

ENGLISH TRAINING FOR MISSION



reach the unreached.

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TRAINING UNIT 46 (26.37 MINUTES)

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| <i>Multiplication – The Jesus model</i> | |
| Discipleship movement in the ministry of Jesus | |
| Discipleship movement in the ministry of Paul..... | |
| ➔ <i>Part II: Application</i> | |
| ➔ <i>Part III: Outreach</i> | |



Training Unit 46

Multiplication – The Jesus model

- Multiplication is one of the core aspects in creation, as well as in the Kingdom of God.
- Both the great cultural duty and the great discipleship commandment cannot be fulfilled without multiplication.
- The goal of this “BEsent” training is to put into practice the discipleship commandment in a way that enables real reproduction and multiplication.
- We also have the desire to see more discipleship movements.
- A discipleship movement (DMM – Disciple Multiplication Movement) means 1,000 baptized people that meet in 100 groups and have already reproduced four times (four generations).

Discipleship movement in the ministry of Jesus

- How was it with Jesus? We find most examples for discipleship and church life in the book of Acts and not in the Gospels. However, some steps of a discipleship movement can already be recognized in the Gospels.
- Jesus had 12 disciples. That is a ratio of **1:12**. Some Gospels show that he invested more time discipling Peter, John and James than other disciples. Here we see a ratio of **1:3**. I could imagine that these three passed on what they have learned from Jesus to the rest of the twelve. That again would be a ratio of **1:3**.
- Matthew 9 mentions how Levi (Matthew) was called into discipleship and trained by Jesus at the customs. Levi was present and saw how Jesus healed and delivered people. Already one chapter later (10) he is being sent out as one of the twelve disciples.
- In Luke 9 the twelve are sent out. 72 disciples were sent out in Luke 10. Most probably, the twelve trained the 72 disciples. That would be a ratio of **1:6**.
- Jesus was crucified three years later. After another 50 days, the first church was formed at Pentecost. We read that 120 disciples prayed in the upper room. Assuming the twelve disciples trained the 120-12 apostles =108 we would find a ratio of **1:9**. Paul writes:

1. Corinthians 15:6

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

- If these 500 were trained by the 120, we would have a ratio (500-120= 380) of about **1:3**. Then there were 3,000 converts at Pentecost. If the 500 trained these new converts, we would have a ratio of **1:6**.

Acts 2:47

...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 4:4

But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

- 5,000 men are mentioned. Perhaps there were 5,000 more women and another 5,000 children. The Jerusalem church was estimated to have numbered 15,000 to 25,000 people. The 3,000 could have discipled the 15,000-3,000= 12,000, which would be a ratio of **1:4** and if we count 25,000-3,000=21,000, there would be a ratio of **1:7**.
- Then something very interesting happens: persecution! This persecution is interesting because we can deduct from the happenings that the church planting in Jerusalem was a discipleship process and those who came to faith were discipled.
- After the initial exceedingly fruitful growth, Stephen was stoned. By the way, Paul was present there. The first persecution ensued and the disciples were scattered. Interestingly, only the disciples were persecuted and scattered but not the Apostles in Jerusalem.

Acts 8:1

And Saul approved of their killing him [Stephen]. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

- It happened just as the Holy Spirit had predicted: when the power comes, they will be witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth. This did not happen directly after Pentecost. The church in Jerusalem grew strongly and the people enjoyed fellowship in Jerusalem. Only the persecution then brought the disciples to the places the Holy Spirit had announced. God was able to use the circumstances of this persecution to send out these 15,000 to 20,000 disciples. What did these Christians then do?

Acts 8:4

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

Acts 11:19-22

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

- From the behavior of the persecuted and scattered disciples, we can deduce that these people had been discipled in Jerusalem.
- For wherever they went they proclaimed the Gospel and many came to faith, so many that Barnabas, who brought along his friend Paul, was sent out to them. They came to Antioch and helped disciple the people there.
- Later Paul, Barnabas and John Mark were sent out by the Holy Spirit and the church in Antioch to fulfill the great discipleship commandment.

Acts 13:1-2

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

- Barnabas was probably discipled in Jerusalem and was a part of the local house church (Acts 2:42-46). He sold a field and laid the revenue at the feet of the Apostles (Acts 5:36-37).
- Barnabas and Paul then did the ministry of a sent one on their first missionary journey and planted discipleship and house churches in different places.

Discipleship movement in the ministry of Paul

- Paul was not alone on his second missionary journey, he traveled in a team. Silas, Timothy, Luke and perhaps Titus were a part of this team. First, they came to Philippi and started a church in Lydia's house and one in the house of the jailor. They moved on to the city of Thessalonica. A part of the team probably remained in Philippi and continued to disciple the new believers. In the meanwhile, Paul traveled to Thessalonica with the rest of the team. A discipleship movement then developed there. Due to unrest, Paul was only able to stay in Thessalonica for three weeks. He left behind another part of his team, while he moved on to Berea and Corinth. Later, Paul writes to the newly developed movement in Thessalonica in the first and second letters to the Thessalonians.

2 Thessalonians 1:1+11-12

Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ

- Paul describes here how they disciplined these people as a team. In the next passage, we read what these disciples did in Thessalonica.

1 Thessalonians 1:4-8

For we know, brothers and sisters (...) You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it.

- Paul came to Thessalonica in Greece and founded this church within three weeks there. Since he could not stay himself, his team disciplined these people. In his letter, we read that the Gospel was proclaimed in all of Macedonia (Northern Greece) and Achaia (Southern Greece), in short, in all of Greece and even beyond, originating from the church in Thessalonica. This is a huge discipleship movement.
- This happened because these people were disciplined and passed on what they had received. They followed the example of Paul and Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it.



- Paul experienced another huge discipleship movement on his third missionary journey. He came to Ephesus, the capital city of the former Roman province of Asia Minor, located in today's Western Turkey. The province of Asia Minor encompassed 4 to 5 million inhabitants; the city of Ephesus had about 200,000 inhabitants.
- Through the Apostle Paul and his team, a discipleship movement was started in Ephesus that reached all of Asia Minor with its 4 to 5 million inhabitants, all of this within the timespan of three years.
- Paul proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom of God in Ephesus and disciplined the people there very intensely for three years, day and night.

Acts 20:31

So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

Acts 19:8-10

Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord

- Paul trained the people in the premises of Tyrannus. The disciples he trained then carried the Gospel into the whole province, so that the whole province was reached. Reached meant for Paul that house churches began to form everywhere.

Acts 19:10

This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

Part II: Application

- a) Someone from the group summarizes this teaching in his own words. If anything is missing, the others can add to the summary.

- b) Group discussion

- c) Write down personal insights from the teaching

- d) Share with your group, which are your main disciples and the key people for multiplication that you want to send out.

- e) Each group presents what they learned and the specific goals they want to pursue now: (outreach/group meeting).

Part III: Outreach

Prayer (4 hours/week), going (4 hours/week), discipleship (4 hours/week), community of faith (3 hours/week).

1. PRAYING:

A) Prayer walk with a partner or the team for 2 hours every week ☐

B) Pray 1 hour for your disciples before every discipleship meeting ☐

C) Pray 1 hour before every community meeting ☐

2. GO: to the unreached you have a heart for ☐

3. Look for persons of peace ☐

4. PREACH: the gospel of the Kingdom of God ☐

5. EXPLAINING: the way of salvation ☐

6. Evangelistic Bible studies with interested people ☐

7. Share your personal testimony with five other people ☐

8. Call to repentance and to follow Jesus ☐

9. FAITH, REPENTANCE, BAPTISM AND RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT ☐

10. Pray for sick people during an outreach ☐

11. Raise a dead person if you are led to do so ☐

12. Seek to hear God's voice and the guidance of the Holy Spirit ☐

13. Pray for the 200 million persecuted Christians in the world, pray for your "persecutors" and bless those who are cursing you ☐

14. Continue to teach all 16 lessons to the discipleship group and coach them in it ☐

15. Continue to train leaders of networked house churches ☐

16. Appoint your main disciples and the key people for multiplication that you want to send out. Invest yourself especially into these multipliers. ☐

17. Introduce the multiplication principle to your disciples, discipleship groups, spiritual families, networked house churches, deacons and elders. ☐

BEsent is a training - without practice it is almost useless!