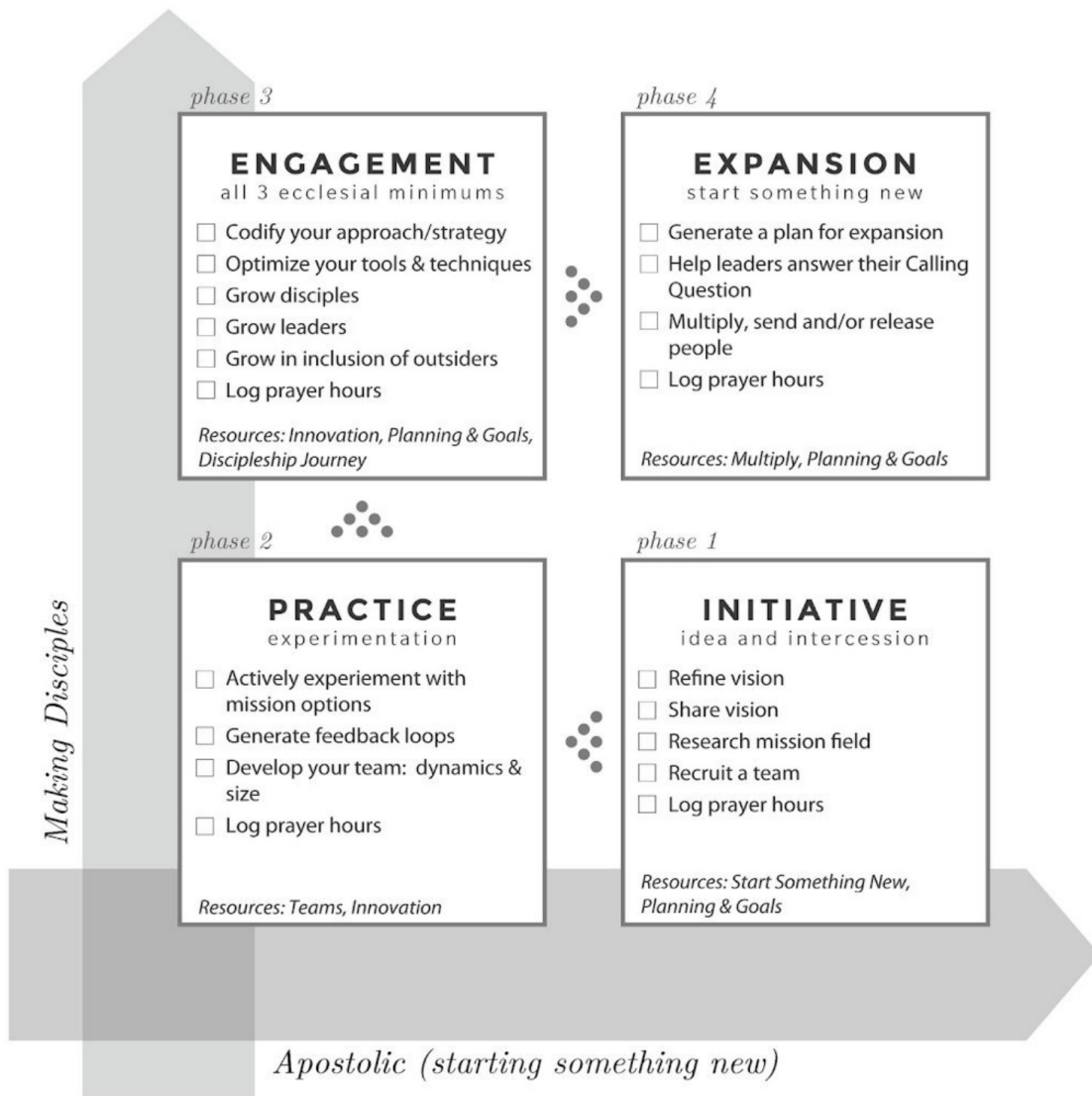


Microchurch Phases

Underground Ensemble

Microchurches have four phases of development represented as 4 quadrants along two axes. The horizontal axis reflects apostolic activity to start something new. The vertical axis reflects discipleship activity to make new disciples. When these two axes converge, we see how microchurches position themselves, and thus a leader can know their next steps in leading the microchurch.

The purpose of this framework is to help leaders identify where their microchurch is stationed and what leadership steps are required for the microchurch to mature. Each quadrant has resources attached to help in this process.



Phase 1: INITIATIVE

During phase one we see the leader has taken initiative to start something new (high apostolic) but has yet to make any new disciples (low discipleship). In this phase the microchurch is mainly a developing idea. The leader will spend time refining their vision, recruiting their team and intercession for a harvest.

How can you pray for clarity of vision and mission?

Who can you approach to join you in this vision to be the church?

What resources should you opt into to help you get started?

Phase 2: PRACTICE

During phase two the leader, with a small team, is now practicing their mission. We mean the word practice in both senses of actually doing something and getting better by repeated experimentation. In this phase the microchurch is maturing in methods and team resulting in neither starting anything new (low apostolic) nor making any new disciples (low discipleship).

It is important the leaders recognize that phase 2 is an important developmental milestone and should not be rushed past or discounted despite leaders often feeling the ministry is not accomplishing much.

How can you pray for discernment of method for your mission?

How can you make space to learn from your experiments of worship, community and mission?

What resources should you opt into to help you discover your methods of mission and community?

Phase 3: ENGAGEMENT

During phase three the microchurch is fully engaging all three ecclesial minimums (worship, community and mission). While maturing, many microchurches aspire to be fully functioning but often will be lacking in one or more of the minimums. In this phase all three are now present and the microchurch knows how they should live out their calling as they focus on making new disciples (high discipleship) but not on planting new work (low apostolic). This phase is focused on growth of leaders, disciples and new people.

How can you pray for the formation and growth of disciples in your microchurch?

How can you further develop a Basic Discipleship Plan for your microchurch?

What resources should you opt into to help you optimize the growth of disciples?

Phase 4: EXPANSION

During phase four the microchurch is expanding the kingdom by either multiplying itself or sending members to start something new. In this phase the microchurch is developing leaders to hear their calling (high discipleship) and developing plans to expand (high apostolic).

How can you pray for the calling and expansion of new microchurches?

Who can you coach to listen for God's purposes in their lives to start something new?

What resources should you opt into to help you expand the boundaries of the kingdom through planting new microchurches?

