

DISCIPLESHIP
ROADMAP

2015 - 2016

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

EXPONENTIAL AND DISCIPLESHIP.ORG LEARNING COMMUNITIES

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NOTE: Please download the full Prospectus for complete information regarding Exponential Learning Communities at <https://my.exponential.org/learningcommunities>

The Exponential/Discipleship.org Learning Communities create an innovative journey of exploration, helping participants shift their paradigms and take action toward greater Kingdom impact. The content is strategically and deliberately designed to challenge paradigms and help participants build a strong foundation for action.

The Learning Community journey consists of three separate gatherings throughout the year, combining the relational, experiential and informational components required for transformation. Each of the three gatherings includes one and a half days of teaching, discussion, breakouts and practical application.

Each journey includes:

- + innovative teaching by widely recognized leaders
- + peer-to-peer, small group learning environments designed to be an intimate, living room experience, with participants engaging face-to-face in small groups. For this reason, gatherings are limited to 25 or fewer individuals.
- + case study teaching by host practitioner churches sharing their experiences in implementation, including lessons learned about what did and didn't work

THE CORE CURRICULUM

- + In each gathering of this Learning Community, we will explore what it means to make disciples. At discipleship.org we define discipleship as "helping people trust and follow Jesus." So, we will explore what it means for church leaders to do that today.

Robert Coleman, Jim Putman, Randy Pope, and Bobby Harrington will serve as guides. To help us better understand discipleship and how it practically works today, we will follow three key phases:

Phase One

Our journey will begin with Robert Coleman, Jim Putman, Randy Pope, and Bobby Harrington reviewing the principles of Jesus' method of discipleship. Each participant will read the summary of these principles in the short book, *Revisiting the Master Plan of Evangelism*. This is an Exponential eBook by Robert Coleman and Bobby Harrington. The first phase discussion will focus on the 9 key discipleship principles of Jesus and how are best practiced today. A key part of the gathering will be a robust discussion with Robert Coleman, Jim Putman, and Randy Pope, facilitated by Bobby Harrington (held in Franklin, TN, just outside Nashville)

Phase Two

Our journey will then switch to Perimeter Church in Atlanta. In anticipation of this gathering, all participants will read Randy Pope's *Insourcing*. In this book, Pope describes how their church puts into practice Jesus' method of discipleship. This second phase conversation will involve a close look at how Perimeter church practically makes discipleship their top priority (held in Atlanta). Perimeter's discipleship focuses on the use of same gender group for discipleship.

Phase Three

The journey will come to an end with Jim Putman and Real Life Ministries in Post Falls, Idaho. To prepare for this gathering, each participant will read *DiscipleShift*, by Jim Putman (and Bobby Harrington). Jim will show how this church applies Jesus method of discipleship with a focus upon small groups. Although both Perimeter and Real Life make discipleship their top priority, they have different methods of emphasis. Real Life (and the Relational Discipleship Network) emphasize small groups.

YOUR GUIDES AND DESTINATIONS



ROBERT COLEMAN

Robert Coleman is the dean of disciple-makers in North America. He is known all over the world for his masterpiece on discipleship called, *The Master Plan of Evangelism* which was written 52 years ago. It has been translated into over 100 languages and has sold over 3.5 million copies. It was selected by Christianity Today as one of the 50 books that has shaped evangelicalism in the last half of the twentieth century. He has written at least 27 other books. He is a founding member of the Lausanne Committee on World Evangelization, serving as Chairman of the North American section for many years. For decades, Dr. Coleman helped in leadership roles with the Bill Graham Evangelistic association. A significant discipline of his life when teaching for 60 years has been to meet with a small group of students once a week, usually early in the morning, for Bible study and prayer. His wife, Marietta, shares ministry with him, making their home a haven for students.



REAL LIFE MINISTRIES

reallifeministries.com

A non-denominational evangelical Christian church in northern Idaho, Real Life Ministries was planted in 1998 by four families, including now senior pastor, Jim Putman, and has grown quickly. Considered ONE CHURCH IN TWO LOCATIONS, Real Life currently has two campuses—one in Post Falls, Idaho, and another in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The vision of Real Life Ministries is to reach the world for Jesus one person at a time by making biblical disciples in small, relational environments where biblical disciples can be made.

Real Life carries out its vision and mission primarily through home groups that are community-based relational environments meeting weekly for the purpose of biblical discipleship. Home groups reflect a cross-section of life, including singles and married couples of all ages. Each group ranges in size from five to 18 people. Groups are led by intentional leaders who use approved biblical curriculum and Real Life's discipleship process to help bring people closer to Christ. The home group environment provides opportunity for honest, transparent and authentic relationships and the opportunity to grow into spiritually mature disciples of Jesus.



JIM PUTMAN

Jim is the founder and senior pastor of Real Life Ministries in Post Falls, Idaho. Prior to his role as senior pastor, he served as a youth minister in two small churches. In college, Jim won three All American wrestling titles and went on to become a successful wrestling coach. Real Life Ministries began as a small group in 1998 and has grown to a membership of more than 8,000 with 90 percent of its fellowship active in small groups. Jim holds degrees from Boise State University and Boise Bible College. His voice reaches hundreds of thousands across the nation through speaking at conferences, the Internet, radio and weekend worship services. He is the author and co-author of several books, including *Church Is a Team Sport*, *Real Life Discipleship* and *DiscipleShift*. Jim's passion is discipleship through small groups. With his background in sports and coaching, he believes in the value of strong coaching as a means to disciple others. He lives with his wife and three sons in scenic northern Idaho.



PERIMETER CHURCH ATLANTA

Perimeter Church was established with a vision is to see the entire city of Atlanta brought into an encounter with the Kingdom of God. Because of this, they have grown to around 4,000 in attendance and have planted more than 40 churches throughout the city. They are a model church both nationally and internationally, with many leaders coming to find out how they follow a core commitment to discipleship. Their model is based upon the acronym: T.E.A.M.S. It is an acronym standing for **T**ruth, **E**quipping, **A**ccountability, **M**ission, and **S**upplication (prayer).

**RANDY POPE**

Randy became a follower of Jesus as a young teenager and graduated from the University of Alabama as a math major. After getting a master's degree in theology, Randy and his wife moved to north Atlanta to plant Perimeter Church. Randy's personal passion and commitment is to make and train disciples of Christ. He has established Life On Life Ministries, an organization committed to establishing life-on-life missional discipleship in churches worldwide.

Over the past 36 years, Perimeter and its church plants have started over 40 churches in the Atlanta area. Leadership Network recently ranked Perimeter Church, as number four, among churches within the United States, in the list of "America's Top 25 Multiplying Churches."

Discipleship•org

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The American Church is in crisis. Without a switch to a discipleship-first focus we are on the slow path toward apostasy.

The decline is described in such books as *The American Church in Crisis* by David T. Olson and *The Great Evangelical Recession* by John S. Dickerson. The facts are startling: Olson reports that although about 40% of American adults still say they attended church, in reality, less than 20% actually do today. And, as a harbinger of the future, only a small number of Millennials claim to be engaging in church, a huge change from previous generations (Rainer, Barna Research). And of those who attend church, a significant number have neither disciplined someone nor been disciplined themselves. (Lifeway Research). The situation is alarming!

We need to turn back to discipleship as Jesus taught and modeled for us. The root problems are as follows:

- + A poor understanding by the pastors and church members on how God wants a discipleship-first focus.
- + A poor understanding of how the Gospel and Jesus require discipleship.
- + A lack of effective models for pastors and churches.

Pastors and national church know that a discipleship-first focus will make a big difference. The receptivity is palpable. The time is now. Discipleship.org seeks to provide a platform so that effective discipleship leaders and churches are able to catalyze a discipleship movement in the land. We seek to pour gasoline on the voices and sparks that will make discipleship a movement again in our time.

**BOBBY HARRINGTON**

Bobby Harrington is the founding director of Discipleship.org (with Exponential's Todd Wilson). He is also the founding and lead pastor of Harpeth Church. He is the author of *Discipleship as the Core Mission of the Church* (Exponential), *DiscipleShift* (with Jim Putman and Robert Coleman), *Revisiting the Master Plan of Evangelism* (with Robert Coleman, Exponential), *Evangelism or Discipleship* (with Bill Hull, Exponential) and *Dedicated: Training Children to Trust and Follow Jesus* (with Chad Harrington and Jason Houser, from Zondervan, just released), and forthcoming from Zondervan, *Discipleship that Fits* (with Alex Absolom), and *The Discipleship Handbook* (with Josh Patrick).

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If you have any questions, please contact:

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+ We hope you'll join us for what we believe will be game-changing conversations for the future of the Church!