

THE VISION & MISSION OF CHRIST'S MERCY

MISSION: A community built on transparency, committed to discipleship.

CHURCH METHOD: Jesus had three primary areas of ministry: the crowds, the twelve disciples, and three disciples he focused most intensely with. So, we've built our structure to replicate that within our own context.

- **Sundays @ 10:30** (*The Crowd*) — Large gathering for corporate worship & teaching.
- **House Churches** (*The Twelve*) — Gathering of 6-15 people as the primary means of community, pastoral care, accountability, and deeper teaching.
- **Personal Discipleship** (*The Three*) — A 1:1 or 1:3 structured process for spiritual growth to affirm your faith, grow your relationship with Christ, equip you as a minister, and release you to make other disciples (repeating the process).

GAUGE OF SUCCESS: The number of members who are actively discipling another person.

1. *How many of our members have publicly shared their testimony?*
2. *How many of our members have helped lead someone to faith in Jesus?*
3. *How many of our members have baptized another person they've discipled?*
4. *How many of our members have equipped another person to begin discipling someone on their own?*

CHURCH GOALS:

1. For every member to be in a personal discipleship relationship and be equipped to disciple another person (evangelizing, baptizing, and teaching them to follow Jesus and make other disciples).
2. To give away 50% of our annual budget by 2020.
3. To train pastors from within our congregation to lead House Churches; planting House Churches all throughout Katy as a primary means of fellowship, pastoral care, mission/evangelism, and teaching.
4. For the majority of our leaders and staff to arise from those within our church whom we have discipled and mentored.
5. To primarily grow by conversion growth, not transfer growth.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

What is a disciple?:

The word disciple and discipleship is used in many contexts, so we must clarify what we mean by this term. Here is our definition of a disciple based on Matthew 4:19 where Jesus tells his disciples, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

- **Head** — "**Follow me**" — a mental acceptance and commitment to Jesus.
- **Heart** — "**I will make you**" — internal transformation where the person is being made more like Jesus each day.
- **Hands** — "**fishers of men**" — a disciple joins Jesus in his work. They have embraced God's purpose for them and are intentionally seeking to make other disciples.

Key Questions for our Mission:

1. If the church is supposed to be a family, how many times throughout the week do our members hangout?
2. Though we go to church with people for many years, how many of their stories and testimonies do we actually know?
3. Though we might have a lot of people in church, how many disciples are being made?

Why Katy?

Katy is often called the city of churches. So, why plant another church in Katy? First, the Katy area has had an annual population growth rate between 4 and 6%. In 2015, the population of the Katy area was 309,556. By 2020 the population is expecting to exceed 350,000. This rapid rise in population presents a demand and opportunity for new churches to reach all of those who are coming to Katy, especially the high percentage of those from different nationalities and ethnicities (Houston is ranked as the most diverse city in America).

Secondly, though Katy (and Houston) have many churches and lots of people who attend, there is a growing disconnect between Sunday morning attendance and Christians whose entire life is shaped by Jesus. While reaching new people with the Gospel, we hope to present the authentic challenge of being a disciple that Jesus did. In an area where Christianity is heavily a cultural or family characteristic, we desire to see each person experience authentic faith in Christ and live it out daily as a disciple who disciples others.