

## Multiplication (with Trainer's Notes)

### 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?

Here are some points you will want to hear or bring out:

- Four generations are represented in the teaching (Paul, Timothy, faithful men, and others)
- The teachings were simple enough that they could be remembered and passed on, orally. This helps multiplication. One person can easily share what they've learned with some one else.

**Read** Ephesians 4:11-13

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

- The role of leadership is to equip the church for the work of ministry/service.
- We are all expected to be doing ministry, and leaders should train in such a way that others are going out and doing it.

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

- The benefits are listed from the end of Ephesians 4:12 all the way down to verse 16 - the building up of the body of Christ, unity of the faith, etc.
- All of this starts when we are training people for works of ministry.

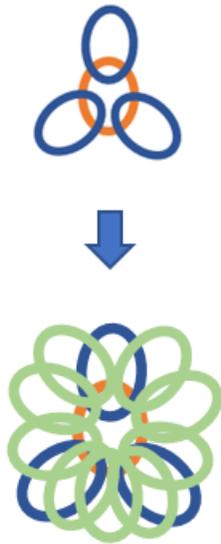
**Question:** In general, how would someone learn how to ride a bicycle or do construction work?

We learn by doing and practicing. You can spend hours watching the Tour de France on TV, but you will not learn to ride a bicycle without getting on a bike. In the same way, we won't really learn to do the work of the ministry without being trained and practicing.

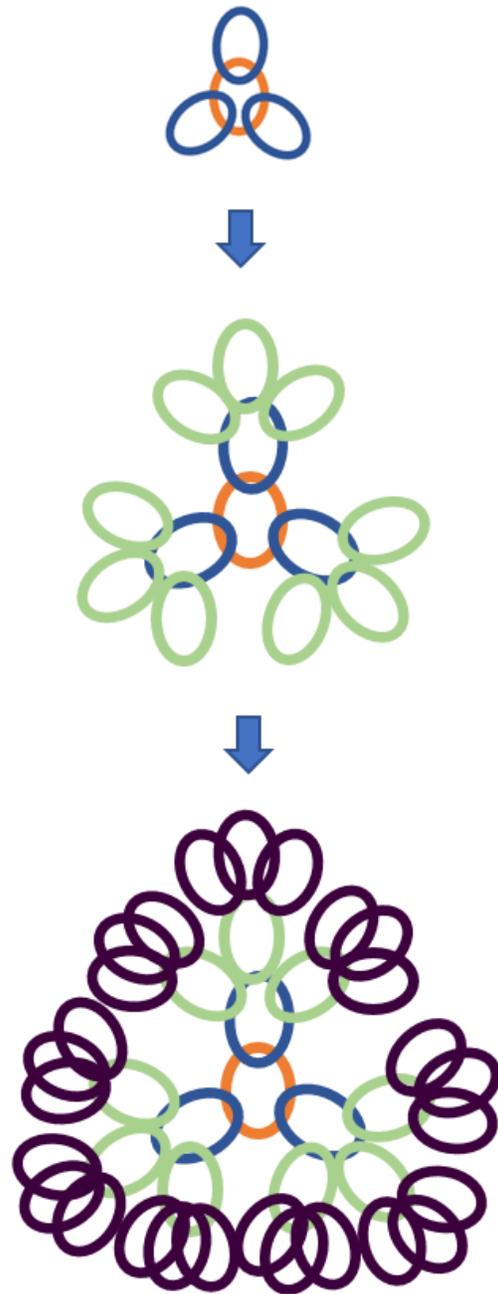
## Multiplication in Groups - Discipleship Chains Illustration

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



## Trainer Notes:

**Explain:** There are two people who love God. They both start groups.

- **On the left**, the leader pulls the group together and teaches them each week. It's edifying for everyone in the group – many of us have experienced groups like this. The group grows by adding new members to the same group.
- **On the right**, not only are the participants taught the Bible, but they are taught to go and to share what they're learning with others and to form groups. Each participant in the groups is helping to start another group. Note that they are each in two groups as a result.

**Ask** - What are the benefits of the approach illustrated on the right?

**Allow the participants to answer the question. You are looking for the following points:**

- More growth – multiplication. Greater outreach
- Less stress - less work.
- More personal – more intimate.
- Able to hear from each person in the group because all can share and participate.
- **Important:** Better quality disciples
  - The best way to learn something is to teach it. It's like the difference between reading books about building a house, or baking a cake, and going out and doing it. Who is going to do a better job? The man who has read 50 books about building a house, or the man who has built 50 houses? Certainly, there's a role for teaching construction theory. But you have to go out and do it to really know it.
  - There's no way people that simply listen to one guy, will be as strong/mature as people that go out and share it. Even if all else was equal, this is still overwhelmingly important in terms of the Biblical functioning of Leadership which is to equip the saints, not simply feed the sheep .

This is why we encourage everyone to

## 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?

Paul says that the faithful church of Thessalonica would be his hope, his joy, and his boast when Christ comes.

**Question:** Based on what Paul has said, What will give us joy when Jesus comes; what will you be able to exult in and boast about?

The very same things of course! We don't do this to earn our salvation, but rather we do know that this will be a cause of eternal joy and godly boasting when the Lord comes back.

**Read** 3 John 4.

Now keep in mind that 3 John was written by the Apostle John, the same John who wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation. He was one of the 12 Apostles. And with that in mind, let's talk about...

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

Jesus' baptism and the descent of the Spirit, Miracles of every kind, the Transfiguration and the voice from Heaven, The Resurrection – Jesus' and Lazarus', Jesus' Ascension, Pentecost and the tongues of fire and speaking in tongues, the incredible fellowship of the Acts 2 church, the explosive growth of the early church. The privilege of being the inspired author of many New Testament books. Etc.

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

The greatest joy for John was that his spiritual children – those he has brought to Christ or disciplined – were remaining faithful and living in obedience.

John had witnessed many miracles and amazing things in his life, yet his greatest joy was the faithfulness of his spiritual children.

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.