

## #5 Principles of Spiritual Multiplication

*Purpose of Living on Mission: Equip students to walk by faith, communicate their faith, and multiply their faith. Top 20 things to help you not just survive but thrive in your faith for a lifetime!*

*Goal of Seminar: What is Spiritual Multiplication? Compare and contrast spiritual multiplication and addition. Discuss the right reasons for discipleship and how to select the right people for discipleship. Help students gain vision and perspective of being a part of a spiritual multiplication chain at Cal and even how they can continue to invest in others after college. Help answer any questions they might have of why we disciple others.*

### **HOOK: What have you learned from the last four seminars of Living on Mission 201?**

#### **ILLUSTRATIONS:**

Add your own thoughts and illustrations in this column.

#### **Here's a brief recap of Living on Mission 201:**

- Experiencing the Spirit-filled Life
- Listening and Asking in Evangelism
- Emotional Health in a Broken World
- Sharing Your Faith Story with Others

Today we're going to talk about how to put into action what we've been learning so far this semester - the principles of Spiritual Multiplication.

### **Who has spiritually influenced you the most thus far in life?**

#### BEING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

#### **What does it mean to be a disciple?**

Read **1 Corinthians 11:1**

**1** Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Being a disciple is about cultivating a relationship with Jesus. Discipleship is knowing Him, growing in intimacy with Him, becoming like Him, and loving Him with your whole heart. It is a genuine relationship grounded in faith and trust in Jesus. In Mark 8, being a disciple is denying ourselves and taking up His cross to follow Him.

Read **Mark 8:34-37**

**34** Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **35** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. **36** What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? **37** Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

#### MAKING DISCIPLES

#### **What does it mean to make disciples?**

The purpose of Biblical discipleship is to teach and model a life of godliness and spiritual multiplication to others, so that they can teach others also.

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Read **Matthew 4:19**

**19** “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

Read **Matthew 28:18-20**

**18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The Great Commission calls us to GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES - not just converts, but to teach others to obey everything that Jesus has commanded. Though discipleship starts with evangelism. If we teach the fullness of Jesus’ message, then disciples will multiply their faith and reach others for Christ too.

Read **Colossians 1:28-29**

**28** He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. **29** To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Paul labors continuously and strenuously so that he can present everyone fully mature in Christ - encouraging their growth and maturity. Making disciples is helping others also become true followers of Jesus Christ.

### What is the ultimate goal for discipleship?

The ultimate goal is to obey God and His Great Commission, giving glory to Him. Discipleship has far-reaching benefits -

- For the community of believers - authentic relationships
- For character growth and movement growth (Acts 2:40-47)

### SPIRITUAL MULTIPLICATION

#### What is spiritual multiplication?

Read **2 Timothy 2:2**

**2** And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Paul ---> Timothy ---> Reliable People ---> Others

This verse sums up what it means to invest purposefully in others who will be reliable and qualified to teach others. 2 Timothy 2:2 describes 4 generations in Paul’s spiritual legacy through Timothy. And because of Paul’s faithfulness, and Timothy’s dedication, millions of people have come to know Jesus Christ in these last 1900 years! Our hope is that you would desire to be a part of what God is doing and spiritually multiply your life too.

The difference between **spiritual multiplication** and **spiritual addition** is that with addition it lacks equipping and training, whereas with multiplication it involves pouring our lives into others who are able and desire to do the same. Spiritual multiplication is increasing the numbers of reproducing disciples.

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### SELECTING THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR DISCIPLESHIP

On April 19th, 2011 McDonald's plan to further infiltrate the world with their Big Mac took a step forward by hiring 50,000 people in one day.

#### **If Jesus wanted to reach the whole world, why did he mostly hang out with just 12 guys?**

- Even He could only invest in a few - Of the 12 there were three men with whom he spent majority of his time (Peter, James and John)
- Not everyone wants to be discipled
- He wanted to disciple people who will later be able to invest in others, passing on His ministry to faithful and reliable men!

### MYTHS ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP

#### **Myth #1: In order to disciple someone else you must be a spiritual giant.**

If that was true, no one would ever disciple, and therefore no one would be discipled. However, it is true, that to oversee someone's spiritual growth is a position to take seriously and it should move us to be above reproach. But you do not need to have every answer, go months without sinning, and have 3 hour quiet times every day. **God uses imperfect people to accomplish His perfect plans.**

#### **Myth #2: Discipleship is a program.**

Although there are many great tools to help you disciple someone, do not confuse this with the dangers of seeing discipleship as a 10-step program. Three important relationships are: your relationship with the disciple, the disciple's relationship with God, and your relationship with God. But there are other relationships too—those in the disciples life, whether it be roommates, family, boyfriend or girlfriend, and those to whom he is sharing the gospel. In other words, discipleship is all about the relationship, and we all know there are no 10-steps to a happy, healthy, and successful relationship.

#### **Myth #3: You are not ready to disciple.**

Discipleship is encouraging, loving, praying for, helping, confronting, sharing, and thinking about another person. These are not things you learn in a classroom, these are not things you develop by mastering a technique. These are things that every Christian is commanded and empowered to do. You are ready, wherever you are, to allow the Holy Spirit to use you in the lives of others.

#### **What are your fears with taking part in spiritual multiplication?**

### PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP

#### **Principle #1: Disciple FLAT students.**

There is a word we use for a good disciple, and that word is FLAT. **A disciple must be Faithful, a Leader, Available, and Teachable.** These are the conditions for discipleship. Avoid choosing students based on knowledge, social skills, and abilities alone, make sure they are FLAT. You may not realize the drawbacks to discipling and investing in someone who isn't FLAT, but there are many. Take to heart these words of wisdom about selection!

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### Why might the 4 qualities of FLAT be essential for spiritual multiplication?

**Faithful:** If they are not faithful to the Lord on their own accord, you will be constantly pulling their teeth to walk with God. The student will begin to withdraw because he will feel pressured to live up to your expectations, and doesn't really desire to make the Lord his first priority. If he isn't faithful to follow through on responsibilities and tasks, then it will be difficult to entrust him with a target area and a ministry of his own.

**QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK ABOUT THEIR FAITHFULNESS:** Do they follow through on things? Do they attend Bible Study consistently? Do they want to be a part of the Christian body? Are they faithful in their walk with God?

**A Leader:** If they are not a leader, you won't be able to live out 2 Timothy 2:2, passing your faith to reliable people who can share it with others. They need to have the social and emotional maturity to lead others.

**QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK ABOUT THEIR LEADERSHIP:** Do others follow them? How do they care for others? Do they have relationships of substance?

**Available:** If they are not available, have time and are willing to make time in their schedule to walk with God, have a ministry, or meet with you, your discipleship appointments will end up being frustrating and tiresome. The goal to multiply your life through this person won't be realized if they are not available and are too busy to be a Kingdom builder.

**QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK ABOUT THEIR AVAILABILITY:** Do they have time to meet with you? Do they prioritize God and a fruitful ministry? Will they prioritize discipleship and Bible study?

**Teachable:** If they are not teachable, first to the Lord, and then to your shepherding role in their life, your efforts will prove to be fruitless. Of course, you'll want to speak truth with tons of love and grace, but your words won't go far, if they aren't received with a teachable heart. You are looking for someone who desires to be spiritually mature and grow their heart for God and lordship to Jesus Christ.

**QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK ABOUT THEIR TEACHABILITY:** Are they willing to listen? Do they believe they have most things figured out already? Do they have a willing spirit and open heart to growth?

Selecting your disciples well is key to spiritual multiplication and the fruitfulness of your ministry. Choose wisely because your time is finite!

### Principle #2: Think about the finish line.

What I mean by this is dream up a picture of that guy who has grown to the point where he could grow no more. He looks and acts a heck of a lot like Jesus. This should not only be a picture of where you hope to bring your disciple, it should be a picture of where you are heading yourself. In reality, what you dream up should be unattainable. The object then is never to reach the finish line, but simply to make

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sure you and your disciple are moving in the right direction. What kind of perspective would he have? How would he spend his time? What kind of character would he have? What kinds of things would he know? What ministry skills would he rule at?

### **Principle #3: Become a student of your disciples.**

One of the greatest things you can do is learn about your disciple and then help him learn about himself. Make a list of all the strengths, skills, gifts, abilities, and anything else the guy is good at. Make a list of all the weaknesses, the areas that need to be developed. Take note of what he knows, and what he doesn't know, what ministry skills he has and what he doesn't have. As you look at the finish line you created, you will begin to figure out the strongest points and the weakest. Knowing this will provide you with a lifetime of direction for your discipleship times.

### **Principle #4: Teach them to multiply.**

In other words, help them develop into students who can lead other students to Jesus. Take them sharing with you, let them lead different aspects of your group, have them help you reach their dorm. Give them any training you can, but don't forget the vision. Share with them the vision of spiritual multiplication, of turning lost students into Christ-centered laborers, of reaching this campus, and reaching the world. Give them the vision in light of eternity and the scope of the world! Without this, discipleship becomes self-centered and self-focused. Jesus modeled reaching the world, do the same with your disciples.

### **Principle #5: Help them to dream.**

Your disciple is very significant to the cause of Christ. You never know...he could be the guy to take Billy Graham's or Bill Bright's place. He can be a leader, and he can be used by God in very real ways. Unfortunately, many people have no clue how much God can use them, how they can contribute, and how much potential they have. Let your disciple know what you can see in the future, and watch him grow! Help him to see what he might not be able to see in his future if he continues to walk with Christ and desire to be used by Him!

### **APPLYING THIS TO YOUR LIFE TODAY!**

- 1) Live by faith, communicate your faith, multiply your faith (create MORE disciples!)
- 2) Are you growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ?
- 3) How are you making disciples today?
- 4) Will you take part in spiritual multiplication for the rest of your life?

### **Discipleship Resources**

[www.crupressgreen.com](http://www.crupressgreen.com)

*Thirsty and Jacked*, Rick James

*The Compass*