



# 2019 Nurture and Retention Summit

Discipling, Nurturing,  
and Reclaiming

## The Power of Discipleship

# The Limitation of Retention Rates

Retention rates can help us to identify a problem, but they don't give us the solution. Our goal is greater than retaining members. Just like the law is our tutor to lead us to Christ, retention rates are merely a tutor to lead us back to the mission of making disciples!

# Luke 17:33

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If we want our members to stay, we need to send them out. If we want them to hold on to the truth, we need to teach them to give it away.

# The Church Board

*Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, p. 129*

“Its chief concern is having an active **discipleship** plan in place, which **includes both** the **spiritual nurture** of the church and the work of planning and fostering **evangelism**.

Included in church board responsibilities are:

1. An active **discipleship** plan.
2. **Evangelism** in all of its phases.
3. Spiritual **nurturing and mentoring** of members.”

# A False Dichotomy

## Community

Evangelism

Outreach

Soul-winning

Numerical Growth

## Church

Nurture

Inreach

Mentoring

Spiritual Growth

# Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”

# Luke 6:40

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.”



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# John 13:35

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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**LOVING**

# Matthew 16:24

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’”

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**SELF-DENYING**

# Mark 1:17

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**SOUL-WINNER**

# *Christian Service, p. 58*

“It is evident that all the sermons that have been preached have **not developed** a large class of **self-denying workers**. . . . Our future for eternity is at stake. The churches are withering up **because they have failed to use their talents in diffusing light.**”





# PREPARE

Make friends

Serve others



# PLANT

Spiritual conversations

Share literature/media



# CULTIVATE

Give Bible studies

Give spiritual guidance



# HARVEST

Appeal for decisions  
Public and personal



# PRESERVE

Mentor and train

Involve in soul-winning

# ***Evangelism, p. 337***

“After individuals have been converted to the truth, they need to be looked after. . . . These newly converted ones need nursing, watchful attention, help, and encouragement. These should not be left alone, a prey to Satan’s most powerful temptations;

# ***Evangelism, p. 337***

“they need to be educated in regard to their duties, to be kindly dealt with, to be led along, and to be visited and prayed with.”



# Make Disciples

Serve

Share

Study

Appeal

Mentor



# *Christian Service, p. 121*

“One soul, won to the truth, will be instrumental in winning others, and there will be an **ever-increasing** result of blessing and salvation.”



# Make Disciples

Serve

Share

Study

Appeal

Mentor

# “Go . . . Make Disciples”

Matthew 28:19

## Train Members To...

Labor according to their ability

Work for souls who need help

Explain the Word of God to others

Lead souls into the truth

Work to win souls

**Grow**

Numerically



Seventh-day  
Adventist® Church

# *Evangelism, p. 355*

“When souls are converted, set them to work at once. And as they labor according to their ability, **they will grow stronger**. It is by meeting opposing influences that we become confirmed in the faith.”

# *Christian Service, p. 107*

“There is but one genuine **cure for spiritual laziness**, and that is work,—working for souls who need your help.”

# *Christ's Object Lessons, p. 354.*

“The more one tries to explain the Word of God to others, with a love for souls, **the plainer it becomes to himself**. The more we use our knowledge and exercise our powers, **the more knowledge and power we shall have.**”

# *Christian Service, p. 69*

“Let ministers teach church members that **in order to grow in spirituality**, they must carry the burden that the Lord has laid upon them—the burden of leading souls into the truth.”

# *Evangelism, p. 356*

“Those who are most actively employed in doing with interested fidelity their work to win souls to Jesus Christ are **the best developed in spirituality** and devotion.”



# “Go . . . Make Disciples”

Matthew 28:19

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Lead souls into the truth

Work to win souls

**Grow**  
Numerically

**Grow**  
Spiritually



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# “Go . . . Make Disciples”

Matthew 28:19

## Train Members To...

Pray and read Bible regularly

Show kindness, love, and support

Be hospitable

Forgive and be merciful

**Grow**  
Spiritually

**Grow**  
Numerically



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# Two Sides of the Same Coin

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without training and equipping them to WIN SOULS.

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There is NO SUCH THING as nurture without evangelism . . .

or evangelism without nurture.

# Final Question

Could it be that the best strategy for church growth is at the same time the best strategy for the nurture and retention of our members?



**GO  
MAKE  
DISCIPLES**

**GROW.adventist.org**