

HIGH POINT

Helping Churches, Disciples, and Leaders

Flourish



“Know the state of your flocks, and put your heart into caring for your herds”

Prov. 27:23 NLT



Discipleship Coaching Produces Lasting Fruit

We're emphasizing... a personal God who wants to talk to them in prayer and speak to them through Scripture.

-Parkway UMC Pastor
Matt Neely

“It brings us at Ascending Leaders great joy to see churches like Parkway flourishing and facilitating genuine change in people's walks with God!”

-Ascending Leaders President
Mike Johnson

This spring, we're highlighting the progress of a church in Sugar Land, TX, so you can see one way Ascending Leaders coaches churches to greater discipleship. This church, Parkway UMC, is using a unique partnership between REVEAL for Church and Ascending Leaders. REVEAL offers a survey to help church leaders learn more about their congregants' spiritual lives, and Ascending Leaders provides coaching to help churches know how to respond to their REVEAL survey results. With the guidance of a Discipleship Coach, Parkway took the REVEAL survey in 2016 and then again in 2019. The results showed improvement in over 80% of the discipleship factors measured: that's a big deal for a church in just three years!

The pastor, Matt Neely, reflected on their decision to take the REVEAL the first time. "To be honest, I was a little skeptical," he said. "Can you really graph someone's spiritual development? But when I saw the survey and the kinds of questions it asked, I was a lot more confident. It asks your congregation to reflect on their own

spiritual lives with questions like, 'Do you read Scripture daily? Do you pray daily?' The questions allow people to think about their own walks with God. It's much better than us as the church leaders just trying to guess."

REVEAL is aptly named: it shows church leaders aspects of their congregation's walk with God that they might otherwise never realize. The survey is anonymous, of course, but allows congregants to honestly answer questions about their spiritual disciplines and theological beliefs. For example, it asks whether the participants believe in a personal God who is active in their lives. In 2016, Parkway saw that the percent of church congregants who affirmed their belief in a personal God was lower than expected. With their Ascending Leaders coach, the church leaders strategized more ways to effectively communicate that God wants a close relationship with each person and to encourage people toward interacting with Him in their daily lives.

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Find out more about coaching with REVEAL for your church.
ascendingleaders.org/coaching/reveal

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Matt explained, "What we've seen at Parkway is that the best place to put our energy right now is toward encouraging personal spiritual practices. During Lent, for example, we're emphasizing to the congregation that there is a personal God who wants to talk to them in prayer and speak to them through Scripture. They won't even pray or read their Bibles if they don't believe that God is personal."

This is just one of many areas in which the REVEAL survey and coaching helped Parkway. The survey results from this year also showed that a higher percent of the congregation believed the church helped them understand the Bible in depth, develop a personal relationship with Christ, and challenged them to grow and take next steps in their walks with Christ.

Ascending Leaders is honored to partner with an amazing resource like REVEAL for Church. Our coaching is officially recommended by REVEAL to accompany their survey. "The coaching keeps us focused," said Matt Neely. "It helps us to interpret the data: it's not always clear what it means when one number goes up and another goes down. Coaching with Ascending Leaders is helping us figure out our next steps and best practices so we know what to *do* with those numbers once we have them."



DISCIPLEON!
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OPPORTUNITY TO TASTE-TEST DISCIPLEON

Tuesday July 10 10:00 - 11:30 CST
DiscipleOn! Expert Webinar

Expert Guest: Cally Parkinson
Chief Story-teller with REVEAL for Church

Busy to Abiding: helping busy congregants move closer to Christ.

ascendingleaders.org/coaching/expert-webinar

DISCIPLEFORWARD SEMINAR

HOUSTON, TX
SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2019

Join a two-day seminar for church leaders who want to see real discipleship happening in their congregations!

If you can not join us contact us to lead a DiscipleForward for your church or community.

ascendingleaders.org/dfh



COACHING

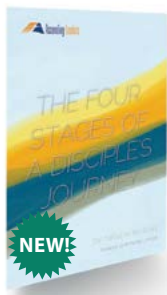
No two churches are exactly alike, so cookie-cutter solutions won't help your congregation. Instead of selling yet another program or curriculum, we offer unique coaching for church leaders seeking to deepen discipleship in their congregations. We provide three styles of coaching adapted to your church's unique strengths, needs, and calling.

Schedule productive coaching for your church this fall. ascendingleaders.org/coaching

Charting Your Church Course

Too many churches are drifting along, grasping for hope in the latest ministry market trend. When an Ascending Leaders' Discipleship Coach helps your church clearly see your uniquenesses, discern God's next 3-5 year chapter for you, plan action steps to move forward in that vision and walk alongside you as you activate those steps, your church flourishes from following God's vision for your church. **We help you succeed in pursuing God's focused course for your church.**

The Four Stages of a Disciple's Journey
by Natalie LaValley and Mike Johnson



10 STEPS toward a clear DISCIPLEPATH
by Mike Johnson



E-book \$2.50

Paperback \$7.50

DisciplePaths

Many churches are loaded with programs, ministries, and classes. But are these activities moving people forward in loving God (discipleship)? Ascending Leaders' DisciplePath coaching helps you to **streamline and organize your church's activities into a clear discipleship pathway** across the four stages of one's spiritual growth. You can then confidently direct individuals to the activity that will best help them at their stage of growth as a disciple.



REVEAL Coaching



When churches decide to get serious about discipleship they often choose a program or focus they believe will help, only to find little tangible fruit. The reason: they did not have an accurate understanding of their church's unique discipleship needs. The REVEAL for Church instrument, a scientifically valid instrument to take the spiritual temperature of your people, has partnered with Ascending Leaders to provide insights on where best to begin working on discipleship in a particular congregation. REVEAL-trained-and-certified Discipleship Coaches **guide a church through taking the REVEAL survey and responding to the results with effective action.**







3947 Field Crossing
Sugar Land, Texas 77498
www.ascendingleaders.org

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LOOK INSIDE:

- Study Confirms: Church Improves Discipleship
- Three types of Discipleship Coaching from Ascending Leaders
- FREE DiscipleOn Expert Webinar on July 10

Find us on     To Get More Personalized Service
email rhonda@ascendingleaders.org
OR call 832-655-4935



Pastor
Matt Neely

“I was surprised and glad that our efforts with Ascending Leaders over the last three years paid off. We improved in 43 of 53 discipleship factors tested by REVEAL!”



Coaching Churches for deeper Discipleship



DISCIPLESHIP COACHING TEAM



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Houston, TX



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Rev. Dr. Mike Johnson
Sugar Land, TX



Rev. Matthew McClure
Des Moines, IA



Mr. Ken Schripsema
Grand Rapids, MI



Rev. Marilyn Wadkins
Katy, TX



Rev. Rachel Young
Webster, TX

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

- Mike Johnson, Senior Editor
- Rhonda Spriggs, Project Manager
- Natalie LaValley, Editor, Writer
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- Victoria McCrary, Additional Graphics