



The Vine Project  
Tony Payne & Col Marshall

Introducing the Vine Project pp 1-40

### The Big Question

How can I change the whole culture of our church in the direction of disciple-making?

Three Types of Questions

1. What do you mean by discipleship and disciple-making?
2. Where does preaching fit into what you're saying?
3. Have you ended up making 'trellises' the bad guys of church life?

'In many churches around the world, there is an immensely dissatisfying gap between what we hope and expect the gospel will produce as it bears fruit among us, and what we actually see day to day and Sunday to Sunday'. p15

Why?

The existing complexity of congregational life that's so hard to unpick  
The well-established habits and structures

Key Question: How to shift your church culture towards disciple-making?

That's what this book attempts to answer.

- That requires a context-specific answer: it's particular
- That requires a commitment to a process of change: it's a project
- That requires a core team of people to be on board: it's plural

Six Ways to Make the Best of the Vine Project

1. The Vine Project is not just for churches but for all ministries. It's all about shifting gospel ministry in the direction of a culture of discipleship-making. And so, it'll have broad application. It could be, therefore, that you choose to run a 'pilot' project in one area of church ministry.

2. The Vine Project is not only for existing ministries but for new initiatives. The book assumes an existing church programme but it can equally well apply to the process of establishing healthy discipleship-making culture.
3. The Vine Project needs first to be read by the team leader. You need to be convinced personally that this is going to be something worth doing. And secondly, you can work out how you need to shape the material to your context.
4. The Vine Project needs a team of people to work through it together. You are not going to be sufficient to implement a change in culture. You need allies that are on the same page as you. The team at TVP recommend no more than 10 and no fewer than 4. Go outside your usual leadership team to get fresh ideas and different perspectives. Think about whether the people you approach will make a constructive contribution to the process.
5. The Vine Project requires you to formulate a rough schedule of meetings. Get people to commit to pitching up and pitching in.
6. The Vine Project does not excuse you from praying. So make sure that the whole process is bathed in prayer

## **Changing the Culture**

### **A Process for Change**

Phase 1: Sharpen Your Convictions

Phase 2: Reform your Personal Culture

Phase 3: Loving, Honest Evaluation

Phase 4: Innovate and Implement

Phase 5: Maintain Momentum

### **Exercise: Changing the Culture**

1. If you had to summarize your church culture in a two- or three-word slogan, what would it be?
2. See if you can identify the key habits and activities and traditions that express and reinforce the culture of your church.
3. Which of the five phases of the process we're about to embark on do you think you will find most difficult? Why?
4. What are you looking forward to in working through the process we've outlined?