



**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?**

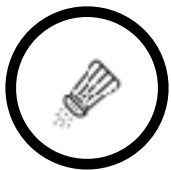
In the spaces below there are some common places God might have placed you so that you can bring light in a dark place. Take some time to think about your testimony there, the way you interact with people, and whether or not you'd lead towards light or salt. In the space provided below think about what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



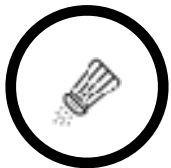
Some of these may apply to you and some may not. There may even be places not listed here that you can think of. Feel free to scratch out some generic ones and fill in your own experience environments.



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**





# 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



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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.











