

Biblical Call to Make Disciples

Purpose: To motivate you to develop a multiplying movement

Objectives: This session will help you to:

1. Explain the biblical pattern for spiritual multiplication.
2. Describe the mindset needed for a ministry of multiplication.
3. Evaluate your own commitment to a ministry of making multiplying disciples

Key Verses: 2 Timothy 2:1-7

I. Introduction

All living things grow through multiplication. It is the nature of things (see Luke 13:18-21).

God's strategy for building His kingdom is through multiplication. It always starts off small and seemingly insignificant. But, like the tree and leaven, given enough time and the right circumstances, it soon overtakes the whole. Today, we want to look at multiplication and ministry.

II. Multiplication Explained

How can we reach the entire world of nearly 6 billion people?

If you were ambitious and won 1,000 people to the Lord everyday, do you know how long it would take to reach the world? It would take 165 years! This would be spiritual addition.

But if you won three people to the Lord and trained them so they would each win three other people the following year, and this continued each year where a new convert would win three others and train them to win three others the next year, it would only take 17 years! This is known as spiritual multiplication.

The principle of spiritual multiplication is found in 2 Timothy 2:1-2.

A. The power source for spiritual multiplication (v. 1).

God never calls us to a task without first giving us the power to accomplish it. His work, done in His power, by His means, will always bear fruit that remains.

".... be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus...."

Paul encouraged Timothy and us to remember the grace of Jesus as His source of wisdom and power for ministry. Prayer and God's Word are two primary means to tap into His grace.

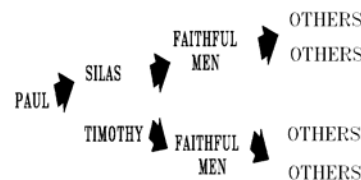
B. The pattern for spiritual multiplication (v. 2).

1. **Me to you:** "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses. . ."

The first link in the chain of spiritual multiplication is someone teaching the things he has learned to someone else. One of the chief characteristics of a disciple is his willingness to learn; thus, he should always look for another who is also willing to be taught. If you continue to be teachable, there is no end to how God can use you in others' lives. Pass on the things you have heard in public, in other words, universal truths. Be wary of people who promise "special" knowledge that is gained in secret.

2. **You to others:** "... entrust to faithful men ..."

What Paul taught Timothy, Timothy was to teach or entrust to faithful men. Note that we 'entrust' only things of value. We do not 'entrust' a worthless item to another's care. And so, the things that you have "heard from me" that Paul refers to are of great value. They are God's life-changing truths and should be taught to as many people as possible.



We entrust precious things to people whom we know will treat them properly, people that we can trust. Therefore, when we look for people to pass these precious truths on to, one of the chief characteristics we need to look for in them is faithfulness. They must be trustworthy people. Jesus said that, "he who is faithful in a very small thing, will be faithful in the large ones." (Luke 16:10-12) Look for people who handle the smallest responsibility with faithfulness. They will treat the larger ones with great care. Faithfulness implies a high degree of maturity. It is not evaluated by attendance to meetings, or availability, but by conscientiousness in fulfilling responsibilities - even those that seem insignificantly small.

If you find faithful people, you can be assured that they will pass it on to still others. These valuable truths are being entrusted to you in the hope that you will be faithful to entrust them to others.

3. **Others to others:** "who will be able to teach others also."

This brings us to an ability that is necessary in someone in whom you will make a deposit of God's promises. They must be able to teach others or else the spiritual multiplication process will stop.

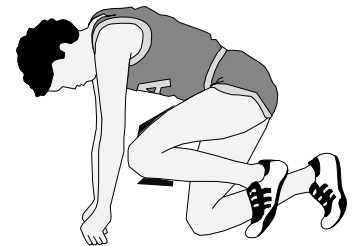
The two character qualities of teachable and faithful, combined with the skill of being able to teach, are what we need to look for in potential disciples. If we build into these kinds of individuals, we will be multiplying ourselves.

Are you faithful, teachable, and able to teach? In what area(s) do you need to trust God to develop in your life?

By the end of the third century A.D., the gospel had spread throughout the entire Roman empire, east into India (AD65), southeast Asia (AD250) and China (AD150) and south into Africa. This was all the result of multiplication.

III. The Mind Set of a Multiplier (2 Timothy 2:3-7)

Paul uses three professions--the soldier, athlete, and farmer--to illustrate the kind of perspective and commitment needed to be a spiritual multiplier.



Each occupation has something to teach us about the kind of character and commitment it takes to see success in any challenging task, and specifically, to meet the challenges found in a multiplication ministry.

What characteristics of a successful multiplier can we learn from the soldier, athlete, and farmer that we can apply to ourselves as Christians and as spiritual multipliers?

Soldier:

Athlete:

Farmer:

IV. Summary and Call

We are called by Jesus to make disciples of all the nations. The means to do this is through spiritual multiplication. As seen by the example of a soldier, athlete and farmer, spiritual multiplication requires a mindset characterized by single-mindedness of purpose, discipline, and patient hard work.

Jesus said the fields are ripe for harvest now (John 4:35). Every 2 seconds, statistically, someone dies in the world without Christ. This means that every hour, 1800 die without Christ.

Today, 43,200 will die separated from God's love for all eternity. This week it will be 302,400 and 1,209,600 this month.

We need to fulfill our calling and follow Christ's command to be involved in spiritual multiplication to reach our world before it's too late to reach the dying. The ability to plant a church or expand an existing one depends directly on multiplication, which depends on evangelism. Do you have a passion for reaching people for Christ? Will you join the Army of God's people who are committed to building God's kingdom by multiplying yourself through others? Put yourself on the edge of a cliff of faith. Only God can make you successful!

V. Application

Answer the questions on the next page. Be prepared to share your answers in class and with your mentor.

Application Questions

1. What are some of the benefits of becoming a spiritual multiplier that stand out to you?
2. Looking at the mindset and commitment of the soldier, the victorious athlete, and the hardworking farmer - which one(s) are you most like as a spiritual multiplier? Which one(s) are you least like (characteristics for you to trust God to develop in your life)?
3. What are your greatest barriers to responding to the challenge of being a spiritual multiplier? What would cause you to hesitate?
4. What is the next step that you believe Christ is calling you to take regarding spiritual multiplication?

Discussion Question:

1. What is the biblical pattern for spiritual multiplication?
2. How would you describe the mindset needed for a ministry of multiplication?
3. How would you evaluate your own commitment to a ministry of making multiplying disciples?