

The slide features a decorative graphic on the left side consisting of two overlapping blue speech bubbles and a large, light blue arc that curves around the top and right. The text is positioned to the right of this graphic.

## Three Things I Want To Tell You

If I had to chance to talk with you as the Association Missional Strategist for our Association, there are three things (among others) that I would say.

# 1. There is value in an Association of churches

Churches are not competing against each other. We are working together to make a difference in our community.

I have seen great friendships formed between pastors when they spend time together. We need all the encouragement we can get.

Church leaders can learn from one another, so we become better servant leaders. We can spur one another to excellence.

Churches can share resources with one another.

We can do more when we work together – food pantry, disaster relief, a concert, a conference, a Disciple Now, a camp, a Fall Festival, mission trip, teacher training, or community service.

## 2. What you do can make a difference

In 1974, a student pastor influenced hundreds of students who in turn influenced many thousands. I was one of those students.

A deacon took me with him to make hospital visits, home visits, to visit a family that had suffered loss, and visits to the local jail.

A couple taught our Sunday School class. They loved us, they invited us into their home and they invested time with us. They demonstrated discipleship & Christian marriage.

A church member and his wife invited us to their weekly home Bible study. They taught us to memorize scripture, read the Bible for ourselves, explain the gospel and serve others.

### 3. Good leadership by many people is vital in every church, no matter what size it is.

We need churches who are constantly training new leaders.

Leaders are pastors, staff, directors, deacons, teachers and parents. But there are also leaders in teams, sports, schools, businesses, politics, non-profits and clubs. We build leaders that benefit our church and the community!

The mission of the church is not to just make disciples. The mission is to make disciples who make other disciples. This will only happen with good intentional leadership, vision and grit.

Start with the end in mind. We train leaders to make other leaders. We train disciples to make other disciples from the very beginning.

We need good leadership in worship, small group ministry and in the many ways we serve others.

If we were getting graded, we might get an “A” for our worship service, but a “C” or “D” for our small group ministry and serving others. It will take intentional leadership to correct this.

Being intentional to improve our Small Group Ministry can have many benefits. It can improve how we share the gospel, prayer, fellowship, reading the Bible at home, children’s and student ministry, building stronger marriages, developing new leaders, making disciples who make disciples, outreach, caring for hurting people, and service to the community.

Let’s make it our goal to become better leaders and to help others become better leaders.