

## The Root of Multiplication

Making other disciple-makers consists of growing in others what has shaped us in the image and example of Christ. This session will look at what is formed in our own selves at the radical, or root, level so that as we teach others it will penetrate to their very core and heart and not stay at the surface of behavior.

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### I. What Has Shaped Me At the Root Level

#### A. Introduction

B. Group discussion: What has (up to now) shaped me the most in growing into the image of my Lord Jesus Christ? Not on the outside but rather on the inside, at the very center of my being?

- a. Write the suggestions down on the flipchart
- b. What if we were to choose just one thing – what would it be?

C. My suggestion: “**Jesus loves me, this I know...**” Famous children’s song, deep theology behind it (Mk 10:13-16)  
Sing the song together

1. Why should we be like children?

2. Jesus loves me: I AM LOVED

a. This is the essence of the gospel John 3:16-17

b. *Euangelion*: Mark 1:14-15

*eu-* good, pleasant, joyful

*angelos* – messenger who is bringing the news

Examples – battles at Marathon or Salamina

It is an announcement of an historical event – someone has done something for us that essentially and permanently changes our situation

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT GOOD ADVICE, IT IS GOOD NEWS

A disciple is loved by Jesus

3. This I know: I KNOW I AM LOVED

- a. I accepted it through repentance (change of direction) and faith (trust) Mark 1:15

A disciple knows deep inside he is loved by Jesus.

- 4. For the Bible tells me so: My knowledge is based on the AUTHORITATIVE, INFALLABLE, INNERANT WORD OF GOD
  - a. Based not on feelings
  - b. Based not on good advice of others
  - c. Based on the reliable, breathed out by God, Scriptures 2 Tim 3:16 – 17

A disciple knows from God's Word he is loved by Jesus.

- 5. Little ones to him belong: I am not my own, HE OWNS ME
  - a. He is all-powerful
  - b. He loves me
  - c. Therefore, it is safe to surrender, give him all my life without fear (Mark 4:35 – 41

A disciple has surrendered his life to Jesus who paid for him.

- 6. They are weak, but he is strong: HEALTHY REALISM
  - a. I am not in control
  - b. I cannot live out of my own strength John 15:5
  - c. Yet I can be empowered and led by Him

A disciple is not big in his own eyes, but he sees God is big and powerful.

D. Going deeper: **He became my father, I became His son** Rom 8:14-15  
Dave Patty: *Father God* - 4 gifts of God the Father Mark 1:10-11; 9:7

- 1. Identity: "You are my Son" – he gave me value
- 2. Love: "my beloved" – he gave me security
- 3. Pleasure: "with you I am well pleased." – he gave me healthy energy and motivation
- 4. Place: "listen to Him" – he gave me significance and honor

Questions, comments:

Discussion: “What is the difference between a son and an orphan?”

Personal reflection: “Am I living like God’s son or like an orphan who has no Father?”

A disciple lives like a son, not an orphan.

## **II. How can it be multiplied in those we disciple?**

A. We are all called to make disciple-makers Matt 28:18 – 20

1. It is a clear command
2. One of the most neglected commands in the Bible
3. It is for all Christians

B. What is being multiplied?

1. It is Christ’s life and character in us
  - a. The fruit of His Spirit Gal 5:22 – his love, his joy, his peace etc.
  - b. His other-centeredness, servanthood, and humility Matt 20:25 – 28
2. There is nothing mechanical about it; it is life.

C. Who does the multiplication?

1. Only God can give life 1John 4:9; 5:11 – 12
2. Only God can grow and multiply it 1Cor 3:6

D. What is my role in God’s multiplication process?

1. Command to make disciples
  - a. “God commands what he provides and provides what he commands.” C.S. Lewis
  - b. Many of his commands are beyond our own resources – like “In everything give thanks”, “be filled with the Spirit”, “love your enemies” etc.
  - c. Yet we still play a very vital role – he chooses us to be his partners, his co-workers who do not cause the growth but are privileged to plant and water 1Cor 3:6-7
  - d. It is connected with the Father’s gift of place – he gives us a significant place in his eternal purposes.

- e. There is nothing more significant I can do for the rest of my life than to make disciples.
2. Specifically, our role is:
- a. to build relationship of love and trust with the other person (who is a disciple of Christ)
  - b. Help him see in the Word how much Jesus loves him
  - c. Ogden: "...to encourage, equip, and challenge one another in love to grow toward maturity in Christ. This includes equipping the disciple to teach others as well."
  - d. To help him/her find the identity – sense of value  
To help him/her know he/she is loved – sense of security  
To help him/her know the Father is pleased with her/him – sense of motivation  
To help him/her find his/her place – sense of significance, honor

Questions:

### III. Action plan

- A. What was God saying to me during this session?
- B. Do I know at the root of my being that I am loved by God?
- C. Am I living like God's son or like an orphan who has no Father? What are the areas in my life I tend to live like an orphan?
- D. What is God leading me to implement in my ministry? With whom, how and when?

### ***Suggested Readings:***

Dave Patty: *Father God*

Robert Coleman: *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

Greg Ogden: *Transforming Discipleship*

Timothy Keller: *King's Cross*