



新加坡卫理公会华人年议会
Chinese Annual Conference
The Methodist Church in Singapore



代代塑造门徒
DISCIPLINING THE GENERATIONS
诗篇 PSALM 78: 5-7
新加坡卫理公会华人年议会 CHINESE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Stop Stepping Into My Space

Alone or Accountable?
Finding Grace in Our Blind Spots

Kum Yan Methodist Church



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圣洁生活
HOLY LIVING

彼前 1 PETER 1:15-16



祷告依靠
**PRAYERFUL
DEPENDENCE**

西 EZEKIEL 36:26



传承生命
LIFE ON LIFE

使 ACTS 4:8-12

The Danger of the Blind Spot

“Look out! Bike!”

When a passenger shouts a warning, you don't say, ‘Stop stepping into my space! I am the driver!’ You swerve back. You listen because they saw something you could not see.



The Frightening Nature of Blind Spots

We don't know what we cannot see.

I think everything is clear.

I think I'm safe.

I think I know what I'm doing.

**There are things about ourselves
that only other people can see.**

The Fortress of “My Space”



We live in a world that prizes personal space. It's natural to bring this boundary into our faith: "I read my Bible. I pray. But how I live is between God and me."

The Purpose of Discipline

“Christianity is not simply about knowing more about Jesus. It is about becoming like Jesus.”



Grace



Spiritual disciplines (praying, fasting, studying) are not ways of earning God's favor. They are ways we intentionally place ourselves before God so His grace can transform us.

The Discipleship Equation



**Personal
Disciplines**



**Relational
Environment**



**Spiritual
Transformation**

**Discipleship is deeply personal, but it
was never intended to be private.**

The 'One Another' Paradox

"Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed." — James 5:16

"Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ."
— Galatians 6:2

You cannot 'one another' by yourself.

When 'Your Space' Causes Friction

Euodia

Syntychē

Philippians 4:2-3

Euodia and Syntyche were not troublesome outsiders. They were devoted ministry partners who loved Jesus.

And they disagreed.

Accountability is easy when people agree with us. But what happens when they don't?

**The question is not will mature Christians disagree.
The question is what will we do when we disagree?**

The Third Space

Paul didn't tell Euodia to surrender to Syntyche, or vice versa. He pointed them both to the Lord.

Unity does not require uniformity.

Understanding does not require agreement.

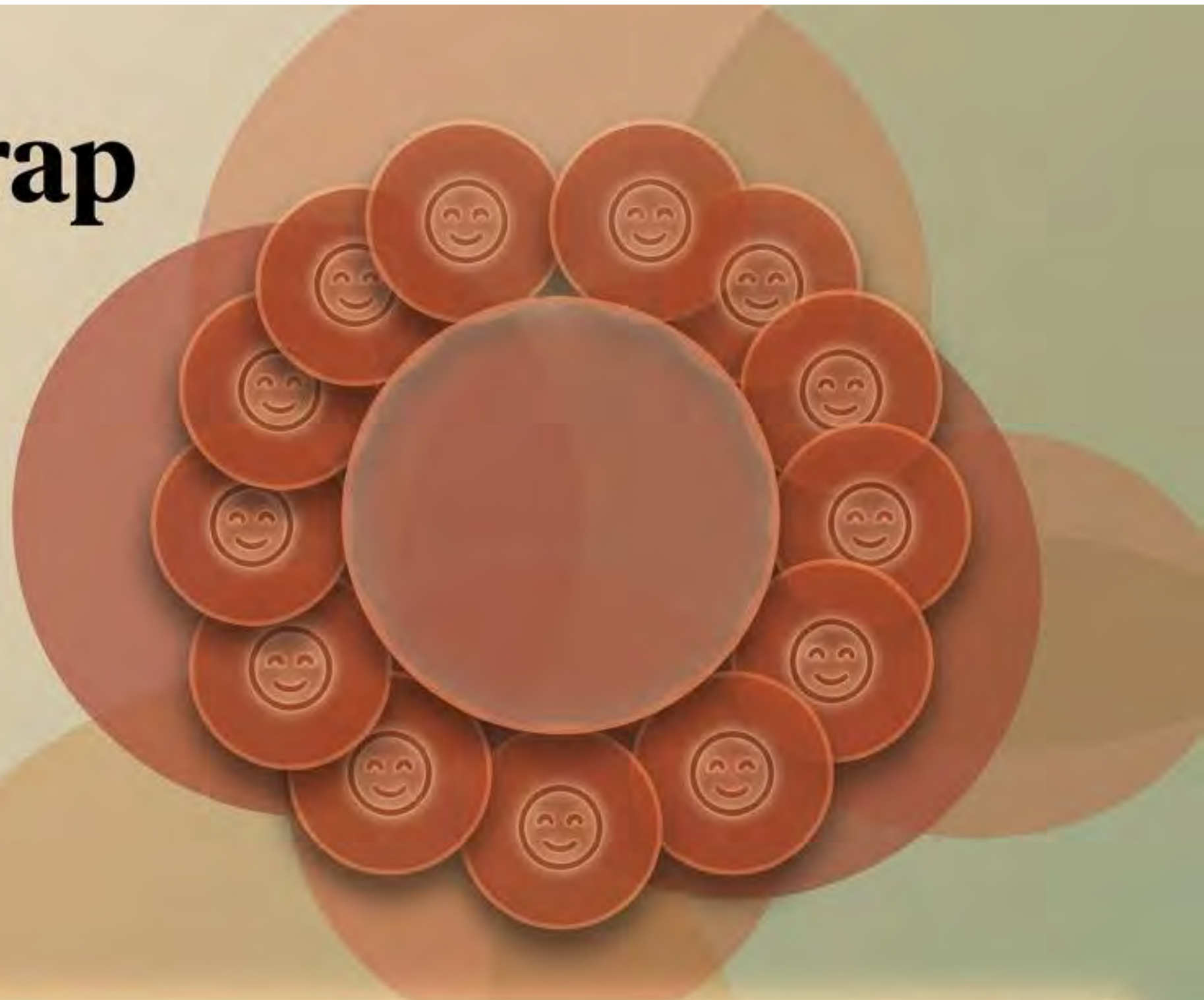
Disagreement does not have to become division.



What does faithfulness to Jesus require from both of us?

The Rehoboam Trap

In 1 Kings 12, King Rehoboam rejected the wise counsel that challenged him, preferring the voices of his peers that gave him the answers he wanted to hear.



We can surround ourselves with people, attend a group every week, laugh, and study scripture together—and still have zero accountability.

Two Approaches to Disagreement

The Echo Chamber (Rehoboam)



Goal: Personal Validation

Boundary: "You are welcome in my space, as long as you agree with me."

Result: Blind spots grow; eventual collapse.



The Ministry Partnership (Paul's Model)

Goal: Mutual Faithfulness to Jesus

Boundary: "Help me see what I cannot see."

Result: Harmony in the Lord; enduring transformation.

The Wesleyan Solution

John Wesley knew that preaching to a massive crowd was not enough to form disciples. People needed an environment to practice following Jesus together.



The Method

Early Methodism developed societies, classes, and bands. These weren't just meetings; they were spaces to confess struggles, pray, and "watch over one another in love."

Deconstructing Accountability

Accountability
Without Love
= Control

Accountability
Without Grace
= Judgment

Accountability
Without Relationship
= Interference

Accountability Within
Loving Relationship
= Discipleship

Repositioning the Small Group

The Modern Assumption

Focus: The Meeting Structure
(Friday night at 8 PM)

Metric: Perfect Attendance

Atmosphere: Polite socialization

The Biblical Reality

Focus: The Relational
Environment

Metric: Being truly known

Atmosphere: "Watching over one
another in love"

The structure can change (a triad, a band, a mentoring group). The relational reality cannot.

The Discipleship Progression

Come and Follow Me (Believers):
Developing foundational habits.

Come and Be With Me (The Twelve):
Discipleship becomes intensely relational; preparation for ministry.

Remain in Me (The Core):
Lifelong dependence, bearing fruit, and reproducing.

Come and See (Crowd):
Encountering who Jesus is.

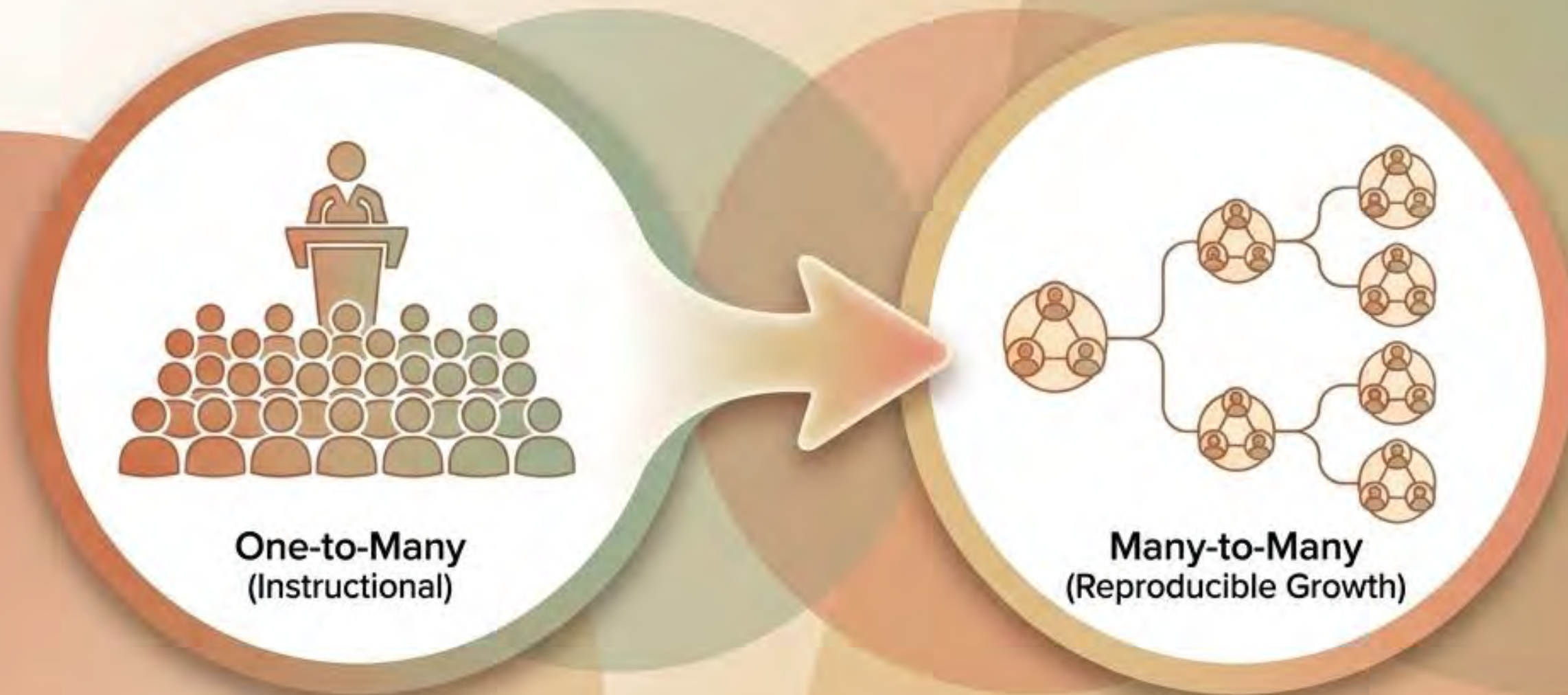
**Jesus did not disciple the Twelve primarily through a program.
He increasingly brought them closer to His actual life.**

The Blueprint for Transformation



We don't need small groups because small groups are sacred. We need environments where disciples can be known, challenged, and corrected.

The Power of Reproducibility



Jesus' command is not merely to produce mature Christians, but disciples who can participate in making other disciples.

A small, relational structure moves discipleship from “Come hear me” toward “Come follow Jesus with us—and learn to help someone else do the same.”

The Five Hardest Words

When your friend shouts a warning from the passenger seat, you have a choice. You can say, 'Stop stepping into my space.' Or, you can say the five hardest words for a disciple to say:

**“Thank you.
I didn’t see it.”**



**Accountability is giving
trusted people permission to
help me see my blind spots
so that together we can follow
Jesus faithfully**

Checking Your Blind Spots

1. Who has permission to step into your space? (Who knows you well enough to speak truth into your life?)
2. When that person disagrees with you, will you allow them to stay there?

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” — Proverbs 27:17