



MOVEMENT LAUNCHER

your personal guide to launching a movement

what is a movement?

At the core a movement is: you and two of your friends coming together to live in authentic Biblical community. Looking at the Biblical accounts of living in community we discover a few basic principles that these groups of believers lived by:

- 1 Devoted to the Word
- 2 Authentic relationships
- 3 Partners in the Great Commission

An easy way to remember these three basic elements of a movement is **DNA: Divine truth** (the Bible and the Holy Spirit), **Nurturing Relationships** (marked by honesty and confessing sins), and **Apostolic Mission** (being sent with the gospel to those who don't yet believe).

If you changed just one chromosome on your DNA you would be a markedly different person than you are today. In the same way if any one part of the DNA of a movement is neglected you'll end up with an entirely different entity. A movement is simply a group of about 3 people who want to commit to living out the spiritual DNA of the Bible.

how do i get started?

The first step is to ask the Lord to bring you a couple of like-minded friends who want to launch a movement with you. Once you have your two friends, agree on a time and place where you'll get together each week to touch base. Now you're ready to launch a movement with Biblical DNA:

DIVINE TRUTH

Commit to reading scripture together. When reading scripture we're going to seek to do three things: observe, understand, and apply.

The best way to understand the Bible is to read scripture in context, and the best way to do this is to read without jumping around from one book to the next. When we read this way, we begin to develop an accurate understanding of the big picture of the Bible and it gives us a better understanding of specific verses since we are reading them in context.

To get started, try reading in John and commit to reading 2 chapters

a day (or so). This will take about 15-20 minutes a day. Each day before you start reading say a quick prayer to ask God to speak to you personally through his word.

Observe. Who, what, where, when, how? Try to get a handle on what's happening. As you're reading notice how often the three aspects of a movement (Divine Truth, Nurturing Relationships, Apostolic Mission) show up in the passage.

Understand. What does it mean? Once you understand what is happening try to understand what it means. Put a question mark beside any of the passages that you are having trouble understanding.

When you get back together the next week open your Bibles and discuss with one another what you've been reading. What was the basic idea/teaching of the passage? Look at the question marks that each of you had and together seek to understand what the passage means.

If you still have questions don't hesitate to ask a trusted friend, discipler/mentor, or your staff coach for some perspective.

Apply. Once you've discussed the passage, prayerfully share with your friends one point of application that you can obey in the upcoming week. There is space in the back where you can keep track of your application points.

This is what separates a movement from other groups - it is based on the assumption that each of the members are going to respond in obedience to the Spirit's leading; that each of you will be filled with the Spirit and then *move* with the Spirit. The assumption is that we *will* be moving, we are just asking God *where* He would move us.

Pray. After you've written down your one application of obedience for the week pray for each other. As you pray for one another throughout the week, open up your booklet to remind you of how and where your friends are going to be moving this week.

When you get together there will be times when one person doesn't read the passage for that week - no problem, simply re-read the same passage for the coming week. You'll be amazed at how many different

application points you can get from the same passage - one week you're sharing the gospel, the next week you find yourself taking care of someone's physical needs, and the next week you're teaching a freshman what it means to live a Spirit-filled life...all from the same chunk of scripture!

I would encourage you to keep re-reading the same passage until everyone in the group has read it through to completion - then move on. Remember, we're hoping to read the Bible in context and understand the big picture not just a verse here and there.

Recap. OK, so let's recap the Divine Truth portion of a movement:

- 1 Commit to reading a couple chapters (or so) a day
- 2 Observe, Understand, Apply
- 3 Pray for each other as you move with the Spirit

NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS

The context of your time together in a movement is your relationship

with each other. I don't intend to give you a lot of instruction on how to be friends, but I would like to outline a couple of Biblical principles for healthy relationships.

Confess your sin. As you get together confess your sins to each other, keep one another accountable to live Spirit-filled lives and help your friends to process the struggles in their lives. Why is this particular sin such a struggle for you? What steps could you take to avoid bad situations that are consistently leading you to sin? Etc.

Call out greatness in each other. Often times our perspective gets clouded by the world and we have a hard time seeing the spiritual reality of our lives. Help your friends respond to the Spirit's leading by praying for and coming alongside them in whatever way possible.

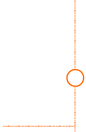
Throughout the Bible God calls his children to embark on crazy adventures and perform incredible feats that they simply don't have the capacity to do on their own. Help your friends respond to God in their lives and to embark on the adventure he has prepared for them.

APOSTOLIC MISSION

Apostle literally means “sent one”, thus you could call the Apostle Paul, “Paul the sent one”. As you know, a mission is an operational task that one is to complete. So when you put the two together you get an **Apostolic Mission** - a task that one is sent to complete.

As a Christian you have been sent to complete a mission. As Jesus ended his time on earth he gave his disciples a command: “go and make disciples...” (Matt. 28) Guess what...they did. In fact, they went and made disciples so well that someone shared with you, and now you’re thinking about making disciples too! The mission, however, has yet to be completed.


We have been ‘sent’ to complete our part of the mission. What this means is that we are to faithfully share with people in our life how they too can become a follower of Jesus. We believe that God calls people to Himself...and he chooses to use us. That means that it’s not our job to save people, but to simply tell them how they can begin to have a relationship with God like we have.



Start Praying. Since we are asking God to spiritually work in the lives of people who don't yet know Him, let's begin on our knees in prayer. Simply ask God to bring to mind 3 (or so) friends/acquaintances who either haven't heard how to become a follower of Jesus or who aren't currently following Him.

Write the names down. Write down the names of those 3 people and share them with your friends in your movement (space in back). Each day as you end your time in the word remember to ask God to work in their lives, and to give you an opportunity to engage them in spiritual conversation. Also, pray for your friends as they talk to those who aren't following Jesus.

You may have the opportunity to share with them tomorrow, and maybe you'll have to wait several months before they're ready to hear...but either way, begin to move forward by praying for them and seeking out opportunities to talk with them about the spiritual part of their life.



Invite. Invite your friends who aren't following Jesus to be a part of your movement. For many this will be their first glimpse of what it could be like to be Christian.

As you've grown close to your friends in your movement it can be difficult to let a new person into the group...and even more difficult to remain open and honest, confessing your sins and calling greatness out of one another. It's worth it. No one is asking you to be perfect, and nobody expects you to have all the answers. Simply love the Lord and love your unbelieving neighbor enough to give them a glimpse of what it could be like to follow Jesus....that's a movement!

SUMMARY

Divine Truth: Commit to reading a couple chapters a day, Observe-Understand-Apply the passage, and pray for each other as you move with the Spirit

Nurturing Relationships: confess your sins, and call out greatness in one another

Apostolic Mission: Pray for the Lord's direction, write down names, and invite them when the opportunity is presented

we're growing! now what?

So you're inviting people to be a part of your movement and God is meeting them right where they're at and...well now you've got a whole bunch of folks in your movement! Praise the Lord!

The big idea is that as we live out the DNA of a movement we become disciples of Jesus who make disciples (Matt. 28). As your movement produces more and more followers of Jesus your movement launches a movement. **First disciples make disciples, then movements launch movements.**

What if there were movements everywhere...in every pocket of people on campus? What if everyone knew someone who is a follower of Jesus? Holy cow, something that big would have to come from God Himself!

The hard part almost always comes in launching a movement. We fear that if we launch another movement we will lose relationships with people whom we genuinely care about, or things are going so well that we don't want to change.




○ As you learned freshman year of high school, one sign of a living organism is that it reproduces. The same principle applies to both your spiritual life and the life of your movement - growth results in reproduction.

One of the central aspects of a movement is that it is small enough to facilitate individuals to move with the Spirit in their own lives. As the group gets too big people get lost in the crowd, and the movement becomes a meeting. Ever notice how bad the mass produced cafeteria food is? Same idea - **with a smaller movement individuals can personally process their relationship with God in a tight community.**

I don't know what the magic number is, but once your movement has reached between 6-10 people it's probably time to launch another movement. If you have 10 people you already have 2 movements!

who stays and who goes?



I don't know. If your original two friends and you want to keep the group together and launch the 4 newest people in a movement go for it.



If one of your original three wants to launch a movement with the newbies, then do that. Let me give you a few things to keep in mind as you pray through the process:

The new believer is a disciple of Jesus. The only difference between the new believer and your pastor is maturity, and maturity comes from experience. Encourage new believers to actively engage in all 3 aspects of the DNA right away, and mature by experiencing God in action. Don't be afraid to launch a new movement with new believers. If you have a relationship with them you should be able to help them when questions come up.

The Holy Spirit is a better companion than we are. The Spirit of God is a better teacher, comforter, encourager, and evangelist than we will ever be. Best of all, the Holy Spirit is a constant presence, which we can't be.



Passage we're reading this week: _____

One Point of Application for me:

Friends' application point that I can be praying for:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Three people who aren't yet followers of Jesus that I'm praying for:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Passage we're reading this week: _____

One Point of Application for me:

Friends' application point that I can be praying for:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Three people who aren't yet followers of Jesus that I'm praying for:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____



www.2overflow.com / www.denvercru.org