

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

Instructor could start out with the following “teaser.” “Assume I’m hiring you to do my yardwork. I offer you a choice of 2 payment schemes: I pay you \$1000 per week for a year; or I pay you 1¢ the first week, then 2¢ for the second week, and 4¢ the next week, 8¢, 16¢...doubled each week for a year. Which payment scheme do you prefer?”

Allow some to share their answers. Then you could possibly draw a graph on the board. The bottom (x-axis) could be “Weeks of the year.” You don’t necessarily have to graph all 52 weeks of the year. Perhaps graph weeks number 1, 6, 13, 19, 23, 26, 39 and 52. The left axis (y-axis) could be “Amount paid.” You could graph \$1000, \$13000, \$26000, \$39000, and \$52000.

For plan #1, the payment is \$1000 each week, so you can draw a horizontal line at \$1000 and label this as “Plan 1.” You could also graph a “cumulative amount” for plan one by putting a dot at (0,0) and (1,\$1000), (6, \$6000), (13, \$13000), etc. This straight line shows that with plan #1, you will have a total of \$52000 at the end of the year. Those are nice wages.

*Plan #2 is quite different. Put these points on the graph: for week #6 the amount earned is 32¢, the amount for week 13 is \$40.96, the amount for week 19 is \$2621.44, for week 23 it’s \$41943.04, for week 26 it’s \$335,544.32, for week 39 it’s about \$2,750,000,000 (enough to purchase a NASA Space Shuttle), and for week 52 it’s about \$22,500,000,000,000. That’s 22½ trillion! That’s 22 million millions. For **every** American, you could give them an \$80,000 house! And that’s the amount earned in the 52nd week alone! The cumulative amount would be about double that.*

Plan #1 is what is called a mathematical progression – straight line. Plan #2 is a geometric progression – curved line that starts really flat and much slower than the mathematical progression, but then it noticeably increases and surpasses the mathematical progression.

Why did I do this exercise? Read the first few paragraphs of II. Witnessing to 1000 people per day is like plan #1 – a mathematical progression. But it doesn’t reach the target of nearly 6 billion people until 165 years later! It doesn’t keep up with the birth rate! But discipling 3 people in a year, then they disciple 3 the next year who then also disciple 3 the next year, and on and on – would reach 6 billion in 17 years! This is a geometric progression – plan #2. It seems to start so slow, but it really picks up later. This is the Biblical plan to fulfill the Great Commission. It’s the only way it can happen.

[Instructor may also share how he/she realized that just doing evangelism wasn't going to reach the world. There also had to be discipleship – multiplying into others. Share about what led to you being committed to not only evangelism, but also discipleship.]

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).

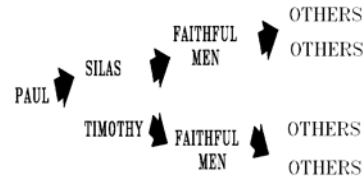
1. **Me to you:** "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses. . ."

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.

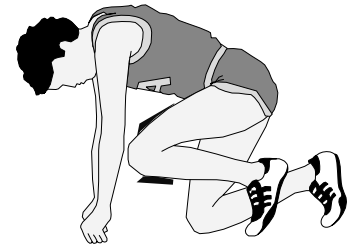
The two character qualities of teachable and faithful, combined with the skill of being able to teach, are what we need to look for in potential disciples. If we build into these kinds of individuals, we will be multiplying ourselves.

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.

Note to instructor: Break the class up into groups of 3 or 4 and have them discuss their answers. Assign one profession to each group and have them discuss what it teaches us concerning the right mind set for being a multiplier. After about 5 or 10 minutes, have some share answers and write them on the board.

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:

(If not mentioned, instructor could say that there is nothing wrong with “civilian affairs,” but the good soldier knows how to say “no” to the good in order to say “yes” to the best, even if everyone else is involved in the good. His motivation is to be available when the commanding officer calls.

Spiritual multipliers must also say “no” to many good things, even good ministry opportunities, in order to say “yes” to Jesus’ call to make multiplying disciples. Hebrews 12:1,2 exhorts us to lay aside every encumbrance and to fix our eyes on Jesus.

A good soldier is willing to suffer hardship. Spiritual multipliers must be ready to suffer hardship as well. It could be persecution, social hardship, etc.)

Athlete:

(If not mentioned, instructor could mention that the victorious athlete is disciplined to train and compete. Behind every victory lies hours of rigorous training and discipline. Training for spiritual multipliers would include items like learning how to accurately divide the Word of truth, prayer, and ministry training. It would also include social training like “flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness...” 1 Corinthians 9:24 says we are to run in such a way that we may win.

An athlete must know and follow the rules. Spiritual multipliers must obey God's rules in their ministry. We must be holy, humble, not greedy, etc.)

Farmer:

(If not mentioned, the instructor could say that the farmer works hard. The ministry of multiplication is also hard work. Long hours of ministry and prayer in the spiritual battle can be physically exhausting. Galatians 6:9 says that we should not lose heart in what we do.

Farmers also enjoy a fruitful harvest. In the same way, the spiritual multiplier will enjoy a harvest of people disciplined and won to Christ - helping to fulfill the Great Commission.)

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.

Note to instructor: Have the students discuss the application and discussion questions on the next page. They can do this in their groups of 3 or 4.

Note to instructor: If this is the last class for the training year, you may want to share that there is more training available. The next training continues in the areas of discipleship, leading small groups, movements, understanding our culture, and more. Talk about when the next training will start and encourage them to continue on.

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?