



making disciples, who make disciples, who make disciples: 2/3's

Our paradigm of discipleship begins with Jesus, the Kingdom of God, and the Great Commission.

Jesus

After a thorough reading of the gospels, we think a case can be made that Jesus is simply depending on discipleship to change the world. He did not have a Plan B.

3 Discipleship Communities:

a Missional 2/3 [Peter, James, and John]

a Missional Community [the 12 disciples]

Crowds and Celebrations [72 other disciples, followers, and multitudes]

The Kingdom of God

Jesus preached about the Kingdom of God more than any other idea. The Kingdom of God could be described as the *culture* of heaven, and the worldview that promotes its expansion on the earth. **The commands of Jesus describe the look and feel of heaven, and when obeyed, bring experiences of heaven to earth.** Thus, Jesus desires all who follow him to obey and practice his commands and ideas, and to share them with the world, so that the world might be renewed and enjoy the kingship of God.

The Great Commission:

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.** And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Go make disciples
- Teach them to obey my commands

Jesus is saying that the world will be changed as it obeys his commands.

***This* is discipleship.**

Why 2's and 3's?

Jesus told his disciples to go preach about the Kingdom of God in “twos and threes”. We believe he did this because:

- We need each other
- 2 or 3 are better than 1
- *Where 2 or more gather in his name he is there with them.* [Matthew 18:20]

How do 2's and 3's start?

- 2's and 3's are self-started and are born out of relationships as they organically grow around the Gathering Network and relationships with outsiders
- Pray: “God, give me someone,” and “God, give us a common mission.”

Form one with a friend who is hungry to learn about Jesus:

A word on “hunger”

In our short experience as a discipling culture we have already experienced the extreme difference between someone who is sincerely hungry to follow Jesus, and someone who is hungry for a close relationship. In an environment of discipleship the difference makes all the, well ... difference.

A missional, mid-sized community is a perfect place for someone who is hungry for friends.

A 2/3 is a perfect place for someone who is hungry to follow Jesus in a radical way.

How do I know if someone is hungry enough for a 2/3?

- Start by observing someone: Do they attend meetings regularly? Do they seem eager to be a part of what's going on? Do they accept the message of Jesus with eagerness? Do they seem hungry for more?
- Get together with them a few times to learn about them, and throw a small invitation out there to see if they “bite” [example: “Hey, do you want to read 12 chapters of Luke and get back together and talk about the stuff Jesus did?”] If they come back with the thing done a few times, you have a hungry one, and you can proceed.
- THEN start talking about being a 2/3.

Then What?

Meet once a week @ a scheduled time and place

From the very, very, start of the 2/3

- Start with the *3 loves and the 4 commitments*
- Make *reproduction and multiplication* of disciples the expectation of your group and a goal to be celebrated when it happens
- Never talk about multiplication/reproduction as a “split” or a “break”

The personal activity of 2's and 3's

- **Read 12-15 chapters of the bible weekly** [We recommend beginning in the gospels, & Luke is a good one to start with. Obey Jesus' commands when you find them.]
- **Pray for those in your 2/3 every day**
- **Pray for opportunities to share Jesus in generous ways every day**

Add friends to your group

Always be generous in your gathering! The door is always open to anyone interested in a 2/3. This is actually how they grow and multiply.

In your weekly meeting:

- Talk about what you each read that week, maybe even read a chapter or an entire short book of the new testament together, and teach each other what Jesus is teaching you. *[This is not a time for anyone person to take the role of a teacher. Everyone shares what God is doing]*
- Hold each other accountable to living the “3 loves and the 4 commitments [*servicing, growing, giving, and living a holy life*]
- Practice confession as a virtue
- Pray for each other and for friends. Take your prayer for one another seriously

A word on multiplication: *make disciples that make disciples*

The idea of multiplication is to *multiply* the life of Jesus in another person who will do the same [and so on], and thus the movement continues and the Kingdom is built.

We are learning that there are a few ways that multiplication can happen, *and it usually depends on what the Holy Spirit is doing in a unique way in the 2/3.*

You might think of multiplication in this general way:

You discipling someone who is also discipling someone. In this way, you would be coaching, or training, them to train someone else. *[We suspect this will be the best way to ensure that we are discipling well.]*

As you multiply it is crucial to pass on these 3 essential things:

- *Growing in loving obedience to the commands of Christ*
- *The value of multiplication and disciple-making*
- *The language of the 3 loves, 4 commitments, and the spiritual disciplines of 2's and 3's*