

Are We Really Commissional?

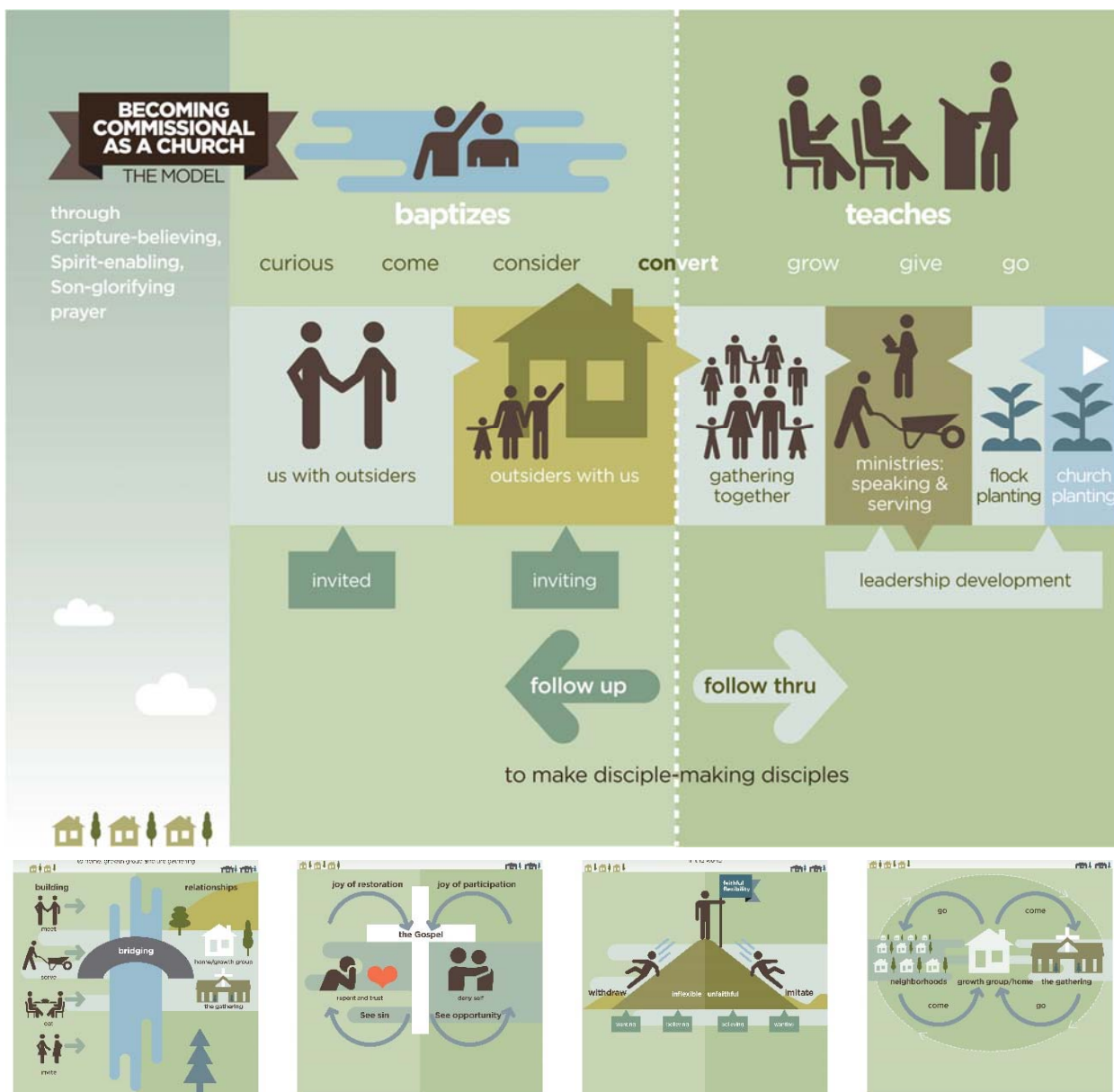
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

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A Commissional Church
Telling the Gospel

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This is our understanding of being a Commissional Church. We aim to make disciples in all people groups by an evangelism that culminates in a public profession of faith through baptism and teaching that brings people to be mature disciples of Jesus Christ.

Note how the fledgling church in Thessalonica spread the gospel in its environs through being a commissional church. At the core were several essential characteristics and conducts that are commended by Paul.

A Biblical Understanding of Salvation (v. 1-6)

² We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit

Its Long-term Effects (v. 2-3)

Faith keeps working...
Love keeps laboring...
Hope keeps stabilizing...
In a Christ-centered way.

Its Divine Source (v. 4)

God's love for us...
God's choice of us...

Its Gospel Power (v. 5)

A confidence in being saved because the gospel came:
Through words...
With power...
In the Spirit...
A conviction that these things are so.

Its Proven Ministers (v. 6)

The kind of people we are...
The kind of people we are becoming...

A Biblical Understanding of our Responsibility (v. 7-8)

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

To be an Example (v. 7)

They followed Paul's example (v. 6) and became examples

To be a Witness (v. 8)

They spread the gospel...

They had a wide-spread gospel reputation...

A Biblical Understanding of Discipleship (v. 9-10)

⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Discipled those Who Believed (v. 9)

They had been taught in such a way that they could testify of the Thessalonian's church belief and practice.

Those Who Believed Understood (v. 10)

To reject their idolatry...

To serve the living God...

To wait for the consummation...

To understand the resurrection...

To rejoice in our deliverance...

Reflect and Respond

Have you truly believed the gospel? Do you have enduring evidence of that in your life?

Do you truly understand the gospel? Can you say the gospel clearly, concisely and convincingly?

Do you embrace the sovereign and saving love of God in election?

Do you evidence the results of gospel power?

Do you exemplify the life the gospel produces?

Do we seek to spread the gospel, individually and corporately?

Are we making disciples?