

Spiritual Multiplication

How many disciples did Jesus personally pour into? _____

Jesus Strategy

Spiritual multiplication is seen in the life of Christ. Read Luke 6:12-19. Though Jesus had a multitude of disciples to spend time teaching in large groups and to minister to, He selected out of those many disciples only 12. These were ones He had with Him almost all of the time. He taught them, spent time with them, and ministered to others with them. They learned by being with Him, they caught His heart, vision, and passion. He poured His life into them to the end so that they would give leadership to the Church after He was gone. They would carry on the work of the Kingdom. His whole strategy rested on these 12 men. While Jesus was still on earth, His ministry actually grew from 12 to the 70, and there were 120 praying in the upper room after His death and resurrection. After Pentecost in Acts 2, 3000 joined the new body of believers. Multiplying leadership was Jesus' primary strategy to establish the Church.

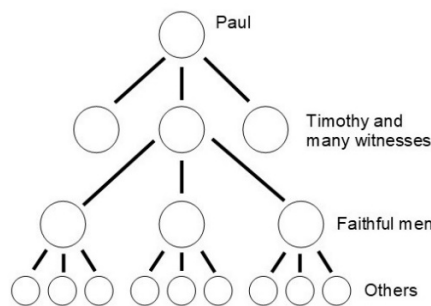
Paul's Strategy

The apostle Paul followed Jesus' example. He developed leaders for the church by taking men with Him and teaching, training, and imparting His life to them. Paul always had young potential spiritual leaders with Him on His missionary journeys. One example is Timothy. In Acts 16, Paul found Timothy and took him along on his second missionary journey. Timothy became his beloved son in the faith. Near the end of Paul's life, he writes 1 and 2 Timothy to give him instructions on how to be a leader in the early church. Timothy already was and would continue to be the spiritual leader in the church at Ephesus.

Read 2 Timothy 2:2: In this verse, Paul gives Timothy specific directions related to the development and multiplication of leaders.

How many generations of leaders does Paul speak of? _____

Paul (discipled) Timothy who (discipled) faithful men, and these faithful men (discipled) other faithful men.



What do you think it means to be a faithful or reliable person? _____

What does he mean by being qualified to teach others? _____

1. Faithful men – Timothy was to entrust to these leaders the things Paul had taught him. Therefore, they needed to be faithful. He had to know that they could be depended upon to pass on to others what he entrusted to them. Otherwise, the church would eventually weaken and die. This remains true today. You need to wisely discern if someone you want to disciple is going to be faithful with what you pass on to them; otherwise, your ministry will not multiply.

How can you know if they will be faithful? Are they faithful to come to Bible Study or church weekly? Are they available when you give them opportunities to grow and serve? Are they dependable with the ministry responsibilities they are given?

2. Able to teach others – this is likely not just referring to an upfront teaching gift, but to what most all believers can do. That is to teach and help other believers learn through one-on-one interaction, follow-up, and small group Bible studies, even if you don't have a "gift of teaching." Being "able to teach" probably includes the following things.

a. Spiritual maturity and heart for God – enough depth in their walk and knowledge of the Word to be able to pass on truth from both the Word and their own life application. Hungry and eager to learn – always looking to learn and get to know the Lord better. Some potential multipliers are just young and need time to grow and develop before they are ready to teach others. What they pass on must be "real" in their own life. However, we are not talking about being perfect before you can disciple, because all of us have weaknesses and are always going to be growing and learning.

b. Social or emotional maturity – Can a person relate well enough so that others want to follow them and learn from them? All of us have problems, and issues of growth in our lives, but the emotionally maturing person is growing and able to trust the Lord with these areas of need, so they are able to give to others and be involved in someone else's life, even though they aren't perfect and are still growing themselves. Some people are not mature enough emotionally to lead others.

c. The Lordship of Christ in their life – If Jesus is not Lord of their life, often they don't have the heart to minister to someone else, or they won't make the time. If a relationship, job, reputation, partying, or another activity is more important to them than Jesus, they often won't "make the time" to disciple someone else. Multiplying your life requires dying to self, taking on Christ's purpose as your life purpose, and submitting your agenda to His. If Jesus is not Lord, a person will often not do well at being "faithful" at "teaching others." Obviously, this applies to willful disobedience in their lives. If there is any sin that they will not deal with, they are not candidates to multiply until they deal with that sin.

What area do you need to continue to work at to be more faithful and able? _____

Who is God putting on your heart to pour into as a disciple of Christ? _____

Summary

The church is thriving today all over the world because Jesus and the apostles disciplined faithful men and women, and spiritual leaders for the past 2,000 years have done the same. You can get in on the pleasure and fulfillment of multiplying your life into others. In fact, we can reach the world through multiplication.

Final thought on Addition vs Multiplication Discipleship

If you were a super evangelist and reached 1,000 people with the Good News of Jesus every year for the next 33 years, 33,000 people would theoretically be following Jesus. That would be awesome!

But, if you choose wisely and only disciple 1 person this year into a deepened walk with the Lord, and then each of you disciple 1 additional person next year...and this slow, methodical process continues for the next 33 years...wait for it...7 billion people will have been disciplined! Yes, that is the entire population of the world! Will you pray for and invest in 1 and see what God wants to do with your commitment?

Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2