

Learning Activities for UNIT 2 of Robertson McQuilkin's *Five Smooth Stones: Essential Biblical Principles for Ministry*.

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Reflecting on THE FIVE BIBLICAL PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH

Instructions for the Reader (30 minutes)

Based on the five purposes check in one of the boxes the **single purpose** that first comes to mind in identifying each of the churches or ministries.

Chart for Identifying Strengths of a Church or Ministry

Purposes	Worship	Make Disciples	Member Care	Evangelize Near	Evangelize Far	Ministry of Compassion
Billy Graham						
United Methodist						
A Bible Church						
Wycliffe						
Campus Crusade for Christ						
Southern Baptist						
Independent Baptist						
Columbia Intl. University						
Union Rescue Mission						
Salvation Army						
Pentecostal						

Charismatic						
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**Growing in the Five Purposes
In Your Life, Household, & Congregation**

Instructions for the Reader

Place a number from 1 to 10 in each of the five columns indicating how effectively you understand and practice each of the five purposes. (With 1 being very weak – lack clear understanding of this purpose and very little experience in living it out and 10 being very strong – able to teach others).

Below the table list challenges you face or changes you could make to grow in one area over the next three months.

Area of Life	Worship	Make Disciples	Member Care	Evangelize Near	Evangelize Far	Ministry of Compassion
Personal						
Household						
Congregation						

Challenges:

Changes:

Learning Activity: MAKING DISCIPLES

Instructions for the Reader (30 minutes)

Read Chapter Five in *The Five Smooth Stones* book to discover how to improve the effectiveness of teaching in order to better make disciples.

Evaluating the Teaching Ministry of Your Congregation

Describe briefly the teacher, the location, and the time(s) of each form of teaching for the congregation you know best.

1. **Teaching the larger audience** including members, visitors, the curious, inquirers, and seekers:

2. **Teaching the congregation** itself:

3. If you make no distinction between #1 and #2 in your teaching format, how do you teach the members as a whole (gathered) for discipleship?

4. **Small group** teaching.

5. Check the purpose of the small groups in your congregation:

- (1) Bible study
- (2) Evangelistic
- (3) Fellowship/sharing
- (4) Accountability
- (5) Other

If you combine two or more of these objectives, how do you ascertain the degree to which each purpose is met?

6. **One-on-one.** Include in your description the primary focus or purpose of what is structured.

Learning Activity: Evaluating the Bible Teaching Ministry

Instructions for the Reader (30 minutes) In the space below:

1. Assign a score of one to ten, evaluating the effectiveness of teaching (to the congregation) on the understanding and practice of the biblical purposes.
2. Note where the teaching for this purpose occurs: With the entire congregation, small groups, or one-on-one.
3. List changes that could be made that would improve disciple-making purpose.

Evaluating the Teaching Ministry of the Biblical Purposes of the Church

Remember that every purpose inadequately fulfilled by a congregation means that the congregation falls short of what God designed it to be and do. Furthermore, each weak purpose-fulfillment weakens the fulfillment of all the other purposes to a greater or less extent.

Weak.....Strong
1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10

WORSHIP

DISCIPLE-MAKING

MEMBER CARE

EVANGELISM-LOCAL

EVANGELISM-DISTANT

DISPENSING MERCY IN COMMUNITY

SEEKING JUSTICE IN SOCIETY

As you consider ways to improve the teaching on the purposes of the church consider other teaching resources God may have placed in your community. Are there other congregations or parachurch organizations that can be a web of partnerships in expressing the five purposes of the church in your geographic area?

Describe synergistic networking that would enable a congregation weak in one of the purposes to be strengthened by working with other congregations.
