

# HOW TO START A MICROCHURCH



UNDERGROUND WEBINAR

[www.undergroundnetwork.org](http://www.undergroundnetwork.org)

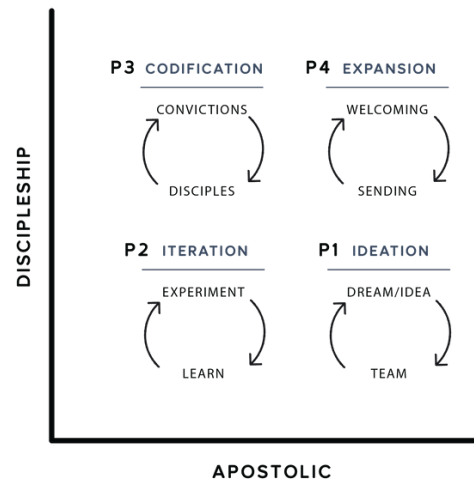


# WHAT IS MICROCHURCH?

microchurches evolve and develop over time.

We've observed 4 general developmental cycles that microchurches experience.

## MICROCHURCH DEVELOPMENT CYCLES



## ideation

dream → team

**ACTS 19 "ecclesia"**  
a town council:

a civil body in Ephesus. The Greek word "ecclesia" is correctly defined as: "The called-out (ones)" [ECC = out; KALEO = call]. Thus, you can see how this word was used to indicate a civil body of select (called, elected) people in Acts 19 context.

### **CALLED FOR PURPOSE.**

Church means gathering, but it's a gathering of "called out ones"...those called out for a purpose to bless the wider community. Our purpose can never be for ourselves. We can't exist without a purpose that looks towards the edges of the kingdom. This is our calling and we should release the people of God to BE the church of Christ in accordance with their calling.



### **REFLECTION**

Can you write it down? Articulate "I think Jesus wants us to \_\_\_\_\_"  
What is the need or group of people you pray for first?  
Can you begin to describe a "what if" to others so a team forms?

# iteration

experiment → learn

**Microchurches release you to go anywhere he calls.**

The **ecclesial minimum** of Worship, Community, and Mission is more general so that, if we keep the minimum, it allows for massive creativity.

## WORSHIP

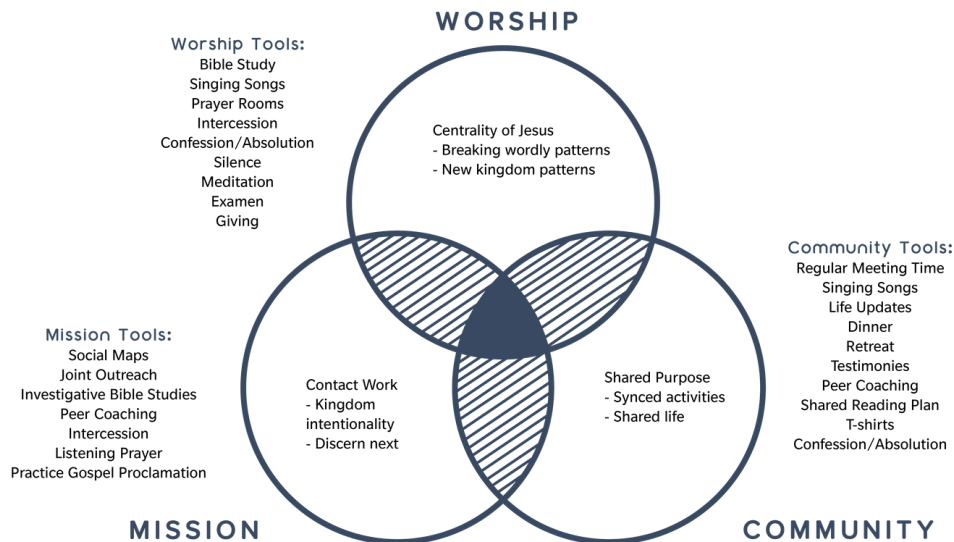
centrality of Jesus in all things,  
Breaking from patterns of this  
world, establishing new  
Kingdom patterns

## COMMUNITY

shared purpose,  
accountable life with other  
believers, sharing life with each  
other, equipping for mission

## MISSION

kingdom intentionality with those  
at the edges of the kingdom. (ie,  
serve practical needs, pray for  
them, invite to meet Jesus,  
discern next steps, etc.)



## REFLECTION

How is Jesus asking you to manifest **worship, community & mission** through your microchurch?

How can you experiment, try and fail to be the church in minimum ways?

What tools can help you get to the heart of **worship, community & mission**?



## TIPS

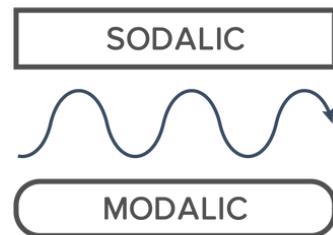
Use tools to help you achieve the heart of the minimum.  
It's ok if something doesn't work or needs to change.

# codification

convictions → disciples

After all this experimentation and iteration and failure, it can feel a little chaotic, crazy and unstable. But once you have the dream and you've iterated a lot, eventually you will gain traction. Your ideas and methods and patterns start to make sense and make disciples.

## ECCLESIAL RHYTHMS



## TWO TYPES OF MICROCHURCHES

SPECIFIC MICROCHURCH MODEL



DISTRIBUTIVE MICROCHURCH MODEL



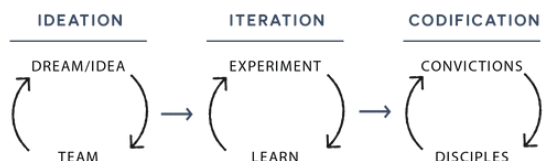
## REFLECTION

How is Jesus asking you to organize your microchurch?  
*(distributive, specific, unsure yet?)*

How can you experiment, try and fail new ways to be this type of microchurch?

How does this help you focus your methods as you move forward?

# P3

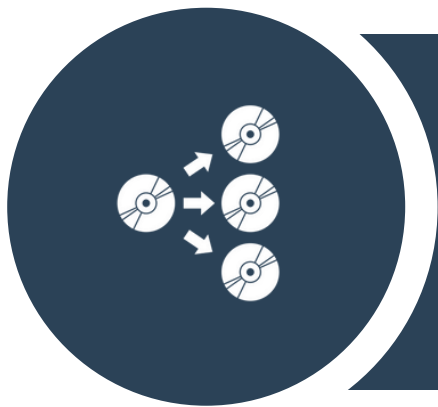
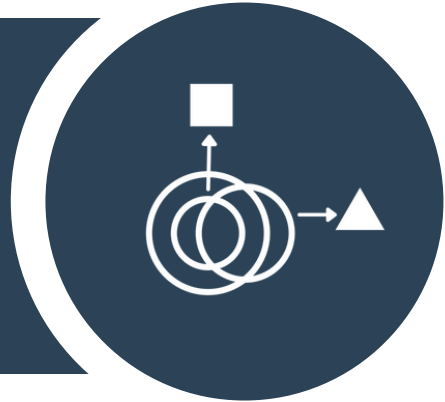


# expansion

welcoming → sending

## INCUBATION

- New calling for a different kind of microchurch
- Won't look like your microchurch
- Needs help, support and time to find its feet



## REPLICATION

- Calling to plant identical microchurch
- Looks like your microchurch
- Usually has a strong relationship with existing MC
- Needs coaching, processes and unity about methods

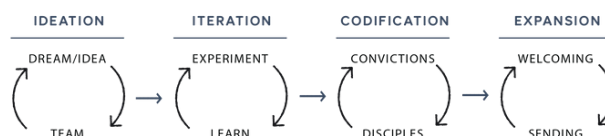
## SCALING

- Calling to expand current microchurch
- Continues as a part of your microchurch, but reaches new area, people, or need
- Needs support structure & leadership development



not everything expands, and sometimes expansion kills your thing!... it's okay!

# P4



# next steps

find your way forward

## microchurches are little.

They are small, easily missed and overlooked.

*"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." Matthew 13*

what's your next step as your microchurch develops?

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