

# The Invitation & Challenge of Jesus

**Matthew 16:24-25**





**Virginia  
Mennonite  
Missions**

*Called. Sent. Transformed.*

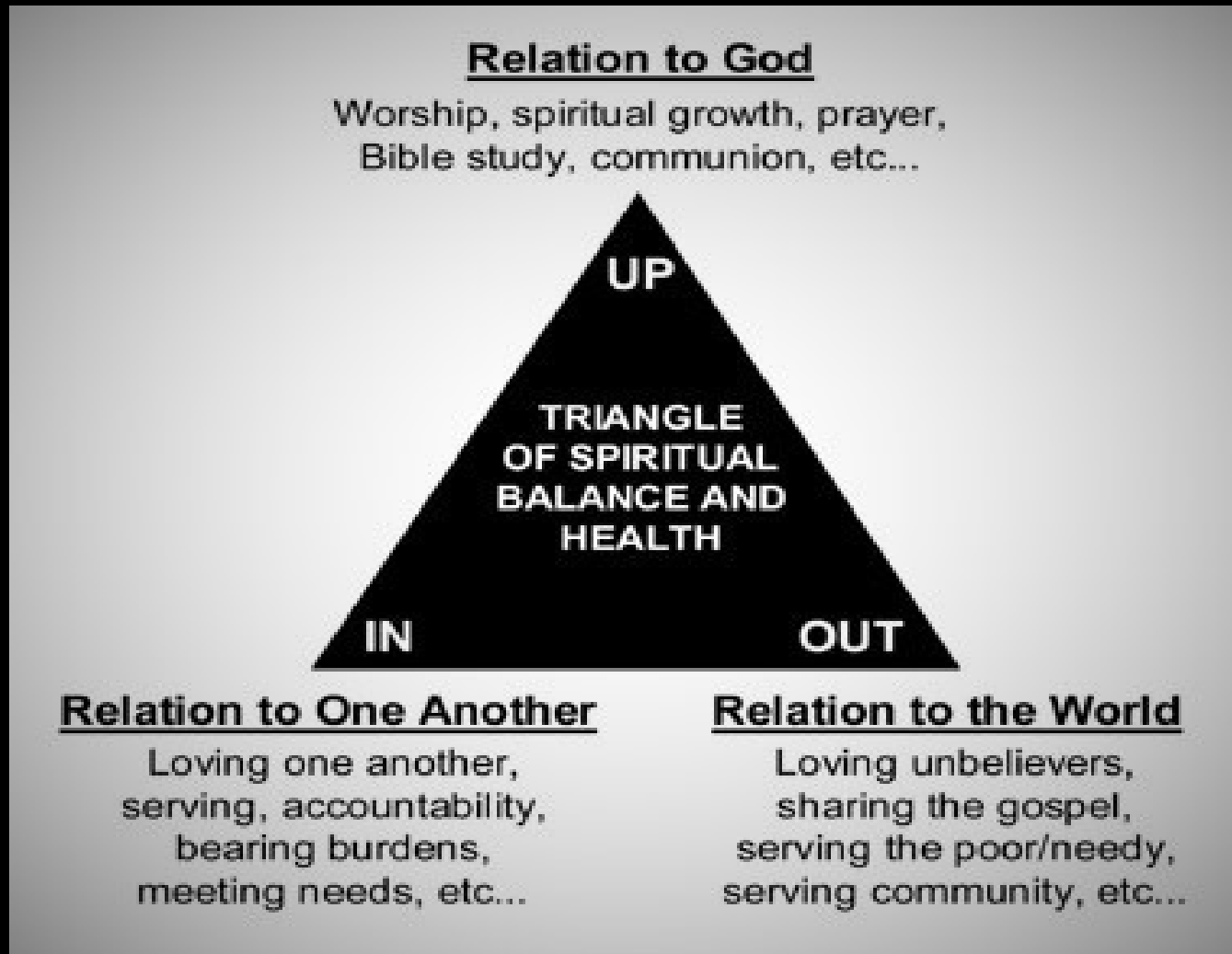


**Skip Tobin**  
*Church Coach*

“The problem is that we don't have a “missional” problem or a leadership problem in the Western church. We have a discipleship problem. If you know how to disciple people well, you will always get mission. Always.”

Mike Breen, *Building a Discipling Culture*

# Where are you? Where is our church?



**UP:**  
Passionate Spirituality



**OUT:**  
Missional Zeal

**IN:**  
Radical Community

## **Jesus, Matthew 16:24-25 NLT**

**24** Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. **25** If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

## **Jesus, Matthew 16:24-25 MSG**

“Then Jesus went to work on his disciples.

“Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am.

Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self.”

Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!”

Matthew 4:19 NLT





“Jesus created a highly inviting but highly challenging culture for his disciples to function and grow within. If we are going to build a culture of discipleship, we will have to learn to balance invitation and challenge appropriately... effective leadership is based upon an invitation to relationship and a challenge to change.”

Mike Breen, *Building a Discipling Culture*

# From One Church Model to the Next

Beth Ann Gaede, *Size Transitions in Congregations*

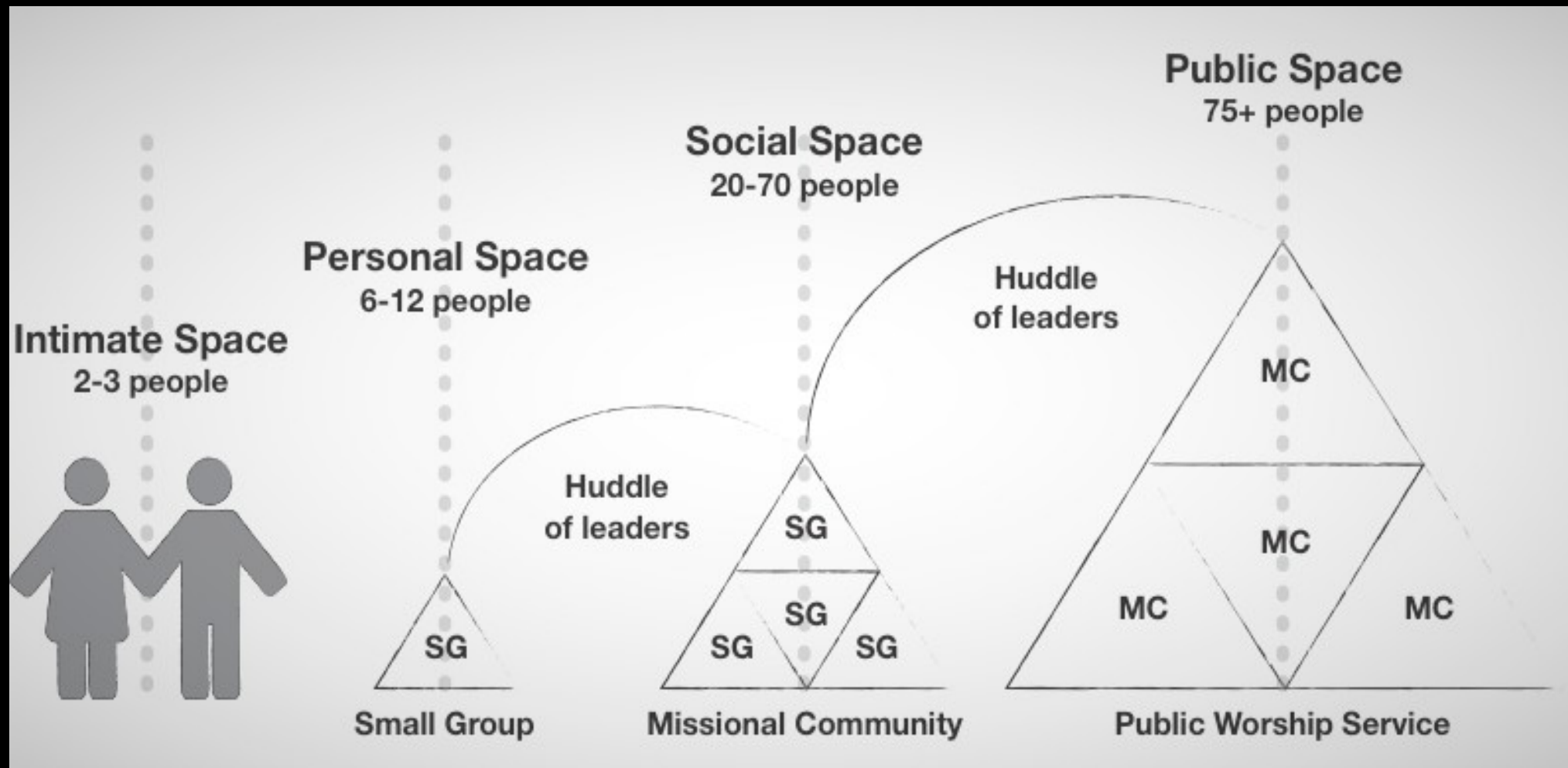
## “Family” (up to 50)

- 1-3 strong families lead and maintain
- Tight circle of friends
- Small church that is stretched & limited
- Pastor's role is limited
- Full-time pastor is not sustainable in long run

## “Pastoral” (50-150)

- Pastor(s) leads, trains & equips leaders
- Church grows through *shared* leadership
- Circles/groups multiply
- Pastor serves as teacher & visionary
- Service/public space changes to fit model

# From Information to Imitation



## Leading to Innovation

# Church Model Transition

The challenges with transitioning are...

- Loss of self-esteem by families that have held the church together. Can they pass the mantle while taking pride in past accomplishments?
- Pastor not taking resistance personally
- Reluctance to move from one level of community to another (nostalgia, control, fear, etc.)
- Supporting the pastor through the time of transition from one model to the next

Beth Ann Gaede, *Size Transitions in Congregations*, (pgs 51-52)





## **Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship**

Planted in 1982 in a rented building

Lot and house purchased for \$27,500

Remodeled & New Building 1992-93

*(Fifty Year History of Central District by Glendon Blosser)*





Becoming an adventurous, liminal church means getting over risk aversion. Often the difference between a successful person (or organization) and a failure lies not in having better abilities or ideas, but in having the courage to bet on one's ideas, to take a calculated risk — and to act.

(Alan Hirsch)

## **Paul, Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV**

**20** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



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