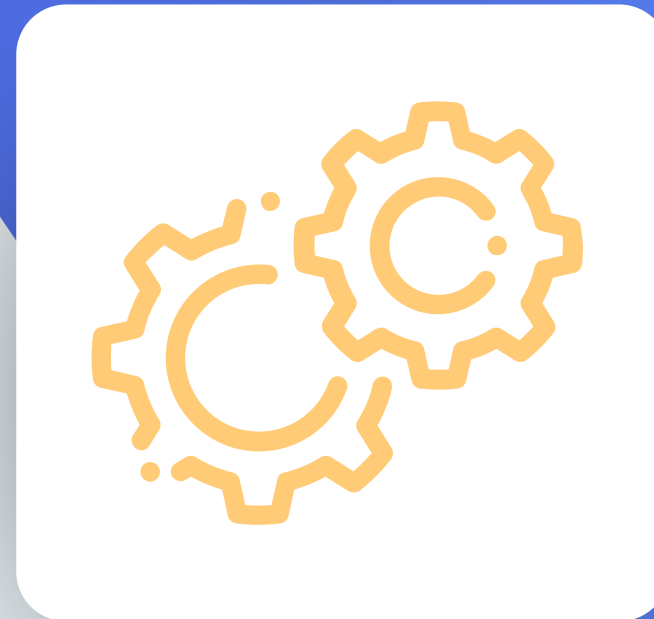
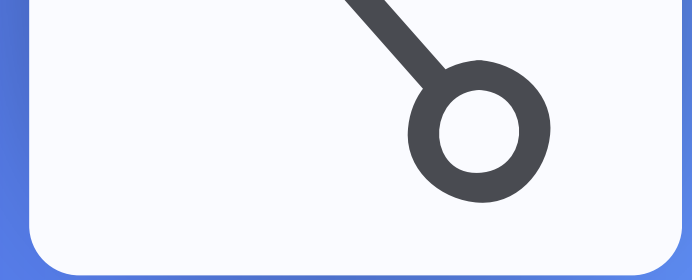


FIVE NEW
RESEARCH-BASED
DISCIPLESHIP TRENDS
MOST CHURCH LEADERS
ARE MISSING



LET'S CELEBRATE THE WORLD CUP!

*Introduce Upward Soccer
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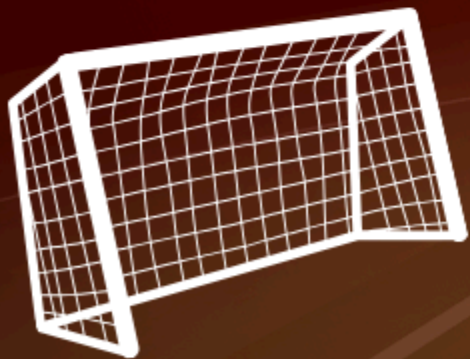
*Check out our player
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*Schedule your call, get your timeline
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**DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGIES BUILT FOR
THE PAST WILL NOT CARRY THE NEXT
GENERATION.**





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DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGIES BUILT FOR THE PAST WILL NOT CARRY THE NEXT GENERATION.



- Attendance frequency is declining.
- Household formation is delayed and stressed.
- Baby Boomers are aging out of active participation.
- **Churches must disciple *earlier, more intentionally, and more relationally.***





FIVE NEW RESEARCH-BASED **DISCIPLESHIP TRENDS** **MOST CHURCH LEADERS ARE MISSING**



#1

A RETURN TO MIDWEEK DISCIPLESHIP



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- **Midweek environments outperform Sunday-only models for spiritual formation.**



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A RETURN TO MIDWEEK DISCIPLESHIP

- Midweek environments outperform Sunday-only models for spiritual formation.
- Formation happens through repetition, relationships, and rhythm, not events.
- **Churches with midweek rhythms see stronger biblical literacy and volunteer pipelines.**



#1

A RETURN TO MIDWEEK DISCIPLESHIP

- **Midweek discipliship must be rebuilt around young families with:**



#1

A RETURN TO MIDWEEK DISCIPLESHIP

- Midweek discipleship must be rebuilt around young families with:
 - **Predictable schedules**



#1

A RETURN TO MIDWEEK DISCIPLESHIP

- Midweek discipliship must be rebuilt around young families with:
 - Predictable schedules
 - **Childcare integration**



#1

A RETURN TO MIDWEEK DISCIPLESHIP

- Midweek discipliship must be rebuilt around young families with:
 - Predictable schedules
 - Childcare integration
 - **Clear discipliship outcomes**



#2

MARRIAGE MINISTRY INTEGRATED WITH STUDENT & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



#2

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- **Faith transmission is strongest when discipleship targets the household, not individuals.**



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- Faith transmission is strongest when discipleship targets the household, not individuals.
- Parents are the primary faith influencers—far more than pastors or programs.
- **Churches aligning marriage, parenting, and children's ministry see higher retention into adulthood.**



#2

MARRIAGE MINISTRY INTEGRATED WITH STUDENT & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

- **As older generations exit, replacement depends on healthy, disciplined young families.**



#2

MARRIAGE MINISTRY INTEGRATED WITH STUDENT & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

- As older generations exit, replacement depends on healthy, disciplined young families.
- **Churches that neglect marriage formation accelerate the decline created by actuarial aging.**



#3

AFFORDABLE THEOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR EVERYONE



#3

AFFORDABLE THEOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR EVERYONE

- **Churches are becoming learning organizations again.**



#3

AFFORDABLE THEOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR EVERYONE

- Churches are becoming learning organizations again.
- **Biblical illiteracy correlates strongly with shallow discipleship and disengagement.**



#3

AFFORDABLE THEOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR EVERYONE

- Churches offering accessible theological training report:



#3

AFFORDABLE THEOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR EVERYONE

- Churches offering accessible theological training report:
 - **Higher volunteer confidence**



#3

AFFORDABLE THEOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR EVERYONE

- Churches offering accessible theological training report:
 - Higher volunteer confidence
 - **Greater doctrinal clarity**



#3

AFFORDABLE THEOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR EVERYONE

- Churches offering accessible theological training report:
 - Higher volunteer confidence
 - Greater doctrinal clarity
 - **Increased leadership development**



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#4

CONNECTING STEWARDSHIP TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH



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- **Generosity is positively correlated with discipleship.**



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- Generosity is positively correlated with discipleship.
- **Giving patterns track closely with spiritual maturity and engagement.**



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CONNECTING STEWARDSHIP TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- Generosity is positively correlated with discipleship.
- Giving patterns track closely with spiritual maturity and engagement.
- **Churches teaching stewardship as obedience see stronger long-term generosity.**



#4

CONNECTING STEWARDSHIP TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- **Boomer giving patterns will not automatically transfer to younger generations.**



#4

CONNECTING STEWARDSHIP TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- Boomer giving patterns will not automatically transfer to younger generations.
- **Churches must disciple young families early in stewardship to offset inevitable actuarial losses.**



#5

REVERSING ATTENDANCE DECLINE THROUGH ONGOING GROUPS



#5

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- **Groups drive consistency, not worship.**



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- Groups drive consistency, not worship.
- **Belonging precedes belief and behavior.**



#5

REVERSING ATTENDANCE DECLINE THROUGH ONGOING GROUPS

- **Regular group participation correlates with:**



#5

REVERSING ATTENDANCE DECLINE THROUGH ONGOING GROUPS

- Regular group participation correlates with:
 - **Higher attendance frequency**



#5

REVERSING ATTENDANCE DECLINE THROUGH ONGOING GROUPS

- Regular group participation correlates with:
 - Higher attendance frequency
 - **Increased serving and giving**



#5

REVERSING ATTENDANCE DECLINE THROUGH ONGOING GROUPS

- Regular group participation correlates with:
 - Higher attendance frequency
 - Increased serving and giving
 - **Stronger spiritual habits**



#5

REVERSING ATTENDANCE DECLINE THROUGH ONGOING GROUPS

- **The coming actuarial reality: Boomers will age out soon.**



#5

REVERSING ATTENDANCE DECLINE THROUGH ONGOING GROUPS

- The coming actuarial reality: Boomers will age out soon.
- **Embedding young families into ongoing groups is essential for stability and growth.**



**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS: THESE TRENDS POINT
TO ONE CONCLUSION:**



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#1: The future church disciples *earlier, relationally, and across the household.*



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#1: The future church disciplines *earlier, relationally, and across the household.*

#2: Demographics are not destiny, but ignoring them is fatal.

#3: **The churches that adapt now will still be discipling effectively ten years from today.**



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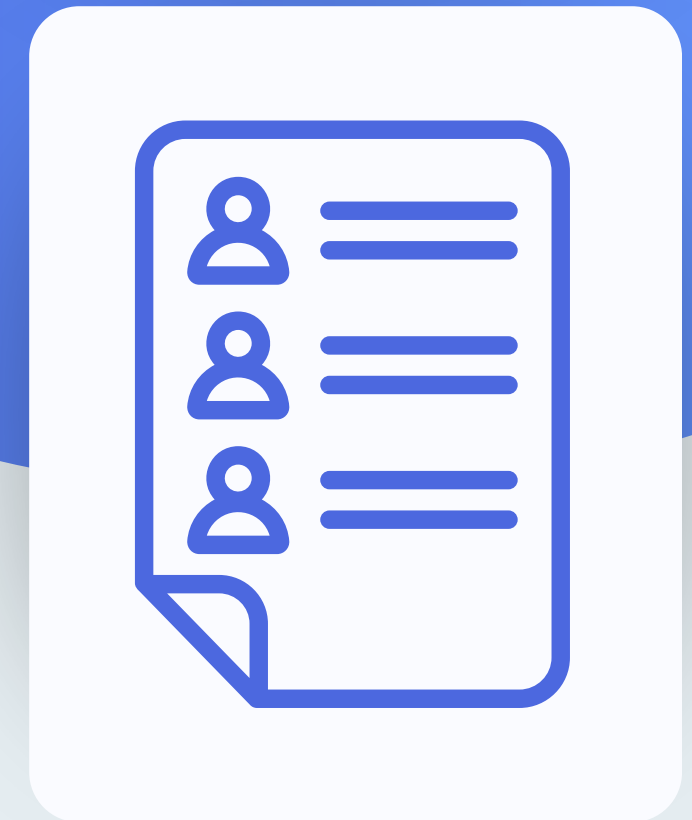
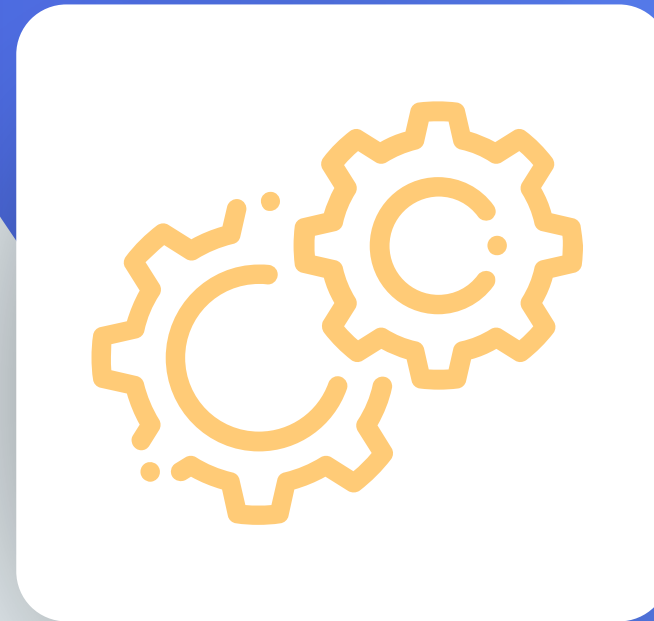


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QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU!

