



**multiply**

Study Guide



# multiply

## Welcome to Multiply

Over the next four weeks, we as a church, will be taking a look at what it really means to live out the call Jesus left for us in his ascension. Before he prepared to leave the his followers in Matthew 28 he left them with a single mission. He didn't tell them to pursue holiness. He did not tell them to have a deep relationship with Him. He didn't even say give him all glory. Jesus had something bigger, more important in mind for the church. They were called to go and make disciples in the entire world. Some two thousand years later the same mission has been left to us. We're called to make disciples. This is not conversions, or baptisms, or classes, but real disciples who model their life after Jesus.

While Jesus did not give us an exact road map to fulfilling this mission, he did give us some guiding principles to what it might look like to successfully disciple the people God has put in your life. More importantly, in his own life we are given an amazing example of what it means to disciple a group of people and teach them. So as we begin to dig into different text that talk all about our calling, how we live that calling out, and how we see that fleshed out in Jesus life, we have to ask the question of ourselves first, do I truly want this?

It is one thing to say I want to see people's lives changed by the gospel. It's another thing to get into life with someone and actually be a part of God's work doing that. Jesus lived and exemplified this perfectly and it wound up sending him to a cross. We must realize that the path and process of making true disciples of Jesus isn't always easy. It doesn't always fit conveniently into our schedules. It does not always show results either. Yet when it does, the rewards are eternal.

The question to ask of yourself before you start to dig deeper into this is simply, do I want to be a part of Jesus plan to make disciples and multiply?

# Week 1: Static or Dynamic



Summary:

In a story there are multiply types of characters. They play different roles and effect the story in different ways. Some characters are known as static characters. They are involved in the story, but never actually make any decisions that alter the story. They are there and the story just happens to them. All the while they react, they adapt, and the conform, but they never move the story themselves.

The opposite of a static character is a dynamic one. Dynamic characters are ones who are involved in the story, but they make decisions and chose paths that ultimately end up driving and changing the direction of the story. They're actively in control of making their own story move forward.

In Matthew 5 Jesus is talking to a. Crowd and to his followers and describes them as "salt" and as "light." He encourages them that they, in the same manner as a static or dynamic character have choice in whether they are going to just let life happen to them or if they are going to be in control and be intentional about their calling to disciple.

Notes: Matthew 5:13-16

**You are \_\_\_\_\_ (v13)**

Salt has a unique taste about it and if thats gone what can it be used for?

Believers should have a unique quality about us, but if we've lost that how can we be used?

1 Peter 2:9 - "a chosen race" "royal priesthood" "called out of darkness"

Our uniqueness is not

- Dress Code
- Language
- music preferences
- purity

Our uniqueness is

- Grace
- Love
- Generosity
- Christlikeness

**You are \_\_\_\_\_ (v14)**

A city on a hill provided hope to lost travelers that they could be saved.

The church is called to be a safe place for lost sojourners

Hebrews 13:2

Exodus 23:9

Is your church hospitable and are you?

**You are a \_\_\_\_\_ (v16)**

You no longer represent you, but Jesus and His church.

Discipleship happens long before you start talking about Jesus.

**Where are you shinning?**

In the spaces below there are some common places God might have placed you so that you can bring light in a dark place. Take some time to think about your testimony there, the way you interact with people, and whether or not you'd lead towards light or salt. In the space provided below think about what you might be able to do to be more of a light in those places.



Some of these may apply to you and some may not. There may even be places not listed here that you can think of. Feel free to scratch out some generic ones and fill in your own experience environments.



Work



Family



Sports team



Social Club



Neighborhood



# Mid-week Devotional



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When Jesus was speaking with his followers in John 13 he gives them a very important commandment. He tells them that they should have love for one another. It wasn't just any kind of love though, he tells them in verses 33-35 that the kind of love they should have for each other is the same kind of love that He has for us. And he tells them that the entire world will know that they are followers of Jesus because of the way they love each other.

Jesus didn't say that the church would be recognized because of the type of building we build. We would not be recognized for our political associations or for our dress code. Instead he tells them that we should be recognizable by the way we love each other. So this week we want to take a moment and look at the way Jesus loved us so that we can better love each other and those who are in our midst as a church.

**Jesus loved us sacrificially**

God became flesh. Paul tells us that he didn't cling to or hold onto his place and authority but emptied himself to become like us. He did all of that so that we could follow him. His love for us was sacrificial. It cost him something to love us. He had to suffer. He was embarrassed. He was murdered. All of this was because he loved us. What are you willing to sacrifice to love like Jesus? What are you willing to give up to love others the way Jesus did?

**Jesus loved us unconditionally**

Jesus offer of love and salvation to us is unconditional. He didn't look at the world and decide who was worth it as opposed to who was not. Instead, he died for the sins of the world. The famous verse in John 3:16 tells us he so the world that he gave his only begotten son. Jesus love for us does not come with requirements or admission standards. The point of the gospel was that no one is worthy and Jesus died so that we all could be worth is we could believe and repent. Do you love people unconditionally? Is your love available to everyone or do people have to earn it? No one earned God's love and yet it was freely given to us.

**Jesus loved genuinely**

Jesus really cared about people. He didn't just say he cared about people, he truly did. He stopped in the midst of major crowds to recognize and help the hurting. He would stay up late into the night talking and answering questions for people who wanted to know more about him. He was patient with his closest followers when they failed. He didn't just say he loved people. He truly did. We must learn to not only love in word but also in deed. We must make sure that the way we love people is in our actions towards them and not just our words about them.

The church will be known by the way we love. We should love like Jesus. We should be lights, shining a selfless, unconditional, genuine love into a dark world full of fake.

**Questions to Go Deeper**

1. Do you think your efforts in discipling people are dynamic or static? Why?
2. In what ways can we lose our "saltiness" in the environments God has placed us?
3. How can we both as a church and individuals begin to show hospitality to the world around us?
4. How do you think you do in representing Jesus to the world? Do you think you have to be perfect to represent him or is there a way that even in our sins we can represent him well?
5. What is the one environment where you think you need the most growth in being a light? What can you start doing now to begin making that change?

## More on this topic



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We are told to let our light shine, and if it does we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining - they just shine.

D. L. Moody

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 16:24-25

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples John 15:8

For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. John 13:15

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 1 Peter 3:15

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 1 Corinthians 9:22



## **Week 2: Perfectly Unqualified**

### Summary:

A recent Barna study showed that over seventy percent of those who consider themselves Bible believing Christians do not have not shared their faith. It also found that over half the Church felt like it was inappropriate to initiate faith conversations with other people. Some of the reasons they gave included fear, anxiety, and appropriateness but the biggest concern given was a feeling of inadequacy. Most people who felt uncomfortable about sharing their faith felt that way because they did not feel qualified to have such conversations. They wouldn't be able to answer questions. They wouldn't have the right words. They didn't have the tools needed to engage in those types of conversations.

So what does the Bible say about this? We're called to share our faith and begin the conversation, but what do we do when we feel like we aren't capable or even the right person to have those conversations? What does the Bible say to me in those moments?

Notes: Hebrews 13:20-21

\_\_\_\_\_ **is doing this, not** \_\_\_\_\_.

Now may GOD..... (vs 20) and not you.  
Matthew 10:19-20 - God who speaks through you.  
Who better to equip us than Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_ **are called/equipped to do this.**

Equip you / you may do his will (vs 21) means you're ready.  
You have a called and are equipped to accomplish it.  
1 Corinthians 1:26-27 - Consider YOUR calling  
Ephesians 4:1 - Walk worthy of YOUR calling  
1 Peter 2:9 - You may proclaim the excellencies  
Stop delegating what God called YOU to do.

\_\_\_\_\_ **gets all the glory**

When God uses broken people, he gets all the glory.  
Our activity on mission brings God glory  
We bring our brokenness and see God work miracles.

**YOU ARE NOT QUALIFIED, YOU ARE EQUIPPED**

It's easy to feel unqualified about sharing our faith because we are. How can we, broken people, adequately describe and represent a holy and perfect God. The truth is we cannot. Our words would always fall short. We will never be perfect, and that is okay. God doesn't call us to be perfect examples, instead he calls us to be available so that he might work through us.



Yet we often have this voice in our head discouraging us from taking a step, having a conversation, and beginning a relationship with someone where we might begin the process of making a disciple. It reminds us of failures. It creates fear and doubt in us and leaves us stagnant in our efforts to disciple the people around us.

What we need is another voice. We need to hear a voice that reminds us of all that God has promised us about and his assurance that when we speak in his name He is there and speaks through us.

In the space below write yourself a letter. Maybe not a full length letter but at least a note. Remind yourself of God's promise to not only put you in the right place, but to equip you for the places he puts you. And no matter how uncomfortable it may feel or how unqualified you may feel, remind yourself that you are equipped and called.

Let this be the voice you hear to combat and speak truth into the voice we so often hear creating doubt and fear.

Dear me,

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# Mid-week Devotional



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It's crazy when you stop and think about the kind of people God used in his story. Start all the way back in Genesis and we see God start calling imperfect people to do wondrous things. Let's run through some of them real quick to get the crazy level of brokenness that God decided to use in his amazing story.

Abraham was a mess. He had so much doubt in his life. God made a real and powerful promise to Abraham but he constantly doubted it. God had to remind Abraham of this promise three times throughout the chapter of Genesis. It went so far, that after God had promised Abraham a son, he goes to extremely uncomfortable lengths (some would say sinful) to try and make God's promise happen. Abraham was a huge bag of doubt and God still used him.

Noah was a hot mess. Understandable in some ways, he still was an undeniably broken man. After Noah gets off the ark and God is restarting creation with Noah and his family and the first thing Noah does, build a vineyard and get wasted. This leads to a very uncomfortable striking moment between him and his sons. Don't believe me, go read Noah's story. He had issues.

When God call Moses to be the leader and Voice to the people there was one major problem. Moses had a stutter and didn't want to speak in front of people. Can you imagine how terribly inadequate Moses must have felt when God told him all that was planned? And we cannot forget he was a fugitive for murderer. He killed a guy and had to flee because of it.

The list just goes on and on. There were reluctant prophets, adulterous kings, and then to top it all over Jesus led a rag tag group of misfits into ministry with more issues than space to list here. God has a long history of using the people no one would expect. To take it the extreme, in Numbers 22 God actually speaks through a donkey.

We go down this long road of unqualified individuals in God's master plan simply to prove the point that God is in the business of taking broken people and using them in miraculous ways. If God can use all those people he can use you. God doesn't look for people who are qualified he looks for people who are available.

## Questions to Go Deeper

1. Why do you think so many people feel unqualified to be a part of God's mission to reach the lost and make disciples?
2. In what ways do you think God helps equip us for the situations he leads us into?
3. How does God get glory when he uses us in his work to make disciples?
4. In what environments do you feel like God has uniquely called you to be a light and make disciples?
5. What is holding you back from making disciples?

## More on this topic



2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Matthew 10:19-20

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

**26** For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards,<sup>[c]</sup> not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. **27** But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; **28** God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, **29** so that no human being<sup>[d]</sup> might boast in the presence of God. **30** And because of him<sup>[e]</sup> you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, **31** so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1 Peter 2:9

**9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Joshua 1:9

**9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Deuteronomy 31:8

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.



## **Week 3: Relationships > Results**

### Summary:

In a world full of people and companies that are always selling and promising a better, new life it can be hard to talk about Jesus. Sharing the gospel can often get lost in the midst of all the disingenuous promises and claims that we hear on the daily basis.

This week we talked about what we can do to make sure that the gospel is not lost in translation, but what we can do to make sure that our lives and our love bring real weight to the gospel. Jesus showed us this in the way he loved people and cared for them. He showed genuine interest and made real connections with people because he cared more about the person than the results.

Notes: Matthew 9:9-13

### **Jesus was intentional about \_\_\_\_\_. (9)**

Jesus stopped constantly to pay attention to the marginalized  
Woman at the well  
Sick man in Mark 1  
Matthias  
Woman who offered a penny  
Colossians 4:5 - Walk wisely towards those who are without.

### **Jesus kept regular company with \_\_\_\_\_. (10)**

The Room was full of “sinners” and social rejects.  
Nicodemus was a long time friend of Jesus.  
The great commission requires me to GO and be among the lost.

### **Jesus met with them where they were (11-13)**

Geographically.  
He travelled to different cities  
He came to earth to be among us. (John 1:14)  
Spiritually  
He knew they were broken and didn't expect perfection.  
Stop isolating and meet them where they are.

### **Conclusion:**

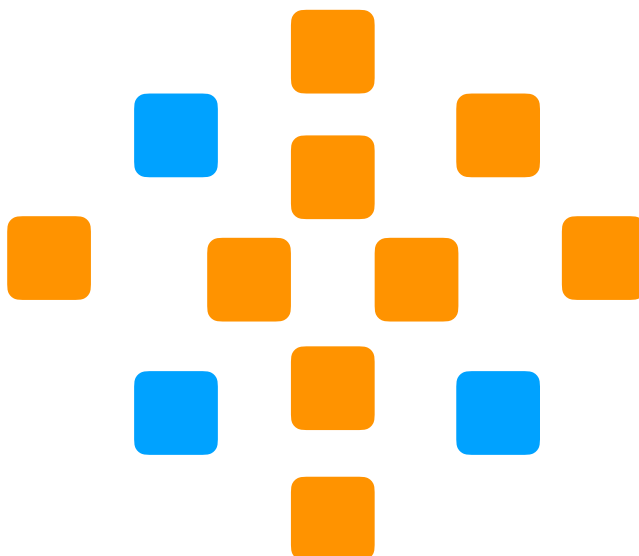
“If we have got the true love of God shed abroad in our hearts, we will show it in our lives. We will not have to go up and down the earth proclaiming it. We will show it in everything we say or do.

D.L. Moody”

#### Matthew Parties:

After Matthew encountered Jesus he invited Jesus, his followers and all of his friends over. They shared a meal and spent time together. Matthias wanted his new family to meet the other people in his life. He brought them all together for a party.

We all have people in our life who may not know Jesus and will never come to church. The first step in discipling someone who won't come to church is to help them connect with other people who don't know Jesus. This creates real opportunities for



This week think about the people around you who don't know Jesus and the people who do. What can you do to get these people in the same room? Look for an opportunity to have people over and together. This doesn't need to be a religious thing. Just an opportunity to break down stereotypes about who church people are and what they're like.

NOTE: these things can backfire if you're not careful about the people you invite. Look to invite people who you know are great at connecting with new people or who have things in common to talk about.

# Mid-week Devotional



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It's all about meeting people where they are at. Far too often we want people to come to the church, take all the steps, and get come where we are comfortable to start showing them Jesus.

The example we have from Jesus is that he would go to people where they are and connect with them. He met them at weddings, their homes, city squares, and any place else they might feel comfortable. He connected with them and got to know them. He never sinned, yet he spent time with sinners.

It's important for us to remember this. We're called to be in the world and not of the world. This is a fine line to walk but both parts are important. We tend to lean into one side or the other. We isolate ourselves into a "safe place" and away from people who aren't in the church or we dive into the world and lose our uniqueness that Jesus called us to have. It might not be the easiest path to navigate but we are called to both. We're called to be people who are unique and lights in the dark but also among those in the dark.

Think this week about which side do you tend to lean into?

What can you do to help navigate the line between being around the world and not being consumed by the world?

Who in your life can you begin investing into this week?

What can you do like Matthew to bring Jesus followers together with people in your life who don't know Jesus?

## More on this topic



Colossians 5:5

**5** Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

John 1:14

**14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son[a] from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:3

**3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 Peter 4:8

**8** Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

“The church exists for nothing else but to draw men to Christ, to make little Christs.”  
C.S. Lewis

“It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor.”

Martin Luther



## **Week 4: Loving People = Bringing People**

Summary:

Loving People = Bringing People

"Come and see" is probably the most important part of this passage. It's an example of how we can have real conversations and relationships with people and share Jesus with them. It's an example that we'll see in this story where you don't have to have all the answers to begin talking to people and sharing Jesus with them.

Notes: John 1:43-51

**God saved \_\_\_\_\_ for a purpose.**

**(43-44)**

As soon as Phillip believes in Jesus he starts sharing  
Ephesians 2:10 - good works he before ordained us to.  
If you are alive and breathing God's not done with you.  
Are you living your life in light of God's purpose?

**God puts people \_\_\_\_\_ for a reason.**

**(45-46)**

Phillip was a connection for Nathaniel.  
The relationships you have are for a reason, no matter what.  
"Come and see"  
No training or anything. Nothing more than come and see.  
Invite people into your life, come and see Jesus  
Invite them into your home, come and see Jesus  
Invite them to be around your church family, come and see Jesus.

**Jesus \_\_\_\_\_, we just \_\_\_\_\_.**

**(47-51)**

Philip is done here, it's all between Nathaniel and Jesus.  
It's between Jesus and them, you just make the invitation.  
Nathaniel was hard against Jesus, until he met him. Come and see.



In a few weeks we'll be having a church wide event after the service. An end of summer bash that will be a great way to close out the summer months and launch us into a new school year. This is going to be such an amazing "come and see" opportunity for you to make the bold move of inviting. We'll have food, music, games, and other stuff for your family and friends to enjoy while we wrap up the summer together in spectacular fashion.

In the space below write out who you might invite. What can you do to create a "come and see" moment in someone else's life so that they can experience Jesus?





# Mid-week Devotional



Who are you bringing? It's a question we shouldn't just be asking around easter and Christmas but we should always be asking.

You may not feel qualified but the beauty of Phillip's role in this whole story is that he was no where near qualified for this. He wasn't able to explain Jesus or convince someone about his saving work. Instead Philip just said what he could, come and see.

We're called to be "come and see" kind of people. We don't have to have sophisticated answers to deep theological questions about God's existence and the world he created. We need only have our own story and the willingness to invite someone to come and see.

What does it look like to invite someone to come and see then? It's inviting them into your life. Making real disciples starts with real relationships and that requires much more than a random invite to church. It requires me to be open and hospitable with my life. It requires me to let people in to see the good bad and ugly as I let Jesus work in my own life.

Come and see requires me to invite people into my home. Maybe this isn't letting someone live with me (maybe it is) but it is definitely about letting people into your personal space. People can tell when you keep them at arms length. They know when you're only giving them part of the picture. Are we willing to open up our space to people and courageous enough to walk into theirs? Jesus, like we talked about last week, was constantly going to meet people where they were. This includes us getting into someone else's personal space to make a real connection. Going over for dinner, having a beer on the porch, watching the game together, or just sitting and talking for hours about everything are opportunities for us to create real relationships and real opportunities to allow people to come and see Jesus at work in me.

Do you ever take time to invite people to come and see Jesus in your life?

When was the last time you were intentional about spending time with someone who doesn't know Jesus?

How can we turn normal relationships into "come and see" relationships?

Why do you think there is so much power in giving people the freedom to see your life, your faith, and your circle up close?



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