

# Jack's Teachings

The following sections are Jack's key teachings both here at Anona and around the nation. Each paragraph represents the tip of the iceberg of that section of Christian life. They are the eight, the six, the three and the two ones:

## The Eight

Characteristics of healthy churches and Christians

**Empowering Leadership** is about you empowering (or discipling) others for ministry. You see people within your leadership not as "helpers" but people who are called of God. You are there to coach them to become what God wants them to be. They are your students as you mentor, example, help, teach, and are present as they become confident and able. This is the heart of the "coaching culture" of the church where making disciples means having students and being one as well. Your success is found in your student's finding their called place in the ministry of the church. It's about explaining, motivating, and liberating.

**Gift-oriented Ministry** is simply that... ministry (what you do for the kingdom) based on where you are gifted (spiritual gifts especially). Understanding a good spirit gifts inventory is a start, but knowing the one you are discipling, or being known well as you become involved is the next step. This is best done in small groups where the leaders are intentional about empowering leadership. "You're really gifted for this", or "you're not very gifted for that" are both good things to know. It's about wisdom to know yourself, commitment to pour yourself, and power to thrive.

**Passionate Spirituality** is about living committed lives and practicing our faith with joy and enthusiasm. This is typically called being "on fire". It is the opposite of "doing your duty". Working on your spiritual walk, enjoying Christian conversation, moving toward tithing, feeling the presence of God driving or other times besides Sunday morning, getting into scripture, prayer, and having a servant heart are all examples of this area of health. It's about being world focused, word based, and spirit directed.

**Functional Structures** are about evaluation. "Is that working?" is a good Christian question. Whether it is in your own personal life (bills paid on time, body in shape, follow-up happens, being true to your word) or the life of the church body (committees accomplish, people step up, campus in shape, planning and cooperation happen), functionality is a part of healthy spirituality. It's about being focused... Outward, upward and inward.

**Inspiring Worship Service** is a real question. Is it? Are you inspired or just showing up to fulfill your spiritual duty? You have the right to expect the worship service to be inspiring and energizing for you. On the other hand, the most God filled, well planned, practiced worship can't reach you if you don't open your self to be inspired. When worship is well planned enough to be spontaneous and follow the movement of the Spirit it naturally draws you to invite friends, laugh, be deeply moved, and feel it. Its about liturgy (doing your part), being taught (or teachable), and praising (in all circumstance).

**Holistic Small Groups** rule out anonymity. Being known is good. Accountability and being disciplined is too. Healthy groups produce new leaders who start new groups. They are inviting and actively invite. They are a natural place for Christians to learn to serve and to lead. Group leaders identify the gifts of new members, nurture them to have holy confidence, disciple them, and send them lovingly into ministry. It's about heads, hands, and hearts.

**Need Oriented Evangelism** is the authentic caring about people, knowing them enough to know their needs, and naturally inviting them to share your church and your God in ways that meet the needs of their lives. Demographic study on a large scale (a church for a whole area), or heads up sensitivity on a personal scale give us the perspective to care about and be interested first in the life of the whole person, and to change what we do in order to be relevant to their needs. It's about caring, sharing, and praying for people.

**Loving Relationships** are unfeigned, authentic and personal. Real relationships are not like clients, or prospects. They are real people you invite for coffee and conversation. Jesus called us "friends" and so we are. Anything less that real friendship won't do. The church is a family. As such it is not a dysfunctional one. Loving relationships live in equality and fairness, are honest, and filled with forgiveness. It's about justice, truth, and grace.

## Isaiah 41:30-31

**"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."**

## The Six Six Growth Forces

The Eight Characteristics are about "what" to do... These six are about "How to think about, make decisions, and do" what you do.

**Interdependence** - How does this decision affect other areas of life? Other people? Other groups or areas? The future? Everything affects everything else. It's all connected.

**Multiplication** - Does this decision contribute to multiplication or merely addition (or shudder to think, no new people involved at all). Does it reproduce? Am I reproducing me?

**Energy Transformation** - Does this decision take advantage of the resources in the environment? Are we listening to, respecting, and using the energy of both positive and negative feelings, conditions, or situations?

**Sustainability** - Do the results of this decision have built-in mechanisms to sustain themselves? Does the word multipurpose fit? How about multi-use? Next generation?

**Symbiosis** - Does this decision foster a fruitful co-operation between different activities, ages, types of people, or groups. Does it include more than the same old people?

**Fruitfulness** - Does this decision produce visible fruit for the kingdom of God? The word functional fits here just as well. Does it work for us? Is it

## The Three

The trinity is very important to understanding the ways we relate to God. We are part of the Natural Church Development community that uses colors to help talk about the trinity. Balance by connecting with all of God brings spiritual growth.

**God the Creator - Green** - Co-creation, nature, focus on tolerance and social justice, wanting to make a difference in the world

**Jesus the Word - Red** - revelation, salvation, focus on evangelism and discipleship, wanting to make a difference in a person

**Holy Spirit - Blue** - inspiration, indwelling, focus on emotional health and spiritual power, wanting to make a difference in ourselves

## The Two Ones The First One

**The "all by itself" principle.** God brings growth. We serve God. When we learn from scripture the point of being the church and focus on the kingdom with our efforts and our directions, God brings the growth in ways beyond our understanding. It looks like it is happening "all - by - itself." The key scripture is Mark 4:26-29, "the Kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the ground; and goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts up and grows - how, he himself does not know. The earth produces crops all by itself; first the blade, then the ear, then the mature grain." We plant, water, and tend the growth, but God causes it. When we take care of the character and health of God's Holy Church, God brings the growth.

## **The Second One**

**Minimum factor** - the most effective way for God to bring growth in our lives or in our church is for us to focus on the area most in need of our attention. As we examine our lives through the eight areas of character we will always find one area less healthy than the rest. Just like a doctor's checkup helps us focus on what most needs our health attention, a spiritual checkup especially in the accountability of trusted Christian friends, will lead us to the area of maximum leverage. In other words, work their will matter more than anywhere else. "This Spirit helps us in our weaknesses." Romans 8:26 NIV