**LAW #9 - YOU MUST HAVE A**

**COMMON VOCABULARY**

One of the remarkable things that I have noticed in churches that are effective in mission is that each one has its own core common vocabulary.

In other words, they have created or adopted certain phrases that act as a shorthand for their most important values and behaviors. They are very intentional and deliberate about their use of language, recognizing its power to shape and form culture.

Some might argue that this can be excluding to newcomers, but the fact of their strong growth would seem to counter that. Probably non-Christians expect there to be new words, so possibly it is more an issue for existing Christians joining!

The key lesson is that you can intentionally use language to unite rather than to divide, and to show and unpack the things that are most important to your disciple-making, particularly as you go on mission.

Obviously you will need to identify what are the most important aspects of your own church’s vocabulary, but to illustrate the idea, you might choose to talk a lot about:

* Person of Peace (Luke 10:6)
* Looking Up, In and Out (Up to God, In to one another, Out to the wider world –
* Luke 6:12-13)
* Prioritizing the Next Generation (Matthew 19:14)

You will be able to think up many more, but the point is clear: pick your language of disciple-making, or it will be picked for you!

**Whatever your actual words, never underestimate the power of a common vocabulary**

**to bring greater unity and clarity to your disciple-making.**

**APPLY THE LAW:**

Do an audit of the language that is most commonly used in your church.

What does it communicate about your values and practices?

Are there any areas where you need to craft some specific words to help you communicate more effectively?