

When Does a Discovery Bible Study Become a Church?

Acts 2:41-47 NIV

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

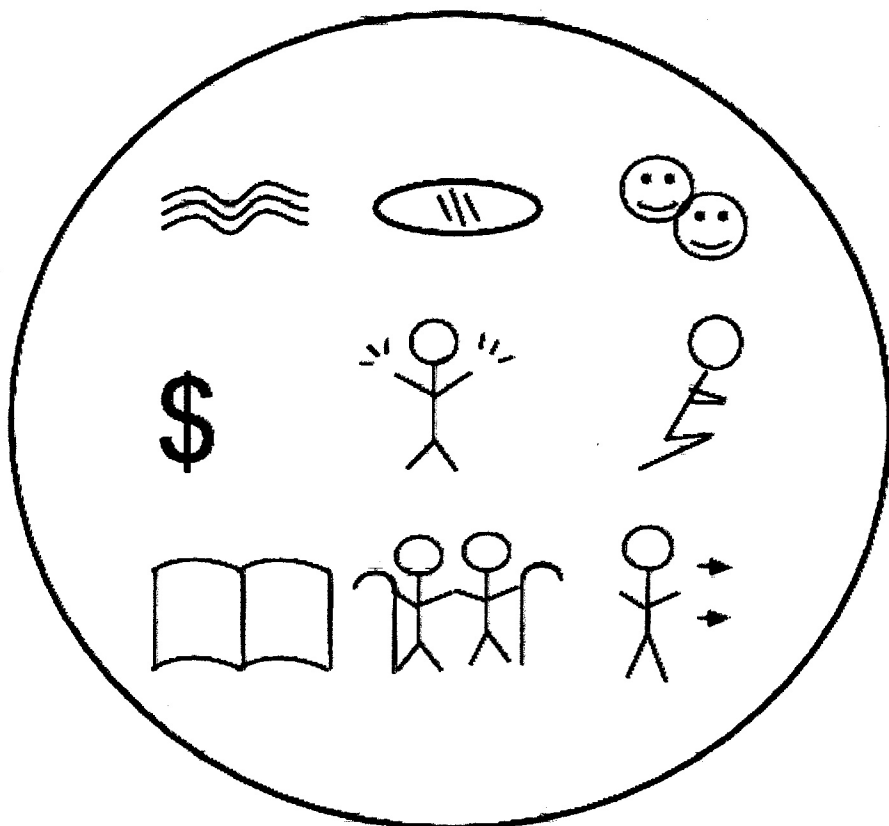
42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 4:32-35 NIV

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Key Elements:

The believers were devoted to the **Word**, to **prayer**, and to the **Lord's Supper**. There were **multiple leaders**, and the believers were together in **unity**. They **gave cheerfully**, were **praising God**, and were **baptizing** new believers themselves. Believers were being **sent out** to proclaim the Good News as the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.



Catalysts can use this circle as a guide for movement leaders. If a DBS is doing 5 of the key elements, draw those inside the circle and the remaining 4 outside the circle. As the group adds elements to their DBS, those pictures can be brought into the circle. All nine key elements are evident in churches. At a glance, movement leaders can determine what elements need to be developed for each DBS. If the water lines for "baptism" and the two smiley faces for "unity" are outside the circle, then movement leaders should select lessons or stories about baptism and unity for the group.

*Although a "\$" is used to represent giving, not all giving is monetary.