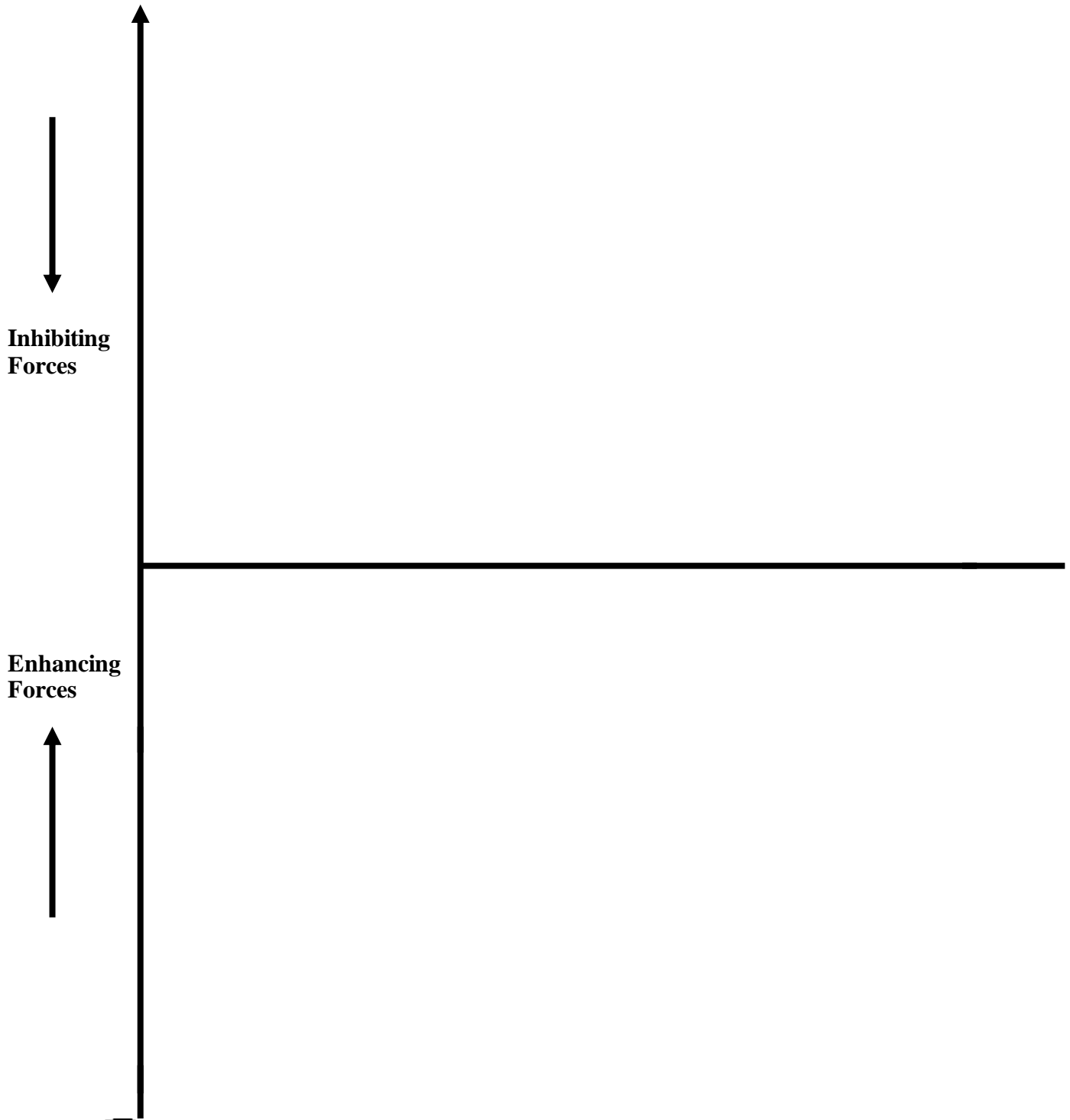
Enhancing Forces

Inhibiting Forces

On the next page, these “forces” are listed visually. As we look at what inhibits God’s work among us, we are challenged to address these issues and ask, “What does God call us to do about these?” As these inhibiting forces are removed, we can then anticipate that God will be freed to work in and through us in a fresh way.

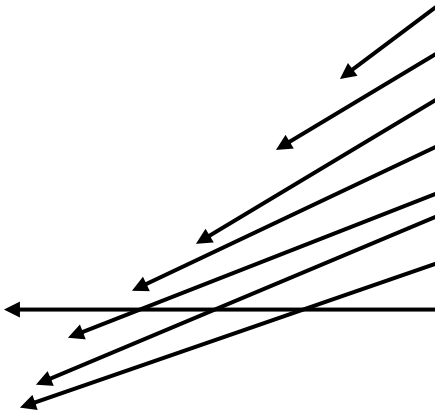
Force Field Exercise:

Purpose: “Our commitment is to cultivate a real passion for Jesus Christ and to daily communicate our love for him and celebrate our joy in the gospel of Jesus Christ in a culturally meaningful way.”



As a church grows, there are several characteristics that are essential for the continued capacity to continue growing. These can be likened to the staves of a barrel.

- Empowering leadership
- Gift-orientated ministry
- Passionate Spirituality
- Functional Structures



Our Church's purpose: "Our commitment is to cultivate a real passion for Jesus Christ and to daily communicate our love for him and celebrate our joy in the gospel of Jesus Christ in a culturally meaningful way."

What does this look like?

How is this accomplished?

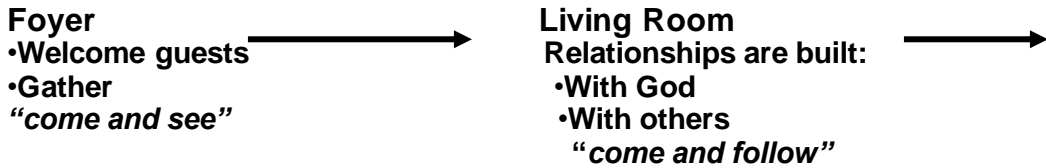
1. **Disciples at our church are...** (*Characteristics*)

2. **People at our church become mature disciples by....**

Our Church

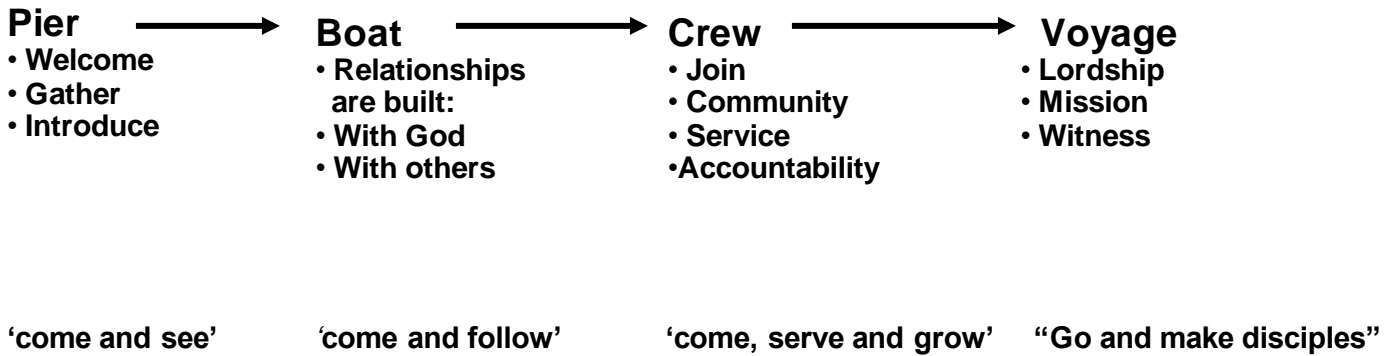
"Foyer to the Kitchen"

Kitchen
•Deeper relationships
•Community
•Service
•Accountability

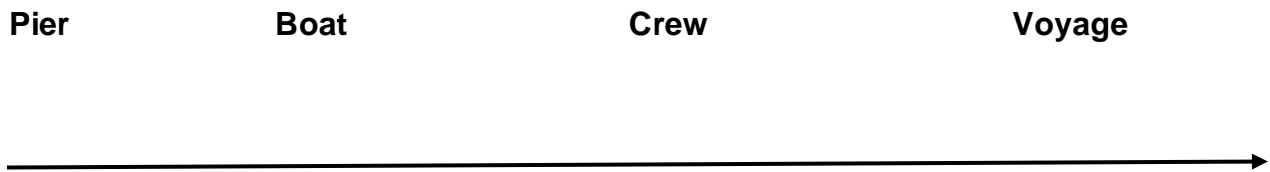


or Stewart’s Version:

“Pier to the Voyage”

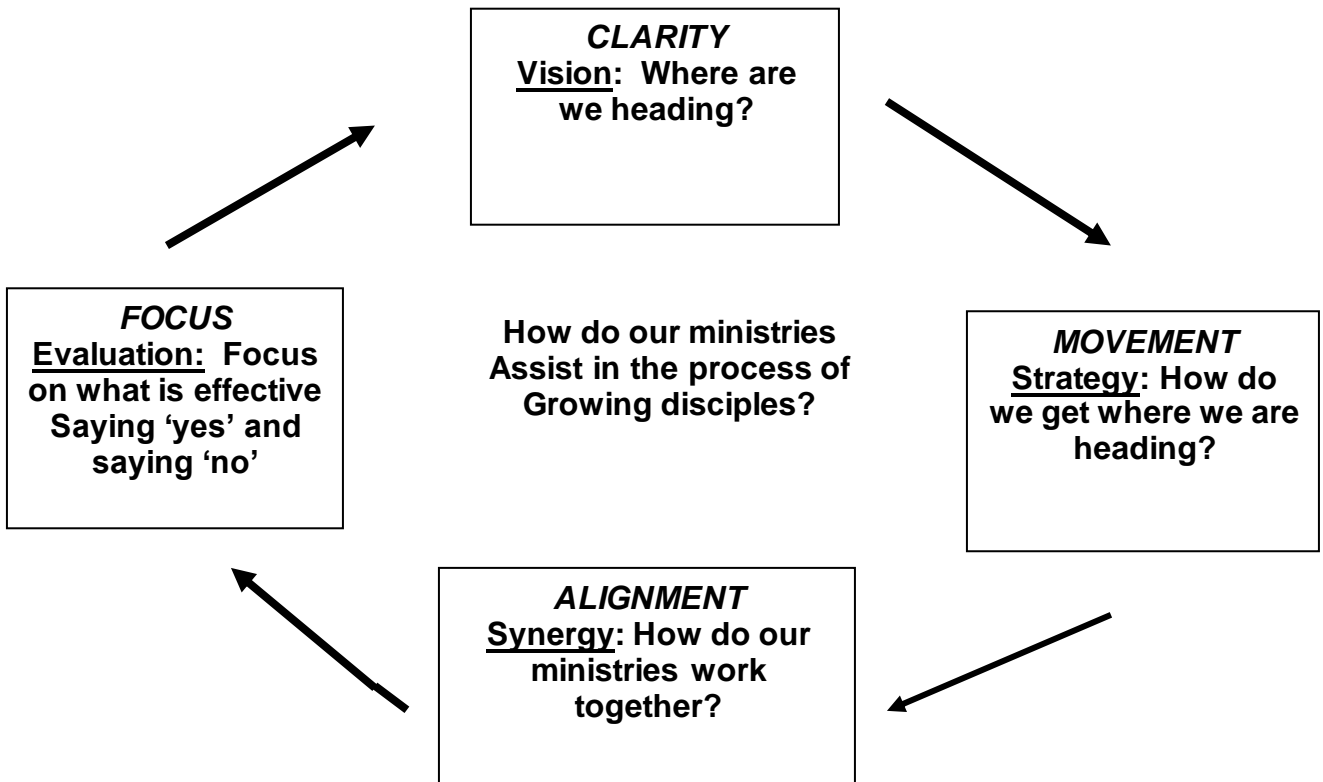


Traits of a Disciple



Ministries of our Church

Simple Church ...
is designed around a straightforward and strategic process that moves people through the stages of spiritual growth.



Where do we begin, and what are our steps towards greater effectiveness?

What are the top three priorities to address?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Priorities for Meeting Priorities!

Priority 1: _____

Priority 2: _____

Priority 3: _____

Other Priorities : _____

Evangelical Free Church of Canada
Our Character and Calling
as approved by the EFCC Board, May 16, 2008

Our Character –

The Kingdom of God is His eternal possession, and is present in part but not fullness in the world today. By God's decree, under His direction, and empowered by His grace, the universal Church is responsible for the care and expansion of that Kingdom. Every local church, denomination, and ministry organization is a part of that Kingdom and carries some responsibility in the work of the

Kingdom. As a part of that Body of Christ the Evangelical Free Church of Canada (EFCC) desires to understand and fulfill its particular calling in the work of the Kingdom. The EFCC will seek to live out our calling to be a New Community in Christ, reflecting the fullness of His vision for the Kingdom of God “on earth as it is in heaven.” We will do this by putting aside the prevailing values of our time and replacing them with the radical demands of the gospel of God’s grace.

Our Calling – “*IN ESSENTIALS UNITY; IN NON-ESSENTIALS CHARITY; IN ALL THINGS JESUS CHRIST.*”

The calling and spirit of the EFCC is summed up well in this famous motto of Rupertus Meldenius. We both define our call and express our aspirations for this 21st Century through this early quote.

“*IN ESSENTIALS UNITY...*”

- **Essential Truths** -We are called to embody and proclaim the essential truths of Christianity as articulated in the Word of God, expressed through the centuries in the great creeds of the church and defined for us in our Statement of Faith. We continue in the tradition of our EFCC forefathers who said; “Where stands it written?” These truths have led us to Jesus Christ who said “he is truth” and that the “truth would set us free.”
- **Spiritual Unity** -This calling is to a spirit of unity in Jesus Christ, with an affirmation of the priesthood and ministry of all believers, congregational government in the local church where He is Head, meaningful involvement within our fellowship of churches, and cooperation with all who share our call to these essential truths.

“*...IN NON-ESSENTIALS CHARITY...*”

- **Generosity of Spirit** -We are called to a generosity of spirit that frees us to embrace a wide variety of Christian brothers and sisters -- “simply believers” -- some with whom we will not agree in matters that are outside our Statement of Faith. Our spirit is one of warm welcome to all believers who share our commitment to our Statement of Faith and who seek to follow Jesus’ command to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves.
- **Kingdom Minded** –This generous spirit encourages us to joyfully work with those outside our own denomination, those of “like precious faith” who endeavour to expand the kingdom of heaven.

“*...IN ALL THINGS JESUS CHRIST.*”

- **The Great Command and Great Commission** -We are called to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the Lord God. Through His grace and through His Spirit we seek to fulfill His command to love our neighbour by loving each and every person, especially the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed. We seek to fulfill His great commission by making followers of Him from all people groups.
- **Godly Living** -From the practice and teachings of Jesus, from the present ministry of the Holy Spirit working within us, and from the pietistic model of our forefathers, has grown a spirit that hungers for a closer relationship with Jesus Christ that will transform our hearts, our heads, our hands, and will reveal itself in a Christ-inspired value system and a holy lifestyle.