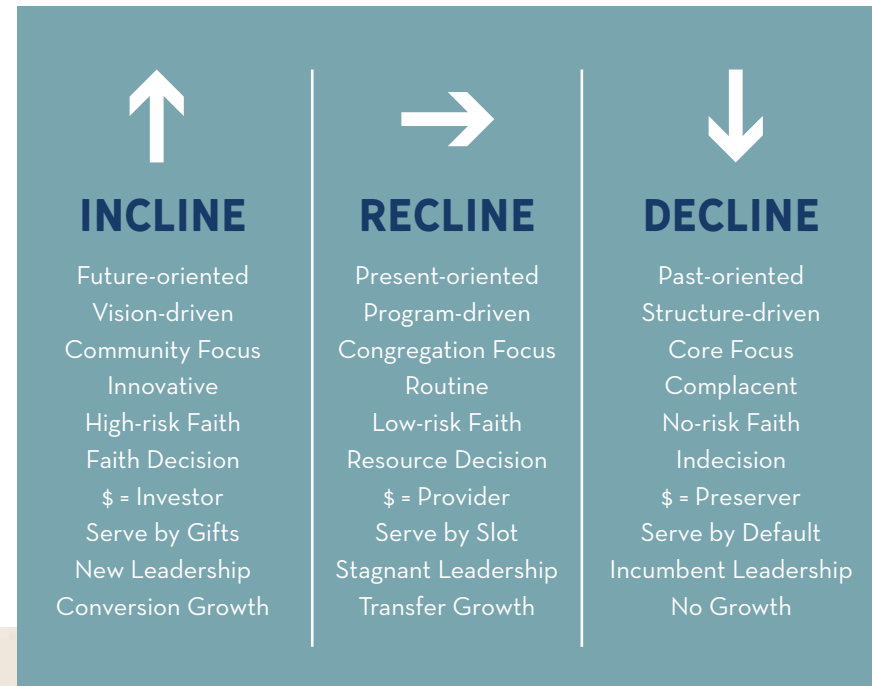


LIFE CYCLE OF CHURCHES



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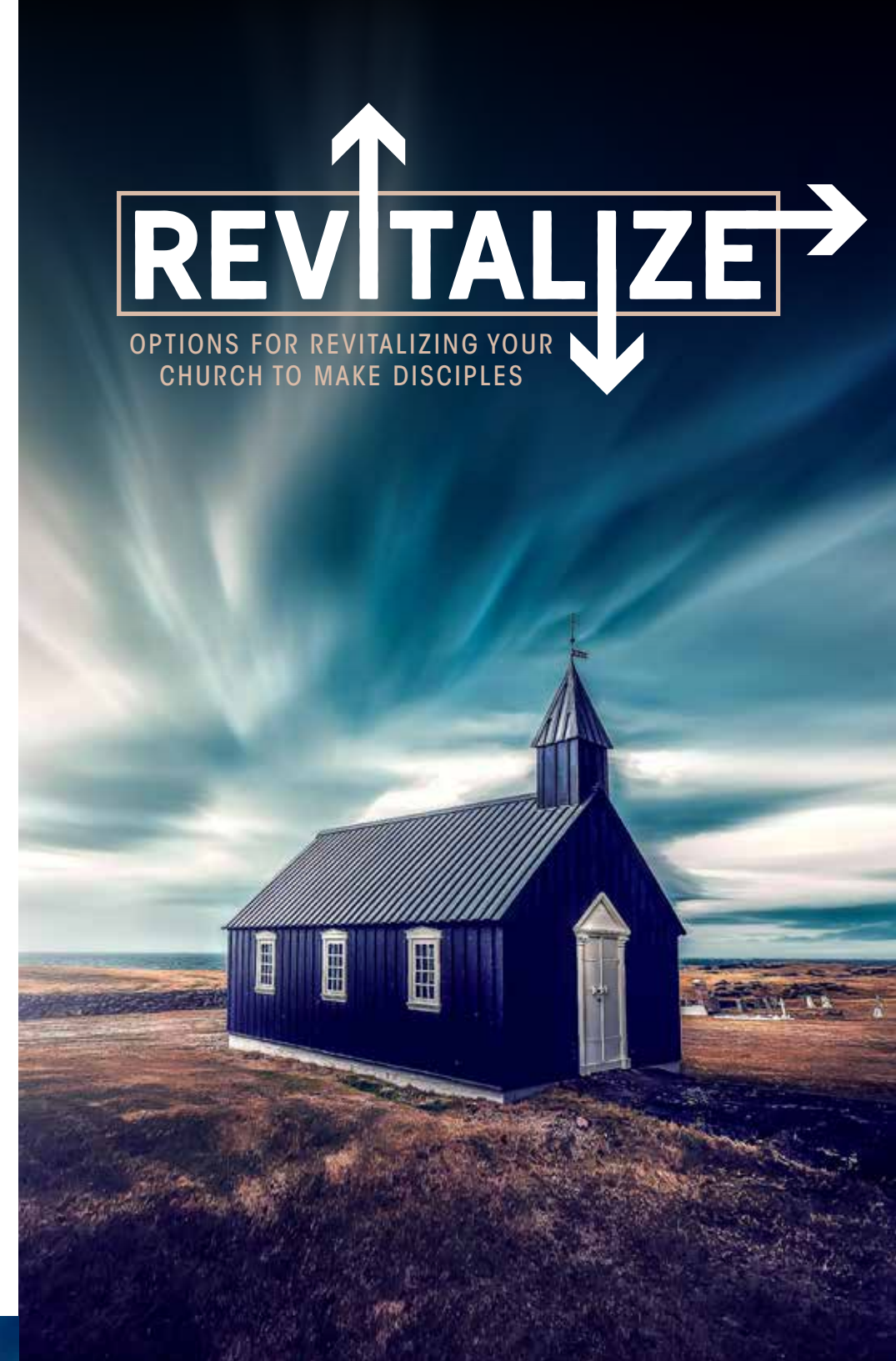
START NOW

- 1 PRAY**
 Ask the Father to open your ears to what His Spirit is saying to your church. Prayer walk your church community and ask the Father to open your eyes to the harvest all around you!
- 2 ASSESS**
 Use the assessment on Page 5 to have critical conversations with your key leadership.
- 3 MODEL**
 Model what matters. Begin making disciples personally!
- 4 COUNT THE COST AND COMMIT**
 There is hope for every church, *but* it requires hard work. Revitalization is not for the faint-hearted! There are many aspects of revitalization. There is no “silver bullet.” Revitalization usually will not happen quickly. You will have to make hard decisions and wrestle with tough ideas. However, those who are desperate enough to depend fully on God and work diligently and strategically for the Kingdom can see revitalization begin.



REVITALIZE

OPTIONS FOR REVITALIZING YOUR CHURCH TO MAKE DISCIPLES



“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 2:7). This is Jesus’ refrain in His letters to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation. The Holy Spirit is still speaking to His Church today, admonishing her to engage in the mission of God. Yet many churches are struggling and discouraged.

THE GOAL OF REVITALIZATION IS TO SEE GOD GLORIFIED AS CHURCHES RETURN TO THEIR MISSION OF IMPACTING LOSTNESS BY MAKING DISCIPLES.

Dying churches do not reflect God’s heart! In Haggai 1:5, the Lord commands His people to consider their ways and return to His mission. In the same way, God’s people today must take stock of their ministries and their mission and return to the Lord’s purpose of becoming a healthy, disciple-making church.



SOME COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTHY, DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCHES:

- People are consistently coming to Christ
- Healthy disciples are being reproduced
- Members are living out the Word in their daily lives
- Members are serving and meeting significant needs in the community
- Leaders are looking for ways to send missionaries and start churches



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CHURCH?

(Choose one answer per set)

Discuss these questions with the leadership in your church to assess your current situation.

- 1** A. Future-oriented
B. Present-oriented
C. Past-oriented

- 2** A. Vision-driven
B. Program-driven
C. Structure-driven

- 3** A. Focused on Your Community
B. Focused on Your Congregation
C. Focused on Core Group

- 4** A. Innovative
B. Routine
C. Complacent

- 5** A. Demonstrates High-risk Faith
B. Demonstrates Low-risk Faith
C. Demonstrates No-risk Faith

- 6** A. Decisions Based on Faith
B. Decisions Based on Available Resources
C. Indecision

- 7** A. Invests Finances for Mission
B. Provides Finances for Ministry
C. Preserves Finances for Maintenance

- 8** A. Members Serve Based on Spiritual Gifts
B. Members Serve Based on Programs of Church
C. Members Serve Because No One Else Will Do It

- 9** A. New Leadership
B. Stagnant Leadership
C. Entrenched Leadership

- 10** A. Conversion Growth
B. Transfer Growth
C. No Growth

MY ANSWERS

1 _____ **6** _____

2 _____ **7** _____

3 _____ **8** _____

4 _____ **9** _____

5 _____ **10** _____

Now, compare your answers with the chart on page 4.

- Your “A” answers correspond with “Incline”
- Your “B” answers correspond with “Recline”
- Your “C” answers correspond with “Decline”

More “B” and “C” answers indicate a need for some type of revitalization.

