HABITS OF A MULTIPLYING DISCIPLE: GOD’S HEART

dh, 2021. Lesson 1

## WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THIS TRAINING? THIS IS OURS: That you may…

1. Receive fresh faith to do the impossible (see a movement)
2. Capture God’s heart for the world
3. Join with others (beyond your current team) for new momentum
4. Follow Christ in making multiplying disciples through:
   1. Using Discovery Groups to disciple the lost
   2. Using this material to retrain other believers to do the same

## WHAT IS GOD’S HEART & VISION FOR THE WORLD?

Read Luke 15:20-24 out-loud. Have someone retell the story. Then briefly discuss:

* What do you observe about the Father?
* What is the Father’s desire for his family?
* What does this story tell you about God’s heart?

There are many other passages that tell of God’s great heart & vision for the world. What are some of them? Ask participants to brainstorm several passages on a blank sheet of paper. Then spend 5 minutes praying for God’s heart & vision for this world. (Be sure they include passages about *salvation*, and also *transformation* for *all peoples*.)

* TOOL: 5-5-5 Prayer - Spend 5 minutes of prayer about God’s vision every session. Add 5 more minutes of prayer each session for each of the steps along the way. Use a notebook with 7 blank pages for each of the Habits.

## A screenshot of a cell phone Description automatically generatedGOD’S HEART & THE HABITS OF A MULTIPLYING DISCIPLE

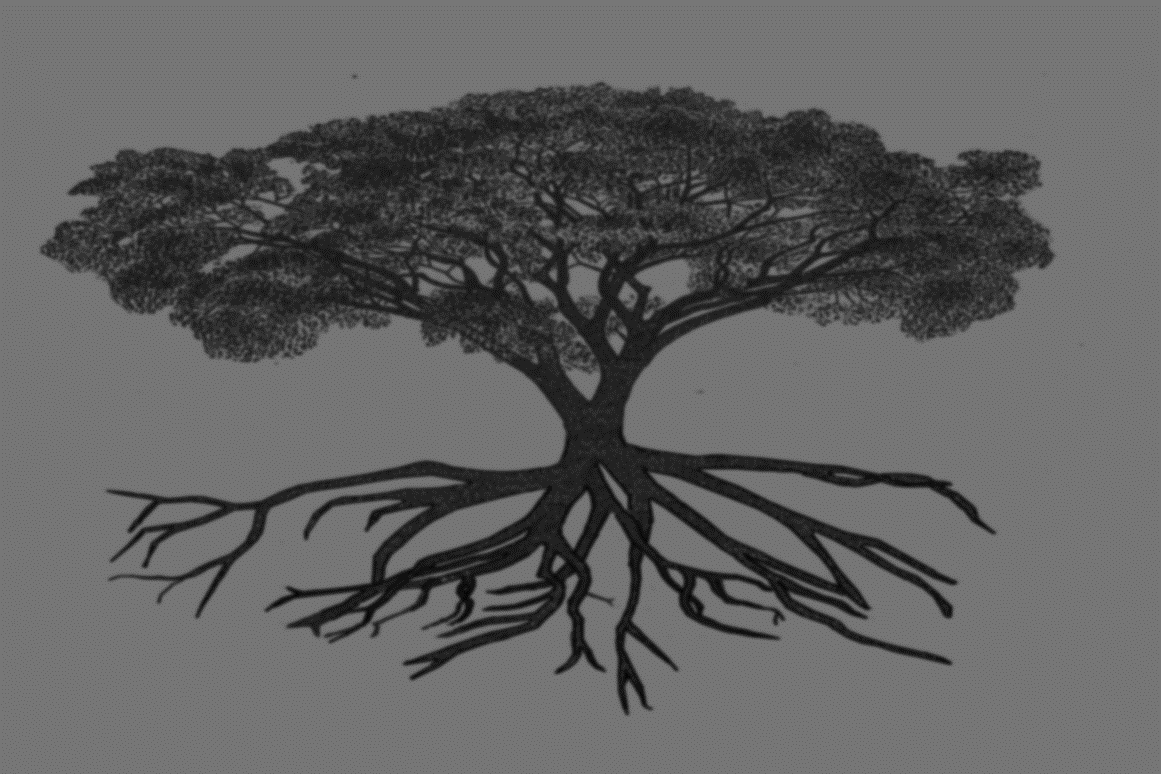
Briefly draw-out the Habits Spiral on a white board. Explain that this will be our training rubric. Note that all the habits stem from God’s heart & vision for all.

The habits are not a method, but *lifestyle*.

There is a logical order to teach them in. But we are growing in all of them continually. Go slow to go fast, but expect miracle accelerations.

Our journey takes time…over time we want it to become-

* Wide = Growth;
* Deep = Maturity;
* Long = Sustainability

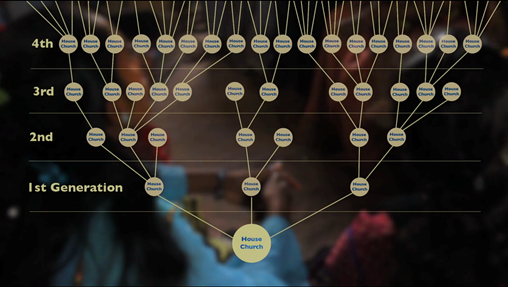


First, we must develop a new Mindset (by *doing new things*)->>

Which can lead to Momentum ->>

Which—if God really blesses—can lead to a Movement.

**What is a Disciple Making Movement?** Several streams of at least 100 churches in at least 4 generations. (Draw out an example or show a picture like the one below. Ask them to also draw this out in their notebooks.)



Does this seem impossible? It’s not! There are at least 500 such movements today!

**DMM strategy is a different, highly effective, very biblical *but* different way of living**—a lifestyle like that of Jesus & his early disciples. It is quite different than traditional church-based models. That is what we’ll be learning in these lessons.



But, there’s NO FORMULA. Instead, we must start practicing these New Habits + add Perseverance then -> *MAYBE* God will act. It’s like a sailboat – even in strong winds, we won’t move if we don’t put up the sails. Also, if we put up the sails but have no wind, it’s also useless.

These 7 lessons are based on **3-W’s**:

* The Word,
* Works of Holy Spirit, &
* New Wineskins.

**PLAY GAME.**  Do “ball-toss game.” Key lessons: Don’t follow the example of other well-meaning Christians in their strategy. Follow them if they have godly character, but for strategy go to the Book!

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. Do a 3 Column Study on John 15:1-8 [This is a TOOL we use for training.]
2. Write out your answers to these questions:
   * Who do you feel called to disciple? Where do they live?
   * Who are two people who can pray for you as you do this training to learn how to make disciple-making disciples?
3. Do at least a 20-minute prayer walk with others to pray for your community or for an area you’re burdened for. [This is a TOOL for vision & focused prayer.] Pray for peace on the community, and for laborers to work among them for the gospel.

What does it say?

*(Write the text word-for-word.)*

What does it mean?

*(Write it in my own words.)*

What must I do to obey?

*(My* “*I will…” statement.)*

With whom will I share?

## APPENDIX 1: A BRIEF HISTORY OF DISCIPLE MAKING MOVEMENTS

Disciple Making Movements spread the gospel by making disciples who learn   
to obey the Word of God and quickly make other disciples, who repeat the process.

Over time, this results in many new churches being planted, frequently in regions that were not considered open or appeared hostile to faith in Christ.

## The Original Disciple Making Movement

Jesus lived in a world very similar to ours in some ways.

* + Spiritually things looked dead.
  + Paganism permeated society.
  + Political change looked hopeless.

But Jesus brought a new kingdom and empowered ordinary people to spread it far and wide.

## One Historical Disciple Making Movement

In the 18th century John Wesley lived in a day very much like our own.

* + The established church, the Anglican state church, looked dead.
  + There was rampant alcoholism and family breakdown.
  + The people were experiencing a time of rapid change and confusion, the industrial revolution.

Wesley was passionate to reach his world, so he kept experimenting with how to best do it. In time he developed simple, reproducible methods to empower ordinary men and women to make disciples who make disciples. His methods become known as “Methodism,” and the Wesleyan movement spread around the world impacting hundreds of millions of people. It grew rapidly for almost two centuries, until its leaders felt that it was time to use more traditional church patterns and academic training systems. Even today, there are more Methodist Churches in the United States than there are post offices!

## Today’s Move of God

The Disciple Making Movement sweeping the world today had an unusual beginning. In 1985 Keith Parks, the president of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Church, asked the renowned missions researcher David Barrett, how he felt like their agency was doing in their thrust to reach everyone in the world with the gospel before the year 2000. David Garrison tells the story:

Barrett’s response was sweet and sour. “The Foreign Mission Board is doing far better than most Great Commission agencies,” he said “but they will never reach their goal if they continue their current course of action.” Parks was intrigued. Barrett went on to explain that, despite record numbers of new missionaries, Southern Baptists were not even touching a huge sector of the world’s population that Barrett referred to as “World A.”

Barrett went on to describe World A in the context of a tri-partite world. “Viewed from the vantage point of the Great Commission,” he said, “the earth can be broken into one of three worlds.” World C was the portion of the world that professed the Christian religion; just over 30%. World B was the portion of the planet that might be called evangelized, in that it had access to the gospel (through missionaries, Scriptures, scattered churches, etc.), but had not yet accepted the Christian faith as its own. World A was that portion of the world’s population without Christians or a viable Christian witness. Despite Southern Baptist and other evangelical agencies sending sizable numbers of missionaries to foreign fields, virtually none of these were going to World A.

“World A is hostile to residential missionaries,” Barrett explained. Its governments and societies are either Communist or atheist, or Islamic or simply anti-Western.” These factors conspired to keep nearly 1.3 billion lost and unevangelized souls beyond the reach of the gospel. If the Church was going to fulfill its great commission, it would have to find innovative ways to penetrate these untouched corners of the world. (*International Journal of Frontier Missions*, Fall 2004, p. 118)

This interaction spurred a team of passionate and innovative pioneers within this mission board to discover new methods to penetrate what would later be termed the “10-40 Window,” the swath of the world roughly between 10° and 40° north of the equator that is untouched by the good news of Jesus. Today that portion of the world represents 2/3rds of the world’s population and 82% of the world’s poor. One of those innovators that was spurred to new thinking and action was a missionary named David Watson.

David Watson, who had been a successful church planter in the United States and Malaysia, was sent with his wife Jan to reach the world’s largest unreached people group in the world at that time, the Bhojpuri of Northern India, a group that many missionaries had tried to penetrate, but there had been very little results. Watson set out using traditional church planting methods. He trained Indian leaders to evangelize and start churches, but over a period of 18 months six of these national leaders were killed by angry Hindus, and the Watsons were expelled from the country.

Frustrated and defeated, David prayed and argued with God. He did not want to return to India, but he felt that God wanted him to return. He sensed the Lord say that the problem was rooted in his methods and not the Bhojpuri people. So, over a period of several months, he read through the Bible ten times searching for better, more biblical methods. Gleaning insights from the Bible and fellow innovators, new patterns coalesced in his mind.

He also thought that he could not return to India since he had been expelled, but the mission board encouraged him to try. So, using a new passport, he reapplied for a visa and got one.

Watson together with a passionate Indian pastor named Victor John began to experiment and apply Jesus’ disciple-making methods. At first, they saw very little results. Because of the time required to truly make disciples that make disciples (ex., look at the Gospels!), Watson had a slow start and was at first thought to be lazy by some mission leaders above him. But things took off in time and eventually hundreds, and then thousands, and eventually millions of people were reached.

Since then, the Disciple Making Movement has been spreading throughout the world and there are currently over 1,000 documented movements taking place. (Something is considered a movement if over 100 churches have been planted with at least four generations of churches.)