

DEVELOPING & EMPOWERING

# LEADERS GATHERING

## Keys to Multiplying Like Jesus

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### **BIG IDEA:**

Christ lived a perfect life while on this earth. He is the perfect reflection of God's image - a model for all Christians. But he didn't stop at simply living a perfect life; he intentionally CALLED individuals with open hearts, COACHED the gifting within them for ministry, and COMMISSIONED them to go out and be used by the Holy Spirit to impact the world. Paul instructed his spiritual son, Timothy, to take what he had been taught and teach it to other faithful believers. This sets a biblical precedent for us as leaders to pass on right teaching to a new generation of leadership (2 Timothy 2:2).

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### **KEY SCRIPTURES:**

- Genesis 1:28
  - Matthew 16:24-25
  - Matthew 28:18-20
  - Luke 10:1-20
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**Discipleship Topic:** Keys to Multiplying Like Jesus

- **Jesus Was Accompanied by His Disciples**

Jesus exemplified ministry to His disciples by evangelizing with them, praying for the sick with them, and sharing an encouraging word with them. They witnessed firsthand as ministry flowed out of Him. He was always teaching, training, and demonstrating ministry. Each day with His disciples was a school of ministry. He spent public time and private time with them answering questions, sharing life principles, and pouring His spiritual DNA into them.

- There is more in you than you know. Your life experiences, ministry stories, and examples are a great learning tool for those who have not experienced what you have. The way you model ministry is the way those you are training will model ministry to others.
- Shared experiences are powerful even if they are not always seen as spiritual. Those you are training certainly need to see how you pray and minister but they also need to see you doing life and just hanging out. It is in those times of fellowship, shared experiences with others, that open conversations can have a life-changing impact on those you lead.

## ● **Jesus Communicated the Cost**

Jesus was not shy about communicating the cost of leadership (Matthew 16:24-25). He also told his followers that at times it would be uncomfortable, there would be times when they would be rejected, and following Him might cost them some relationships. But He also told them of the great reward that awaited those who remained faithful.

- As leaders we hold a higher standard. Leadership requires a greater commitment than just holding a title and showing up on Sundays. Those who are called to leadership will see the greater commitment as an opportunity to serve Jesus at another level!
- A leader who multiplies like Jesus encourages those they lead to continue to also grow and not stagnate. Leaders are those who are always growing and have a fresh word, a fresh revelation, and a fresh testimony because they are unsatisfied with staying the same.

## ● **Jesus Gave Ministry Away**

In Luke 10 we see Jesus empowering and sending His team out to do ministry. In Matthew, Jesus empowers all believers to go and do ministry. Jesus trained, equipped, and empowered His disciples to continue the work He started. We are taking the baton from those who have run before us with the Gospel and we must complete our race and pass it on to others who will continue after us.

- We are surrounded with talented and gifted people. The temptation can sometimes be to make ourselves the “star of the show.” Ministry is multiplied when it is given away.
- Never hold on to a role or title so tightly that it cannot be easily released into the care of the next generation.

## ● **Jesus Celebrated Victories With His Team**

As Jesus gave ministry away He also had the opportunity to celebrate with His team when they returned from their ministry trip. He rejoiced and gave thanks to God for the revelation that His disciples now walked in (Matthew 21).

- Jesus also used the celebration to keep His disciples focused. He reminded them that the true victory was not the fact that they had and could exercise authority over the power of the enemy but that souls were the most important thing.
- As we develop and train disciples of Jesus it is important that we teach them to walk in humility. Pride will destroy even the most gifted leader. As giftings become more evident we must remain humble, knowing that apart from Christ we can do nothing.
- We are aware that others are watching our “walk” and listening to our talk to see if they are in alignment. As we have a committed prayer and devotional life and are consistent in church attendance and serving in humility, we will multiply like Jesus!

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## Evangelism Topic: Lifestyle Evangelism

In his book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Robert Coleman wrote that Jesus’ life was oriented around His strategy of evangelism. His method of life was ordered by His mandate to seek and save the lost. When we speak about a lifestyle of evangelism we are talking about ordering our life in such a way that being a witness for Christ is not what we do but is actually who we are.

- **Look for an Opportunity to Serve Someone**

- A selfless act of service communicates value to the person who is being served and can open a door to speak into their life. Living an evangelistic lifestyle really begins with serving others. Whether it is buying someone coffee, communicating appreciation, or a simple act of service, it can be a stepping stone into ministry to them.

- **Evangelism Begins With a Conversation**

- Opportunities will often present themselves as we engage people in conversation. Listening to the things people say will give you a clue as to their passion and a possible open door. Be aware of points of connection like a shared enjoyment or interest.
- Understand it may take more than one conversation to open the door for you to be a witness. Be prepared to leave yourself an entry point for future conversations.
  - **Practical Examples**
    - Look in familiar places - work, gas stations, gym, family conversations
    - Live with the Holy Spirit leading in daily conversations
    - Live with margin in mind

- Listen for pain points
- Lean into serving opportunities -- don't be afraid to serve outside of your schedule

- **Sowing, Watering, and Reaping**

- One sows, another waters but it is God who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6-8). It is easy to feel defeated if we do not have the opportunity to pray with the person we are witnessing to. We must remember that the Holy Spirit is the one who convicts and God is the one who gives the increase. Our responsibility is to do our part to move the ball forward. Today you may sow, tomorrow you may water, but it takes a team effort to win a soul.

- **Hold the Harvest**

- One gentleman once remarked he had won hundreds of people to the Lord in his evangelistic efforts. But when asked "Where are they now?" he had no response. We must have a heart that not only desires to see the lost saved but is also burdened to see them added to the Church. This means following up and helping them be baptized and disciplined into a strong believer.

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## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Identify a time when someone took the time to serve you. What are some opportunities for you to serve someone?
2. How do you identify an "open door" in a conversation?
  - How do you steer a conversation towards Jesus?
  - What are some conversational ways for you to share your story?