

## BUILDING MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES

**Purpose Statement:** The purpose of this session is to look at the life and ministry of Paul and apply principles to building multiplying disciples.

**Learning Objectives:** This session will help you to:

1. Know what makes a person “faithful” by Biblical standards.
2. Value and apply important elements from Paul’s ministry into your own.
3. Know and value three important characteristics of a Christian leader.

**Key Verses:** Acts 14:19-28

Introduction.

Many Christian leaders cannot see beyond their church or the small group of people with which they are involved. They do not think of their ministries in the way Paul did, in terms of spiritual multiplication with eyes on the world.

### I. 2 Timothy 2:2.

Paul cites 4 spiritual generations. (Paul → Timothy → Faithful Men → others)

What do you consider to be essential characteristics of a faithful person?

*(Instructor could mention these if not already mentioned: Heart for God; Teachable Spirit; Desire to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, dependable, available, loves and obeys God’s Word.)*

A faithful person must have a desire to “pass on” what he is learning from the Lord to others. “Able to teach” means to demonstrate by-life-example what you want your disciples to learn. Actions are more important than ability as a great speaker.

### II. Lessons in Discipleship from Paul.

***What can we learn from these passages about how Paul disciplined people?***

#### A. Acts 13:44-52

*(If not mentioned by the class, the instructor could say:*

*Demonstrated the Christian life (v.46, 49)*

*Demonstrated ministry - evangelism and discipleship (v. 46, 49)*

*When persecution was severe, moved on to other areas (v. 51)*

*Filled with joy and the Holy Spirit (v. 52))*

B. Acts 14:19-28

*(If not mentioned by the class, the instructor could say:*

*Chose faithful leaders (v. 23)*

*Built relationships of love with them (v.22, 28)*

*Demonstrated a life of prayer (v. 23)*

*Demonstrated ministry - evangelism and discipleship (v. 21, 22, 25, 28)*

*Perseverance (v. 19-21)*

*Gave glory to God for what happened and imparted vision (v. 27)*

*Encouraged disciples (v.22)*

*Spent time with them (v.28))*

III. Three Characteristics of a Christian Leader.

A. Depends on God (John 15:5; Act 4:24-31; 12:5)

Prayer demonstrates dependency on God

B. A Leader's life backs up his words. (Philippians 3:17; 4:9)

As you train others, remember that Christ taught on the basis of His real life experiences. His disciples knew from experience that His life backed up His words. A teacher/discipler must be an example by living the lessons they teach. We need to be able to say with Paul, "Follow me as I follow Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

C. A Leader is Available.

God is not as concerned about your ability as He is about your availability. Be available for God to work through you and be available to the people you're discipling (1 Thessalonians 2:8, 11, 12).

IV. Action Point

Search the four Gospels and the beginning of Acts, and find examples that show how Jesus applied the following principles in His ministry with His disciples:

Friendship in the discipleship process *(If not mentioned by the students, instructor could say, "John 15:15 (actually John 13-17). Also, John was the disciple whom Jesus loved (John 13:23; 19:26)")*

Selection (selecting men and women for discipleship training) *(If not mentioned by the students, instructor could say, "Selection of 70 (Luke 10:1); 12 (Luke 6:12-16) and 3 (Luke 9:28).")*

Modeling (being a model or example for your disciples to follow) *(If not mentioned by the students, the instructor could say, “Servanthood (John 13); The gospel is for more than just the Jews (John 4); Mercy (Matthew 9:11,12); Dependence on the Father (John 6:44; 5:19).”)*

Love *(If not mentioned by the students, instructor could say, “The cross. His life.)*

Seeing disciple’s potential (in spite of present shortcomings) *(If not mentioned by the students, instructor could say, “Peter (Matthew 16:15-23)”)*

Discipleship by Natural Grouping (Natural Groups are individuals with similar interests, backgrounds, etc.) *(If not mentioned by the students, instructor could say, “Samaritans (John 4). Tax Collectors (Matthew 9:9,10).” Most of the disciples were fishermen (Matthew 4:18-22).)*

Way of Life Evangelism and Discipleship (communicating the gospel in any situation) *(If not mentioned by the students, instructor could say, “Woman at the well (John 4).”)*

Prayer *(If not mentioned by the students, instructor could say, “Garden of Gethsemene (Luke 22:39-46); See also Matthew 14:22-24; Mark 1:34-38; John 17.”)*

A Vision for Spiritual Multiplication *(If not mentioned by the students, instructor could say, “Matthew 28:19; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8”)*

*(Note to instructor: Be prepared to share your answers to the Discussion Questions with the class. Then ask the class what they wrote.)*

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Look at the many characteristics mentioned in this lesson.
  - A. What would you consider to be strengths that are in your life now?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - B. In what areas would you like to trust God to develop in your life?