

# Multiplication

## Multiplication Is Important to God

**Read** 2 Timothy 2:2, written by the apostle Paul to Timothy.

**Question:** How do Paul's instructions relate to multiplication?

**Read** Ephesians 4:11-13

**Question:** According to v.12, what is the role of leadership in the church?

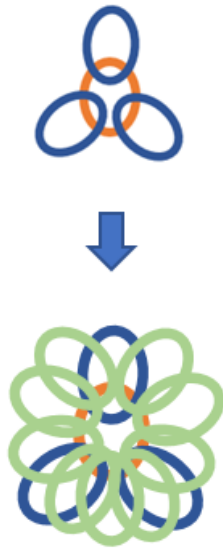
**Question:** What are the results of training for ministry according to this passage?

**Question:** In general, how would someone learn how to ride a bicycle or do construction work?

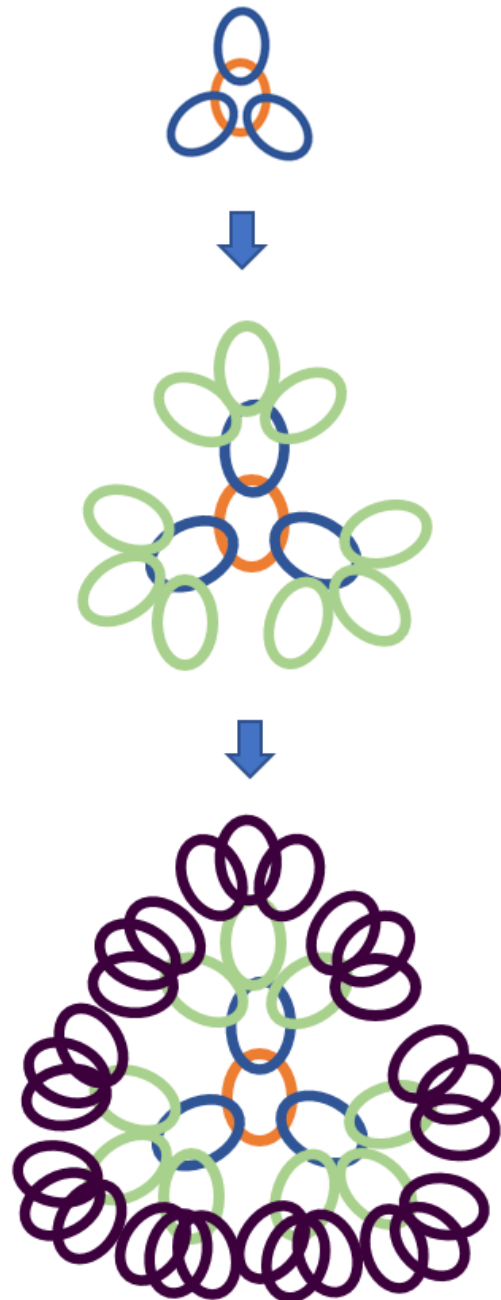
## Multiplication in Groups - Discipleship Chains Illustration

The discipleship chains illustrate two different ways to add people in groups.

New members are added  
to the same group



New groups are formed as  
people are added



## Be in Two Groups

**Read** 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, written by Paul to the church he started in Thessalonica.

**Question:** What gives Paul great joy when Christ comes?

**Question:** What will give us joy when Jesus comes; what will you be able to exult in and boast about?

**Read** 3 John 4.

**Question:** What kind of ministries and events has John witnessed in his life?

**Question:** Yet, according to John, what gave him more joy than all of that?

These kinds of verses are why we talk about “the great, greater, and the greatest blessing.” We say...

It is a **great blessing** to lead others to follow the Lord.

It is a **greater blessing** to start a new spiritual community.

It is the **greatest blessing** to equip others to start new spiritual communities.

We know that God seeks for His Kingdom to multiply. There are different ways to do that, but all involve being in two groups. The first group is in a sense your spiritual family or “home base,” but the second group is one that you are helping to start. There are lots of ways this can happen:

- **If you lead someone to Christ**, it would be good to invite him/her to your group. Otherwise, another good option would be for you to help that person reach out to his/her own friends and family to start a new spiritual family.
- **A believer wants to join your group.** Perhaps you’ve cast the DMM (disciple-making movement) vision – that is, you have talked about being a disciple that makes disciples and being in 3/3rds groups - and they’d like to participate, or perhaps a Christian comes along and says, I would love to join your group. You can say “You’re welcome to join our group, and we’d love to have you, but I would also love to help you start a group like this.” We’ve found it helpful to have people experience a group before they attempt to start one, so having them visit your group is often helpful.

- **A member of your group has grown enough to wish to start a group.** One of the members of the “home base” group may have several people in his/her circle, all of which he wants to bring together to start a new group but perhaps he/she needs some coaching and encouragement. You may play a role in helping/coaching to pull these people together and thus see a new group be born.

When helping to start a new group, you would model and assist in the new group for a time. Sometimes you only need to model two or three times. In other cases, you might spend more time. Be patient. After modeling, you would continue to attend the group to assist someone else as they lead and model for the group. When the group is ready, you would attend the group less, and you would move on to model and assist for another group. All the while, you are still a part of your original group and spiritual family. This is part of the training cycle, which will be discussed more, later.

Here are some helpful things to keep in mind:

- 3-8 adults is the ideal range of people for a group.
- The pattern of starting new groups tends to be far healthier than building to an existing group, and then later splitting it.
- Consistent membership in a group helps to keep everyone on the same page with training. New members, though, can be caught up in training that has already taken place.

Generally, each person or couple in the group should be involved in modeling or assisting someone else in starting a new group, either in their existing relationships or by finding a person of peace. As part of the 3/3rds looking forward time, we ask if there is anyone you can train. Sometimes, this is someone you just wish to share the insights you learned in the group, but more than that, we're looking for the Lord to put someone on your heart whom you might train in the 3/3<sup>rds</sup> process or help to start a group. We are always on the lookout for how we might multiply the kingdom in this way.